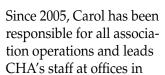


May 2011

Carol Keehan, DC to Accept LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award at August Assembly

arol Keehan, DC, president and chief executive officer of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), will receive the 2011 LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award at the August assembly.





Washington, DC, where she is based, and in St. Louis. She has held influential roles in the governance of a variety of healthcare, insurance, and educational organizations. She is a representative to the International Federation of Catholic Health Care Associations of the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Health Care and serves on the board of Catholic Relief Services. She has served on several health, labor, and domestic policy committees of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

LCWR will present the award to Carol at the assembly banquet on Friday, August 12.



Mystery Unfolding: Religious Life for the World LCWR Assembly

August 9 - 12 (evening)
(Travel home recommended for August 13)
Garden Grove, California
Registration Materials:
www.lcwr.org/members/2011reg.pdf

Assembly Highlights:

- Pre-Assembly Trips to the Women & Spirit Exhibit at Mount Saint Mary College, Los Angeles
- Keynote Address by Barbara Reid, OP
- Keynote Address by Maricarmen Bracamontes, OSB
- Address by LCWR President Mary Hughes, OP
- Opportunities for Contemplative Processing of the Assembly Experiences
- Important Updates on the LCWR Contemporary Religious Life Project
- Panel Presentation on Immigration Issues
- Presentation of the 2011 LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award

More information on the assembly can be found on page 3.

From the LCWR Presidency

Desiring to be 'Close to the Flesh'

by Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA — LCWR Past President







n 2005, as part of the UISG delegates' meeting in Warsaw, we made a pilgrimage to Czestochowa where I became acquainted with Jerzy Duda Gracz's *Golgotha of Jasna Góra in the Beginning of the Third Millennium*. The artist depicts the stations of the cross as a mirror of Divine Mercy through a modern vision of a generation looking at itself as witnesses and custodians of the Paschal Mystery. The message is ensconced in a poignant longing to be close to the flesh of Jesus.

The faithful women of Easter morning came to the tomb with spices in hand to make contact with the body of Jesus, just as so many people during earthly Jesus' life yearned to experience healing through his touch, his words, his compassionate countenance. Even in death the women were drawn to the Lord's body, living from the certainty that the only place to be is where Christ is. "They intuited this truth – that the Person they once encountered in the trials and problems of their lives was still there with them and that the way to that Person continued to be through his flesh." (John Cameron, Jesus Present Before Me, 144-145)

The Easter women were certain that the encounter with Jesus had not ended. Symbolically, they went to the tomb while it was still dark when the sun was just rising, because the only way to counteract the world's oppressive darkness was to draw near to Christ, the Light of their lives. So great was their desire that they gave no thought to how the great stone would be removed from

the tomb. It was more important to them to be at the closed tomb rather than risk any distance from Jesus. They were certain of their union with Christ and that it was not over. They are patron saints of Eucharistic adoration, keeping vigil with the presence of Christ in expectation, certainty, and desire. Their memory would not erode because of the illuminating hope that their experience with Jesus had seared in their souls.

In Gracz's image depicting the Resurrection, we see Jesus continuing his Golgotha journey through his Resurrection and becoming one with the Holy Spirit as he is raised above the waters of all humanity. The face of Christ is the only visible face, the New Adam in every person, indicating that the idea of Divinity is fulfilled in every one of us. We ascend with him to the God of all. (John 20, 17)

There are those who know about Jesus and don't believe and those who haven't seen but believe in him. Jesus seemed to understand our need for bodily closeness. He came and stood in the midst of the disciples, saying: *Peace be with you.* (John 20:19)

(continued on page 3)





LCWR Assembly Information

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. Consequently, 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.

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 (checks payable to LCWR) may be directed to Pat Cormack, SCSC, associate director for business and finance, at 8808 Cameron Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

The assembly 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 to talk about a partial scholar-ship. (Partial assistance with registration and/or hotel accommodations is available through the LCWR scholarship fund.)

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 are needed. Anyone willing to serve LCWR in this capacity is asked to indicate so on her registration form.

Assembly Sponsorships

Each year LCWR invites companies that exhibit at its assembly to consider sponsoring events during the assembly. 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 may be obtained through Pat Cormack at 301-588-4955 or pcormack@lcwr.org. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Desiring to be 'Close to the Flesh'

(continued from page 2)

Then he said to Thomas: *Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side.* (John 20:27) As much as we learn about Jesus through faith, we also strive to discover him through our mind and our flesh. In spite of millennial faith and knowledge, we continue to believe in what's touchable, physical, and scientifically observable. Only in eternity will we believe and discover Jesus without touching his wounds.

Jesus entrusted us to his church. All through time Jesus bids us to surrender to his love by caressing the face of God's people; to feed [his] sheep (John 21:17); to cast out our nets and feed people with the Bread of Life. Moreover, Jesus asked us to preach the Gospel in his name among all nations (Lk 24: 46-49). Every service to his people is one of staying compassionately close to the flesh, of being the presence of Christ who has made all life holy.

Alleluia, Jesus lives! However his Golgotha is not finished!

LCWR New Leader Workshop Draws Members from All 15 Regions

ore than 80 leaders, coming from all 15 LCWR regions, attended the LCWR New Leader Workshop held at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois, from March 24-27.

The workshop will be offered again March 15-18, 2012 in Mundelein. Leadership teams that have been in office two years or less are encouraged to attend. The experience has proven helpful for both first-time leaders and those returning to leadership and now serving on a new team.



Lynn Jarrell, OSU and **Simone Campbell, SSS** presented on canon and civil law







Nancy Schreck, OSF (left) served as the workshop facilitator, as well as a presenter on spiritual leadership



Mary Dacey, SSJ (left) spoke on collaboration and Lynn M. Levo, CSJ (below) addressed personnel issues and team leadership



Additions to the workshop this year included a presentation on retirement issues by **Janice Bader, CPPS**, executive director of the National Religious Retirement Office, and Getting the Most of Your LCWR Membership.

Extra LCWR 2011 Reflections Books



A limited number of the *Behold, I am Doing Something New* 2011 LCWR reflection books are available for purchase. The order form is available at: www.lcwr.org/lcwrpublications/2011reflectionorder.pdf.

All LCWR Members Encouraged to Reflect on Regional Insights

Il LCWR regions have been engaging during their spring meetings in the contemplative process that seeks to name what is emerging for US women religious as this life form goes into the



future. Each region's insights are posted on the LCWR website at www.lcwr.org/what%27snew/new.htm.

All LCWR members are encouraged to reflect together with their teams on these insights. Teams are encouraged to ask themselves these questions:

- 1. As you ponder the statements, what new questions or realities do you see emerging?
- 2. What is the new life that we as leaders need to attend to?

A variation of the contemplative process will be used throughout the 2011 LCWR assembly also, as the conference seeks to communally discern where religious life may be moving in this time of rapid change.

E Occasional Papers



Order Occasional Papers by May 2

n order form for the Summer 2011 issue of LCWR's Occasional Papers is available on the LCWR website at: www.lcwr.org/lcwrpublications/OPordersSummer11.pdf

Orders are due by May 2.

This issue focuses on religious life leadership and creative tension and includes interviews with Judy Cannato, author of *Radical Amazement* and *Field of Compassion*, and Marty Linsky, co-author of a number of books on leadership including *The Practice of Adaptive Leadership*. The issue also includes articles on leading from a place of creative tension, and reflections by several leaders on the process of creating something new in their religious institutes.

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 Carol Glidden at cglidden@lcwr.org or at 301-588-4955.

Women Religious at 2011 World Youth Day

he LCWR national board is interested in helping women religious who will be attending the August 2011 World Youth Day in Madrid to make connections with one another.

Any leader who has congregation members attending this event is asked to contact Marianne Benson at the LCWR office at mbenson@lcwr.org or 301-588-4955 and provide the name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address of the participants.

Quiet Conversations: Circles of Relationship

by Mary Hughes, OP - LCWR President

n September, when I attended the NRVC gathering for the "Moving Forward in Hope Project," I had the opportunity to spend time in conversation with Mother Shaun Vergauwen, FSE. Mother Shaun was, at that time, on the board of the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious. At her suggestion we sat together at



the closing banquet. She invited me to come to visit her motherhouse in Meriden, Connecticut.

Winter weather in the northeast made any extra travel difficult. The better weather of spring enabled us to set a visiting day -- April 8. In addition to a tour of their local ministries, places where wonderful work is being done, we had lots of time to talk over a cup of tea. Although Mother Shaun's term on the CMSWR board has come to a close, we spoke of how we might build better relationships between our two conferences. We were in total agreement that any denigration of one another needed to stop. I spoke of my outreach to Mother Ann Marie Karlovic, OP, the new president of CMSWR, and of her gracious letter of reply.

When it came time for lunch, Mother Mary Clare Millea, ASCJ came to join us. She was in the States and her motherhouse is located close by. We continued the conversation with Mother Clare. Her face lit up when she spoke about the recent meeting she held with the visititators. Their interactions throughout the weekend indicated they had truly bonded, regardless of conference affiliation. We spoke without specifics as to how women religious might gather for prayer and shared conversations. We all agreed it might do more harm than good to try to force a unity at this moment in time. However, I believe we each want the same thing—relationships that do not give scandal to the people of God.

As I was leaving I invited both of them to visit my motherhouse in Amityville. I am confident they will work on a date for this. If you happen to be in a location where such gentle and quiet conversations can occur, I hope you can make them happen.

LCWR Officers Make Annual Visits to Vatican

fter Easter, the LCWR presidency (Mary Hughes, OP; Pat Farrell, OSF; and Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA) and executive director (Jane Burke, SSND) will be in Rome where they will meet with officials from several Vatican



dicasteries and officers of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) and the Union of Superiors General (USG). Among the Vatican representatives with whom they will meet will be the staffs of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (April 30) and the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (May 3).

The LCWR representatives will be traveling to Rome with the officers of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men. Meetings at some of the Vatican dicastries will be made jointly.

Information about their visits will be shared with the members after their return.

LCWR Offers New Listserv for Younger Members

CWR has created a new listserv called "LCWR Forward" in response to a call from younger members for a forum in which they could exchange ideas.

The listserv grew out of an impromptu gathering of younger LCWR members (who define themselves as "60-ish and younger") at the 2010 LCWR assembly who expressed a desire to connect with one another. Earlier this year, LCWR conducted a survey of the younger members, and almost all who responded noted an interest in participating in a listserv.

Instructions for subscribing to the listserv are on the password-protected section of the LCWR website at: www.lcwr.org/members/lcwrforward.html.

WOMEN SALVATION AMERICA

Upcoming Showings

National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium Dubuque, Iowa -- February 18 - May 22, 2011

Mount St. Mary's College

Los Angeles, California - June 19 - August 14, 2011

Center for History

South Bend, Indiana -- September 2 - December 31, 2011

The California Museum of History, Women & the Arts Sacramento, California — *January 24 - June 3, 2012*

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Assembly

Garden Grove, California August 9 — 13, 2011

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat

Redemptorist Renewal Center Tucson, Arizona January 15 — 20, 2012

LCWR New Leader Workshop

Conference Center - University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois
March 15 — 18, 2012

LCWR Assembly

St. Louis, Missouri August 7 — 11, 2012

LCWR Assembly

Orlando, Florida August 13 — 17, 2013

Housing Options in Dubuque

hile the *Women & Spirit* exhibit is on display at the Mississipi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa, a number of local congregations are making housing available for women religious and associates. A listing of the options is available on the password-protected area of the LCWR website at: www.lcwr.org/members/dbqhousing.pdf. LCWR members are encouraged to make the listing available to those in their communities.

Housing Options in South Bend

The Sisters of the Holy Cross are pleased to offer hospitality to women religious who will be visiting the *Women & Spirit* exhibit while it is on display in South Bend, Indiana. A limited number of rooms is available at the congregation's motherhouse at Saint Mary's, Notre Dame, Indiana. A kitchen is available for the use of guests. Guests are most welcome to join the sisters for meals in the convent dining room. The congregation will not charge a fee for hospitality. Donations are gratefully accepted. The following contact information may be used to determine availability and make reservations.

Contact: Joyce Sobieralski E-mail: joyces@cscsisters.org

Telephone: 574-284-5635

Is Your Leadership Term About to End?

f your leadership term is ending this month, you must submit a change of leadership form so that the LCWR membership can be properly transferred to the new leaders. This will ensure that there will be no gap in communications from the national office. Please use the change of leadership form found in the LCWR Members Information section (password-protected) of the website at www.lcwr.org/members/index.html.

Global Concerns Committee and CMSM Justice Committee Meet in DC

he annual meeting of the members of the justice committees of both LCWR and CMSM was held on March 30 at the Oblates of Mary Immaculate residence in Washington, DC, followed by separate meetings of the two committees. In addition to sharing the mutual work in which LCWR and CMSM are engaged, updates were given on issues addressed by one or the other committee. Chris Promis, CSSp, a member of the CMSM justice committee and CRS staff person, gave a report on his recent visit to Haiti and on the efforts of CRS, CMSM, and LCWR to provide assistance to religious congregations in Haiti.

Because the federal budget is and will be a major issue to address in the coming months, NETWORK staff were invited to offer a mini-workshop on budget issues. Marge Clark, BVM, lobbyist, and Casey Schoeneberger, associate, provided helpful information on the budget process, what is currently in play, the federal deficit and debt limit, the FY 2011 Budget Continuing Resolution and the FY 2012 budget. The outlook is grim for non-defense discretionary programs which include human needs programs. Committee members agreed that the conferences must engage in the budget battles that are being waged now and will continue.



Committee members: Sharon Altendorf, PBVM; Janet Lehmann, SC; Dorothy Pagosa, SSJ-TOSF; Marie Lucey, OSF; Kathleen Bryant, RSC; Judy Justinger, SSJ; Seamus Finn, OMI (CMSM host); Miriam Mitchell, SHSp

During their separate meeting, the LCWR members continued discussion of actions on the budget, determined roles during the August assembly, discussed Region 14 plans for the assembly prayer and panel on immigration, reviewed topics and writers for upcoming Resolutions to Action, and planned for the fall committee meeting in Chicago. A special prayer of blessing was offered for departing members Miriam Mitchell, SHSp and Janet Lehmann, SC as well as LCWR staff member, Marie Lucey, OSF.

LCWR Congregations Invited to Join Jubilee USA's 1000 Faith Leaders Initiative

Ubilee USA organized a sign-on letter to President Obama calling on him to repair historical injustices that allow the wealthy to become wealthier at the expense of people in poverty, and to work to end the cycle that leads to devastating debt crises for impoverished countries. LCWR president Mary Hughes, OP, joined heads of denominations and faith-based national organizations in signing the letter. An invitation to LCWR members to join the effort was then sent from the national office. Heads of LCWR congregations can be among the 1000 faith leaders to sign the letter by going to www.jubileeusa.org for 1000 Faith Leaders Initiative information. This campaign will continue through the month of May.

Catholic Mobilizing Network Seeks New Staff Member

The Catholic Mobilizing Network was formally launched in January 2009 to take up the challenge of the USCCB's "Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty," by preparing Catholics for informed involvement in campaigns to repeal state death-penalty laws and expand or inaugurate state restorative justice programs. Now firmly established under director Karen Clifton, CMN is seeking an assistant to the executive director. For further information about the network see www.catholicsmobilizing.org, and for information about the opening contact Karen@catholicsmobilizing.org.



During the past month, LCWR signed the following:

- Letter to Congress announcing the launch of the Financial Accountability and Corporate Transparency Act (FACT) Campaign
- Letter to President Obama and Secretary of State
 Clinton expressing support for leadership in combating violence against women and girls globally
 (The International Violence Against Women Act
 was also the congressional "ask" on the Ecumenical
 Advocacy Days lobby visits.)
- Letter to the Secretary of Commodities Futures
 Trading Commission to encourage full implementation of Dodd-Frank reforms
- Letter opposing the FY 2012 budget resolution as approved by the House Budget Committee, the Paul Ryan proposal
- The "Circle of Protection" statement on protecting programs for people in poverty signed by religious leaders including the USCCB and LCWR president

LCWR Region 14 Captures 2010 Assembly Resolution Action in Video

t their spring meeting, members of Region 14 invited women religious from several countries to speak to the group on the challenges Catholic sisters face in their country of origin. Highlights of the sharing from these sisters can be seen in a short video at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_bU9ZI6nFA&feature=related.

LCWR Finance Committee Meets in Chicago



Members of the LCWR Finance Committee. (Standing) Helen Ingles, IHM; Sheila Megley, RSM; Nora Hahn, PHJC; and Pat Cormack, SCSC (staff). (Seated) Doretta Meier, OSF; and Bea Hernandez, OSF. (Not pictured is Karen Dufault, SP)

n March 28 the LCWR finance committee met in Chicago. Sheila Megley RSM, the treasurer of LCWR, hosted the committee at Mercy Meeting Place. Committee members present for the meeting were Nora Hahn, PHJC; Beatrice Hernandez, OSF; Helen Ingles, IHM; Sheila Megley, RSM; and Doretta Meier, OSF with Karin Dufault, SP participating by conference call. Pat Cormack, SCSC, LCWR associate director for business and finance, was also present.

The committee received a report on LCWR investments from Eileen O'Connell and Christina Hennessey of Christian Brothers Investment Services. The committee also received and examined a copy of the annual review for both LCWR and for the Cameron Street Building presented by Joe McCathran of Linton Shafer Warfield and Garrett PA.

Recommendations regarding new finance committee members are being forwarded to the LCWR executive committee and the LCWR board. Materials for the LCWR 2010-11 annual report were prepared and submitted. The committee will continue working on a five-year financial plan for LCWR. The committee also thanked Doretta Meier, OSF for her service on the finance committee.



NRVC to Study Educational Debt and Vocations

he National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) was awarded a \$50,000 grant by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to study educational debt and its impact on vocations to religious life.

According to the NRVC/CARA Report on Recent Vocations to Religious Life in the United States, the average age of someone coming to religious life today is 30 years old. The majority of these women and men have attended college, and given the cost of higher education, it is not surprising that many have student loans. NRVC increasingly hears that such debts are complicating and even deterring prospective candidates from entering religious institutes. This issue was also raised at the September NRVC vocation symposium, the "Moving Forward in Hope Project."

With this grant, NRVC hopes to:

- determine the extent of the student loan issue and learn how congregations are addressing it; and
- produce materials and resources (i.e., best practice guides) that will help address student loan debt as a barrier to religious life. These materials and resources will be tailored for all concerned constituencies, including but not limited to religious institutes, religious superiors and treasurers, support organizations for religious life, the philanthropic community, and those considering religious life.

The desired result of this project is to better equip religious congregations to work with candidates who have student loans, to educate those in debt about their options regarding religious life, and to better inform and position key constituencies to make data-driven decisions.

Dr. Kathleen Mahoney, a consultant with extensive experience in the Catholic philanthropic community and a participant in the Moving Forward in Hope Project, will serve as project director.

2011 NRVC Summer Institute DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois

NRVC is holding its annual summer institute at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois.

The campus is located in downtown Chicago only blocks away from many major sites.

This year's workshop program includes the following offerings:

Behavior Assessment I with Rev. Raymond Carey, PhD (July 11-13) Ethics in Vocation and Formation Ministry with Rev. Raymond Carey, PhD (July 14-15)

Orientation Program for New Vocation Directors with Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, and Charlene Diorka, SSJ (July 18-22)

Psychosexual Integration and Candidate Assessment with Kevin McClone, PhD (July 25-27)

Complete information, including a workshop brochure and online registration, may be found on the NRVC website at www.nrvc.net.

NRVC Staff Change

fter four years of dedicated service, Charlene Diorka, SSJ, will complete her term as NRVC associate director this summer. She will be returning to Philadelphia where she will assume a new ministry with her religious congregation, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Philadelphia. NRVC expresses its gratitude to Charlene for her devoted and generous service to NRVC, its mission, and its members.



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

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NETWORK Board Participates in Anti-Racism Workshop

ne day of the NETWORK and NETWORK
Education Program (NEP) board meetings, April
7-10, was devoted to an anti-racism training
by Crossroads Ministries. All agreed that the one-day
program was very worthwhile but is only the first
step. A committee was created to plan follow-up. The
program began with a clip from the video, "The Danger
of the Single Story," a presentation by a young Nigerian woman which underscores that racism is a condition that one inherits and has been reinforced though
the single story of white Europeans. The speaker also
acknowledges that having a single story is dangerous
for all, no matter one's race or culture. The film laid the
basis for the rest of the day with presentations by two
facilitators, and small group-large group conversations.

The NETWORK board welcomed five new members and honored departing ex-officio member, Marie Lucey OSF, whose time on the board ends with her departure from LCWR. Both boards also expressed gratitude to three NEP board members for whom this was the last meeting, and they look forward to working with the newly hired NEP coordinator, Shannon Hughes, who begins in May.

The members of the board also received and responded to a staff report on legislative policy agenda for the next six months, which will be a focus on the federal budget with emphasis on the widening gap between the wealthiest Americans and the poorest. In preparation for elections 2012, NETWORK is hosting meetings of a number of Catholic organizations, including LCWR, to plan how the Catholic social justice voice can be raised. An update was provided on plans for NETWORK's 40th anniversary, which will extend from December 2011 to December 2012, with a celebration scheduled on April 12, 2012 at Trinity University in Washington, DC.

Help Build the Assembly Scholarship Fund by Recycling Cartridges

CWR works in conjunction with a national cartridge recycling program in an effort to protect the environment and support LCWR members who need financial assistance to attend the annual assembly.

Throughout the year, LCWR-member congregations, their sponsored works, and many other organizations send their used ink cartridges to Empties4cash, a company that pays up to \$4.00 for each empty inkjet cartridge sent. The company provides free supplies and free shipping, and there is no cost to participate. Money received by LCWR from Empties4cash is placed in the LCWR scholarship fund. Anyone interested in participating in this effort can receive directions and free supplies by contacting Carol Glidden at cglidden@lcwr.org or by calling 301-588-4955. Participants must provide a contact name, e-mail, phone number, and address.