

# Update

A Publication of the  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious

October 2005

*Jubilee Year Opens in Anaheim*

## LCWR Members Explore the Role of Religious Life in Responding to the Urgent Needs of the Times

With more than 800 members present in assembly, LCWR president Christine Vladimiroff, OSB stated, "Our foremothers and founders have shown us the way through the past. Now it is our time, the only time we have -- the present. The future of religious life is in our hands to shape for those who will follow us."

The call to shape religious life in response to the urgent needs of the times was echoed by this assembly's keynoters and conversation session leaders and woven through the ritual and liturgies. The speakers urged leaders to commemorate the LCWR jubilee year by reflecting more deeply on the power and potential of religious life to witness to the possibilities of transformation. As noted by keynoter Margaret Brennan, IHM, "For us [Jubilee] is a time, not just to rest, but to be immersed in God and God's world -- but perhaps in a more contemplative way -- to shift our directions, to scan the horizons for what lies ahead, to claim the freedom that comes from serving God, to enter into a year of joy and gratitude, to recognize our solidarity, however difficult, with all human beings with whom we share this earth we call home."

More on the 2005 LCWR assembly can be found on pages 4 - 7, as well as on the LCWR website at: <http://www.lcwr.org/lcwrannualassembly/assemblies.htm>



### Women Religious Respond to the Needs of Hurricane Katrina Victims

As word of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina spread, women religious throughout the United States immediately began looking for ways to help. One of the first actions was when the National Religious Retirement Office established itself as a clearing house to help religious from Louisiana and Mississippi who were displaced by the hurricane. Within only a few days the NRRO staff was deluged with offers from congregations willing to share their housing.

Many congregations offered help to orders that had members who lost their housing and resources. Others have been working with agencies and educational centers that are helping displaced persons.

The LCWR presidency offered their support to the leaders of congregations in Region 5 who had been affected by the hurricane. In a letter to them, they said in part:

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*From the LCWR Presidency*

## Probing the Questions of Our Times

by Christine Vladimiroff, OSB  
LCWR Past President

These are apocalyptic times. First, the tsunami with more than 300,000 dead or missing visited our globe. Fishing villages disappeared and a people's way of life changed forever. Our hearts were moved and the day after Christmas last year was not about gifts but about reaching out beyond our borders to victims. Why such destruction visited a poor people was the question that haunted our minds as we set out to donate to the relief effort. Today, the people who survived are frightened by the sounds of crashing waves, and terrified to return to their village and old way of life by the sea. Will they ever be able to put their lives back together again?



Now, closer to home, Hurricane Katrina devastated all life in its path and human failures compounded the suffering of a people who looked for a saving hand and found none. The social rift in our country was made

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*What in our lives stands outside of God's word that undermines the integrity of creation itself?*

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apparent as those who were poor had few or no options. They were left behind. Those who had means and resources escaped. A super power was shown to the world to be incapable of helping its own people. Arrogance was replaced with humiliation. Our feelings of helplessness increased as we saw the failure of technology with the breeching of the levees in New Orleans. Nature could not be contained nor its force tamed. The "party city" hears now only the sounds of lamentation in its streets. Tears of grief and vacant stares replace the smiles and laughter of just weeks ago.

This is the same nature that inspires us with its beauty of sunrises and sunsets each day. It brings us flow-

ers and blossoms in the spring. I find breathlessly beautiful the changing colors of leaves in the fall. In this moment, I feel betrayed by the same nature that brings me a sense of the divine in my contemplative walks along Lake Erie. The natural world is a source of blessedness, a place of beauty and a reason for joy. Nature communicates to us a feeling of being in the presence of the divine. I do not want to fall into a simplistic fundamentalism as I pose the questions. Who unleashed its fury? Was it an act of God? Are we complicit in creating the conditions of nature unbounded?

I can only probe the question. I have no answers. What is our relationship to nature? I remember Thomas Berry, in an interview, once said: "A use-relationship with the natural world is the deepest perversity of which humans are capable. The worst thing one human being can say to another is, 'You used me.'" Are we guilty of viewing nature as an object to be used? Have we treated our natural world in ways that have broken the rhythm and right relationship we ought to experience? Has the accumulation of abuse by those of us who walk the earth broken the covenant between us and the planet we were given as our home? What in our

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*Have we treated our natural world in ways that have broken the rhythm and right relationship we ought to experience?*

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lives stands outside of God's word that undermines the integrity of creation itself? What is the stirring in our conscience as we witness the events and hear the plight of the poor?

As women religious, our spirituality represents the way we reflect the holiness of God to the world. It is our way of being holy in the contemporary struggle with the questions of meaning. Those questions abound today.

## LCWR National Board Meeting News

Among the topics discussed by the LCWR national board at its August post-assembly meeting were the following.

### Exhibit on Women Religious

The LCWR board approved the plans of the LCWR History Committee to move forward in researching and planning for a possible exhibit on women religious at the Smithsonian. The suggestion of an exhibit had been raised in several LCWR regions as part of the commemoration of the LCWR jubilee.

The next step in the planning process will be a charrette, a three-day process where an interdisciplinary professional design team creates a complete and buildable plan that reflects the input of all stakeholders. The charrette will be held from October 27-29 in Baltimore and will involve more than 20 people, including representatives from the Smithsonian.

### Election of At-Large Executive Committee Members

The LCWR board elected as at-large members of the LCWR Executive Committee Margaret Mayce, OP and Maureen Shaughnessy, SC.

### Fall Regional Meetings

The following are among the topics recommended for discussion at the LCWR fall regional meetings:

- Assembly 2005 Report
- LCWR Jubilee
- National Dues Structure
- Jubilee History Project
- CARA Study Follow-Up



LCWR officers for 2005-06 at the August post-assembly board meeting: Mary Dacey, SSJ, president-elect; Maryann Summa, OP, treasurer; Jeanne Bessette, OSF, secretary; Christine Vladimiroff, OSB, past president; and Bea Eichten, OSF, president

## LCWR New Leader Workshop

Information and registration forms will be sent electronically to all LCWR members about the upcoming LCWR New Leader Workshop

This workshop has been revised and will be presented in a new format which will include facilitation, ritual and ample opportunities for interaction among speakers and participants.

The workshop is designed for religious who have been in elected congregational leadership for less than two years.

March 30 - April 2, 2006  
Mundelein, Illinois

## Women Religious Respond to the Needs of Hurricane Katrina Victims

(continued from page 1)

"As the members of the LCWR presidency, we extend our deepest sympathy for all that you, your sisters and all those you know, love and serve have experienced with the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina.

"As we hear the reports about the extreme suffering being endured by so many in the south, we think often of all the women religious there among them. We thank you for your courageous responses to the devastation of human life that you must be witnessing. We can only imagine the tremendous inner strength that is needed to bear such pain and suffering. We pray frequently that you may have all of the graces that you need to respond to what life may call you to do and be in the days and months ahead.

"Please be assured of our ongoing care, concern and support for you during this time. We know that many women religious throughout the country stand ready to share their resources, homes, time, service and love with you."



## 2005 LCWR National Assembly



► **Christine Vladimiroff, OSB** in her presidential address stated: "Jubilee is a radical turning of our life over to God. We have made a commitment as a conference. Our fidelity is measured by our daily search for God in the events of our world."



▲ Keynoter **Margaret Brennan, IHM**: "The history of LCWR is itself a wondrously luminous moment in the history of the American church to which God has surely shouted "Yes! Yes! Yes!"

► Keynoter **Maria Cimperman, OSU**: "I'd like to suggest that creating communities of hope on a global scale is a translucent light that calls us with increasing urgency in this 21st century."

*The September 8, 2005 edition of Origins reprinted the keynote addresses of Margaret Brennan and Maria Cimperman.*



▲ All of the speakers and conversation session leaders formed a circle of conversation on the final day of the assembly.

▶ **Rosemary Howarth, SSND**, vice-president of UISG, brought to LCWR greetings from the UISG executive committee and staff which stated in part: "During the past 50 years through the dynamic and untiring efforts of your conference, through networking, corporate action that has been both prophetic and risky, as well as through continued dialogue and efforts at reconciliation in very delicate and sensitive situations, women religious have assumed prophetic leadership roles at the new and emerging frontiers of our time. For this we are very grateful to God who is ever faithful, and to you, women religious of the United States, for your continuing YES – in God's name!"

The Canadian Religious Conference also sent greetings which were read at the LCWR post-assembly board meeting. CRC said in part: "The LCWR has indeed been favoured by God over the past 50 years. You have been blessed with gifted leaders, committed members, and a wealth of resources which you have gladly shared with others. At the CRC, we have greatly appreciated the close collaboration we have enjoyed with the LCWR over many years, especially since the Second Vatican Council."

▶ **Miriam Therese Larkin, CSJ**, 1985 LCWR president, and LCWR executive director **Carole Shinnick, SSND** at the assembly



▼ Former and current LCWR presidents and executive directors attending the assembly: (standing) Mary Chris Fellerhoff, CSA; Donna Markham, OP; Mary Waskowiak, RSM; Mary Mollison, CSA; Constance Phelps, SCL; Mary Ann Zollmann, BVM; Andrée Fries, CPPS; Camille D'Arienzo, RSM; Nancy Sylvester, IHM; Beatrice Eichten, OSF; Mary Dacey, SSJ; and Carole Shinnick, SSND (seated) Christine Vladimiroff, OSB; Catherine Pinkerton, CSJ; Margaret Brennan, IHM; Mary Daniel Turner, SNDdeN; Bette Moslander, CSJ; Theresa Kane, RSM; Helen Maher Garvey, BVM; and Kathleen Pruitt, CSJP

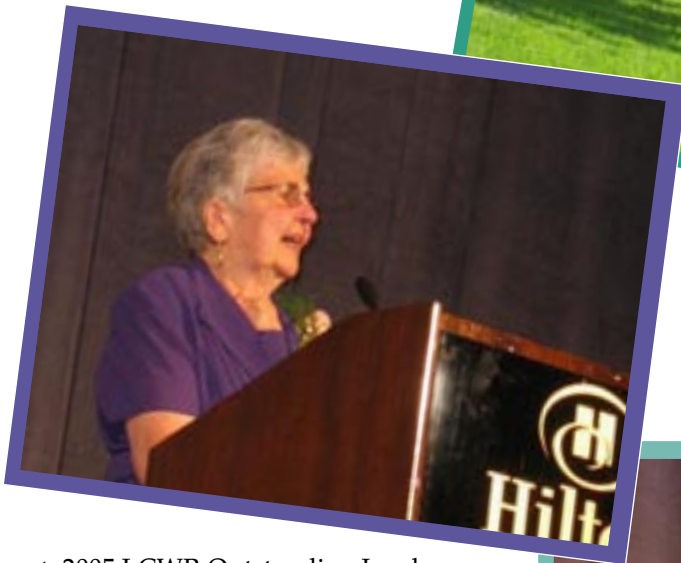






◀ With members of local human rights coalitions, LCWR members held a public witness event to advocate against and raise awareness about human trafficking.

The assembly also released a public statement decrying the continued war in Iraq and the proliferation of nuclear weapons.



▲ 2005 LCWR Outstanding Leader Award recipient **Mary Daniel Turner, SNDdeN**: 'I want to join with the speakers in urging us to be women who say, "Yes, yes, yes" to God's continuing self-revelations; to be women exquisitely attentive to the Spirit's movements within and around us: to be women finely-tuned to what God is asking and gracing us to do and to be. Quite simply, I urge us to be women rooted in contemplation.'



◀ Mary Daniel invited Anita M. Caspry, IHM to the stage with her at the time of her award acceptance. Anita was the general superior of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters in Los Angeles from 1963 to 1969 and president of the Immaculate Heart Community from 1970 to 1973.

## Where Do LCWR Members Perceive They Are Being Called?

by Mary Dacey, SSJ -- LCWR President-Elect

At the conclusion of the LCWR assembly in Anaheim, each table grouping was asked to respond to the following question: "In light of your conversation, where do you perceive LCWR is being called?" Responses from 102 tables identified internationality and efforts toward justice and peace as the two most significant areas of focus. Other areas included the meaning of religious leadership, reconciliation with several groups, a concern around new membership and the deliberate and strong use of LCWR's corporate voice.

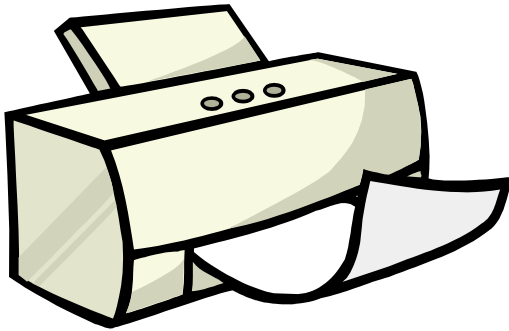
In responses from 65 tables, members called for conversation and collaboration with women religious worldwide. They used words like "partnering" and "networking" to emphasize our need for better understanding a global perspective, for learning from other cultures, and for establishing an international voice for justice and peace. There was significant emphasis on LCWR's initiating these connections. Individual suggestions included inviting representatives of religious leadership conferences in other countries to attend the 2006 assembly and encouraging members whose sisters minister in other countries to share their experience.

The next highest response from over 60 tables was a call for peacemaking, especially in light of the jubilee year. Different groups emphasized individual aspects, such as education, conversation and collaboration with others, and the need for concrete action. Suggestions for action included hosting a peace congress, collaborating with universities and other groups and creating interfaith partnerships. Although a few groups called for establishing a school for peace, the majority of groups called for working with others who have already initiated such efforts, such as Pax Christi and NETWORK. Several groups noted the need to root all peacemaking efforts in contemplation. A few called for the creation of a task force to identify possible directions that could be discussed at the regional level, then brought to the national assembly. Most calls for reconciliation during this jubilee year were broad, but more than five groups called for significant conversation with the Holy Father and the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious.

More than 10 calls focused on the need to explore the meaning of religious leadership today and to support those in leadership. The need for theological reflection and a contemplative life stance was also noted as integral to leadership. More than five groups saw the need for ongoing conversation with new members and the importance of nurturing future leadership. As a means of accomplishing that goal, one group suggested inviting new members to next year's assembly. Other groups suggested inviting laywomen, both Catholic and those of other faiths, and even Wangari Naathai, Nobel Prize winner. Finally, more than five groups called for LCWR to be a strong voice for women in the church. Individual groups called for the conference to reevaluate, rediscover its focus and reclaim its radical stance.

Underlying and unifying these responses was a deep desire to reach beyond ourselves and to choose a path of vision and creativity rather than maintenance and survival. In the spirit of jubilee we "proclaimed this our age as a time of God's favor...and, collaborating with others, looked to create a future filled with hope."





## Support the LCWR Scholarship Fund by Recycling Ink Cartridges

LCWR and many of its member congregations have been participating in an ink cartridge recycling program that helps protect the environment and conserve non-renewable resources.

LCWR is continuing this commitment, but is now working with another recycling company, EnviroSmart. This organization also rewards those who recycle by paying \$.70 for each usable empty ink jet cartridge and \$1.00 for each usable empty laser cartridge. As in the past, LCWR will be applying the earnings received to the scholarship fund that assists LCWR members who wish to attend the LCWR national assembly but cannot afford to do so.

LCWR congregations are invited to assist in building the scholarship fund by sending their cartridges directly to EnviroSmart and having their earnings applied directly to the scholarship fund. Congregations are encouraged to invite companies and other organizations to participate in this effort as well.

To participate in the program

1. Contact:

Carol Glidden  
LCWR Receptionist  
301-588-4955 or [cglidden@lcwr.org](mailto:cglidden@lcwr.org)

2. Provide your address and indicate whether you will be sending ink jet and/or laser cartridges. (This will determine which type of shipping supplies you will receive.)

EnviroSmart will send the supplies to all participants after the contact with Carol is made. Once a shipment of cartridges is processed, LCWR will receive a check from EnviroSmart that will go to the scholarship fund.

## LCWR to be Represented at Consecrated Life Symposium in Vatican City

LCWR executive director Carole Shinnick, SSND, at the invitation of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL), will be attending a symposium on consecrated life in Vatican City.

The September 26-27 event is being held in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of Perfectae Caritatis. The symposium will include presentations on Perfectae Caritatis, historic perspectives on consecrated life, and the present reality of religious life from a number of cultural perspectives.

## Registrations Due

The deadline for registrations for the SHARE Delegation to El Salvador, November 30 – December 6, 2005 is October 15, 2005.

Registrations for *Think Tank 2006: The Roar and The Whisper*, February 12-14, 2006, are due to the LCWR office by December 1, 2005. Flyers can be found in the "Members Information" section of the LCWR website.

## LCWR Member Congregations Commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

LCWR members who attended the national assembly heard president Beatrice Eichten, OSF describe her memorable participation in the 60th anniversary events in Japan, and viewed the moving images that spoke more eloquently than words. Many sisters in the United States joined in solidarity events in a number of locations on August 6 or August 9. Several members offered brief reflections on their experience.

### Nevada Test Site

Gathering, sharing, ritualizing and celebrating Shoshone holy land and sacred people was the framework that called over 400 women, men and children to the Nevada Test Site.



*Peace, Salaam Shalom*  
*Wake up! Break the silence! Take action!*  
*From many faith traditions we gathered*  
*listening to our ancestors,*  
*praying, standing, walking in silence and solidarity*  
*calling upon the healing energy*  
*remembering the bombings of our brothers and sisters*

*Wake up!*  
*Wake up to: reflections, repentance, reconciliation, renewal.*  
*Wake up to: nonviolent communication —*  
*heart listening, compassionate*  
*presence and relationship building.*

*Break the silence!*  
*Silence unleashed by many stories of victims whose lives are*  
*changed because of nuclear weapons.*

- *We lived in Las Vegas and my family took us out to see the Mushroom Cloud.*  
*"They told us it was safe."*
- *Paul was a nuclear engineer. He likes his job; he is good at it, and it is his source of income. He can't look at the reality that these bombs kill people.*
- *Hibakusha was 9 years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. Many of his friends and family were killed. He is a survivor.*

*Break the silence! Write a new story, make new choices, and dream new visions that will heal our land, our wounds, and our rage.*

*Transforming*  
*Fire and water: burning heat, radioactive materials, polluted water*  
*with the sprinkling. . . blessing*  
*wafting incense . . . smudging*  
*moving through the hoop of life. . .*

*Acting in solidarity as 180+ crossed the line.*

*Peace, Salaam, Shalom*  
*Bette Gambonini and Theresa Calouri, BVM*

### Colorado Springs, Colorado

Following a gathering and poignant skits in the basement of St. Mary's Church, participants processed upstairs to the church and took part in a prayer service prepared by Anne Stedman, OSB during which a reflection on Amos was given by Elaine Marie Pravallet, SL. "We come as prophets . . . ones who walk with God

and Amos . . . in solidarity with women and men who have given their lives for peace and justice." The three Dominicans who recently served prison sentences, Carol Gilbert, Jackie Hudson, and Ardeth Platte, were acknowledged, as well as Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN.

Members of the group then traveled to Peterson Air Force Base where they stood at the entrance holding anti-war signs. Three people crossed onto the base to attempt to pray in the chapel. They were issued summons to appear in court on August 29. Barbara Huber, SC, was quoted in the press: "It's very important to be here. War has become the business of this nation, and of course, it's wrong. We're on a track that is anti-life in every way."

*Susan Swain, SL*

### Los Alamos, New Mexico

"It began here; let's stop it here," was the theme of the gathering at a park in Los Alamos on August 6. Dozens of pots of sunflowers, symbol of disarmament and peace, surrounded the large pond in the middle of the park where an opening ritual took place.

A rainstorm scattered many participants during the afternoon, but hundreds of floating candles were in readiness for the evening closing ritual. As people returned after the rain, a group of five male teenagers, clearly in opposition to the rally, strolled from booth to booth. A middle-aged man engaged them in conversation, making an effort to be a patient listener to their sometimes profane comments. Afterwards the man said that one of the teenagers shook his hand and said that he had a lot to think about. "If just one listened and reflected, it was worth the conversation," he commented.

I had to leave before the evening candle ritual, but on the drive back to Albuquerque I pictured the many candles floating on water in Los Alamos and in Hiroshima, symbols of hope for a nuclear free and more peaceful world.

*Marie Lucey, OSF, LCWR staff*

### Oak Ridge, Tennessee

In response to the LCWR 2004 resolution to "oppose the research, production, testing, and life extension upgrades of nuclear weapons," many sisters from Michigan, Ohio, and Kentucky traveled to the Oak Ridge Y-12 plant, one of the four nuclear weapons production

plants in the U.S. The Y-12 plant handles the thermo-nuclear part of bomb-making and refurbishing, and is one of the plants President Bush has scheduled for a multi-billion dollar renovation.

I felt a strong need to join the gathering at Oak Ridge on this 60th anniversary of a terrible decision made by our government and military leaders in 1945. Unfortunately, we don't seem to have learned from this horrific mistake that took hundreds of thousands of lives and devastated two entire cities. Our government continues to make decisions to make "better and more efficient" nuclear bombs in order to make them more "usable." I needed to speak out against what I see as immoral decisions, and I was encouraged that so many other women religious wanted to do that as well.

*Nancy Bramlage, SC*

The Sisters of the Precious Blood, Dayton, was one of the congregations who sponsored a bus to Oak Ridge. "On the bus I knew that I was involved in something that would transform me," observed Maria Buemer, CPPS. At 6:00 a.m. on August 6, Feast of the Transfiguration, there was a service at the entrance of the Y-12 plant to remember those who had lost their lives 60 years ago in Hiroshima. A survivor who was two years old in 1945 spoke to the group, and later told his life story through an interpreter. At the end, he asked forgiveness for his country's attack on Pearl Harbor which brought about the atrocity of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. "What a privilege to rub shoulders with these people and broaden my understanding of the situation. The bus ride back to Dayton for me was an experience of 'coming off the mountain' where truth and the desire for peace was transforming me just as the apostles were transformed through the Transfiguration experience."

*Maria Buemer, CPPS as submitted by Jeanette Buehler, CPPS who also participated in the event*

*Names read, peace bell tolled*

*Historical facts recounted*

*Thus our day began*

*A haiku written by Ruth Kuhn, SC*

## Closure of the Religious Task Force on Central America and Mexico

How many task forces sustain a vital, productive life for 25 years? Created on March 7, 1980, in response to a call from Archbishop Oscar Romero for solidarity, the Religious Task Force on El Salvador was formed as a six-month response to the critical situation of the people and church. Two weeks later, Archbishop Romero was assassinated, and nine months later the four North American church women were killed. The small group of women and men who formed the RTF, representatives of religious congregations and justice and peace organizations, realized the necessity of continuing the work. With high energy and commitment, the task force kept responding to many crises in Central America and Mexico with limited personnel and financial resources.

Today, the world is changing and the challenges are different from 25 years ago. New perspectives and new structures are needed to adequately respond to the need for justice in the Americas. With both sadness and gratitude, the board of the RTFCAM made the decision to officially close this effective organization on December 31, 2005. In order to do this in a responsible manner, the board will be seeking financial assistance one more time in order to complete the year's programs and publications, end the 25 years free of debt, and celebrate the many accomplishments of the "task force."

As major supporters of the RTFCAM during its 25 year history, religious congregations can be proud of and grateful for the good work of the organization they helped to create.



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**Editor:** Annmarie Sanders, IHM

8808 Cameron Street -- Silver Spring, MD 20910

Phone: 301-588-4955 Fax: 301-587-4575

E-mail: [asanders@lcwr.org](mailto:asanders@lcwr.org) Website: [www.lcwr.org](http://www.lcwr.org)

*From the LCWR Executive Director*

## Pilgrim People

Over the summer I moved. If I count up all the addresses I have had since I entered my community 45 years ago, this is my 22nd residence. My initial experiences of moving in religious life were pretty straightforward. We entered the congregation with a trunk that was always ready for a move. Once we were notified of a new assignment, we packed one small suitcase for the trip, sent the trunk off via railway freight, and arrived in three days on the doorstep of the new place. Despite the fact that we may have ignored most of the inner dynamics of transition, we were as mobile as Patton's army, and equally utilitarian.

Times have changed for sure. Not only has the variety, number and dimensions of my "stuff" increased exponentially, but all my joints have aged and stiffened as well. That includes the emotional joints – the ones that specialize in adjustment and adaptation. As the deadline drew near for me to vacate one apartment in order to move into another, I had to do some serious dumpster discernment. Out went birthday cards from my 40th birthday. Out went packets of journals. Out went

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*I pray for guidance  
in finding a way to link my choice  
with their disaster.*

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old social work textbooks. Out went knick-knacks, froo-froos and dear thingamajigs that had been given to me by friends and co-workers. I began to feel as if my whole life was in the dumpster! Carole, the Drama Queen, was in full bloom.

Then, in the midst of moving, Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast. Suddenly my complaining knees as well as my moaning and groaning over discarded items seemed very shallow indeed. Unlike the desperate



*Carole Shinnick, SSND*

people in the Superdome and on the rooftops, I had chosen to move. Not only that, but I had a clean bed to sleep in, water for a shower, and a refrigerator full of food. I had everything I needed and plenty of what I wanted. The images of desperation and destruction haunted me.

I have always thought of the vows that underpin our lifestyle as public commitments we make in order to be available, accessible, and mobile for the sake of the mission. Somewhere in my unconscious there resides a romanticized self – Carole with a walking stick, wearing a pair of worn sandals, a small sack of possessions slung over her back, walking bravely along a dusty road. Carole the pilgrim. Car-

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*I pray that we, as women religious  
and as citizens of this nation,  
read the scripture according to Katrina  
and hear its deepest call.*

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ole the itinerant minister. Not! The people of the Gulf Coast and the numerous trips to the dumpster have disabused me of that silly image.

So, now I'm settling into my new place. My joints have stopped complaining – for now. And I'm gifted with a tidy little home, a dear companion and fresh coffee every morning. I have fewer items to unpack and I really don't miss those old social work textbooks after all. I still believe that we are – I am – called to be Pilgrim People until we die. But I am also deeply aware that people who never made vows often find themselves stripped of everything that gave depth and dimension to their lives. I pray for guidance in finding a way to link my choice with their disaster. I pray that we, as women religious and as citizens of this nation, read the scripture according to Katrina and hear its deepest call.



## Upcoming LCWR Dates

**LCWR-CMSM Delegation to El Salvador**  
November 30 -- December 6, 2005

**LCWR Leading from Within Retreat**  
*Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center*  
*Sierra Madre, California*  
January 15 -- 20, 2006

**LCWR Systemic Change Think Tank,**  
*Franciscan Center -- Tampa, Florida*  
February 12 -- 14, 2006

**LCWR New Leader Workshop**  
*St. Mary of the Lake -- Mundelein, Illinois*  
March 30 -- April 2, 2006

**LCWR Assembly**  
*Atlanta, Georgia*  
August 18 -- 22, 2006

**LCWR Assembly**  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*  
August 2 -- 6, 2007

## FROM THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGIOUS LIFE

### Florida Cultural Audit Workshop

Gary Riebe-Estrella, SVD and Caroljean Willie, SC will be leading the Cultural Audit workshop February 5-8, 2006 at Marywood Center in Jacksonville, Florida. The workshop begins at 3 PM on Sunday, February 5 and ends with lunch on Wednesday, February 8.

Gary, academic dean and associate professor of practical theology and Hispanic ministry at Catholic Theological Union at Chicago, has given presentations and has facilitated sections of the Cultural Audit with religious communities. The audit material contains both an article and a PowerPoint presentation by Gary.

Caroljean, usually known as Cj, is a full time cultural diversity consultant with a PhD in multicultural education. Cj has worked with a number of congregations on planning and implementing the Cultural Audit with their members.

Information and a registration form are available at [www.religious-life.org](http://www.religious-life.org). For further information, contact Virginia Piccuch at [vpiccuch@visioni.com](mailto:vpiccuch@visioni.com).

### Young Religious' Reflections Book

*Young Religious' Reflections*, was published by Center for the Study of Religious Life in September with 46 women and men contributors born in 1964 or later. They provided their comments on the meaning of religious life and their dreams for its future. Photos of 35 of them are included in the center four pages.

Members of the center should be receiving their copy of the book in early October. Additional copies are available from the center at 773-752-2720 or [csrl@visioni.com](mailto:csrl@visioni.com).

### Summer Kindling on Culture

The Focus section of the summer issue of *Kindling* was cultural diversity and anti-racism. A copy may be viewed on the center's web page, [www.religious-life.org](http://www.religious-life.org) under Newsletters.

## New Guide Available to Institutes Hiring a Lay Finance Officer

For anyone considering hiring or who has recently hired a lay finance officer, a new white paper, *Hiring and Working with the Religious Institute's Treasurer/CFO: A Guide for Leaders*, is available from NATRI. This guide grew out of a think tank held in 2004 to look at the issues that leaders of religious institutes face in hiring a lay treasurer for the first time and in integrating the lay treasurer into the structures and culture of a religious institute.

This 18-page resource for leaders includes an article on *The Finance Person in Civil and Canon Law* which clarifies the various roles and relationships that can exist due to the dual legal structures of a religious institute. The paper can be found on the NATRI website ([www.natri.org](http://www.natri.org)) on the public "Recent Postings" webpage and also in the "Library" section (password required). The document can be opened in Adobe Reader and printed out. Printed copies can be purchased for \$3.00 by contacting the NATRI Office at [natri@natri.org](mailto:natri@natri.org) or calling 301-587-7776.