

July 2011



**Mystery Unfolding:
 Religious Life for the World**
 LCWR Assembly
 August 9 - 12
 Garden Grove, California

Planning for the LCWR assembly is well underway. Since the publication of the LCWR registration brochure, other events and opportunities have been added to the schedule.

'What's On Your Mind?'

Two sessions have been built into the schedule for open microphone time. This will provide members an opportunity for

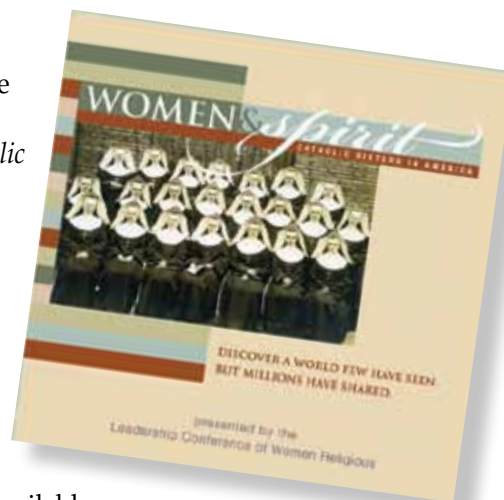
- Exchanging ideas important for the life and direction of LCWR
- Surfacing ideas for future consideration by LCWR
- Expressing concerns that impact LCWR

Members are encouraged to give thought ahead of time about ideas they may wish to bring forward during these sessions.

(continued on page 3)

LCWR Women & Spirit Documentary Available in August

LCWR will premiere the *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America* documentary at the LCWR assembly venue on **Monday, August 8 at 7:00 PM** for any LCWR member, associate, or assembly exhibitor who is available to attend.



The 56-minute documentary, narrated by Cokie Roberts, is on a DVD that will be available for purchase during the assembly. Also on the DVD is a film study guide and a digital catalog that contains images of all the artifacts and panels that comprise the *Women & Spirit* traveling exhibit. Some of the videos within the exhibit will be included as well.

The DVD will sell for \$20.00 per copy and may be purchased at the assembly free of additional shipping and handling charges. LCWR members as well as the public will also be able to purchase the DVD via the LCWR website (www.lcwr.org) or the *Women & Spirit* website (www.womenandspirit.org). Information on sales will soon be posted on these sites.

LCWR members are asked to promote the DVD within their own institutes, as well as to churches, schools, bishops, vocation offices, women's groups, libraries, and other groups or locations. All proceeds from the sale of the DVD will help support the mission of LCWR.

From the LCWR Presidency
The Gifts of Summer

by **Mary Hughes, OP** — LCWR President

When I search through my calendar at this time of year, it is a relief to note that board meetings and meetings of sponsored ministries are rarely scheduled during the summer months. Long hours of daylight give me the illusion that I have more time. We begin to work our schedules around significant and pleasurable events such as vacation, retreat, and of course, the annual LCWR assembly in August.



er, and to catch up on spiritual reading as well as professional reading. Sharing meals that are less time-sensitive allow us to linger in conversation and speak about hopes and dreams that have been churning in our hearts. We can reconnect with friends in ways that may not have been possible during these previous months. All of these moments invite us to reflect upon God's activity in our lives, God's deep desire to lavish us with love, and of all God has done to make us happy. Attentiveness to this reality can bring tears to our eyes.

These wonderful months of summer afford us an opportunity to breathe. They also offer us an opportunity to reflect upon significant things that may have touched our hearts during these past months. Too many of us have needed to say our final goodbyes

Most of us have spent endless hours at meetings, working on strategic plans and forecasting for our futures. We have endeavored, out of a true sense of stewardship, to both anticipate and provide for the needs of the sisters in our congregations and to provide for the future. Yet, the events that rock our equilibrium are seldom the items in a strategic plan or a vision. Rather, they are the events that take us by surprise. There is no way to anticipate surprises except to have developed within ourselves an inner life that relies deeply on God and trusts in the resources of God's love and providence.

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encourages us
to be more reflective in our prayer.*

to sisters with whom we have shared life. We may have needed to close a ministry that was held dear by our congregations. We have finished our parts in the apostolic visitation and we await word on the doctrinal assessment. We hold mixed feelings of grieving, of relief, of anticipation, perhaps some anger, and yes, some exhaustion. We welcome this "down time" feeling as though we both need and deserve a break. We do. However, the time summer affords us is not simply time off. It is a time for attentiveness and replenishing.

The time given to us this summer is a gift. Just as the wise bridesmaids spoken of in Luke's gospel (Luke 25) came with lamps filled with oil, use this time to fill

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During these next two months we will have splendid opportunities to see the beauty of God's creation, to watch the miracles of growth and flowering, and to observe the natural rhythms that occur between sunrise and sunset. These invite us to be attentive to all God has provided for us and summon us to a renewed awareness of the sacredness of all God has created.

yourself with all good things so that together, we can be ready for the future with our light. Be attentive.

The slower pace encourages us to be more reflective in our prayer. It can be easier to carve out time to go deep-

Mystery Unfolding: Religious Life for the World LCWR Assembly

(continued from page 1)

'Behold, I am Doing Something New' Reflective Presentation

Throughout the assembly, participants will have opportunities to deepen their reflection on the assembly experience and to share with one another insights as to where God is leading US women religious in the birthing of something new.

The contemplative processing of the assembly experience will conclude on the final afternoon, with the assistance of LCWR members Marcia Allen, CSJ and Marie McCarthy, SP who will serve as listeners throughout the entire assembly and will offer back reflections on what they have heard.

Optional Evening Sessions

Two groups of LCWR members who have been networking with one another will be available to share with other assembly participants what they are learning and planning. Representatives from each group will be available on **Wednesday, August 10 at 6:00 PM** to speak with others about their ideas and will welcome anyone who wishes to join them. These gatherings will conclude no later than 7:00 PM.

Refounding/Revitalization Network

A group of LCWR members who lead congregations that have decided not to reconfigure, merge, or form a union, but want to "refound" or "revitalize," have been exploring together possibilities and strategies around future leadership, alternative forms of association, and property/environmental issues.

Many of the issues being discussed by this group are pertinent to nearly all religious institutes as they move into the future. Anyone interested in hearing the ideas is welcome to attend the evening session.



Young Leaders

Last year a group of leaders who are approximately 60 and younger met for lunch during the assembly. The group now has a listserv for sharing ideas and will be meeting for lunch again during this assembly.

Anyone who wishes to hear the visions and hopes of this cohort of leaders is welcome to attend the evening session.

Assembly Schedule

Since many LCWR assembly participants plan other meetings or engagements around the assembly events, it may be helpful to note some additions to the original schedule.

**Monday, August 8
7:00 PM**

Premiere of
Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America
Documentary

**Wednesday, August 10
6:00 – 7:00 PM**

Optional Sessions:
Refounding/Revitalization Network and
Young Leaders

Registration Materials:

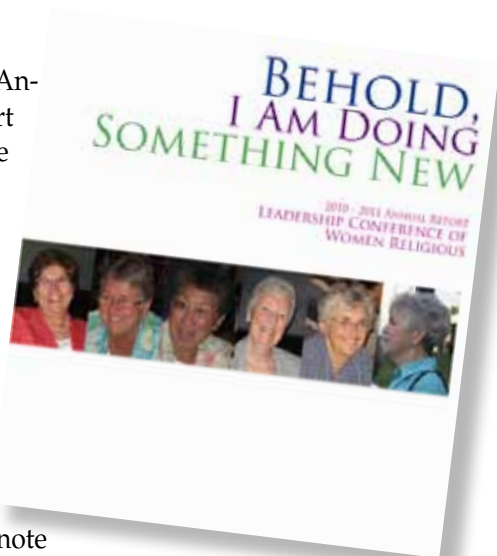
www.lcwr.org/members/2011reg.pdf

LCWR Annual Report Available Online

The LCWR 2010-2011 Annual Report is now available on the LCWR website at: www.lcwr.org/what'snew/report10-11.pdf.

LCWR members are encouraged to read the document and note any questions or new ideas that the report provokes. Opportunities are available during the assembly for raising questions and sharing perceptions about the conference.

Members will be asked to approve the report during the executive session.



LCWR 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
- Open microphone sessions
- 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
- Optional evening sessions to learn about leadership networking opportunities

LCWR Strategic Operational Plan Committee Sets Goals

The Strategic Operational Plan Committee met at Washington Theological Union at the end of May in order to prepare for the upcoming LCWR assembly. There are several critical next steps for the committee and they are outlined in the goals set by the committee for the coming year.

1. To propose a viable national structure for LCWR that is able to serve its membership going forward.
2. To foster ongoing dialogue between the regions and the national board on issues significant for the whole conference.
3. To engage the regions in conversation about regional viability and the deeper questions facing their congregations and religious life today.

The committee will present its goals and engage in conversation with LCWR members about these important steps at the assembly.

LCWR Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography on religious life prepared by LCWR's Contemporary Religious Life Committee is available for the use of all members. The bibliography may 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.

Additional Reminders about 2011 LCWR Assembly

Registrations

All those who have not yet registered for the 2011 LCWR assembly are encouraged to do so. E-mail confirmations are sent as soon as registrations are processed at LCWR. Participants are asked to check their confirmation e-mail before calling the LCWR office to inquire about their registration. It may take at least a week to process a registration from the time it is received in the office.

The registration fee increases to \$415 per person beginning on June 28. The envelope with the registration form and payment must be postmarked no later than June 27.

Women & Spirit Exhibit Tour

Pre-assembly tours of *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America* will be available on August 8 and August 9. The tour will last approximately five hours and will cost \$45, which includes bus transportation and a box lunch.

Each departure time can accommodate a maximum of 110 participants.

- Monday, August 8, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Monday, August 8, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Tuesday, August 9, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Registration for the tours is available on the assembly registration form. Anyone thinking about participating is encouraged to make a reservation soon. LCWR reserves the right to cancel a departure or to adjust the number of tour buses and participants that can be accommodated should registrations for the tour warrant this.

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

LCWR and Women Religious in the News

“Court order to cut California prison population seen as rights victory”

Catholic News Service
 Article by Patricia Zapor

June 3, 2011

www.thebostonpilot.com/article.asp?ID=13419

“Calming the waters: New Vatican official tries different approach”

Article by John Thavis
 Catholic News Service

June 3, 2011

www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1102194.htm

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

Systemic Change Think Tank

Bethany Center

Lutz, Florida

March 5 — 8, 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 New Leader Workshop

Conference Center - University of St. Mary of the Lake

Mundelein, Illinois

March 21 — 24, 2013

LCWR Assembly

Orlando, Florida

August 13 — 17, 2013

LCWR and CMSM Leaders Attend Reception at Papal Nunciature



Leaders of LCWR and CMSM were among the guests at a recent reception at the Washington, DC residence of apostolic nuncio Pietro Sambì. Shown here are: LCWR executive director Jane Burke, SSND; LCWR president Mary Hughes, OP; Archbishop Sambì; and CMSM executive director Paul Lininger, OFM Conv.

Bread for the World's National Gathering: Changing the Politics of Hunger

Although LCWR does not usually attend the national Bread for the World (BFW) gathering, Marie Lucey, OSF, associate director for social mission, was strongly urged by BFW to attend at least the final day and participate in a meeting of interdenominational women to explore ways of promoting the "1,000 Days: Change a Life, Change the Future" movement to address maternal and child health and nutrition. BFW provided a scholarship for this participation.

The gathering, held June 11-14 in Washington, DC, included a full day cosponsored with Concern Worldwide, in which panels of grassroots leaders from developing countries and international development of professionals spoke about their efforts to promote "1,000 Days to Scale Up Nutrition for Mothers and Children" (SUN) in their respective countries. Initiated by the US and Ireland, (Secretary Hillary Clinton and Irish parliamentarian Micheal Martin), 1,000 days represents the critical first two years of a child's life when hunger and malnutrition disable the child for life. Launched in September 2010 the 1,000 Days will extend to June 2012.

CMSM Names New Executive Director

The Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) has appointed John A. Pavlik, OFM Cap as its executive director.



Pavlik comes to CMSM after having served the Province of St. Augustine, which is headquartered in Pittsburgh, for six years as provincial, six years as vicar provincial, and an additional six years on the provincial council. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, he previously ministered in areas of religious formation for his community.

Earlier he served as guardian and director of formation at Capuchin College in Washington, where he collaborated in the preparation of religious candidates for ordination to the priesthood.

Pavlik will begin his first three-year term as CMSM executive director on August 15. He will also be present at the LCWR assembly and will preside at some of the Eucharistic liturgies.

He succeeds Paul Lininger, OFM Conv, who is completing six years as executive director.

The group of interdenominational women agreed to promote the movement and acknowledged that maternal and child hunger and malnutrition exist within the United States as well as in the developing world. Efforts in Congress to further reduce foreign assistance (currently only 1% of the federal budget, of which .6% is designated for development assistance) is an immediate and urgent issue of concern. Advocacy not to cut this funding, but rather increase it, needs to be strengthened. LCWR members are encouraged to join these efforts and learn more about the 1,000 Days movement by visiting www.thousanddays.org. Bread for the World's resources about maternal and child nutrition are found at www.bread.org/hunger/maternal-child-nutrition/.

WOMEN & spirit

CATHOLIC SISTERS IN AMERICA

Exhibit Opens in Los Angeles

Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles welcomed the *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America* exhibit to its Chalon Campus with a series of opening events.

Approximately 600 sisters, many of whom traveled by bus from four dioceses in southern California, toured the exhibit throughout the day on June 17. The following evening, the college welcomed the major superiors of women's communities all over the area, as well as major donors, to the campus for a Eucharistic liturgy, banquet, program, and tour of the exhibit.

The program included a blessing by LCWR president Mary Hughes, OP; welcomes by college president Jacqueline Powers Doud, PhD and exhibit coordinator Helen Garvey, BVM. LCWR history committee member and former Mount St. Mary's College president Karen Kennelly, CSJ presented an overview of key exhibit artifacts.



Visitors tour the exhibit at Mount St. Mary's José Drudis-Biada Art Gallery



Guests at the opening walk from the college chapel to the banquet and program hosted by Mount St. Mary's College



A Women & Spirit banner hangs outside the college chapel



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

LCWR Seeks Executive Assistant

LCWR is searching for an executive assistant to work directly with the executive director, providing critical administrative support. The executive assistant is responsible for general administrative tasks, other office duties, some program coordination, and should be someone who can easily interact with various groups and organizations. This position requires someone with excellent verbal and written communication skills who is organized, efficient, detail-oriented, proficient in various computer programs, and able to safeguard confidential materials and information.

Anyone interested in the position is asked to contact Jane Burke, SSND, by July 5, 2011 at jburke@lcwr.org for a full job description. Starting date: August 1, 2011.



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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?

If your leadership term is ending this month, you must submit a change of leadership form so that the LCWR membership may 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.

Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking

During the May 31 meeting of the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking, members were given an update on the work of the trafficking program of the USCCB, administered through Migration and Refugee Service (MRS), and a policy update on the TVPRA (Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act). The Anti-Trafficking Services Program, a five-year contract with HHS due to end in April 2011, was given a six-month extension until October. The program provides per capita case management services to foreign national victims of trafficking through local subcontractors who receive funding, training, and technical assistance. The TVPRA is up for reauthorization this year and will be introduced in the House Foreign Affairs Committee within the next month. MRS promotes additional protections, especially regarding children at the border. While many of the requests do not involve funding, MRS advocates for \$17 million, an addition of \$4.5 million to what is currently in the bill.

A representative of the Florida Catholic Conference was brought into the meeting via videoconferencing to describe the activities over the past two years by way of a project initiated by Bishop Thomas Wenski and supported by the bishop of every diocese in the state. Every parish was asked to appoint a contact person and 50%-60% of parishes reported using the video "Invisible Chains," supplied by the Catholic conference. A variety of resources were made available to the parishes. Florida could be a model for other Catholic conferences.

During the member updating, reports on activities in LCWR regions were provided by the associate director for social mission. In addition, Ann Victory, HM, reported on training of speakers and other activities in Ohio and Joan Dawber, SC described activities of Life-Way Network which works in collaboration with the New York Coalition of Religious Congregations to Stop Trafficking of People, which Joan co-chairs with Mary Heyser, RSHM.

CHA Assembly Addresses How Reform Will Advance the Healing Mission

The theme of the Catholic Health Association assembly, held June 5-7 in Atlanta, "The Opportunity Now: How Reform Will Advance the Healing Mission" featured keynote presentations by Atul Gawanda, MD, surgeon, writer, and MacArthur Foundation Fellow; Peter Orszag, economist who recently served as director of the Congressional Budget Office; and Donald Berwick, MD, administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

A common thread through the presentations was that healthcare in the US will, of necessity, change. All involved in providing healthcare must acknowledge the reality; be creative in their approaches; take risks, realizing that some programs will fail and provide learnings; be collaborative and find new partners; be attentive to opportunities for providing better care at lower cost. The speakers, who have high regard for the Catholic healthcare ministry, were both challenging and encouraging.

A number of "innovative forums" on a variety of topics were provided, and a general session on "CHA Board Dialogue: Collaborating with the Church," rounded out the program before the assembly closing. Carol Keehan, DC, CHA president and CEO addressed the assembly on collaborative efforts of the past year, then moderated a panel consisting of Anthony Tersigni, board chair during the past year, Colleen Scanlon, former board chair; Bishops Robert Lynch and Kevin Vann, both board members. The conversation was honest, acknowledging "bumps in the road" in collaborative efforts, but all agreed that both CHA and the USCCB are committed to remain at the table, continue dialogue, and work at strengthening relationships.

The assembly was preceded by a board meeting during which the board thanked Marie Lucey, OSF, LCWR's associate director for social mission, for her participation as participating observer for the past eight years and for the LCWR reports that she provided at each meeting.



NRVC Study on Student Loans and Vocations

The National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) is privileged to partner with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) to study the ways in which student loans may be affecting vocations to religious life. This study is being made possible through a generous grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.

A questionnaire has been mailed to all major superiors of religious institutes (congregations, provinces, regions, and monasteries) in the United States. The survey has two parts. The first section focuses on serious inquirers, by which is meant women who have considered entering an institute, and who continue to discern beyond an initial contact. The second section focuses on the institute's policy, practices, and experiences with inquirers and candidates who carry educational debt.

Although some questions may require consultation with present or former vocation directors (or even archives), participation in this project is essential for the validity of the final results.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that educational debt has complicated and perhaps even thwarted vocations. Through this study, NRVC will be able to assess the extent of the issue and lay groundwork for developing resources to assist religious institutes in their handling of candidates with educational debt. The completed survey is due to CARA 10 business days after receipt of the letter and questionnaire.

Any questions regarding the survey or its contents may be directed to Dr. Mary Gautier at CARA, at 202-687-8080.

World Youth Day Madrid

In collaboration with Holy Cross Family Ministries, NRVC, and VISION Vocation Guide will have a vocation display at World Youth Day (WYD) in Madrid from August 15-19. The location will be at the Palacio de los Deportes, under the title "Love and Life: A Home for English-Speaking Pilgrims."

Activities at the center, scheduled around the WYD program of events, will include masses and devotions, catechesis sessions, concerts, speakers, testimonies, prayer, and movie screenings. The air-conditioned facility seats 15,000 in its main event hall and its exhibition areas will have a chapel especially constructed for WYD, as well as informational displays, an art show, and support for the young visitors to Madrid. It will also offer them a place to rest from Spain's summer heat.

Pax Christi USA Seeks Executive Director

The national office of Pax Christi USA has moved to Washington, DC, and Pax Christi is seeking a new executive director. For a job description and application information, contact paxchristiusa@gmail.com by July 1. The projected starting date is August 1.