

LCWR President Attends White House Prayer Breakfast

LCWR president Mary Hughes, OP attended the second annual prayer breakfast hosted by President Barack Obama in the East Room of the White House on April 19. She was among 130 Christian faith leaders from across the nation invited to attend the event marking Holy Week and Easter, along with members of congress and administration officials.

A video of President Obama’s remarks can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKSKjlsOkPA.



Mary Hughes, OP (center) at the April 19 White House prayer breakfast.

National Federation of Priests’ Councils Honors LCWR



Fr. Richard Vega presents the award to Pat Cormack, SCSC

The National Federation of Priests’ Councils (NFPC) presented its Mandatum Award to LCWR at its May conference in Albuquerque. Each year the federation honors an individual or organization whose “service to the Gospel of Jesus Christ exemplifies the purpose and goals of the federation.”

In presenting the award, the federation noted, “From the days when sisters fed and cared for armies of seminarians, to today, when sisters serve as seminary professors and spiritual directors, women religious have a profound effect on priestly formation. From the days when women’s congregations literally built and ran educational, healthcare, and social services institutions across the country, to today, when sisters continue to lead the way in responding to the needs of others with faithful innovation and gospel fire, women religious are our closest collaborators in ministry. From the days when women’s congregations stood up to anti-Catholic nativists burning crosses on convent lawns to today, when our sisters pour out their blood to defend the poor in far flung places like El Salvador and Brazil, women religious are prophets who challenge us to enter into deeper relationship with

(continued on page 3)

From the LCWR Presidency
Rome: A First View

by Pat Farrell, OSF — LCWR President-Elect

The annual visit of the LCWR leadership to Rome was my first opportunity to step into the world of the Vatican. The days were very full and I found myself tucking away impressions and feelings to process later. I'm still doing that. However, one thing has become clear: the need to approach it all with the broad view of a world church and the long view of history.

Visits to Vatican offices called for the broad view, demonstrating the complexities of an international church. I learned of the plight of 1.2 million sea-faring people, the extent of the persecution of Christians in the Middle East, the unique challenges to social communications in the developing world. The beatification of Pope John



only evident 50 years after its conclusion. Francine Cardman's reflection on the apostolic visitation of US women religious in "Vatican II Revisited" reflects that: "The visitation of women's religious communities is enmeshed in the unsettled questions about the interpretation of the council. And theological debate and ecclesiastical politics have heated up in recent years about Catholic identity and the legacy of Vatican II that affect us all." The questions remain. The jury is still out. What looks unsettling on the immediate horizon has yet to run

the course of history. It invites historical patience and the staying power of faith. One contribution that LCWR can make is to be present at every possible level in the process of church reflection on its identity and mission. Faithfulness requires that we both hear the complexities of our world church and also make present the experiences and insights entrusted to us in our time, for the sake of the church and the world. We speak that truth as conditions for real communication allow, challenged to expand the spaces for dialogue where they are compromised. One way is through persistent and respectful presence as every year the LCWR leadership continues to travel to Rome.

*One contribution that LCWR can make
is to be present at every possible level
in the process of
church reflection on its
identity and mission.*

Paul II while we were in Rome provided a visual of a global church, with flags of the world waving above national delegations, Polish pride everywhere evident, and a large number of youth representing many countries. Religious life, too, is clearly global. The conversation with UISG/USG made me aware of the advantages of our international network. It was a joy to tell of our LCWR assembly resolution of solidarity with religious around the world. We shared common concerns and a warm sense of connection. There was a collective desire to nurture religious life for the world. Through UISG/USG, we are uniquely positioned to do that.

Hindsight also invites the long view, a historical perspective of the waxing and waning of the church seasons. Some church historians claim that the real indication of an ecumenical council's staying power is

We know that what is of God will survive and that God raises up what is needed in every age. Perhaps we em-

*Faithfulness requires that we both
hear the complexities of our world church
and also make present the experiences and insights
entrusted to us in our time,
for the sake of the church and the world*

body, for this age, part of that fresh impulse of the Spirit for the church. Perhaps not. What we do know is that God is faithful and that God's Spirit is always doing something new. Can we perceive it together?

LCWR Appoints New Associate Director



Ann Scholz, SSND has accepted the position of LCWR associate director for social mission. A member of the St. Louis Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, she has just completed an eight-year term as the SSND representative at the United Nations in New York. Much of her work in this position focused particularly on the right to education, gender equality, and the human rights of girls, and also took her as a speaker to SSND institutions throughout the world.

A former secondary school social studies teacher, she earned a master of arts and doctoral degree in international education from the American University in Washington, DC. She served as an associate professor of education and director of study abroad at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland from 1991-2002.

Ann will attend the LCWR assembly in August, will work with current associate director Marie Lucey, OSF following that, and then will assume the position in early September.

LCWR Annotated Bibliography

The LCWR Contemporary Religious Life Committee has added five recommended readings to the annotated bibliography on religious life. The bibliography can be found at www.lcwr.org/what%27snew/bibliography.htm.

A set of reflection questions accompany the recommended readings. LCWR members are encouraged to utilize the bibliography and share it with their community members as well.



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 to Carol Keehan, DC

NFPC Honors LCWR

(continued from page 1)

God and each other. In its work uniting the various communities of sisters, the LCWR makes present Christ, who stoops to wash the feet of all in love. Thus LCWR is most deserving of the 2011 NFPC Mandatum Award."

LCWR associate director for business and finance Pat Cormack, SCSC accepted the award on behalf of LCWR.

LCWR Officers Make Annual Visit to Vatican Offices

The LCWR presidents (Mary Hughes, OP; Pat Farrell, OSF; and Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA) and executive director (Jane Burke, SSND) represented the conference in Rome from April 27 through May 4. They traveled with a delegation of officers from the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and made several of their visits to various Vatican offices jointly. Among the offices visited were:

- The Secretariat of State
- The Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life
- The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
- 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 “Cor Unum”
- The Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Immigrants
- The Pontifical Council for Social Communications
- The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity



Pat Farrell; Mary Hughes; Archbishop Joe Tobin, CSsR, CICLSAL secretary; and Marlene Weisenbeck



The LCWR and CMSM delegations met frequently to prepare for their visits to the Vatican offices. Here, Giles Hayes, Jane Burke, and Thomas Smolich meet with CICLSAL staff Hank Lemoncelli, OMI and Mary Wright, IBVM.



The LCWR and CMSM delegations met with the US ambassador to the Vatican Dr. Miguel Díaz. Shown here are: Mary Hughes; Marlene Weisenbeck; Dr. Díaz; Thomas Smolich, SJ; Thomas Cassidy, SCJ; Giles P. Hayes, OSB; John Edmunds, ST; Paul Lininger, OFM Conv; Ronald Talbot, SC; and Pat Farrell



Mary Hughes and Pat Farrell in St. Peter Square where preparations were underway for the beatification of John Paul II



Mary Hughes and Pat Farrell, had an opportunity to greet the pope during his weekly audience



Pat Farrell and Mary Hughes speak with Cardinal Kurt Koch, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity



The LCWR delegation had the opportunity to meet with some of the major superiors of congregations who have sisters serving in the United States. Both delegations met with the leaders of the Union of International Superiors General and the Union of Superiors General.

Here, Marlene Weisenbeck speaks with some congregation leaders at a reception for them hosted by LCWR and CMSM.



CICLSAL prefect Archbishop João Braz de Aviz and Pat Farrell

Demonstrating Solidarity with Haiti

by Pat Farrell, OSF, LCWR President-Elect

To stand at the site where an estimated 200,000 bodies were buried immediately after the earthquake was an experience I was scarcely able to take in. It was the strongest impression I took away from my April trip to Haiti. I was there representing LCWR at the annual meeting of the Conference for Religious from Latin America and the Caribbean (CLAR).

CLAR chose to gather with leaders from its member countries in Haiti this year to demonstrate solidarity and to explore how to most effectively channel assistance. We spent two full days visiting various projects initiated and staffed by religious in tent cities, schools, clinics, trauma treatment centers, rural areas, and areas of great devastation in Port-au-Prince. A team of CLAR theologians was on hand to help the group do theological reflection on the experience and later to discern possible responses.

CLAR is encouraging inter-congregational ventures in Haiti. Two experiences have already been initiated with religious from Ecuador and Brazil. CLAR reinforced its policy of respecting the protagonism of national conferences, in this case following the leadership of the religious of Haiti. Many present expressed concern for finding a way to assure responsible distribution of funds and financial accountability.

I was newly aware in Haiti that where there is acute human need, there religious are to be found, often in thankless jobs and difficult situations. I was inspired by the service I saw. LCWR is also not alone in the struggle to identify how to focus our support. Post-earthquake Haiti is a complex reality and we will continue to explore how best to respond.



Pat Farrell, OSF with children at a clinic established after the earthquake



Provisional housing at Cité Soleil



Mass grave near Port-au-Prince

All LCWR Members Encouraged to Reflect on Regional Insights

All LCWR members are encouraged to reflect on the insights that have come from the LCWR regions on what is emerging for US women religious as this life form goes into the future. All insights are posted on the LCWR website at www.lcwr.org/what%27snew/new.htm.



Leadership 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.

Is Your Leadership Term About to End?

If 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.

Justice for Immigrants Lobbies Senators

On May 11, members of the Justice for Immigrants Campaign, including LCWR, visited in teams a number of senate offices, to express concern about proposed enforcement measures, specifically the e-verify program, outside the context of comprehensive immigration reform. Advocates also encouraged support for the DREAM Act, reintroduced the same day.

While prospects for DREAM and comprehensive reform are not encouraging in this Congress, advocates want to keep the pressure on while focusing on mitigating enforcement measures. In debriefing the visits, all agreed that we must encourage our members in the field to raise these issues with their respective senators and representatives who need to hear from their constituents. LCWR members are encouraged to visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org for resources, especially on e-verify, and contact senators and representatives.



Assembly Registration Deadlines

Fees per person:

- Before June 28: \$385.00
- Before July 15: \$415.00
- Before August 1: \$440.00
- After August 1: \$450.00

Seeking Contributions to the Assembly Scholarship Fund

Each year LCWR is able to provide scholarships to approximately 30 members to assist with registration and/or hotel accommodations at the assembly. The conference is able to do so because of the generosity of LCWR members who contribute to the scholarship fund as well as the money collected from the recycling of printer ink cartridges. **This year LCWR is seeing an increase in requests for scholarships at the same time that contributions are declining. All members are asked to consider contributing even a small amount to the scholarship fund.**



Upcoming Showings

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

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

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

Next Step for Nuclear Disarmament: CTBT Ratification

Now that new START has been ratified and implementation is moving forward, nuclear disarmament organizations and faith groups turn their focused attention to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Of the 182 countries that have signed the treaty, 153 have ratified it, but before the CTBT can become law, 44 specific nuclear technology countries must sign and ratify it. Nine of these are still missing: China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, and the United States. Ratification is one of the Administration's priorities, and meetings of the CTBT coalition are focusing on building capacity among their members to raise public awareness and to lobby congress. LCWR members, especially justice and peace contacts, are encouraged to visit www.nuclearweaponsfree.org for information and resources.



During the past month, LCWR signed the following:

- Letter to Speaker John Boehner, Catholic University of America (CUA) commencement speaker, submitted by a number of professors of theology from both CUA and other universities, expressing strong concern about his support for deep cuts in programs that will be very detrimental to low income and poor people, a position contrary to Catholic Social Teaching
- Resolution of Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence in the United States
- Letter to House and Senate Foreign Operations Appropriations Sub-committee to fully fund the President's request for 2012 for programs to prevent violent conflict and protect from such conflicts
- Letter to the House Committee on Armed Services opposing a new Declaration of War legislation as in Section 1034 of the National Defense Authorization Act
- National Religious Campaign Against Torture letter to Congress opposing any effort to expand the use of indefinite detention
- Letter to Congress calling for a reduction in corporate tax subsidies, and using savings to help reduce long-term budget deficit and protect public investments

LCWR 2011 Reflections Begin May 31



The daily reflections in the LCWR publication, *Behold, I am Doing Something New*, begin on May 31.

Vatican Statement on the Death of Osama bin Laden

Several faith organizations have issued statements of dismay about the celebratory and triumphant responses of some to the killing of Osama bin Laden. The LCWR presidents and executive director were in Rome at the time, so there was no opportunity for LCWR to draft a statement. LCWR leadership does support the intent of the Holy Father in the May 2 Vatican Statement:

“Osama bin Laden, as we all know, bore the most serious responsibility for spreading divisions and hatred among populations, causing the deaths of innumerable people, and manipulating religions for this purpose. In the face of a man’s (sic) death, a Christian never rejoices, but reflects on the serious responsibilities of each person before God and before men (sic), and hopes and works so that every event may be the occasion for the further growth of peace and not of hatred.”



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

Editor: Annmarie Sanders, IHM
 8808 Cameron Street — Silver Spring, MD 20910
 Phone: 301-588-4955 Fax: 301-587-4575
 E-mail: asanders@lcwr.org Website: www.lcwr.org



National Communicators Network for Women Religious 17th Annual Conference

“All That Jazz”

September 17 – 30, 2011
New Orleans, Louisiana

Presentations:

Helen Prejean, CSJ

“Empower Life, One Person at a Time”

Judith Carey, RSM

“A Public Face and Voice of the Mission/Charism”

Paul Bednarczyk, CSC

“The CARA Study and Implications for Communicators”

Workshops

“Balancing on the Fine Tightrope of Copyright Law”

Elizabeth Townsend Gard

“Online Giving: Show Me the Money!”

Robert Wesolowski

“Communicating in a Recovering Economy.”

Cheryn Robles

NCNWR members will also showcase exemplary communications projects, as judged by their peers, during the “Best Practices” sessions.

Congregation leaders as well as vocation ministers and development directors are encouraged to attend.

More information is available at www.ncnwr.org.



Curious About Chapters? Puzzled About Patrimony? RCRI is Here to Help

One of the many benefits that the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) offers its member communities is the ability to consult with a canon or civil lawyer on the RCRI staff about unique questions or concerns. The center staff are easily reached via e-mail at trcri@trcri.org or via phone at 301-589-8143.

Not an RCRI member? Please contact Rita Waters, RSM at rwaters@trcri.org for information on how to enroll.