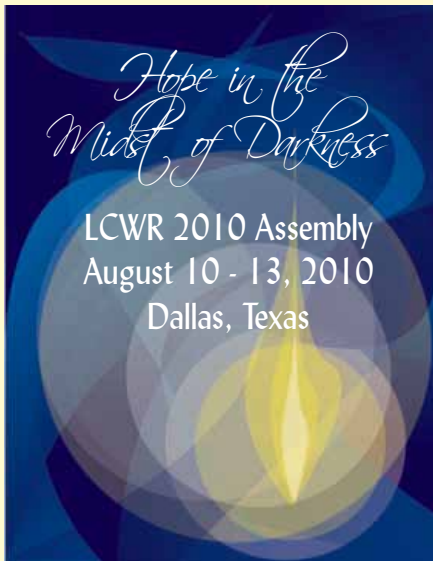


# Update

*A Publication of the  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious*

May 2010



## Register for the 2010 LCWR Assembly Hope in the Midst of Darkness

Exploring the Ecclesial Role of Women Religious

### Outstanding Keynoters:

**M. Shawn Copeland**  
**Richard Gaillardetz**

Opportunities to communally  
contemplate and process  
the many events occurring in the church and  
religious life and their implications for  
elected leaders

[www.lcwr.org/members/LCWRassembly10.pdf](http://www.lcwr.org/members/LCWRassembly10.pdf)

*More information can be found on pages 4 & 5*



## LCWR Officers Travel to Rome for Annual Consultation

The LCWR presidency (Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA and J Lora Dambroski, OSF) and executive director (Jane Burke, SSND) are concluding their annual consultation with Vatican officials in Rome. (Mary Hughes, OP had been scheduled to participate, but due to the volcanic ash was unable to travel.) Among their activities were visits with the staffs of:

- The Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life
- The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
- The Congregation for the Oriental Churches
- The Pontifical Council for the Family
- The Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue
- The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace
- The Pontifical Council for the Laity
- The Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Immigrants
- The Pontifical Council for Social Communications
- The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity

In addition, they met with Dr. Miguel Díaz, ambas-

*(continued on page 3)*

*From the LCWR Presidency*

## We Are in a Time of God's Favor

by J Lora Dambroski, OSF — LCWR Past President

**E** astertide... Mary of Magdala, He is risen, He is not here... why do you look for the living among the dead? No tomb-sitters, please!

Message of the Risen Jesus, the challenges of faithfulness and sharing of truth.

Hope, Violence, New Life, Stress, Death, Peace, Hatred, Fear, Promise.

Integrity, Truth. Discovery of what is of value. What is worth dying for and what is worth living for.

Jesus' life and teaching is a challenge that contains a mix of all of this. When we're pressed against the wall, after the closing Amen of our personal and communal prayer, what do we take with us to the streets, our homes, our decisions, and our interactions with the person in front of us and the larger world in which we live?

We are still in the liturgical season of Easter and moving quickly to that of Pentecost. The questions facing the disciples and friends of Jesus are still ours now; how do we live the promise of a new covenant whose benefits we want now and yet don't seem to unfold as we had hoped? When the delight of the celebration of the Resurrection seems to fade and conditions seem to be as stressful as they were in all of the yesterdays... how do we "keep on singing"?

These days of March and April have had the violence, fear, and stress of deepest Good Fridays. Weather that, while it could be predicted, was out of control and out of season. People were suffering and dying and the scope of the experience was more than could be described. Political differences were not debated in the respectful manner as hoped for and worked for by our national founding fathers and mothers. Violence and pre-judgment of personal character were the order of the day rather than challenge of issues and moral realities. Scandal in our own Church and tension with our leadership became fodder for media scavengers. News



was not news unless the tone of it was more like that of a gossip rag.

Hurting and pain are everywhere. It seemed that violence was becoming the "flavor of the month." What was more painful was that unlike the devastation of natural disasters some of this seemed to be intentional.

There has been a call in some circles for a "covenant of civility," where those who sign it commit to the respectful exchange

of ideas and positions regarding moral concerns and political issues without the attack on personal character and demonizing the other's internal forum or conscience. While meant to be a positive challenge to live from our deepest core values as human beings, God's loved ones, it is at the same time a sad commentary on

how easily these precious values are dismissed in the face of differences of opinion and vision.

Reflecting back on the 2009 assembly, my own words focused around the theme of chaos, returned like

a prelude to a deeper covenant of civility. Using our LCWR Call as the foundation the challenge I put forward (our own words) came back to me:

We claim and often work from the premise that we as women have other ways of living in and working through conflict and chaos... more relational, respectful, transparent, dialogic, less judgmental and more reflective. The respectful stance is that while holding and relating out of our own truth we are open to the truth of the other. While seeing the specks and beams in the eyes of our critics, we also can see the specks and beams in our own eyes that may blur our vision (as well as theirs). At the same time this does not mean debasing our own expressions of faithfulness.

In our moment of chaos and possible quandary, our listening needs to be more than hearing, and our speaking come from informed reflection, study, and prepara-

*(continued on page 3)*

*How do we live the promise of a new covenant whose benefits we want now and yet don't seem to unfold as we had hoped?*

## LCWR Officers in Rome for Annual Consultation

*(continued from page 1)*

sador of the US to the Vatican; the staff and officers of the UISG and USG; and some of the US major superiors living in Rome.

Some of these meetings were attended by the officers and executive director of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men as well. The LCWR officers will be reporting to the membership on the content of their meetings.

## Religious Life Annotated Bibliography and Reflection Questions Available

The LCWR Contemporary Religious Life Committee has compiled the beginning of an annotated bibliography on articles and books that the committee members have found helpful.

The bibliography (available on the LCWR website at [www.lcwr.org/what%27snew/bibliography.htm](http://www.lcwr.org/what%27snew/bibliography.htm)) is accompanied by reflection questions. Leaders are encouraged to utilize this new resource with their own members who may be interested in the materials for individual or communal reflection.

## We Are in a Time of God's Favor

*(continued from page 2)*

tion and less from attack and detraction. The question remains: Is all of this true when we find ourselves in someone else's cross hairs? Can we do this while under pressure, judgment, and public scrutiny? Whether in our own congregations, ministries or within the church itself?

*Women of Spirit: Creating in Chaos* are being called like Mary of Magdala at the tomb to move on to tell others that Jesus is here even in all of this seeming contradiction... with integrity we need to make room for Hope in the Midst of this Darkness... We are in a time of God's favor, we belong to a church and live in a culture that is both graced and sinful, in our own words: like Mary, we are leaders in this time and in these relationships, here to bear the call to create structures that free us all for the ways of God's Spirit.



## LCWR Members Invited into Solidarity and Prayer During Phase Three of the Apostolic Visitation

LCWR members have been invited to pray for those congregations that have been selected for visitations, as well as for those conducting the visitations.

A listing of congregations requesting prayer can be found in the password-protected area of the LCWR website.

Any congregation that is scheduled to be visited and would like to be included on the list may contact LCWR executive assistant Marianne Benson at [mbenson@lcwr.org](mailto:mbenson@lcwr.org).

## Women Religious in the News

The following are links to some articles recently published about women religious.

"A Church Mary Can Love"

*New York Times*

Op-Ed by Nicholas Kristof

April 18, 2010

[www.nytimes.com/2010/04/18/opinion/18kristof.html?emc=eta1](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/18/opinion/18kristof.html?emc=eta1)

"Not an Investigation"

*National Catholic Register*

Interview with Mother Clare Millea, ASCJ

April 25, 2010

[www.ncregister.com/register\\_exclusives/not\\_an\\_investigation/](http://www.ncregister.com/register_exclusives/not_an_investigation/)

"The Sisters' Witness"

Editorial

*America Magazine*

April 26, 2010

[www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article\\_id=12248](http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=12248)



## Hope in the Midst of Darkness: Exploring the Ecclesial Role of Women Religious

2010 LCWR Assembly  
August 10 - 13, 2010  
(travel home on August 14)

### Margaret Brennan, IHM Selected for LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award

At the assembly banquet on August 13, LCWR will honor **Margaret Brennan, IHM** with its 2010 Outstanding Leadership Award.

Margaret, a Sister, Servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Monroe, Michigan, is a theologian, a former president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, and a professor emerita of theology at Regis College (University of Toronto), where she taught for 25 years.



### Table Facilitators Needed

Because of the critical importance of the conversations that will take place this year in small groups, LCWR is seeking members who are willing to facilitate the conversation at their assigned table. The volunteers will receive a briefing from the assembly facilitator as to the purpose of each table conversation and suggestions for facilitating the discussions.

A substantial number of volunteers is needed. Anyone willing to serve LCWR in this capacity is asked to indicate so on her registration form.

### Scholarships

LCWR is aware that attendance at the assembly is financially challenging for some members. Any congregation that has the means to enable the attendance of another

member is asked to consider a donation to the LCWR scholarship fund. Donations may be directed to Pat Cormack, SCSC, associate director for business and finance, at 8808 Cameron Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

The Hyatt Hotel is also offering through LCWR some assistance with hotel costs for a limited number of persons.

Any congregation that needs assistance is encouraged to contact Pat Cormack, SCSC to talk about a partial scholarship. (Partial assistance with registration and/or hotel accommodations is available through the LCWR scholarship fund.)

### Staying at the Hotel

When participants stay at the assembly hotel, the costs of the event are lower. LCWR receives a discounted rate on the meeting rooms if a sufficient number of hotel rooms are booked by participants. If this room quota is not met, the full cost of the meeting room rental must be paid by LCWR. Because of this all members are encouraged to book a room at the hotel for the duration of the assembly. All hotel rooms must be booked online. A link is provided in the online registration materials.

### Assembly Facilitator

**Patricia Flynn, SSND** will serve as the assembly facilitator. She has served in leadership in her own congregation as provincial leader and international general superior. Her work has allowed her to experience a variety of cultures, religions, political ideologies, and government structures on four continents. She works out of Silver Spring, Maryland as a facilitator.





## LCWR Assembly Sponsorships

Each year LCWR invites companies that exhibit at its assembly to consider sponsoring events during this event. Obtaining sponsorships enables LCWR to reduce overall costs and to support the work of the conference. (Last year assembly revenue was approximately 33% of all income.)

This year LCWR is asking its members to encourage any of the companies whose services they use to consider being a sponsor at the assembly. Information on sponsorship can be obtained through Pat Cormack SCSC, LCWR associate director for business and finance at 301-588-4955 or [pcormack@lcwr.org](mailto:pcormack@lcwr.org). Any assistance will be greatly appreciated.

## THE Occasional Papers

### Order Occasional Papers by June 1

An order form for the Summer 2010 issue of LCWR's *Occasional Papers* is available on the LCWR website at: [www.lcwr.org/lcwrpublications/OPordersSummer10.pdf](http://www.lcwr.org/lcwrpublications/OPordersSummer10.pdf)

Orders are due by **June 1**.

This issue focuses on religious life leadership as both prophetic and imaginative and includes an interview with Walter Brueggemann, author of *The Prophetic Imagination*.

Although all members, associates, and subscribers will receive their own copy of this issue, many leaders order additional copies for their members. If you have any questions about an order, please contact Pat Cormack, SCSC at [pcormack@lcwr.org](mailto:pcormack@lcwr.org) or at 301-588-4955.

## LCWR Attends Gala to Honor Carol Keehan, DC



*At a recent gala held by Providence Hospital in Washington, DC to honor Carol Keehan, DC, president and CEO of Catholic Health Association, LCWR staff members Pat Cormack, SCSC and Annmarie Sanders, IHM, as well as LCWR members Pat McDermott, RSM and Eileen Campbell, RSM met Vice Admiral Regina M. Benjamin, MD, US Surgeon General. Dr. Benjamin expressed her gratitude to women religious for their work in healthcare and their efforts to bring about reform in US healthcare delivery.*

## GCC and CMSM J&P Committee Visit History Exhibit

Prior to their spring joint meeting, members of LCWR's Global Concerns Committee (GCC) and some members of CMSM's Justice and Peace Committee visited the *Women & Spirit* exhibit at the Smithsonian. (Several CMSM committee members had previously seen the exhibit.) During an evening prayer and sharing, committee members debriefed the experience. GCC members were grateful for the opportunity, and both proud of and challenged by the contributions of women religious to the history of the United States. One CMSM member said that he was "moved to tears."

During a joint meeting, members explored ways of working together for comprehensive immigration reform. In addition to brief reports on activities of the committees, other issues discussed included CRS activity in Haiti, June Torture Awareness Month, and financial system reform. CMSM members encouraged the GCC to support S. 2978, the Wyden-Nelson Haitian Trade and Investment Act. Congregational pledges not to invest in commodities indexes were also encouraged as part of financial system reform.

When committees met separately, GCC members identified responsibilities during the August LCWR assembly, including presentation of the proposed resolution and assisting with the public witness against the death penalty. They also identified topics and potential writers for future Resolutions to Action, provided input for the LCWR annual report, discussed health reform issues, and looked ahead to the meeting in October. Members whose terms are completed in August, Kathleen Storms, SSND and Jacquelyn Doepker, OSF, were thanked and gifted for their valuable contributions to the GCC during the past three years.

## CHA Board Commits to Challenges of Healthcare Implementation

The April meeting of the CHA board is typically held in Washington, DC to take advantage of advocacy education and opportunities. Carol Keehan, DC, CHA president and CEO, and Michael Rodgers, advocacy staff member, provided an update on health-care reform. Two guests addressed the board: Senator Robert Casey of Pennsylvania and Michael Hash, senior advisor, Office of Health Reform, Executive Office of the President. Both speakers expressed deep gratitude to CHA, and to Carol in particular, for being a valuable partner in moving health-care reform and for consistency in raising the importance of sacredness of life issues. Both also spoke to the challenging implementation process for the new legislation and urged CHA members to provide feedback on each step of the implementation, especially if something is not working well, and suggestions for implementation of regulations.

The CHA board visited the *Women & Spirit* exhibit and were very moved by and grateful for the story of women religious in this country. A number of board members represent systems which were major donors and they were more than pleased with the results of their generosity.

Also, the CHA board approved the final version of Vision 2020, which has gone through several drafts. This vision provides direction for the next decade for the Catholic health ministry.

## New Website on Catholic Social Teaching

The USCCB and 12 collaborating organizations, including LCWR, recently announced a new Catholic social teaching website for campus ministers and students at [www.usccb.org/campus](http://www.usccb.org/campus). Titled "Transforming Our World: Our Catholic Faith in Action," the web site features Catholic social teaching, prayer resources, tools for action, and multi-media such as videos and podcasts. The site is an online clearinghouse featuring "best practices" to promote Catholic social teaching in campus ministry. Campus ministers, students, and others are invited to submit their best practices and activities for possible feature on the website.

# WOMEN & *spirit*

CATHOLIC SISTERS IN AMERICA

## Upcoming Showings

**Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage**  
Beachwood, Ohio (outside of Cleveland)  
May 9 - August 28, 2010

**Statue of Liberty National Monument/Ellis Island Immigration Museum**  
New York  
September 24, 2010 - January 22, 2011

## Nearly 300,000 Visit *Women & Spirit* Since May 2009

The *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America* exhibit closed at the Smithsonian on April 25 after a successful run since mid-January. As of April 17, 157,646 persons had visited the exhibit there.

Combined with the previous statistics on attendance (Cincinnati Museum Center -- 65,916 and The Women's Museum in Dallas -- 49,355), the total attendance at the exhibit as of April 17 is 272,917.



*Update* is an official publication of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious published monthly and distributed to members nationally.

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## Mississippi River Museum

Dubuque, Iowa  
February - April 2011

## Center for History

South Bend, Indiana  
September 2 - December 31, 2011

Venues for 2012 are being finalized

## Cokie Roberts and Lindy Boggs Tour Exhibit at the Smithsonian

Journalist and author Cokie Roberts and her mother, Lindy Boggs, who served as a member of the US House of Representatives and later as ambassador to the Vatican, visited the *Women & Spirit* exhibit in April.

Cokie, who is a contributing senior news analyst for National Public Radio as well as a political commentator for ABC News, served as the keynoter for the 2009 LCWR assembly.



Former LCWR executive director Carole Shinnick, SSND; Cokie Roberts; Lindy Boggs; and LCWR director of communications Annmarie Sanders, IHM at the exhibit.



On behalf of LCWR, the associate director for social mission signed the following letters:

- Letter to Congress requesting \$1 billion for the National Housing Trust Fund
- Letter to Senators, drafted by FEE (Faith, Ecology and Economy), urging them to move the CLEAR (Clean Limits and Energy for American's Renewal) Act, S.2877, proposed by Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Susan Collins (R-ME)
- Letter from Half in Ten Campaign asking Congress to include in FY2011 budget priorities significant funds to assist people in need: job creation in poor communities, increase of economic security for those most distressed by the recession, and investment in children and families
- Letter to President Obama asking that during the Nuclear Security Summit he commit to an international summit in 2011 focused on nuclear disarmament (This was commitment not made but participants agreed to another summit in 2012)

## USCCB Launches New Vocation Website

The US Bishops' Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations initiated a new website on April 25 as a resource for both laity and clergy in the promotion of vocations.

The site has two goals:

- To help individuals hear and respond to the call by God to the priesthood or consecrated life, and
- To educate all Catholics on the importance of encouraging others through prayer and activities to promote vocations.

The Vocations Website can be found at [www.ForYourVocation.org](http://www.ForYourVocation.org). A Spanish-language site will be available this fall at [www.PorTuVocación.org](http://www.PorTuVocación.org).

Site elements include discernment resources for men and women, respectively, aids for promoting a vocation culture within the home, and a range of tools for educators, youth leaders, and vocation directors including prayers, videos, best practices, lesson plans, and vocation awareness programs.

In response to Pope Benedict XVI's 2010 theme for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, "Witness Awakens Vocations," the site also hosts videos of priests and religious men and women giving witness to their vocations, as well as testimonies from family members.

ForYourVocation.org exemplifies the Vatican's embrace of new communications media. In his message for the 44th World Day of Communications, Pope Benedict XVI challenges clergy to employ the "latest generation of audiovisual resources (images, videos, animated features, blogs, websites)" to put the media "ever more effectively at the service of the Word."

Religious congregations may link to ForYourVocation.org by following the instructions at [foryourvocation.org/web-resources.cfm](http://foryourvocation.org/web-resources.cfm).

## Upcoming LCWR Dates

### LCWR Assembly

*Dallas, Texas*

August 10 — 13, 2010  
Travel date: August 14

### LCWR Leading from Within Retreat

*San Pedro Spiritual Retreat Center*

*Winter Park, FL*

January 16 — 21, 2011

### LCWR New Leader Workshop

*Conference Center - University of St. Mary of the Lake*

*Mundelein, Illinois*

March 24 — 27, 2011

### LCWR Assembly

*Garden Grove, California*

August 9 — 13, 2011

### LCWR Assembly

*St. Louis, Missouri*

August 7 — 11, 2012





## Orientation to the Management of Religious Institutes

Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center  
513 Fullerton Parkway  
Chicago

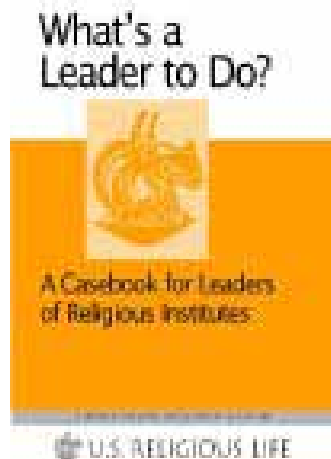
Featured speakers include **Daniel J. Ward, JD, JCL, OSB**, executive director of the Resource Center for Religious Institutes, who will address canon and civil law as they affect religious groups. He will also focus on the employment status of members of religious institutes.

**Keith Zekind**, director of finance for the Congregation of the Passion in Chicago and **Hertha Longo, CSA**, chair of the RCRI board and TRENDS, elder care and financial consultant, will team to provide a pre-conference seminar -- An Introduction to the Culture of Religious. Keith and Hertha will also address leaders introducing them to the topics they need to learn from their treasurer or chief financial officer. **Clare Lorenzatti, DBA** will help treasurers and CFOs prepare their curriculum for assisting new leadership with their financial responsibilities.

**Constance Neeson, LSW** will provide an overview of government programs for which members may be eligible. **Bob Metzger, SM** from the National Religious Retirement Office will explain how NRRO may be able to provide assistance.

Chicago lawyers, **Andrew Kopon** and **Rachel Yarch** will help with human resource issues such as job descriptions, hiring, and terminating.

Application materials, the schedule, and information on fees are available at [www.trcri.org](http://www.trcri.org). Some scholarship help is available. Contact Helen Burke, SSJ for information -- [hburke@trcri.org](mailto:hburke@trcri.org) or 301-589-8143.



## What's a Leader to Do? A Casebook for Leaders of Religious Institutes

**N**ine case studies of situations found in religious institutes with reflections from religious who are experts in theology, psychology, sociology, canon law, etc. The cases and reflections are the fruit of interdisciplinary leadership forums on "The Individual and the Common Good." Produced by the Center for the Study of Religious Life, the 162-page book can be a resource for leaders individually or collectively.

Available in printed copy or CD. Order # 2133. Sale price \$25, shipping and handling (regular price \$34.99). Available from the National Coalition for Church Vocations. Order by calling 800-671-6228 or 773-955-5453 or online at [www.nccv-vocations.org](http://www.nccv-vocations.org). Select New Items and enter 2133 in the Search window.