

February 2006

## Embracing the Dream: Leading with a Jubilee Heart LCWR 2006 Assembly Draws on the Heritage of Atlanta as a Place Where Dreams are Born

What does it mean in the climate of today's world and church to lead with a jubilee heart? What is the role of leadership in light of the unique challenges of this moment in history? What are the collective dreams of LCWR members for the world, the church and religious life itself? What do other women leaders have to say to religious life leaders today?

Embracing  
the  
Dream:  
Leading with a  
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Heart

including Joan Chittister, OSB as the keynote. Joan is presently executive director of Benetvision: A Resource and Research Center for Contemporary Spirituality located in Erie, Pennsylvania. A member and past prioress of the Benedictine sisters of Erie, she is past president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the Conference of American Benedictine

*(continued on page 3)*

These questions and many more are the focus of what is shaping up to be an exciting 2006 LCWR assembly. The gathering, which will take place in the heart of Atlanta, Georgia, will draw from the richness of that city's heritage -- a city where many critical dreams were born, dreams that have changed the face of the world and nation. Not only will this assembly close the LCWR jubilee year with a sacred honoring of its 50-year legacy, but it will encourage members to embrace their individual and collective dreams -- dreams that can inspire a changed future.

The LCWR Assembly Planning Committee has procured an impressive array of speakers for this event,

### Inside this issue:

- 3 Nominations Being Accepted for LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award
- 5 LCWR Exhibit on the History of Women Religious
- 6 LCWR Publishes a 2006 Reflection Book

## LCWR Holds Leading from Within Retreat in Sierra Madre, California

Twenty-four LCWR members participated in the Leading from Within Retreat held January 15 - 20 in Sierra Madre, California. The retreat was led by Regina Bechtle, SC and Nancy Schreck, OSF who provided daily presentations on the spirituality of religious

*(continued on page 4)*



*From the LCWR Presidency*

## An Organization of Juicy Crones

by Beatrice Eichten, OSF -- LCWR President

There is a feeling of euphoria here today as we celebrate a day of full sun after 15 days of constant winter gloom, which was accompanied by lots of snow, ice and cold. We in Minnesota cope much better with winter when we have our usual clear, sunny (even if cold) days. Even those of us who don't suffer from seasonal affective disorder (the low-grade depression caused by limited sunlight) have a tendency to begin whining about the heaviness of spirit that results from a long string of cloudy days.



is not working well? Whining, according to her, is feeling sorry for oneself, wanting something that is not going to be given, or a persistent negative recital of what is wrong with... (take your pick - a relationship, the weather, loss of health, work situations, or dynamic in one's family, in the church or in one's congregation). Ouch! I recognize myself and how easily I can whine about someone or something not being the way I would wish.

At day 12 of the gloom, I happened to pick up Jean Shinoda Bolen's book *Crones Don't Whine*. Hmmm! She speaks to "juicy" crones, the older women (or younger wise women) "with zest, passions and soul." She says "To be a crone, you need to let go of what should have

We are an organization with many, many juicy crones! We celebrate those who, rather than whining, created the network of relationships we know as LCWR. As we mourn the loss of some of our juicy crones, we are invited to become the women who live with zest, courage, and truthful hope. We are invited to become juicy crones who lead us into the future - with an occasional "How sad!" or "Ouch!" -- but never with

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been, could have been, might have been" and live with the stance of "What was, was. What is, is." She adds "Grieving is not whining. Even whimpering is not whining." Who hasn't grieved over lost relationships or opportunities or whimpered a bit when one's body

a whiny self pity. We will and do make a difference and are "a healing influence for good." With vision and intention, and in numbers and influence, crones together can change the world. "Yes! You go, girl!"

*Crones Don't Whine*, Jean Shinoda Bolen, M.D. Conari Press, York Beach, ME. 2003

## 2006 LCWR Membership Directory in Mail

The LCWR Membership Directory has been sent by bulk mail and should be received by all members by early February. All members and associates are asked to check their listing for accuracy. Any changes should be sent to Ann Nash at the national office at [anash@lcwr.org](mailto:anash@lcwr.org).

Any congregation that experiences a change in leadership during 2006 is asked to send the form in the front of the directory to the national office. This form is also available on the LCWR website at: <http://www.lcwr.org/lcwraboutus/chg%20of%20ldrship%20form.htm>.

## LCWR 2006 Assembly Draws on the Heritage of Atlanta as a Place Where Dreams are Born

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Prioresses and is the author of 22 books.

Workshop presenters include: Mary Daly, RSM; Maria Elena Gonzalez, RSM; Toby Lardie, HM; Anne Munley, IHM; Elaine Prevalet, SL; and Nancy Schreck, OSF. There will also be a workshop given by newer members in religious life that will include the voices of Shawnee Marie Daniels-Sykes, SSND; Helena Im, OP; and Maryalice Jacquinet, IHM, and moderator Mary Charlotte Chandler, RSCJ. Other activities and events are still in the development stage but will be announced in the months to come.

A unique feature to this assembly will be the presence of up to 200 women leaders from Atlanta who are being invited to attend the keynote address and processing time with the LCWR members. These women will represent the business, government, media, community and church sectors of Atlanta and will be seated at tables with LCWR members for the first morning of the assembly so that their voices can enrich the table conversations. The planning committee hopes that their presence will provide insight into what other women leaders envision for the future and how religious life leaders may most effectively partner with their colleagues.

Other opportunities to connect with Atlanta's rich heritage include a pre-assembly interfaith prayer service that will be held at Ebenezer Baptist Church, and the assembly's Sunday Eucharistic liturgy. Atlanta's Archbishop Wilton Gregory, former president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, will preside at the liturgy and a local Gospel choir will assist with the music.

LCWR is encouraging all of the conference's former executive directors and presidents to attend this year's assembly as LCWR celebrates its rich heritage and embraces the dreams of the future.

## Nominations for LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award Due by March 1

All LCWR members have the opportunity to nominate persons for consideration for the LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award. This award is given annually to persons who have significantly contributed to the ministry of leadership and who reflect the LCWR mission.

Criteria for the award are:

- Modeling commitment and collaboration to the ministry of leadership in the wider church and society
- Creative and innovative leadership in the church and society
- Significant contribution, as a leader on the national and/or international level, particularly to women religious congregations in the United States
- Prophetic stance in living the Gospel values.

The nomination forms, which were sent to all members electronically in January, are due in the LCWR national office **by March 1**.

The award will be presented at the LCWR assembly in August. Prior award recipients are Mary Luke Tobin, SL (2003); Theresa Kane, RSM (2004); and Mary Daniel Turner, SNDdeN (2005).

## LCWR Plans a Pre-Assembly Interfaith Worship Service

In place of a public witness event during the 2006 Assembly in Atlanta, there will be a pre-assembly interfaith peace prayer service beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 18 at Ebenezer Baptist Church. Arrangements will also be made with the director of the King Center for special activities there following the prayer service. On site plans are being carried out by Mary-Beth Beres, OP and local community members with support from LCWR's Global Concerns Committee. It is hoped that LCWR members will plan to arrive in time to participate in this service in this church and city where the nonviolent spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King is strongly present. Further information will be provided in Update and in assembly registration materials.

## LCWR Holds Leading from Within Retreat in Sierra Madre, California

*(continued from page 1)*

life leadership. The participants also had opportunities for individual and group spiritual direction, and met twice a day for prayer and ritual experiences.

Some of the participants' comments about the retreat included:

*This retreat was a gift of sinking into God's desires for me as a leader. Sharing this time with other leaders was a blessing of hope and courage and affirmation. -- Mary Jo Nelson, OLVN*

*These days reassured me that our work as leader embodies our inner life and from it we find the grace for the challenges -- no different than that of our foundresses. Leading is a privilege not a burden when appreciated in that light. -- Georgia Kitt, SC*

*The retreat offered a welcoming space for us as leaders to share the meaning and cost of our ministry with openness and the assurance of being understood. -- Bea Eichten, OSF*

*I found my soul again! I met the God I knew in initial discernment for leadership. What happened here was as much for my sisters as for myself. -- Kathy Lentsch, OSF*

*I leave with a renewed inner strength of call and purpose. It is great to know that the chaos of my daily schedule is the feeding ground of creative growth and movements of the Spirit. -- Mary Alice Jarosz, SSI-TOSF*

Additional photos from the retreat will be on the LCWR website ([www.lcwr.org](http://www.lcwr.org)).

*Retreatant and violinist Marion Etzel, SDS*



*Participant Nancy Reynolds, SP*



*Retreat directors and staff: Annmarie Sanders, IHM; Nancy Schreck, OSF; Regina Bechtle, SC; and Carole Shinnick, SSND*



*Participants at 2006 Leading from Within Retreat*

## Work Progresses on LCWR Exhibit on Women Religious

Work progresses on the LCWR project to create an exhibit on the contributions of women religious to the history of the United States.

In October, LCWR held a charrette with a variety of professionals to discuss the feasibility of an exhibit and brainstorm ideas for the exhibit's design. The charrette participants strongly endorsed the exhibit concept and offered many possibilities for the design that not only highlight the works of women religious throughout the centuries, but also tell the story of who women religious are and what gives meaning to their lives.

The LCWR Jubilee History Committee has been working with the ideas that came forth at the charrette and has been moving the project forward. LCWR now has contracted with an exhibit design company, Design Island Associates, located in Orlando, Florida, who is working on creating the promotional materials needed for fundraising. These materials will also be used to inform museums throughout the United States about the availability of the LCWR traveling exhibit. The plan for the exhibit at this time is to open it at a well-known, prominent museum and then make it available to other museums across the country, and possibly abroad.

Initial plans have also begun for the fundraising efforts.

Some members of the history committee met in Silver Spring in early January to work on the promotional materials. Kathryn Ott, one of the Smithsonian curators, invited the committee members to the National Museum of American History where she gave them a personal tour of the exhibit on polio and walked them through the processes that led to the exhibit's creation.

LCWR congregations received a letter recently notifying them that the conference will soon be asking all leaders and archivists for assistance with the exhibit. Congregations are asked to start thinking about whether they possess any outstanding artifacts that may help illustrate the impact of women religious on US history. Letters, diaries, legal documents, photographs, and illustrations are examples of the types of artifacts being sought.



*LCWR Jubilee History Committee members Carole Shinnick, SSND; Helen Maher Garvey, BVM; Barbara Cervenka, OP; and Annmarie Sanders, IHM visit with one of the curators at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, DC.*





Changing the Face of the Mountain

## LCWR Reflection Book Available for Sale

LCWR will be publishing a new daily reflection book focused on the call to vision for a changed future. The theme of the book is "Changing the Face of the Mountain," an image drawn from the presidential address of Christine Vladimiroff, OSB delivered at the 2005 LCWR assembly.

The book contains reflections by 64 LCWR members on the words of various writers and thinkers on visioning, as well as on related passages of scripture. The objectives of this publication are:

- Provide LCWR members with a spiritual tool that can aid their reflection on significant themes pertinent to religious life
- Provide LCWR members with a resource that can be shared as well with their own members
- Foster a bond of unity in prayer among LCWR members, other women religious and anyone else who wishes to utilize the reflections. More than 22,000 copies of the 2005 reflection book were sold, enabling many people to join in prayer around a common theme.

LCWR members, associates and subscribers will receive a copy of the publication. Information on ordering additional copies will be sent via a World Merge message and will be available on the LCWR website. The book is designed for use in June, July and August. Proceeds from the sale of the book are used to assist LCWR's operational budget.

# THE Occasional Papers

## Additional Copies Available

Additional copies of the Winter 2006 edition of LCWR's *The Occasional Papers* are available. The theme of this issue "Continuing the Conversation" takes some of the conversations begun at the 2005 LCWR assembly and moves them another step further. This issue includes reflections from the principal speakers at the assembly on the question: When considering the future of religious life, what do you believe is the most critical question that should engage the thinking, study, reflection and conversations of women religious leader today -- and why?

Leaders may wish to continue the conversation on these topics with their members and utilize the articles and reflections in this issue. Additional copies can be obtained by contacting Carol Glidden at the LCWR national office at 301-588-4955 or [cglidden@lcwr.org](mailto:cglidden@lcwr.org).

## Upcoming LCWR Dates

**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

## Leading from Within Manual A Leadership Program Designed for Use at Home



LCWR offers a leadership mentoring program that can be pursued from home. The conference developed *Leading from Within: A Mentoring Leadership Manual* that is based on the three dimensions of leadership (symbolic/meaning-making, relational, structural/organizational). Many leaders have already used this manual and have found it extremely helpful in their ministry.

The program

- is especially helpful to those relatively new to leadership but is a valuable reflection tool for any leader.
- involves a period of reflection, study and exploration on the part of the leader. The process usually takes about one year.
- involves partnering with an experienced leader or former leader who serves as a mentor, or forming a peer mentoring group.
- is flexible. Participants can do as many or as few of the units as works well for them.
- offers a variety of experiences that will accommodate different styles of adult learning.

The manual is in a three-ring binder for easy removal and addition of pages, as users find material to expand what is in the book. Information on ordering can be found on the LCWR website at: <http://www.lcwr.org/lcwrprogramsresources/mentoringleadership.htm>.

## NATRI Seeks Leadership Input

While the name, National Association for Treasurers of Religious Institutes, would indicate a focus on the responsibilities of treasurers, the organization's mission is to serve its member institutes "by assisting them in fulfilling their stewardship responsibilities." Leaders know only too well that they are the ones ultimately responsible for the stewardship of the institute's resources for the sake of the mission. Thus, at NATRI's annual national conference and orientation to financial management seminar, through white papers and other publications, NATRI seeks to assist leaders, as well as finance personnel, in these responsibilities.

For example, the recent conference in Houston provided workshops on issues such as designing new structures for sponsored ministries, reconfiguration, collaboration among leadership, finance and development offices, creative options for addressing long-term care for members, organizational culture, and ethical challenges in congregational budgeting. A recent white paper on "Hiring and Working with the Religious Institute's Treasurer/CFO: A Guide for Leaders" was a response to the growing trend of leaders hiring lay CFOs in religious institutes.

The NATRI staff and board are very interested in knowing what issues or topics are of particular concern to leaders of religious institutes at this time, so that they can attempt to address them in future programs and publications or direct leaders to resources that are currently available. NATRI values leadership involvement in planning its programs and services. Anyone who has a suggestion for a topic of interest and/or a way to deliver the information that would be helpful to leaders is asked to contact Laura Reicks, RSM at 301-587-7776 or [natri@natri.org](mailto:natri@natri.org).

*From the LCWR Executive Director*

## Looking at the Bright Side...

I am writing this column on January 24, 2006. When my radio alarm went off this morning the announcer's voice cheerfully told me that today was – according to a British researcher – “the most depressing day of the year.” This did little to propel me from beneath the warm covers and enthusiastically into the day. It seems that Dr. Cliff Arnall, a UK psychologist has concluded – based on a rather complex formula – that today is going to be terrible because of the post-Christmas slump, light deprivation, broken New Year's resolutions, and long gray days of sleet and snow. If he's right, I'm going back to bed!



*Carole Shinnick, SSND*

The good news here is that growth and maturity do not grind to a halt at age 40. In fact, other aspects of Dr. Cohen's research validate that we become wiser and mellow with age. He points out that in early adulthood, people tend to operate exclusively from one hemisphere of their brains -- either the left which specializes in speech, language and logical reasoning or the right that handles more intuitive tasks like face recognition and emotional cues. But in the latter years persons have integrated

these mental functions so that they are able to draw from both the logical and the intuitive sides. This makes for a more balanced approach to problem solving, the happy marriage of imagination with the experiences of a lifetime. (To read more, the article is available online at: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/10753221/site/newsweek/?GT1=7538>)

But wait. Fortunately, last week I read an article in *Newsweek* that I found most heartening. Because you will be reading this column in the February *Update* and

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*... it made me wonder:  
as congregational median ages rise,  
is the focus too much on the physical limitations of age and  
not enough on the rich pool of  
wisdom, life experience, and insight?*

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I found this information very encouraging and it made me wonder: as congregational median ages rise, is the focus too much on the physical limitations of age and not enough on the rich pool of wisdom, life experience, and insight? Grandma Moses painted until she was 101. Georgia O'Keefe sketched until she was 96. Eleanor Roosevelt was a prolific writer, lecturer, and UN spokesperson until her death at 78. Helen Hayes continued her acting career until she was 86.

February is a whole month that could use a little help, too, I'd like to share something from the article. (After all, except for Ground Hog's Day, Valentine's Day, and the President Day sales, the month of February isn't exactly a dazzler either!)

What if we were to reframe the interpretation of our collective age realities? What if a community's median

Dr. Gene Cohen, a gerontologist, in an article entitled "The Myth of the Midlife Crisis"<sup>1</sup> outlines four distinct and overlapping developmental phases that occur between the mid-40s and the end of life. They include:

- A midlife re-evaluation (typically encountered between 40 and 65) during which we set new goals and priorities
- A liberation phase (55 to 75) that involves shedding past inhibitions to express ourselves more freely
- A summing-up phase (65 to 85) when we begin to review our lives and concentrate on giving back
- An encore phase (75 and beyond) that involves finding affirmation and fellowship in the face of adversity and loss.

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*What if a community's median age – say of 71 – really meant that corporately the group was in the midst of a time of shedding the inhibitions of the past, operating at full tilt from both sides of their brains – freer, wiser, more tolerant and more imaginative?*

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age – say of 71 – really meant that corporately the group was in the midst of a time of shedding the inhibitions of the past, operating at full tilt from both sides of their brains – freer, wiser, more tolerant and more imaginative? Now that's something to get out of bed for!

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1 *Newsweek*, Jan. 16, 2006 (pp 82-86)



FROM THE  
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF  
RELIGIOUS LIFE

## CSRL Announces Panel Members for Three Interdisciplinary Forums

The Center for the Study of Religious Life announces the panel members for all three interdisciplinary forums in the series on "The Individual and the Common Good."

### March 5-8, King's House, Belleville, IL (St. Louis area)

Jean Bartunek, RSCJ, management  
Raymond Dlugos, OSA, psychology  
Paul Hennessy, CFC, theology  
James Herring, O.Praem., canon law  
Mary Johnson, SNDdeN, sociology  
Karen Kennelly, CSJ, history

### September 24-27, 2006, Bishop Malloy Retreat House, Jamaica, NY (New York area)

John Coleman, SJ, sociology  
Faustino Cruz, SM, education, theology  
Shawnee Daniel Sykes, SSND, health care, ethics  
Anita deLuna, MCDP, spirituality  
Jeffrey Gros, FSC, ecumenism, theology, church history  
Donna Markham, OP, psychology

### April 15-18, 2007, El Retiro San Inigo Retreat House, Los Altos, CA (San Francisco area)

Joseph Chinnici, OFM, church history  
Joanne Doi, MM, interdisciplinary studies, theology  
Anthony Gittins, CSSp,  
social anthropology, mission theology  
Doris Gottemoeller, RSM, theology, health care  
Lynn Jarrell, OSU, canon law  
Mary Ellen Moore, SH, psychology

Each forum will begin in late afternoon on Sunday and end with lunch on Wednesday. Registration forms for the first forum at King's House is available on the Center's web page, [www.religious-life.org](http://www.religious-life.org). The forms for the second forum will be posted in a few months.



## National Communicators Network Announces New Website

The National Communicators Network for Women Religious (NCNWR) has launched a new, upgraded website. The site, at [www.ncnwr.org](http://www.ncnwr.org), features the organization's new logo and useful tools for NCNWR members, including a searchable member directory with photos, online resources and a bulletin board.

Non-NCNWR members may enjoy a "preview" of the member features on the site until February 28 by logging in on the home page with the user name "guest" and the password "temp28feb." This will provide access to the members menu.

NCNWR is a professional organization of personnel responsible for communications within religious congregations of women. Its mission is to promote understanding of women religious; enhance their image and advance their mission; and to provide a network of professional support and education for members. NCNWR has 170 members in the United States, Canada and Europe.

For more information, contact the NCNWR coordinator at [coordinator@ncnwr.org](mailto:coordinator@ncnwr.org).

The new NCNWR logo, shown above, was created by Barbara Sterchele of Omega Design Group.

## Legal Resource Center for Religious Hosts Workshops

February 23-24, 2006

Denver, CO

Membership Issues: Canonical, Civil and Psychological

March 7-8, 2006

St. Louis, MO

Civil and Canonical Structure  
of Institutes and Ministries

March 23-24, 2006

Silver Spring, MD

The Institute and Ministries as Employers:  
Members as Employees

Workshop registration fee: \$295 each  
See the [www.lrcr.org](http://www.lrcr.org) for additional information  
Call 302-589-8143 or e-mail [njefferies@lrcr.org](mailto:njefferies@lrcr.org)

## Catholic Mission Forum Plans Implementation of Congress

Members of the Catholic Mission Forum met on January 6 to review the major issues brought forth during the Mission Congress in October and to plan for implementation. The four major areas to be addressed are: focus on youth; reconciliation as model for mission; mission without borders; and impact of globalization. Before the next meeting in May, members will be seeking possible models of reconciliation. Lively discussion took place about the integration of faith and citizenship/social justice. Guest presenter Simone Campbell, SSS, NETWORK national coordinator, also initiated animated exchange of ideas.

## Religious Formation Conference Offers Workshops on Theological Reflection and Social Analysis for a Prophetic Way of Life

The Religious Formation Conference is offering regional workshops for corporate learning. The workshops, framed in consultation with the staffs of CMSM and LCWR, will be led by presenters with acknowledged expertise and experience.

**Day 1 – 1:00 - 5:00 pm – For leaders and ministers of formation**

How to engage your congregation in theological reflection and social analysis.

**Day 2 – 9 am – 4 pm – For all members of congregations, associates and others who may be interested**

A workshop for skill-building

Team 1 – Maria Cimperman, OSU and Jim Hug, SJ

Team 2 – Joe Nangle, OSF and Marie Dennis

First workshop:

April 7-8, 2006

Region 13 – Colorado Springs CO (Team 2)

For information contact the Religious Formation Conference (301-588-4938, [rfc@relforcon.org](mailto:rfc@relforcon.org)) and watch for updates on the RFC website: [www.relforcon.org](http://www.relforcon.org)



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