

Holy Mystery Revealed in Our Midst

Annual Report of the
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
2014 — 2015

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2014 – 2015

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Leadership Conference of Women Religious

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We Journey Forward

Nashville, 2014: LCWR members gathered from all parts of the country to reflect on “Holy Mystery Revealed in Our Midst.” The hotel ballroom pulsed with the Spirit, as hundreds of women listened in contemplative space for Holy Mystery to reveal deeper wisdom.

The desire was intensified by the keen awareness of that other mystery so active in our world. By whatever name, we know the mystery of evil, manifest in the anger, frustration, and hate which spawn endless spirals of violence. We search for ways to counter the causes and effects of trafficking, racism, war, and terrorism. We work to raise awareness of unjust immigration laws, the increased poverty gap, and resistance to measures needed to preserve creation for future generations.



Sharon Holland, IHM

In her presidential address, Carol Zinn issued a challenge to us. We must stand in the “lamentations of our world, country, church and vocation... singing the music in God’s heart.” We must sing the music of compassion, tenderness, and encouragement. In his document (*Misericordiae vultus*) announcing a Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis recognizes Jesus Christ as the face of the Father’s mercy. This, then, becomes the face and the music of the disciples of Jesus.

In a particular way during this past year, LCWR has witnessed the revelation of Holy Mystery in the unfolding and resolution of the CDF mandate. With the publication of the joint final report and the press release on April 16, 2015 we recognize the potential of contemplative processes and of substantive dialogue between bishops and

women religious for the benefit of the church as a whole.

This, however, is not a completed journey. We move toward our 2015 assembly anticipating “springs of the great deep” to burst forth challenging us to meet the “thirsts of the world.”

Sharon Holland, IHM
President

Marcia Allen, CSJ
President-Elect

Carol Zinn, SSJ
Past President



Marcia Allen, CSJ

We move toward our 2015 assembly anticipating “springs of the great deep” to burst forth challenging us to meet the “thirsts of the world.”



Carol Zinn, SSJ

A Year Marked by Contemplation

The theme of our 2014 assembly, Holy Mystery Revealed in Our Midst, expresses much about the journey LCWR has made during the past year. The contemplative stance which has shaped our discernment and choices has drawn us ever deeper into Holy Mystery. As I reflect on the past year I hold an abiding sense of gratitude and wonder for the presence of the Spirit, moving in us, among us, and around us and for all who have accompanied us.

Those of us who serve the conference at the national office do so with a deep commitment to the LCWR Call 2015-2022. This call gives focus to who we are and what we have done in the name of the conference. The three initiatives - to embrace critical change, to provide skills and resources for contemplative and anticipatory leadership, and to stand for social justice in response to the needs of the times are in a sense timeless. Our response evolves and deepens as we open our eyes to see, our ears to hear, and our hearts to feel the longings given voice in our congregations, church, and global community.

Perhaps a dimension of the prophetic charism of religious life at this moment in history is to discern how the ministry of leadership will be incarnated in religious congregations, our church, country, and world community that are intercultural and demand that we have the desire and the skills to lead in this milieu.

This year was marked by the contemplative spirit that shaped LCWR's discernment at the 2014 assembly and brought us to the conclusion of the mandate. This was a journey that held both pain and promise. We made the choice to have gentle hearts - speaking with clarity and integrity. We received the gift of the presence of those who accompanied us with deep listening and growing understanding. We shared our dream for a church where our sisters and brothers who long for mercy, peace, and justice find a home. It will take time for us as persons, a conference, a church, and

wider community to understand the profound way our response to this situation has shaped not only our future, but that of others.

In some ways I think the woman with the alabaster jar, whom we meet in the synoptic Gospels, is an image for us and the journey we have made and continue to make together. From a contemplative, discerning heart comes the courage to act with integrity and pour out extravagant love, a love that changes everything - a love that enables us to "remember the past with gratitude, live the present with passion, and embrace the future with hope." (Pope Francis, "Apostolic Letter to All Consecrated People")



You call me,
Take up the pitcher of water and the towel,
Let down your hair,
Take off your sandals
And bare your road weary feet.
Flood the hearts and lives
Of those you touch each day -
Wash with water of inclusion and
forgiveness,
Anoint with oil of compassion and mercy.
Don't spare the jar!
Beauty lies beyond the shattered shards.
And your feet -
Bare, calloused, tired,
Other Christs are there for you -
Waiting with water, towels and ointment.
Love poured out for you.

Joan Marie Steadman, CSC
LCWR Executive Director

2015 LCWR Assembly Holy Mystery Revealed in Our Midst

Approximately 750 LCWR members, associates, and guests gathered in August in Nashville, Tennessee for the 2014 LCWR assembly. Among the highlights of that gathering were:

- Three presentations by Nancy Schreck, OSF on the navigating the dark in “the middle space”
- A presidential address by Carol Zinn, SSJ using the metaphor of music to describe the challenges for US religious life today
- A panel presentation by Nancy Conway, CSJ; Margaret Ormond, OP; and Ana Lydia Sonera, CDP on experiencing Holy Mystery in their leadership ministry

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Nancy Schreck, OSF



2014 LCWR President Carol Zinn, SSJ



The 750 participants engaged with one another frequently in table conversations



Cathy Bertrand, SSND facilitates discussion among Nancy Conway, CSJ; Ana Lydia Sonera, CDP; and Margaret Ormond, OP

2015 LCWR Assembly Holy Mystery Revealed in Our Midst

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- Several executive sessions on the mandate of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
- The passage of two resolutions calling for:
 - a transition from fossil to renewable energy
 - Pope Francis to repudiate 15th century papal bulls which have been used to justify violence against indigenous peoples
- A justice action on renewable energy sources
- Affirmation of the LCWR Call for 2015-2022
- A tribute to outgoing LCWR executive director Janet Mock, CSJ
- Celebration of Elizabeth A. Johnson, CSJ as LCWR's 2014 Outstanding Leadership Award recipient



Executive session with Sharon Holland, IHM; Florence Deacon, OSF; Janet Mock, CSJ; and Carol Zinn, SSJ



2014 LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award recipient Elizabeth A. Johnson, CSJ



CMSM president Jim Greenfield, OSFS and delegate from CDF to LCWR Archbishop J. Peter Sartain at the closing liturgy of the assembly



LCWR Call 2015 – 2022

Throughout the year 2014, LCWR studied the signs of the times and their call to the conference at this moment in history. The result of this study and reflection process was the LCWR Call 2015 – 2022, a document outlining a focus for the work of the conference which was affirmed at the August 2014 assembly.

The document sets the vision for LCWR's mission for the next seven years in the reality of these times. The call briefly describes the context in which LCWR members live and minister by noting significant movements in the world and church, as well as the unique situation in which US religious life finds itself as religious institutes undergo major changes.

In its affirmation of the call, the conference committed itself to the following initiatives:

Embracing Critical Change

LCWR tends the evolution of religious life by:

- accompanying congregations in their transformational stages. These include congregations that are immigrating to the United States, those needing assistance to fulfill their mission, those bringing their mission to conclusion.
- creating spaces for deep conversations that articulate the essential and enduring values of religious life in a contemporary context
- embracing and honoring an increasingly diverse membership within LCWR
- attending the internal organizational changes necessitated with shifting demographics.

Providing Skills and Resources for Contemplative and Anticipatory Leadership

LCWR accompanies leaders in initial and ongoing development as they navigate critical issues in the world, the church, and their religious institutes by:

- providing programs and resources that prepare leaders for their ministry
- tapping the wisdom of former leaders, glean-

ing the emerging wisdom of current leaders, and mentoring future leaders

- preparing women religious for leadership in an emerging intercultural, global reality
- partnering with organizations that strengthen women religious nationally and internationally

Standing for Social Justice in Response to the Needs of the Time

We claim our moral imperative as gospel women through our collective voice, resources, and power by partnering with others to:

- establish economic justice
- abolish modern-day slavery
- ensure immigrant rights
- promote nonviolence
- protect Earth and its biosphere



Members affirm the LCWR Call

The document sets the vision for LCWR's mission for the next seven years in the reality of these times.

LCWR Meets with Pope Francis



All photos on this page are from L'Osservatore Romano

LCWR officials, while on their annual visit to Rome, were invited for a private audience with Pope Francis on April 16. At the conclusion of their 50-minute meeting, the LCWR officials stated, "We were honored to have this opportunity for such an extensive conversation with Pope Francis that centered on *Evangelii Gaudium*, the pope's apostolic exhortation that has so deeply impacted our lives as women religious and our mission in the world. Our conversation allowed us to personally thank Pope Francis for providing leadership and a vision that has captivated our hearts and emboldened us in our own mission and service to the church. We were also deeply heartened by Pope Francis' expression of appreciation for the witness given by Catholic sisters through our lives and ministry and will bring that message back to our members."



Pope Francis and Marcia Allen, CSJ

Pope Francis and Carol Zinn, SSJ



Pope Francis and Janet Mock, CSJ



Pope Francis and Joan Marie Steadman, CSC

Opportunities for Leadership Development

New Leaders' Workshop

A diverse group of nearly 100 LCWR members gathered at the conference center at St. Mary of the Lake University in Mundelein, Illinois for the annual New Leaders' Workshop. Participants included LCWR members from several different countries of origin and from differing age cohorts. The experience included a range of presentations on issues facing women religious in leadership positions today. Throughout the days together leaders were regularly invited to pause and consider the difference that approaching these issues from a contemplatively-grounded place might make in their ministry. In addition, time was provided for teams to meet together for conversation about how the information presented could be helpful in their work together as a team and what they might take home with them to assist them in their ministry of leadership.



Leading From Within Retreat

The Leading From Within Retreat was offered once again this past January at Bethany Center in Lutz, Florida. Twenty-nine members participated in this retreat experience which was guided by former LCWR president Mary Ann Zollmann, BVM and Annmarie Sanders, IHM, communications director for LCWR. In addition to input and sharing from Mary Ann, the retreat provided ample time for silent prayer and reflection, prayer and ritual experiences related to the theme, and an opportunity for sharing in small groups.

The retreat will be offered again in January 2016 at the Redemptorist Renewal Center outside Tucson, Arizona. The guides for the 2016 retreat will be Janet Mock, CSJ; Marie McCarthy, SP; and Annmarie Sanders, IHM.



Opportunities for Leadership Development

Leadership Pathways

In September 2014, 30 LCWR members joined online learning cohorts to explore “Becoming The Leaders We Hope To Be: The Foundations of Transformational leadership.” The module consists of six units covering the following topics:

- Unit One: Becoming Learners Together
- Unit Two: Safety, Security and Certainty
- Unit Three: Seeing Things Whole
- Unit Four: Contemplation and Community -- the Ground of Transformational Leadership
- Unit Five: Building a Culture of Shared Wisdom and Leadership
- Unit Six: Envisioning Transformational Leadership

Participants report finding the experience is providing them both with useful tools for the ministry of leadership and also with good companions for the journey.

religious life leadership for the future. The goal of the learning lab is to increase leaders’ capacity to exercise leadership that is responsive to the evolutionary reality in which we abide, leadership capable of drawing on the depths of the riches of the Christian tradition, and of religious life over the centuries while “leading from an emerging future.”

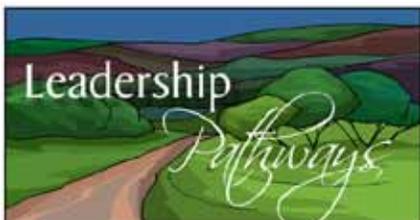
This spring several regions incorporated a taste of Leadership Pathways into their spring regional meetings. Next steps in the development of Leadership Pathways include continuing to provide materials that regional chairs may find helpful for their regional meetings and exploring ways to make the various components of Leadership Pathways available in a variety of formats.

A generous grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation helps support Leadership Pathways.

Imagining Justice

The Imagining Justice Event, “Catching God’s Dream: Acting From Our Contemplative Center,” took place in early March at the Presentation Center in Los Gatos, California. Thirty-two persons -- justice promoters, communicators, and elected leaders -- gathered to reflect on and experience the deep grounding of their work for justice. Under the guidance of former LCWR president Kathleen Pruitt, CSJP, they explored the essential continuity between contemplation and action, listening to the call to be contemplative critics, prophetic risk-takers, and radical reconcilers. LCWR staff members Ann Scholz, SSND and Marie McCarthy, SP assisted with the event.

Plans are underway to continue to deepen this exploration and to strengthen the capacities of leaders, justice promoters, and communication staff to work together in the promotion of justice.



In March, an additional 16 members joined learning cohorts that are piloting a second module of Leadership Pathways, “Rooted in God’s Mission:

The Foundations of Mission Grounded Leadership.” This module consists of three six-week sessions with a four-week break between each session. The initial six-week session sets the context and explores the theological foundations of mission. Topics include the meaning and place of mission and a theology and spirituality of mission. The second session will explore responding to the signs of the times animated by the Spirit and the third session will explore mission integration, ethical discernment, and decision-making and what it means to be a transformational leader today.

A learning lab on Leading in an Evolving Universe was also launched in November of this year. Twelve LCWR members are participating in this experience which is focused on the intersection of evolutionary theory, emerging (contemplative) consciousness, the Christian tradition, and



Opportunities for Leadership Development

Year of Consecrated Life

In response to Pope Francis' dedication of 2015 as the Year of Consecrated Life, LCWR has been part of an effort coordinated by the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, and the Conference of Major Superiors of Men. Through a press conference in which LCWR president-elect Marcia Allen, CSJ participated, the four conferences announced a plan to encourage communities on the local level to learn about the lives of women and men religious by inviting people to participate with them in experiences of prayer, service, and community life. Throughout the country, communities held open houses in February, are planning opportunities for mission and service with religious in the summer, and will hold days of prayer with religious in September.

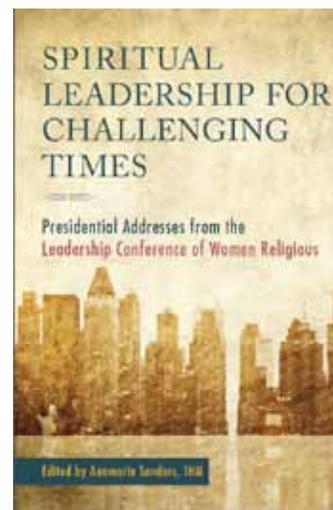
In addition, the four conferences are sharing responsibility for using the USCCB social media platforms to educate the public on religious life throughout the entire Year of Consecrated Life. Stories, photos, and videos about religious are posted almost daily on the USCCB Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram sites in an effort to provide information and inspirational materials that may lead people to learn more about religious life.



James Greenfield, OSFS (CMSM); Marcia Allen, CSJ (LCWR); Marie Bernadette Thompson, OP (CMSWR); Bishop Michael F. Burbidge (USCCB) at a press conference on the Year of Consecrated Life

Conference on Spiritual Leadership for Challenging Times

Solidarity with Sisters, a lay group formed to support US women religious and LCWR, in collaboration with the Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies, sponsored a one-day conference at Catholic University of America on Spiritual Leadership for Challenging Times. The conference, which was attended by approximately 150 people, unpacked themes in the book, *Spiritual Leadership for Challenging Times: Presidential Addresses of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious*.



The day included a presentation by LCWR associate director of programs Marie McCarthy, SP; and a panel discussion by former LCWR presidents Pat Farrell, OSF; Helen Garvey, BVM; and Mary Hughes, OP.

The book received the third place award in the category of gender studies given by the Catholic Press Association. It was also among the finalists selected for an Excellence in Publishing Award given by the Association of Catholic Publishers.

Sales continue of the book which is available both as a paperback and as an e-book through Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Leadership Development for Younger Religious and Associates

LCWR is among the organizations working to offer women religious and associates ages 60 and younger programs to foster the skills, knowledge, and confidence to assume leadership positions in their own institutes and in ministry. LCWR members and staff are part of the Leadership Collaborative which has been sponsoring leadership development programs, and exploring other ways to support younger religious as they look toward the future.

Communications and Resources

LCWR offers its members and associates, as well as the general public a number of resources that contain information on the conference, leadership, and religious life.

The conference maintains a website, as well as a presence on Facebook and Twitter that are designed to provide information on LCWR, both for the general public and the conference's members and associates.

A newsletter, *Update*, is published 11 times a year electronically and is available on the public side of the LCWR website.

Occasional Papers, LCWR's biannual journal, offers articles and reflective materials on matters pertinent to religious life leadership. The Winter 2015 issue focused on "Leadership in the Middle Space," while the Summer 2015 edition targeted "Exploring The Great Deep." On average, LCWR publishes approximately 9,000 copies of each edition since many religious institutes also purchase copies for their members.

Approximately 19,000 copies of the 2015 LCWR annual reflective journal entitled, *I Will Give You the Treasures of Darkness*, were distributed throughout the US and in other countries.

Almost all correspondence to members and associates is sent through an electronic messaging system. In addition, members utilize the LCWR Resource Sharing Forum, a listserv designed to provide means for members to network and share resources with one another.



CDF Concludes its Mandate Regarding LCWR

On April 16, the Vatican press office and LCWR issued a press release announcing that Archbishop J. Peter Sartain and the officers of LCWR presented a joint report that day in Rome to officials of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) on the implementation of the CDF doctrinal assessment and mandate of April 2012. The joint report outlined the manner in which the implementation of the mandate had been accomplished. CDF accepted the joint report, marking the conclusion of the doctrinal assessment of LCWR. Present for the April 16 meeting were Cardinal Gerhard Müller; Archbishop Sartain; Carol Zinn, SSJ; Marcia Allen, CSJ; Joan Marie Steadman, CSC; Janet Mock, CSJ; and other CDF officials.

During the meeting, Archbishop Sartain and the LCWR officers outlined the process undertaken by the bishop delegates and LCWR over the past three years, noting the spirit of cooperation among participants throughout the sensitive process. Cardinal Müller offered his thoughts on the doctrinal assessment as well as the mandate and its completion. He expressed gratitude to those present for their willing participation in this important and delicate work.

Sharon Holland, IHM, president of LCWR, was unable to be present for the meeting but commented, “We are pleased at the completion of the mandate, which involved long and challenging exchanges of our understandings of and perspectives on critical matters of religious life and its practice. Through these exchanges, conducted always in a spirit of prayer and mutual respect, we were brought to deeper understandings of one another’s experiences, roles, responsibilities, and hopes for the church and the people it serves. We learned that what we hold in common is much greater than any of our differences.”

“We are pleased at the completion of the mandate, which involved long and challenging exchanges of our understandings of and perspectives on critical matters of religious life and its practice.” -- Sharon Holland, IHM

Archbishop Sartain added, “Over the past several years, I have had the honor of working with LCWR officers and meeting a large number of LCWR members through the implementation of the mandate. Our work included the revision of LCWR statutes; review of LCWR publications, programs and speakers; and discussion of a wide range of issues raised by the doctrinal assessment, LCWR, and the bishop delegates. The assistance of CDF officials was essential to the great progress we made. Our work together was undertaken in an atmosphere of love for the Church and profound respect for the critical place of religious life in the United States, and the very fact of such substantive dialogue between bishops and religious women has been mutually beneficial and a blessing from the Lord. As we state in our joint



Joan Marie Steadman, CSC; Archbishop Joseph Augustine Di Noia, OP; CDF general secretary; Monsignor Steven Lopes, CDF staff; Carol Zinn, SSJ; Marcia Allen, SSJ; Archbishop J. Peter Sartain; and Janet Mock, CSJ outside of the CDF offices following their meeting on April 16, 2015

final report, ‘The commitment of LCWR leadership to its crucial role in service to the mission and membership of the conference will continue to guide and strengthen LCWR’s witness to the great vocation of religious life, to its sure foundation in Christ, and to ecclesial communion.’ The

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Mother M. Clare Millea, ASCJ; Sharon Holland, IHM; Pope Francis; and Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, SV after the Eucharistic liturgy at Santa Marta before receiving the report on the apostolic visitation

LCWR President Receives Apostolic Visitation Report

The Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life invited LCWR president Sharon Holland, IHM to Rome in December to receive the report of the apostolic visitation of US women religious and participate in a press conference where the study was shared publicly. Following the release of the report, LCWR issued a statement which said in part:

"We are pleased that this data, as well as the experiences, hopes, and dreams shared during the onsite visits, resulted in an accurate report of both the blessings of US women's religious life as well as its challenges.... We are grateful that each religious institute has been entrusted with discerning its way forward in fidelity to its mission in the church. We are confident that US women religious will carefully read and study the report, discuss it with others, and discern what its call is to their own institutes."

Media outlets throughout the world covered the release of the report. Some of these stories included interviews with the three members of the LCWR presidency.

CDF Concludes its Mandate Regarding LCWR

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other two bishop delegates and I are grateful for the opportunity to be involved in such a fruitful dialogue."

Media outlets throughout the world covered and offered analysis of the conclusion of the doctrinal assessment. A story appeared on the front page of April 17 edition of *The New York Times*, which also published an editorial supporting LCWR and US women religious on the following day. LCWR agreed to a request from CDF not to speak to the media about the conclusion of the mandate for 30 days. Following that period, LCWR issued a statement and gave interviews to various media outlets. The story again received wide coverage.

"As we live the years ahead,
we remain inspired by
the radical call of the Gospel,
filled with hope,
and committed to discerning together
the leading of God's Spirit."

-- LCWR Call 2015 - 2022

Annual Visit to Rome

In addition to their visit with Pope Francis and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, LCWR president-elect Marcia Allen, CSJ; past president Carol Zinn, SSJ; and executive director Joan Marie Steadman, CSC had the opportunity to meet with representatives of various Vatican offices, as well as with other religious and officials during LCWR's annual visit to Rome in April. Present in the city at the same time were the officers from the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, who joined LCWR in some of the meetings. Their visits included time with:

- The Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life
- The Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples
- The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace
- The Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Immigrants
- The Pontifical Council for Social Communications
- Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue
- Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization
- The US ambassador to the Vatican
- The leadership of the International Union of Superiors General
- The leaders of religious institutes with members in the United States



The CMSM and LCWR delegations met with Ken Hackett, US ambassador to the Holy See. Shown here are: John Puodziunas, OFM; William Boslet, OSF; Carl Chudy, SX; Joan Marie Steadman, CSC; Ambassador Hackett; Carol Zinn, SSJ; James J. Greenfield, OSFS; John Pavlik, OFM Cap; Marcia Allen, CSJ

At the CICLSAL offices: Sebastiano Paciolla, O.Cist., undersecretary; Carol Zinn, SSJ; Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, prefect; Nicoletta Vittoria Spezatti, ASC, undersecretary; Marcia Allen, CSJ; Joan Marie Steadman, CSC; Archbishop José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM, secretary; and Hank Lemoncelli, OMI, study assistant



Collaboration with the Catholic Church

USCCB Meetings

Each November, LCWR has the opportunity to engage with the leadership of the US Catholic Church in a variety of settings to discuss the issues of importance to the church and US religious. In 2014, the LCWR presidency -- Sharon Holland, IHM; Carol Zinn, SSJ; Marcia Allen, CSJ -- and executive director Janet Mock, CSJ attended meetings of the Commission for Religious Life and Ministry (CRLM) as well as committee meetings related to the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, and were observers at the USCCB general assembly in Baltimore.

At the CRLM meeting, which was also attended by LCWR secretary Mary Beth Gianoli, OSF, the members discussed

- the updated Guidelines for Receiving Pastoral Ministers into the United States, a significant document outlining rights and responsibilities of international priests, religious, and laity coming into the United States for ministry.
- a presentation by NRRO executive director Janice Bader, CPPS on a request that will go to the November 2016 USCCB meeting to extend the national collection for religious for another 10 years.
- a presentation by Thomas Gaunt, SJ, executive director of the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), on surveys related to religious life conducted by CARA on topics such as aging trends in the United States reflected in the aging of religious institutes, Hispanics entering religious life, family support for religious vocations, and cultural dynamics that support/do not support vocations to religious life.
- plans for the Year of Consecrated Life

Janet Mock, CSJ represented LCWR at the annual gathering of consultants to the USCCB's Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. At the November 2014 meeting the consultants gave reports on their organizations' discussion of questions related to the Synod on the Family.

Joan Marie Steadman, CSC represented LCWR as an observer at the bishops' meeting in St. Louis in June.

USMCA Honors LCWR

The US Catholic Mission Association (USMCA) presented its 2014 Mission Award to LCWR during its annual conference. LCWR executive director Janet Mock, CSJ accepted the award which reads: "The 2014 Mission Award is presented to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in recognition for embodying a Gospel-inspired, non-violent concern for the dignity of the poor, and strengthening the religious dimension of commitment to social justice."



Janet Mock, CSJ accepts the USMCA award on behalf of LCWR

Affirming LCWR's mission and setting direction for the coming years,
we embrace our time as holy, our leadership as gift, and our challenges as blessing.

-- LCWR Call 2015 - 2022

LCWR National Board

The 2014-2015 members of the LCWR national board met twice, once following the assembly in Nashville, and again in February at Bethany Retreat Center in Lutz, Florida. In addition to regular reports and updates, the board attended to a number of matters including:

- Evaluation of the 2014 LCWR assembly
- The Year of Consecrated Life
- Organizational/governance questions regarding the future of LCWR
- The mandate of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
- Efforts to support religious life internationally
- Leadership Pathways

At its February meeting, the LCWR board met at the same time as the board of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and shared prayer, Eucharistic liturgies, and meals together. The two boards welcomed Bishop Robert Lynch of the St. Petersburg diocese for a social and dinner. The boards also met in together for a discussion of Pope Francis' letter to those in consecrated life.



Members of the LCWR national board and staff at Bethany Center in Lutz, Florida in February

Change of Executive Director

LCWR bid farewell to Janet Mock, CSJ who concluded her service to LCWR as its executive director on December 31. Janet began serving as interim director in September 2011 and on April 1, 2012, assumed the position of executive director.

On January 1, Sister of the Holy Cross of Notre Dame, Indiana, Joan Marie Steadman, assumed the role of executive director, after having just completed a five-year term as president of her community and having served on her community's leadership team for five years prior to that. Joan served on the LCWR national board two times, and was a member of the board's executive committee.



LCWR staff at farewell for outgoing executive director Janet Mock, CSJ. Joan Marie Steadman, CSC (incoming director); Laura Glasgow; Chris Costello; Annmarie Sanders, IHM; Janet Mock; Carol Glidden; Marie McCarthy, SP; Ann Scholz, SSND; and Grace Hartzog, SC

Advocacy for Justice and Peace

Priorities and Public Witness

LCWR's commitment to social justice is grounded in its 2015-22 call which claims the moral imperative of the Gospel and pledges its collective voice in solidarity with others to establish economic justice, abolish modern-day slavery, ensure immigrant rights, promote nonviolence, and protect Earth. LCWR authored or signed 50 letters and eight statements outlining its position on these issues.

Resolutions to Action

The Global Concerns Committee published four *Resolutions to Action* encouraging theological reflection on the critical need to address climate change.

Actions for Justice

LCWR was represented at the September United Nations conference which provided civil society the opportunity to discuss the post-2015 development agenda. Associate director Ann Scholz, SSND moderated the workshop, "Four Zeroes Add up to Positives for Global Education," which addressed barriers to education. LCWR was back in New York for the September 21 People's Climate March. Scores of women religious were among the 400,000 people asking world leaders, gathered for the UN climate summit, to address the climate crisis.

LCWR was among the conveners of the first-ever national convocation of justice promoters from congregations of women religious. Participants representing more than 100 congregations met to explore the theme: "Entering the Transforming Future: JPIC Ministry in the Coming Age of Religious Life" and to discuss future collaboration.

The Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants' 7th World Congress met in Rome November 17-21. Nearly 300 participants from bishops' conferences and partners, including LCWR, met to reflect on the current situation and approach to the care of migrants.

More than 500 Catholic leaders met in Washington for the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering which explored Catholic social engagement and the current political landscape. LCWR co-spon-

sored the policy workshop, *Weighing the Risks: Drivers of Migration*. Moderator Ann Scholz, SSND, challenged participants to ask difficult questions about US policies which create the political instability, violence, and structural poverty that force families from their homes.

LCWR joined 19 faith-based organizations in filing an amicus brief in support of the Obama administration's executive actions on immigration. The brief, filed with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, supported the administration's appeal of the injunction that has temporarily blocked deportation relief for millions.

LCWR was among 1,000 advocates gathered in Washington for the 13th annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days focused on ending mandatory minimum sentences for low-level offenders and the immigration bed quota, which encourages mass immigrant detention. Ann Scholz, SSND addressed the importance of girls' education and the need to end discrimination against women and girls in order to achieve sustainable development.

LCWR/CMSM Justice and Peace

The Justice and Peace Committee of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men joined LCWR's Global Concerns Committee for their joint meeting May 20. Committee members discussed how religious might amplify the pope's message in his encyclical on ecology.

External Partners

The LCWR associate director for social mission serves on a number of USCCB staff committees including: the Justice for Immigrants Core Group; the Catholic Climate Covenant Core Group; the Catholic Organizations Coalition against Trafficking; and the core groups of US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking and the Justice Conference of Women Religious. She also serves on the boards of the Catholic Health Association and NETWORK.

LCWR continues to collaborate with the interfaith community including the Heads of Faith-Based Washington Offices, Interfaith Immigration Coalition Steering Committee, and Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence.

Sacred Journeys

by Mary Hughes

As I write this report my work at providing transitional services is not quite eight months old. It has immersed me in journeys on a national scale, but more importantly, journeys that are sacred and holy at the level of individual congregations and certainly within each sister with whom I have spoken. Like our personal discipleship journeys, descriptive words can be elusive but let me try to give you a flavor.

At the national level, I have had the opportunity to speak to the members of the national board of both LCWR and CMSM. This led to invitations to speak at a number of regional gatherings. By the fall, I will have met with more than half of the LCWR regions with still others scheduled for spring 2016. I have welcomed the opportunity to meet so many of you in person and am heartened by your keen interest in the work that is developing. In addition I attended the conference of the Resource Center for Religious Institutes in the fall as well as an NRRO planning workshop during the winter. It has been a joy to work closely with the executive Directors of LCWR, RCRI, and NRRO (Janet Mock, CSJ; then Joan Marie Steadman, CSC; Sharon Euart, RSM; and Janice Bader, CPPS; respectively.) Their personal support and knowledge, freely shared, have been essential to me. Together we are working to prepare new resources for your usage. In addition to these larger gatherings, I have received calls from vicars for religious, from contemplative congregations, a congregation belonging to the Council for Major Superiors of Women Religious, and from very small congregations that claim no conference affiliation. I have spoken with canon lawyers, vocation promoters, and with many religious leaders throughout this country. There have also been several conversations with sisters engaged in the ministry of facilitation. We want to be sure we are all working in the same direction on your behalf. You have invited me to explore options with you as leadership units and you have invited me to assembly days with your members. Each time I have the opportunity to be with you, I learn

something more. Your individual and collective honesty in laying bare your reality humbles me.

Within every community there is a profound love for your charisma, for religious life, and for one another. There is a deep desire that the legacy of your ministries continue as gift to the people of God whom you have served so beautifully. There are a multitude of possibilities opening and you are thoughtful and contemplative as you engage in the ongoing discernment of God's will. There is a rich generosity in our midst as congregations open their hearts and their doors to one another so that life can continue.

There are many questions we need to continue to explore together. What does a congregation's legacy look like and what forms might it take?

What are the ongoing ways in which we can continue to process our reality with our sisters, leading one another to a place of greater freedom? What is the role of our associate members in this process? How might we best communicate to our donors, our family, and friends, and our public about these changes that need to occur? As I indicated, this is just a flavor of the work at hand.

We are so very grateful for the support of the GHR Foundation. This family foundation funds this work. They connect with Joan Steadman and me regularly and are ever asking if there is more that we might need. Their support of women religious is a blessing for all of us.

For several years now we have prayed with the words of the prophet Isaiah. "Behold, I am doing something new... Do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19) Perceiving the new continues to draw us, engage us, and challenge us. We trust because God is an integral part of these sacred journeys, ever leading us forward.



The LCWR Mission as Lived in the Regions

Region 1

The 15 LCWR regions respond to the question, “How has Holy Mystery been revealed in your midst within your region this year?”

Region 1 had two engaging and stimulating regional meetings during 2014-2015. In the fall Mary Johnson, SNDdeN, one of the authors of *New Generations of Catholic Sisters: The Challenge of Diversity*, presented her findings on religious life. She left us understanding that “successful religious institutes will have broad and deep networks that allow them to respond to the needs of the local and global church. Ministries to young adults and teenagers and ministries to the wider population will reinforce each other and keep charisms fresh and relevant.” She quoted Teilhard de Chardin saying, “The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason to hope.”

At our spring meeting we had the good fortune of having Mary Hughes, OP present on her new ministry as the LCWR director of transitional services. Mary shared relevant and insightful information about the challenges facing religious communities as they age and seek to make the next best decisions for their communities. There was a genuine appreciation for Mary’s presentation and sense of consolation knowing she is available as a consultant to congregations.

As a companion piece to Mary’s presentation, we contemplatively entered into a powerful section on vulnerability from Leadership Pathways. During both meetings we actively engaged in discussions about ways to forward the LCWR Call for 2015 – 2022 and the resolutions.



Top to bottom:
Regions 4, 5, and 15

Region 2

With 150 LCWR members representing 50 religious congregations of women throughout New York State, Region 2 gathers fall and spring, spending contemplative time together, focused on an important justice issue, learning something new with presenters, and sharing one another's compassion and wisdom, struggles, and joys. We spent time also reflecting on the LCWR Call, and Mystery unfolding in our midst since the August 2014 assembly. In October, Carole Schinnick, SSND joined us, exploring ways to create "A Culture of Communal Discernment," and Debbie Blow offered a profound justice presentation, on the border children crisis. At our April meeting, Jean Holsten introduced "Dynamic Dialogue Skills for Leadership in Challenging Times," and we experienced "Selma Revisited" with SSJs who were there, inviting us to deepen our commitment to end racism and promote non-violence today. Blessing each other on the journey forward on World Earth Day, we shared the final program at Stella Maris in Skaneateles with the Franciscans, filled with gratitude for so many years on holy ground. We left grateful for our LCWR faithful and gifted leaders, who throughout the CDF process witnessed to the integrity and commitment of women religious in the church and for the world.

Region 3

Our region was called to the margins by both of our speakers and programs in this past year. Janet Gildea, SC shared her ministry at the border working with the disabled and living with young adults who are engaged in service. Anthony Gittins, CSSP challenged us with a theology of mission at the margins. This led to grace-filled sharing of our call to realize our place at the margins.

Assuming a contemplative stance each time we gather fuels our hearts for fruitful conversation. We realize, as a result, that we are becoming more aware of our similarities than our differences. These graced opportunities have pulled us together.

We were blessed in a special way in October 2014 with the beatification of a member of one of the congregations in our region, Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, SC. Many attended the liturgy and shared in the celebration.



Region 4

Holy Mystery been revealed in our midst this year:

- By visiting Capitol Hill in spring 2015 after Simone Campbell, SSS of NETWORK prepared us with talking points on current political issues, especially in light of Pope Francis' themes. Foundationally, that means assuring the dignity of all persons through a living wage and a strong safety net.
- In sharing the wisdom of Carol Zinn, SSJ, in fall 2014, as we reflected on some current leadership challenges. She noted the importance of seeing all as one, of collaboration, and partnerships. She encouraged the cultivation of a deeply contemplative spirit in facing the practicalities of the times and in leading into a new iteration of religious life. We shared the riches of this day by opening it to other sisters in the region.
- Through awareness that the contemplative process has become normative for many in their local settings, and that it has borne fruit in the resolution of the CDF process;
- By affirming the value of Leadership Pathways with the hope that the region may engage Marie McCarthy, SP, as a presenter in the future.
- In agreeing to subsidize participation of one or two sisters from Region 4 in the SHARE El Salvador experience.
- Through acting on previous LCWR resolutions as individual congregations or sub-regions, depending on location and locally-identified issues.



Region 5

In Region 5 our time together begins and ends with shared prayer, an experience that has deepened over time enabling us to relate to one another more intimately sharing concerns, challenges, and successes within our ministries.

Holy Mystery was revealed through the persons of Beth Fitzpatrick, OCD, the vicar for religious, and her ability to link the religious and priests of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, especially during this Year of Consecrated Life, and Eva Regina Martin, SSF, former congregational leader of the Sisters of the Holy Family as we held her and her community in prayer as she journeyed into the arms of her God.

Holy Mystery was again revealed as we intentionally chose to meet in Lake Providence, the ministerial project of Region 5. We experienced the poverty of the area through a tour and learned of the disparity and economic reality of the people in the community through a presentation of the demographics by Jenny Hodge. We experienced the strength of the interfaith community through sharing in a Lenten luncheon. Our time at the lunch was not only fulfilling spiritually, but an opportunity for those gathered to share the economic challenges of their church communities. Lake Providence was a welcoming community proud and hopeful for a better future despite their daily challenges. We thank Bernie Barrett, SHSP for her expert planning of our time, her "ever presence" to us, and her tireless work in this community.



Region 6

Region 6 gathered in October 2014 and April 2015 for energetic and educational sessions. In the fall of 2014, we heard a panel of speakers share highlights from a seminar on the vows of poverty and obedience presented by Sandra Schneiders, IHM in the summer of 2014. We also had an excellent panel of speakers who shared various experiences of working with international sisters. The contemplative process held on Tuesday revealed “Holy Mystery in our Midst”: “As women religious, we are continuously awakened to our role of being signs of hope, committed to the radical Gospel living and affirming the holy relationship between and among all creation. We embrace our call to interact with all creation in peaceful, nurturing ways as we continue to expand bridge-building within our congregations, local communities, the church, and our world.”

We affirm the bold and prophetic leadership of LCWR and commit ourselves to nurture unity which will reenergize us for mission.

At our spring meeting, almost 70 members gathered. Pat Gardner, OSF had put together a picture directory of the members of which we are all very proud. In the afternoon we had a wonderful presentation on “Praying Without Words” by two Oldenburg Franciscan sisters. To conclude we prayed over and blessed those members who will be leaving us and will be dearly missed.

Region 7

Our regional experience of this year has been more about the building of relationships than in programming per se. We experienced solidarity and our part in a larger “sisterhood.”

The region members were able to step out of their leadership roles to play, pray, and be with one another. The energy shared encouraged, uplifted, and supported us. It deepened our awareness of congregations within the region who are not present with us on a regular basis.

Many of the congregations of our region experience themselves in a “liminal” space at this time. We journeyed with one another in the joys and challenges each congregation is experiencing, sharing best practices and seeking wisdom from one another.

Our agendas were built on the rich resources of the national assembly, UISG, the *LCWR Occasional Papers*, and speaker Patricia Wittberg, SC who challenged our understanding of intergenerational diversity as it related to mission and our focus of actions for justice.

We have appreciated the strength of the national LCWR leadership in response to the doctrinal investigation. It has been inspirational and deepened our trust in the work of the Spirit among us.



Region 8

Holy Mystery continues to be revealed within Region 8 through our gatherings both in fall and spring. A hallmark of each gathering is time for circles of sharing which broaden and deepen our own understanding of leadership into an emerging future. This year's focus was the theme from our assembly.

We continue to be graced and challenged through our sponsorship and commitment to Project IRENE (Illinois Religious Engaging in Nonviolent Endeavors). This ministry helps guide us toward effecting systemic change around issues of immigration, human trafficking, and economic justice to name a few. Throughout the year members and leaders have participated in various groups and activities, including Illinois Women Religious Against Human Trafficking, Catholic Conference of Illinois, the opening of Catholic Theological Union's Center for Consecrated Life, and the welcome of Archbishop Blase Cupich to Chicago and farewell to Cardinal Francis George, OMI. Of note this spring was the conclusion of the CDF mandate. It was observed that Region 8 met when CDF announced the mandate in 2012 and concluded it in 2015. Always grounded in contemplative space we enjoy being with one another and are grateful for the blessings and the LCWR Call that we share.



Region 9

During this Year of Consecrated Life, we continued using the contemplative approach to dialogue and make decisions. This helped us to deepen our awareness of Holy Mystery. We experienced the joy of the grace-filled conclusion of the Apostolic Visitation and Doctrinal Assessment—an experience of the Spirit working in our midst—and realized that it has enhanced our way of acting inter-congregationally.

As a result of last year's meeting of communicators and legislative networkers, we are engaged in anti-human trafficking efforts state-wide. A task force is focused on parish education across five dioceses, billboards in strategic locations, and state-wide coalitions. At our fall meeting, Janeen Geske spoke on restorative justice and introduced the "Healing Circle Process." Through it one listens to other's stories—the key to deeper understanding of one another. This tool has enhanced our leadership skills bringing our sisters into deeper conversations.

As a follow-up to our future planning survey of last year, Mary Hughes, OP spoke at our spring meeting. She touched on leadership scenarios, future options, legacies, and what leaders need to do. She emphasized the power of vulnerability—the birthplace of creativity while relying on one another. We continue to identify issues, reach out to one another with ideas, give support, and share resources.



Region 10

Holy Mystery was revealed in our midst this year through “courageous actions at the heart of communion.” In particular:

- The situation in Ferguson, Missouri has been a catalyst for nonviolent, grassroots awareness of racism and of systemic injustices that have occurred in governmental settings
- Protection of the earth through our prayer vigils and protests at the site of the West Lake Landfill in St. Louis
- Continued emphasis on collaboration against human trafficking through media messages, workshops, and speakers
- Hosting Mary Ann Zollmann, BVM, as a speaker who integrated *Vita Consecrata*, *The Power of Sisterhood*, and Pope Francis in the light of reflections on Mary
- Looking beyond our region by participating in NGOs, focusing on immigration issues, helping women religious from Vietnam, and donating to the efforts to treat and to stop the spread of Ebola



Region 11

Where LCWR Region 11 members have experienced Holy Mystery revealed in our midst:

- Through reflection on our connections with global women religious in our summer 2014 conference presented by Tom Fox and Joyce Meyer, PBVM;
- By engagement in a dialogue on how to encourage deeper conversations within our communities/congregations in our Fall 2014 meeting, led by Judy Chiodo, OSF and Sue Hoisington;
- Through a presentation by Dan Ward, OSB at our spring 2015 meeting in which we reflected on planning for the future of our communities, in the face of the reality of our smaller and older membership, as a vital expression of hope and a means to enable our sisters to live our religious life as fully as possible;
- In our communities and congregations:
 - Through the mystery of illness suffered by members of our leadership teams;
 - Through living the paschal mystery of dying and rising in our planning for the future of our communities;
 - Through partnerships with others on the local, state, and national level to move forward on specific community needs and justice issues;
 - Through the building of relationships with women religious from developing countries (some of whom have relocated to our areas);
 - Through study and reflection on the new cosmology and how this changes our images of God and affects our prayer;
 - Through education and advocacy efforts to address human trafficking;
 - Through our work on new models of leadership;
 - Through our work with immigrant populations in our local areas.

Region 12

In October 2014, Region 12 met in San Antonio with the theme “Embracing the Spirituality of Change.” We had a panel of our own members address the transitions occurring within their congregations followed by continued sharing on this topic.

In April 2015, we met in Houston with the theme of “Wake Up The World, A Prophetic Vision for Mission.” Our speaker on consecrated life was Ann Carol Kaufenburg, SSND. We participated in a taste of Leadership Pathways and shared our leadership experiences. In sharing about the reality of transitions we raised questions about when and why to seek consultation regarding future covenants. We also raised concerns for women religious who have immigrated to our region from countries south of the United States without a formal invitation and who have little to no financial resources. Some who are employed are sending funds back to the motherhouses out of the country. We decided to fund and send Kathryn Frank, SSND as a regional representative to the Share El Salvador Anniversary Celebration. We finalized arrangements for hosting the LCWR assembly in Houston. We approved awarding \$7,450 in grants to several projects from the Region 12 Border Projects Fund which has continued for the last 20 years. Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, CCVI has continued to educate about the dangers of hydro-fracking and has led tours of facilities. Some of the region members have demonstrated with a prayer vigil against the Family Detention Centers which incarcerate immigrant women and children in Dilley, Texas.



Region 13

We wish to thank the LCWR presidents and directors for the hard work and resolve in bringing the mandate to a close. We look forward to a dynamic and bright future for LCWR. We are eager to continue to serve the poor and marginalized and share our wisdom and gifts to enable transformation individually and communally.

At the spring meeting the members shared how their communities were involved in addressing the LCWR resolutions on human trafficking, gun violence, the environment, the doctrine of discovery and LGBT issues. The activities include offering education to members and the surrounding communities on these issues. We initiated discussion on placing billboards near major cities, such as Kansas City and Denver. Some members are involved with immigration reform and direct service to the immigrants in the El Paso, Texas area. All are addressing environmental issues. Some communities are sending representatives to the Share El Salvador pilgrimage in November. Since our region is geographically large each community has prioritized and addressed the issue(s) most relevant to its locale.



Region 14

Region 14 experienced Holy Mystery being revealed in our continued growth in our own interrelatedness. Our speakers at our regional meetings, Nancy Sylvester, IHM in October, and Mary Hughes, OP in March, helped us recognize Holy Mystery in different aspects of our leadership roles, especially in our desire to embrace vulnerability. We see Holy Mystery revealed in our celebrations of the Year of Consecrated Life in our dioceses and in our continuing works of justice and service to the poor, such as opposition to human trafficking.

Holy Mystery is revealed as we respond to emerging and shifting church and civil situations such as the resolution of the apostolic visitation process and actions taken to aid and educate others regarding unaccompanied minor immigrants. Holy Mystery is revealed in our interactions with our local bishops including the meeting of Southern California sisters with Archbishop Jose Gomez, involvement in the letter California bishops crafted for the Year of Consecrated Life, and an invitation to meet with the bishops in April.

And we stand in awe as Holy Mystery is revealed in the young women discerning vocations with us and as we witness our older sisters living fidelity to the end of their lives.



Region 15

Our activities this year have focused on the first half of the Year of Consecrated Life and on our participation in the activities of the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center (IPJC) in Seattle.

Sisters throughout the dioceses of Portland and Spokane, and the archdiocese of Seattle participated in various events related to the Year of Consecrated Life, and several communities held open houses or other events to commemorate the year.

Our second focus for the year included participating in activities sponsored by IPJC. These included the monthly vigil against human trafficking, using the reflection/study process on Climate Change: Our Call to Conversion, attending a workshop with Pat Kozak, CSJ on New Consciousness: Becoming Agents of Cultural Change, and attending the yearly Catholic advocacy day with our legislators in Olympia.

Immigration reform and concerns are a major priority in the Northwest. Through participation in local groups working for immigration reform and other faith-based groups, sisters have participated in marches, and study groups and implemented corporate stances. The 2014 meeting of the Northwest Association of Bishops and Religious Superiors (NABRS) spent two days addressing the immigration issue and how we might take action. Helping us understand the complexity of this issue was our guest speaker the Most Rev. Ricardo Ramirez, CSB



Stewardship of LCWR's Financial Resources

During 2014, the LCWR Finance and Audit Committee and the office staff have continued to work diligently to ensure the careful stewardship of LCWR's resources. To date, the decrease in membership is slowing; however, since 2007 the decrease is 11.5%. For the last three years, the average membership has been 1365. The same trend is true for units. Overall, the unit decrease is 10% since 2008, with a 3% drop from 2014 to 2015.

Auditor's Report

Linton, Shafer, Warfield and Garrett, PA completed an audit of LCWR's financial statements and issued an unqualified opinion, noting that they present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of LCWR, the changes in net assets and cash flows in accordance with accounting principles as of December 31, 2014 and 2013.

Investments

The LCWR Finance and Audit Committee met with Eileen O'Connell, representative of Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS) to review investment performance and the Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) Guidelines. In 2014, the investment gains earnings were 53% less than the previous year; however, the market value of the investment funds were 13.5% above the previous year.

Audited Revenues

There was a decrease (6% or \$200,000) in the total revenues in 2014 over 2013. This decrease was mainly a result of the decreased unrealized gains of \$443,000 and decreased contributions to LCWR offset positively by grant revenue of \$300,000. The operating revenues increased in 2014 by 20.8% primarily due to the assembly and grants.

Audited Expenses

There was a slight decrease in expenses in 2014 over 2013 expenses. The LCWR History Project closed at end of year 2014 and LCWR continues to receive orders for the *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America* DVD and proceeds from its sale contribute to LCWR revenue.

Net Assets

2014 LCWR net assets increased by 12.8 % over 2013 net assets. This is primarily due to the investment market gains and the building fund increase.

Budget 2014 to Actual 2014

Budget targets for expenses and revenues were carefully monitored on a monthly basis. Operating revenues were 24.6% above budget and expenses were slightly over budget (1%) resulting in a positive operating variance to budget for the year ending 2014.

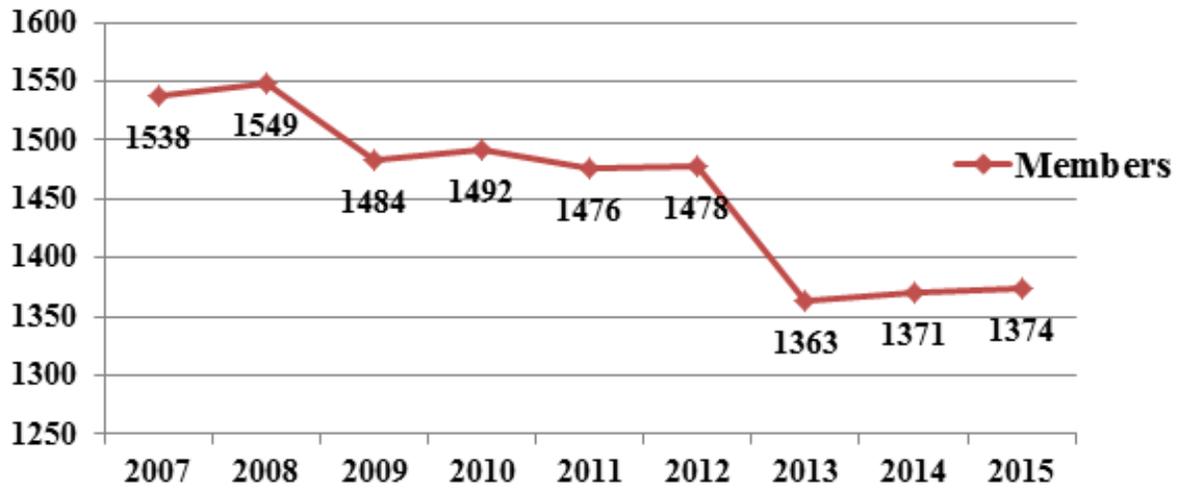
LCWR Building

The Cameron Street building, jointly owned by LCWR and CMSM, includes offices for their own staffs as well as for the Resource Center for Religious Institutes. The income from rents covered 2014 expenses and provided necessary capital improvements. For calendar year 2014, LCWR's portion of the building fund increase was \$69,334.

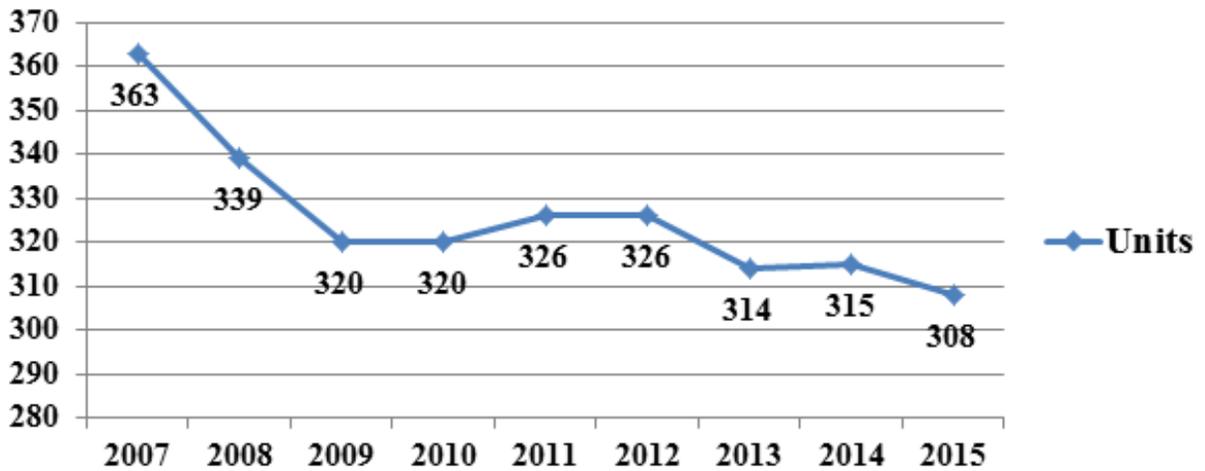


The LCWR Finance and Audit Committee: Pat Eck, CBS (treasurer); Bobbi Besley (RCRI staff); Karin Dufault, SP; Helen Ingles, IHM; Leora Linnenkugel, OLVM; Judith Frikker, RSM; and Grace Hartzog, SC (LCWR staff). Missing from photo: Julia Lanigan, GHSH

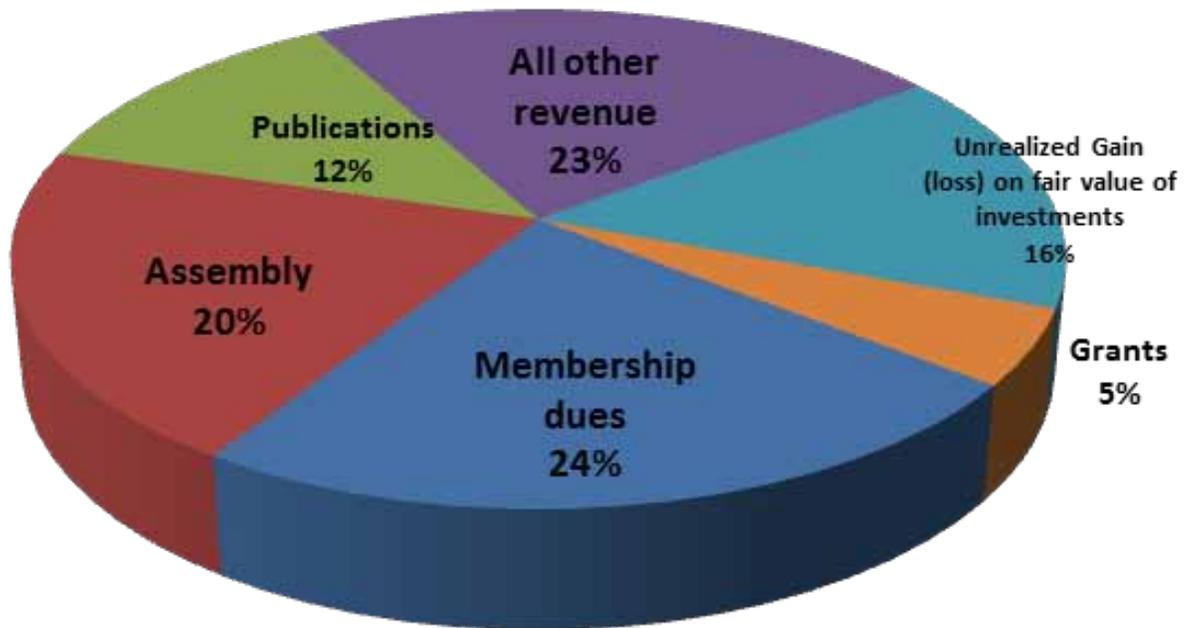
2007-2015 LCWR Membership



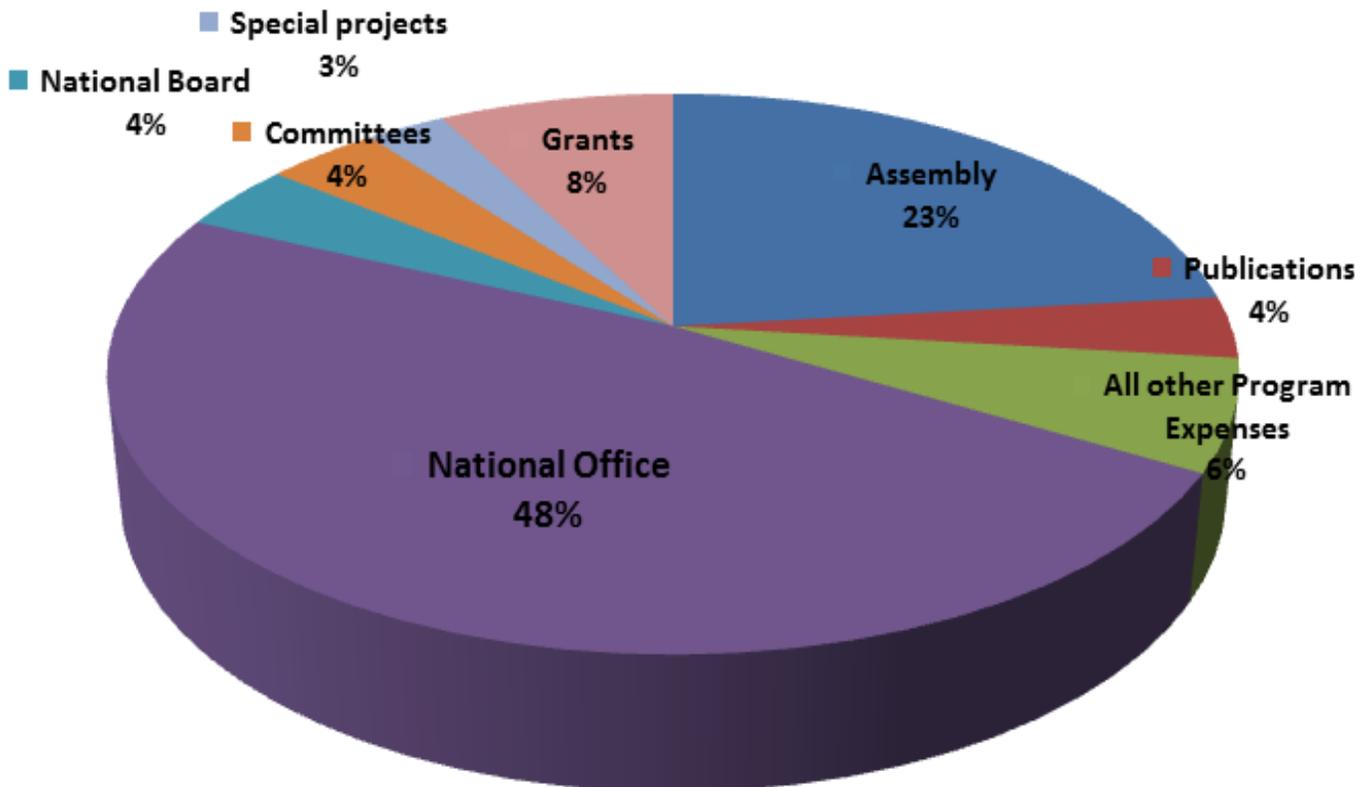
2007-2015 LCWR Membership in Units



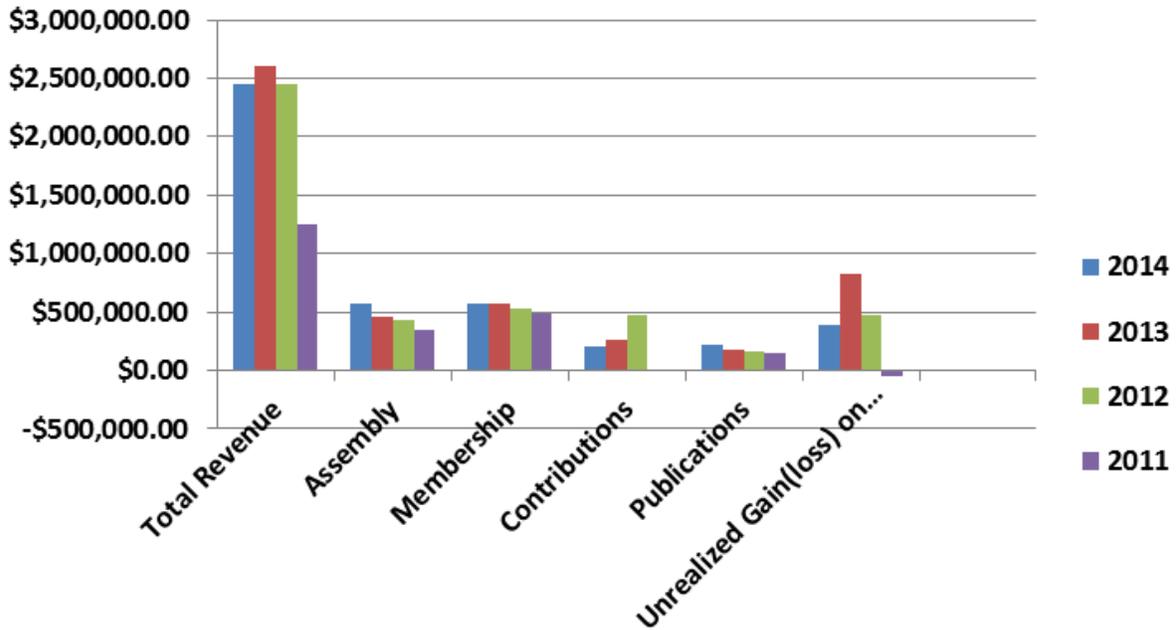
2014 LCWR Revenues



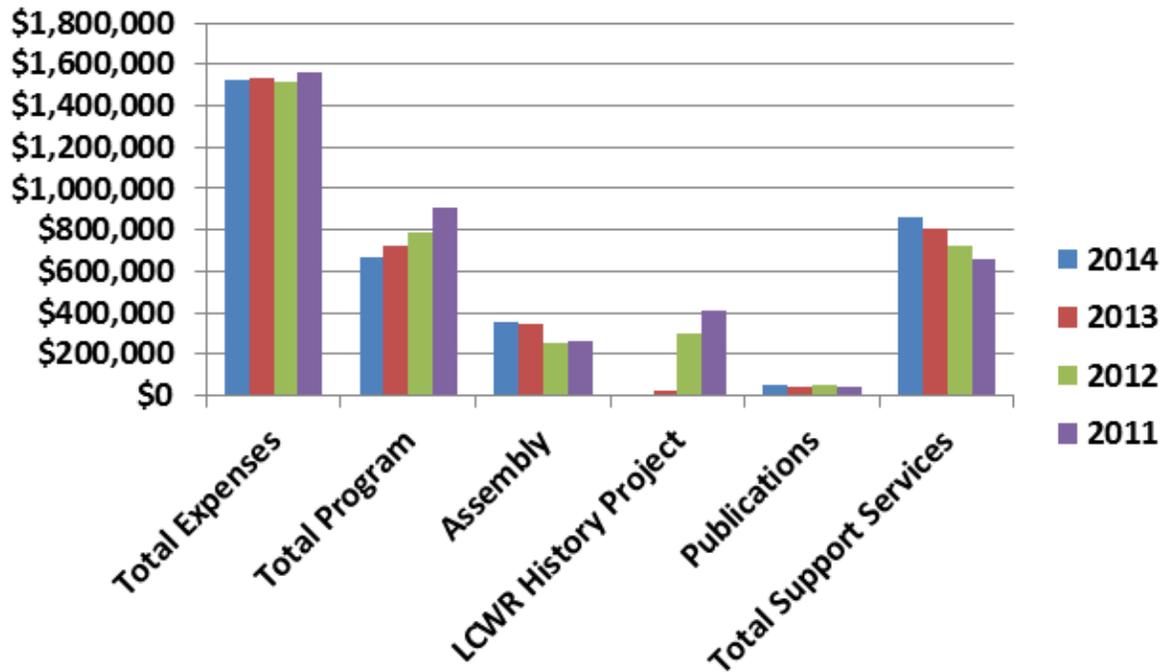
2014 LCWR Expenses



LCWR Revenue Trends



LCWR Expense Trends



Collaborating for the Mission of Religious Life

LCWR works closely with other organizations
serving women and men religious in the United States.

These organizations share how Holy Mystery has been revealed in the
midst of their organizations since the summer of 2014.

National Religious Retirement Office

Janice Bader, CPPS
Executive Director

NRRRO continues to assist religious institutes in addressing the needs of elder religious by offering financial, educational and planning resources. Fifteen communities participated in the NRRO planning and implementation process during 2014 bringing the total of participants since 2009 to 102.



With the help of a grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, NRRO engaged professionals to evaluate the planning and implementation process; the results of this study will be available by fall 2015. The grant also allowed NRRO to begin gathering and building resources to support property planning, a key component of retirement planning efforts. Workshops and other forms of assistance will be forthcoming.

NRRO collaborated with the Resource Center for Religious Institutes to update the Mercer Mortality Tables for Religious. The study found a slight improvement in the longevity of women religious and a more significant gain in the life expectancy of men religious.

NRRO remains focused on narrowing the retirement funding gap and appreciates LCWR's continued co-sponsorship. As a sponsor, LCWR helps to set goals and policies that enable NRRO to better meet the needs of religious institutes, including the members of LCWR.

Solidarity with South Sudan

Joan Mumaw, IHM
Development Director for the United States

The US regional office of Solidarity with South Sudan settled into the LCWR community on Cameron Street in early 2014. The warm welcome and sisterly support blessed the transition.



This past year has been a difficult one for the people of South Sudan. Most of the civil unrest has taken place on the east side of the White Nile that flows through the center of the country. The new Solidarity teacher training college at Malakal was virtually destroyed in the conflict. The western side of the Nile presents a different picture as Solidarity continues to train nurses, midwives, teachers, and pastoral workers. Forty-nine out of the 158 registered nurses in the country have been trained at the Catholic Health Training Institute in Wau. Currently 107 students are participating in the two year-teacher training program in Yambio.

In December 2014 the board of Solidarity in Rome proposed that the US office establish a nonprofit organization to support the work in South Sudan. In March 2015, a small group of major superiors of congregations which have supported the organization financially and/or with personnel gathered to take the first steps toward establishing this nonprofit.

Solidarity is a response to the pleas of the bishops of Sudan to assist in reconstructing the society. Six women from US congregations have joined the Solidarity community of 32 priests, brothers, and sisters from 18 congregations and 19 countries, sharing their expertise and building the capacity of South Sudanese to become leaders in this new nation.

Conference of Major Superiors of Men

John Pavlik, OFM Cap
Executive Director

2015 has become a most exceptional year for religious life both nationally and internationally as the universal church proudly, solemnly, and unashamedly proclaims what women and men in religious institutes profess and manifest every day. Through the observance of the Year of Consecrated Life, Catholics everywhere have learned more about ways of following Jesus through committed lives rooted in and directed by the Gospels. Some have thought this common way was vanishing.

This wonderful year presents us selected moments to speak about the joys and satisfactions of common life with one another and for the sake of missions as varied as the latest unmet need. This year we have a platform from which to say that we choose to live in simplicity regarding the use of things so we possess less for one's own needs and without reliance on many things to satisfy us. We can rightly focus on how we conduct ourselves with respect for the good things of creation, with honor and charity for all persons, with advocacy for the downtrodden, in unity with both believers in the explicit revelations of God and with those yet uncertain of the greater good they seek.

This year we can witness openly to how we have joined with those accountable for our spiritual welfare; we point to a reverential hearing of the Word and its resonance in all members of our community of faith. This year we can speak about how we own deeply a daily union of prayer, pleading for the world as we seek the face of God. This year we admit publicly our hopefulness that the Spirit will invite ever new persons to journey with us in ancient and in renovated forms. This year much good points to the vibrancy of our faith in a living Jesus and to great ways to allow God to be known in and through us in the world. What a remarkable year.

This year, too, the CMSM rejoices that our common witness became greater through a just resolution to a more than six-year discernment of how religious life might be alive for this era in a distinctive relationship to the universal Church in its institution. May the member institutes of the LCWR flourish anew for the awaiting mission God may have in mind for them. This current era is not deaf to the deep calls to transcendence. Blessed be God for this remarkable year.

Resource Center for Religious Institutes

Sharon Euart, RSM
Executive Director

Having completed my first year as executive director, I am grateful for the collaboration and support I have received from the LCWR leadership and its staff. It has been a busy year for RCRI in this transition. Our 2014 annual conference in St. Louis was, by all accounts, very successful. The program, speakers, and opportunities for networking were well received by the participants. Last fall we initiated implementation of the GHR grant we received, in conjunction with LCWR, to develop resources for institutes moving toward completion. Working closely with Mary Hughes, OP; Joan Steadman, CSC; and Janice Bader, CPPS, we are developing, among other things, a toolbox which will be available on the RCRI website to all religious institutes as they plan for the future. We will be meeting with leaders of institutes that are at varying stages of planning for the future to identify helpful resources as well as learnings from their experience.



In spring 2015, the RCRI board initiated a strategic planning process with Dr. Marisa Guerin as our consultant that will identify not only the needs of our members but also help shape the future of RCRI over the next three years and perhaps beyond 2018. We are moving forward with a new system to improve our technology and our ability to connect effectively with our members. We are contracting with YourMembership.com which offers an integrated solution comprised of membership management software and social networking features. We are excited about the possibilities and the efficiency in obtaining helpful and accurate information quickly and easily.

This is our fourth year hosting monthly webinars and we continue to produce written publications on legal updates and topics of interest to leadership and finance personnel.

RCRI joins its voice to all those offering prayers of gratitude for the conclusion of the mandate from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and for the leadership of LCWR over these three years.

Religious Formation Conference

Carol Regan, SUSC
Interim Executive Director

2014 was an anniversary year for the Religious Formation Conference, filled with the dynamic natural to such a milestone: looking back in gratitude and



forward in hope. We celebrated our 60th anniversary in five hub gatherings on the theme, *From Center to Periphery: Relocating the Prophetic Witness of Religious Life*, with Richard Gaillardetz from Boston College and Caroljean Willie, SC, then representing the Sisters of Charity Federation at the United Nations, as keynoters.

Honoring the conference's mission to foster both initial and lifelong formation, we offered programs for formators, Orientation to Formation and ForMission; the Life Commitment Program, for religious on the cusp of perpetual profession; and a range of webinars on topics of general interest. We have marked the Year of Consecrated Life through a workshop series, *Hope: An Invitation and Impetus to Transformative Life and Mission*, this spring and we look forward to our biennial national congress in Pittsburgh in November.

During our anniversary year, a nautilus, which creates new chambers as its life evolves, symbolized the conference's history and hope, and a nautilus is part of the logo for this year's LCWR assembly. The Religious Formation Conference is pleased to be among those organizations with whom LCWR collaborates to create new chambers in which religious life will flourish!

National Religious Vocation Conference

Paul Bednarczyk, CSC
Executive Director

Our 25th anniversary jubilee year concluded at our NRVC Convocation held in Chicago in November. More than 325 participants celebrated the theme, *It Is Good that We Are Here.... Rise and Have no Fear*. Offering three keynotes and various workshops, NRVC also premiered the results of the NRVC/CARA Study on Cultural Diversity in Religious Life. Convocation participants were also treated to the liturgical music of the University of Notre Dame Folk Choir who sang for the convocation closing mass.

The National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (NFCRV), an initiative begun by NRVC to assist NRVC member religious institutes in their welcoming of candidates with educational debt, is up and running with the first grants being issued in summer 2015.

With the commencement of the Year of Consecrated Life, NRVC and its publication, *Vision*, developed a logo for the year, commissioned a commemorative hymn based on the words of Pope Francis, and mailed a Consecrated Life Resource Packet to approximately 17,000 parishes in the United States. NRVC continues to explore ways of providing additional online and print materials on religious life.

NRVC hosted in Rome a first-ever, International Religious Vocation Meeting with delegates from vocations centers and religious leadership conferences from the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Germany, England, Ireland, and France. In addition to looking at ways for more global collaboration, the delegates also had an encouraging meeting with several representatives from CICLSAL.

Lastly, NRVC is grateful to LCWR congregations for their participation in the NRVC/CARA Study on the Role of Family in Nurturing Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life. The results will be released before the papal visit and will be shared with the Vatican in preparation for the October Synod on the Family.

Generous Service to the Leadership Conference

LCWR thanks all who have contributed their time and talent to the conference through service on its national board and committees.

National Board

Officers

Sharon Holland, IHM* -- President
 Marcia Allen, CSJ* -- President-Elect
 Carol Zinn, SSJ* -- Past President
 Mary Beth Gianoli, OSF* -- Secretary
 Pat Eck, CBS* -- Treasurer

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 Carol Wagner, RDC -- Region 2
 Ellen Dauwer, SC -- Region 3
 Rose Marie Jasinski, CBS* -- Region 4
 Greta Jupiter, SSF -- Region 5
 Marian Durkin, CSA -- Region 6
 Ginger Downey, OLVM -- Region 7
 Maria Hughes, ASC -- Region 8
 Pat Cormack, SCSC -- Region 9
 Jan Renz, ACS -- Region 10
 Marilyn Geiger, OSF -- Region 11
 Lourdes Leal, CDP -- Region 12
 Jan Ginzkey, OSB -- Region 13
 Stephanie Still, PBVM -- Region 14
 Judy Desmarais, SP -- Region 15

Executive Director

Janet Mock, CSJ* (finished 12/14)
 Joan Marie Steadman, CSC* (started 1/15)

**Members of the Executive Committee*

Committees

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Cathy Bertrand, SSND
 Ellen Dauwer, SC
 Barbara Hagedorn, SC
 Alba Letelier, SP
 Marie McCarthy, SP, (LCWR staff)
 Mary Pellegrino, CSJ
 Sharlet Ann Wagner, CSC

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 Janet Folkl, CDP
 Maureen Irving, OSF
 Ann Scholz, SSND (LCWR Staff)

Contemporary Religious Life Committee

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 Maria Hughes, ASC
 Ana Lydia Sonera Matos, CDP
 Marie McCarthy, SP (LCWR Staff)
 Patricia McDermott, RSM
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 Annmarie Sanders, IHM (LCWR Staff)
 Catherine Bertrand, SSND (Facilitator)

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 Pat Eck, CBS (Treasurer)
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Nominations and Elections Committee

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 Ellen Dauwer, SC
 Barbara Dreher, CSJ
 Grace Hartzog, SC (LCWR Staff)
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Occasional Papers Advisory Board

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 Nancy Conway, CSJ
 Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP
 Teresa Maya, CCVI
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Liaisons to Other Organizations

Catholic Health Association Board

Ann Scholz, SSND (LCWR staff)

Commission on Religious Life and Ministry

Marcia Allen, CSJ

Mary Beth Gianoli, OSF

Sharon Holland, IHM

Joan Marie Steadman, CSC (LCWR executive director)

Carol Zinn, SSJ

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Annmarie Sanders, IHM (LCWR staff)

National Religious Retirement Office Grant Review Board

Maryanne Fitzgerald, SC

Joan Marie Steadman, CSC (LCWR executive director)

NETWORK Board

Ann Scholz, SSND (LCWR staff)

Resource Center for Religious Institutes

Joan Marie Steadman, CSC (LCWR executive director)

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USCCB Committee on Consecrated Life and Vocations

Joan Marie Steadman, CSC (LCWR executive director)

USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development

Joan Marie Steadman, CSC (LCWR executive director)

USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace

Joan Marie Steadman, CSC (LCWR executive director)

USCCB National Advisory Council

Theresa Sandok, OSM

Rita Cammack, OSF

“Standing on the rich history of our past and the communion present among us, we, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, commit ourselves to seeking God who beckons to us from a future abundant in grace, full of challenge, and rich in possibility. ”

-- LCWR Call 2015 - 2022

LCWR National Office Staff



Grace Hartzog, SC
Associate Director for
Business and Finance



Joan Marie Steadman,
CSC
Executive Director



Chris Costello
Director of
Development
(completed her employment
at LCWR in June 2015)



Marie McCarthy, SP
Associate Director of
Programs



Laura Glasgow
Executive Assistant



Annmarie Sanders, IHM
Associate Director
for Communications



Carol Glidden
Administrative Assistant
& Membership Coordinator



Ann Scholz, SSND
Associate Director
for Social Mission



Mary Hughes, OP
Director of Transitional Services



Christabel Lartey
Receptionist