

July 2016



LCWR Participates in InterAmerican Meeting in Montreal

LCWR president Marcia Allen, CSJ and executive director Joan Marie Steadman, CSC participated in an InterAmerican Committee gathering in May in Montreal, meeting along with representatives of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC) and the Confederation of Latin American Religious (CLAR).

Time was devoted to sharing current priorities and how each conference is organized. The hopes and challenges that shape the living of the charism of religious in diverse cultural and ecclesial contexts drew the members of the group together as common threads were discovered.

All who gathered made the commitment to continue to meet together in person annually and connect via conference call at least once a year so that ways to collaborate, support and share resources with one another may be explored. The next InterAmerican meeting will be hosted by LCWR and CMSM.

More than 760 to Attend LCWR Assembly



Embracing the Mystery: Living Transformation August 9 – 12 -- Atlanta, Georgia

To date, more than 760 LCWR members, associates, and guests have registered for this year's LCWR assembly, which has been planned to help participants listen carefully for the movement of God in themselves, their religious institutes, and the conference as a whole.

Keynoters Margaret Wheatley and Pat Farrell, OSF will break open the theme of this assembly, and participants will have ample opportunity to apply their insights to their own realities through contemplative dialogue and other reflective processes that are woven through the assembly. Participants will also reflect on racism and US religious life through a presentation by Dr. Shannen Dee Williams, an historian of the United States and the black Catholic diaspora, and by responses from LCWR members Anita Baird, DHM and Dawn Tomaszewski, SP.

Members are encouraged to review online the assembly resolution and the bios of the candidates for president, all found on the members' section of the [LCWR website](#).

From the LCWR Presidency

Mystery/Transformation -- A Butterfly Experience?

by Marcia Allen, CSJ — LCWR President

Our 2016 assembly theme: Transformation and Mystery! We get the idea. Our lives will never be the same again. We are in the midst of a transformation from the known to the unknown. In his address to the Canadian Religious Conference in May of this year, theologian Simon Pierre Arnold, wove his thoughts about religious life around a theme that he called the “era of the butterfly,” the title of his latest book.

Curious, I googled the metamorphosis process of the butterfly. Even though I had entertained many a cocoon in my elementary school classrooms I had never actually watched the way the monarch butterfly (or any other, for that matter!) laid its egg on a milkweed leaf, saw it hatch into a worm that ate itself into a stage of apparent somnolence, and then encased itself into a cocoon. What a show! The pulsing of life into a cocoon and then into a butterfly forming, slowly beginning to show itself through the cocoon walls that became more and more transparent until the butterfly could be easily identified. Then finally, the cracking of the cocoon walls and the slow emergence of a beautiful new being. Its wings were tiny and wet and needed to be exercised and preened. Eventually, the butterfly could make its way into the world – ready to create a path of beauty, pollinate various plants, and eventually find a milkweed and lay its eggs.

The constant changing from form to form is what caught my attention. Always a monarch but chang-



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ing forms until it reaches full maturity and then is ready to begin again. What an amazing process! In a year they go through four generations. In the first three the adult butterfly dies in a timely fashion. The fourth generation butterfly, however, migrates to Mexico or Southern California and hibernates until it is time to awaken and mate and begin the process of metamorphosis all over again.

What does all this have to say to us? A mystery? Definitely! How is it possible to change so dramatically and still retain identity? It is instructive to watch the process of the transformation. The change from egg to healthy worm is not an easy process. The worm clearly intends to end its life in a cocoon. But building a cocoon is hard work. It seems an endless process: stretching to attach to a limb, rocking back and forth, pulsing and pulling, enshrouding and binding itself. Sheer travail describes this process. Some innate urge causes the worm to work heartily at self-destruction for the sake of a greater being.

The “era of butterfly” – is it ours? It seems to me that we are in that tenuous stage of cocoon building – where the fix is in. Once begun, the worm cannot go back. Only the struggle of completing the cocoon remains for it. This is its future. And then the quiet waiting while some mysterious internal formula turns the entombed worm into a butterfly. Faith turned hope?

LCWR Executive Committee Explores Ideas for Shaping the Conference

The members of the LCWR executive committee met in Marriottsville, Maryland from May 31 to June 1. The agenda included reports from the officers on the various events and meetings at which they represented the conference, discussion of LCWR's finances, updates, and conversation on many of the important matters facing the conference.

The committee made the following committee and liaison appointments:

LCWR Finance and Audit Committee

- Catherine Fedewa, CSFN
- Mary Jane Herb, IHM
- Kathleen Keenan, RSM

LCWR Global Concerns Committee

- Gemma Doll, OP
- Susan Francois, CSJP

LCWR Nominations and Election Committee

- Judith Desmarais, SP
- Joyce Lehman, CPPS

LCWR Resolutions Committee:

- Jacquelyn Cramer, BVM
- Carol Lichtenberg, SNDdeN

LCWR Liaison to USCCB Accounting Practices Committee

- Shiela Megley, RSM

LCWR staff members joined the executive committee for its second day of meetings. That day opened with a contemplative dialogue on the question: *What is our desired future for LCWR?* This was followed by a process where all named the processes and structures that are serving the conference well and those that need attention. After discussion of staff reports and other matters, the group ended with a second contemplative dialogue on the question: *In light of what we have shared at this meeting, what most needs attention at this time for the good of the whole of LCWR?*

For the final hour of the meeting, the members of the entire LCWR national board joined the executive com-

mittee via videoconferencing to review and approve the LCWR and Cameron Street building audits.

The members of the executive committee are the LCWR presidents: Marcia Allen, CSJ; Mary Pellegrino, CSJ; and Sharon Holland, IHM; secretary: Mary Beth Gianoli, OSF; treasurer: Pat Eck, CBS; at-large members: Rosemary Brennan, CSJ and Rose Marie Jasinski, CBS; and executive director Joan Marie Steadman, CSC.



LCWR Attends Canadian Religious Conference

By Joan Marie Steadman, CSC

LCWR president Marcia Allen, CSJ and I represented LCWR at the assembly of the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC), held in Montreal, Canada in May. The theme of the conference was *The Mission of Congregation's Leaders: Amid the Challenges Discerning Hope / Au Coeur des Défis, Discerner l'Espérance.*

The CRC functions in two languages: French and English. Warm and gracious hospitality created a sense of welcome and inclusion and a wonderful spirit of engagement was sustained throughout the assembly.

Simon Pierre Arnold, OSB, a Belgian Benedictine monk who lives in a monastery he founded in the Peruvian Andes, gave the keynote. Formerly he served as the leader of a team of Latin American theologians from the Confederation of Latin American Religious (CLAR). Marcia and I urged Simon Pierre and the CRC to have his books translated in English. Listening to his presentation and session of dialogue which touched on "a lived theology of consecrated life for a time of crisis and hope" left a hunger to be able to reflect more deeply. It was a joy for to be at the same table with Simon Pierre and share together after the times of contemplative reflection.

LCWR Members Participate in RCRI-Sponsored Workshop for Leaders of Institutes in Transition

Fidelity to the Journey: Finding Our Way in Un-chartered Territory was the theme of a workshop sponsored by the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) at the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien, Illinois in May. The workshop, funded through a GHR Foundation grant, brought together 50 leaders of religious institutes that are in the process of transition planning and perhaps moving into their last generation. The purpose of the workshop was to provide institute leaders with tools and information for this important transition; to hear from the participants about their needs, challenges, and helpful resources; and to provide an opportunity to interact with leaders of other institutes experiencing similar transitions.

The workshop presenters brought a rich and varied experience and expertise to the program highlighting four key areas of transition planning. Carol Zinn, SSJ, former LCWR president and senior vice president for integration for Plante Moran Cresa Company, opened the workshop with a presentation on “Religious Life: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.” Jean Bartunek, RSCJ, professor of management at Boston College, addressed, “How Legacies May Be Preserved and, Indeed, Resurrected.” Ray Mattes, IHM, administrator of home care for the Los Angeles Province of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, addressed the process of grieving and loss in his presentation on “Presence and Witness: Living into the Paschal Mystery.” LCWR past president Sharon Holland, IHM, former official of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, addressed “Leadership for the Journey,” with particular attention to canonical governance, councils and chapters.

Resource persons available to the participants were: organizational developer and facilitator Ruby Cribbin; LCWR director of transition services Mary Hughes, OP; former NRRO executive director Janice Bader, CPPS; and TRENDS consultant for RCRI and NRRO Hertha Longo, CSA.

The presentations were videotaped and will be available in the toolbox on the RCRI website at www.trcri.org and accessible to members of RCRI, CMSWR, CMSM, and LCWR.



LCWR members at RCRI workshop

New Cohorts Forming for Leadership Pathways

Registration is open for LCWR members interested in joining a learning cohort in transformational leadership beginning in the fall of 2016. Members have the opportunity to participate in one of three offerings in Leadership Pathways:

- Becoming the Leaders We Hope To Be: The Foundations of Transformational Leadership
- Rooted in God’s Mission: The Foundations of Mission Grounded Leadership
- Leading in an Evolving Universe

In addition, a slightly adapted version of Becoming the Leaders We Hope To Be will be offered for congregation members who are not in elected leadership who are 60 years of age or older. Participants in this offering must be recommended by a person on their congregation leadership team. The module, entitled Foundations for Becoming a Transformational Leader, has stirred widespread interest and registration for fall participation is already closed.

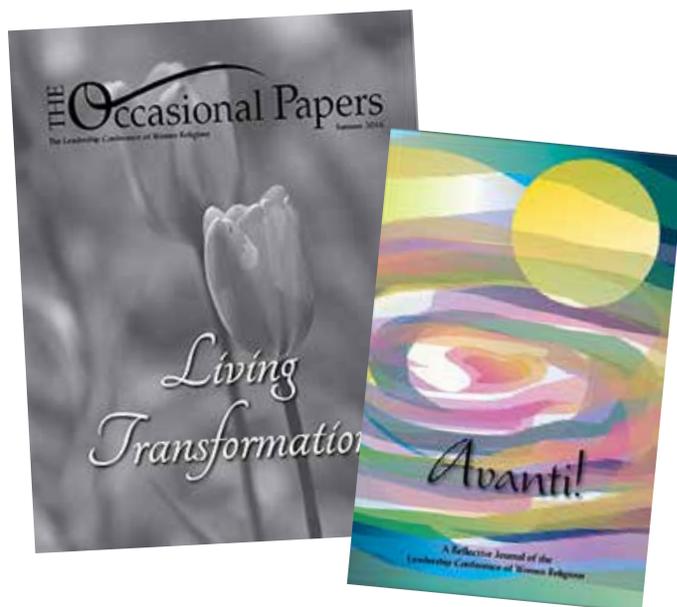
Fuller descriptions of each of these offerings is available on the LCWR website. Questions about any of these offerings may be directed to Marie McCarthy, SP at mmccarthy@lcwr.org.

LCWR Resources for Women Religious

Contemplative Dialogue Video Now in Spanish

Due to the generosity of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, a version of the LCWR film, *Contemplative Dialogue: Unleashing the Transformative Power of Communal Wisdom*, is now available with Spanish subtitles of the introduction and concluding commentary by Liz Sweeney, SSJ. The film shows an actual contemplative dialogue session of eight women religious.

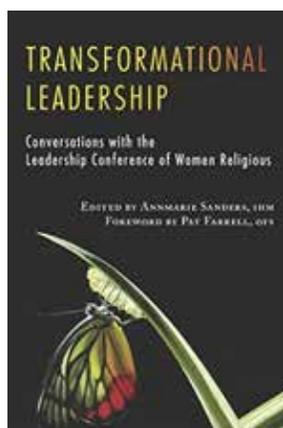
All who have registered for the LCWR assembly are encouraged to [view the one-hour film](#) prior to the assembly since contemplative dialogue will be used throughout the event.



Order additional copies of the Summer 2016 edition of Occasional Papers and the 2016 LCWR reflective journal, *Avanti!*
lcwr.org/item/summer-2016-living-transformation-0
lcwr.org/item/daily-reflection-book

LCWR Book Wins First-Place Award

The Catholic Press Association (CPA) awarded the book, *Transformational Leadership: Conversations with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious*, the first place award in the category of professional books. CPA described the publication as follows, “A beautifully written book that gives a voice to the ideas of many thought leaders. Offers insight into the many complexities of transformational leadership from the lived experiences and deep spirituality of the varied authors. It was thought-provoking and inspiring.”



The book, edited by LCWR communications director Annmarie Sanders, IHM, is a collection of 18 interviews previously published in LCWR’s journal, *Occasional Papers*, all centered on concepts of transformational leadership and may be purchased through [Amazon](#) and [Barnes and Noble](#).

Looking for a Jubilee Gift? Consider a Subscription to Occasional Papers

Gift subscriptions to LCWR’s *Occasional Papers* are available for purchase online. The cost is \$15.00 for a one-year subscription. These make great gifts for jubilarians or anyone else seeking inspirational material on contemporary religious life. [Orders may be placed online.](#)

Past issues of *Occasional Papers* from 2009-2016 that are out-of-print are available for purchase as PDF downloads at the cost of \$5.00 per issue. A listing of these issues and their contents may be found on the [LCWR website](#).

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Assembly
Atlanta, Georgia
August 9 — 13, 2016

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat
Bethany Retreat Center
Lutz, Florida
January 15 — 20, 2017

LCWR New Leader Workshop
Conference Center
University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois
March 30 — April 2, 2017

LCWR Assembly
Orlando, Florida
August 8 — 12, 2017

LCWR New Leader Workshop
Conference Center
University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois
April 11 — 15, 2018

LCWR Assembly
St. Louis, Missouri
August 7— 11, 2018

Leading from Within Retreat

Leading from Within
is a retreat for LCWR members
and LCWR associates who are serving
in congregation leadership



January 15 — 20, 2017
Bethany Retreat Center -- Lutz, Florida

bethanycenterfl.org

Join with other women religious leaders for a five-day retreat that will provide opportunities to reflect on the blessings and challenges of religious life leadership today. The days will include input, contemplative space, a variety of ritual experiences and some opportunity for individual spiritual direction and sharing in small wisdom circles for those who choose.

Retreat Directors

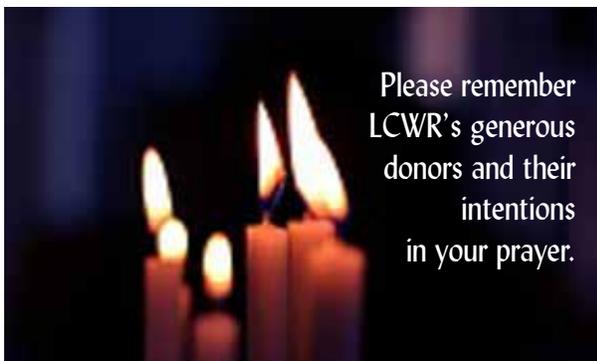


Marie McCarthy, SP



Janet Mock, CSJ

Space is limited to 30 persons.
More information and registration materials are available at
lcrw.org/calendar/leading-within.



Please remember
LCWR's generous
donors and their
intentions
in your prayer.

Catholics for Clothing with a Conscience Launches Human Thread Campaign

The Human Thread is a campaign to raise consciousness and empower Catholics to advocate for the plight of garment workers worldwide. The movement was inspired by the 2013 collapse of the Rana Plaza factory in Bangladesh. The devastating event killed 1,133 garment workers, and exposed the wide range of abuses connected to the sourcing of clothing.



A 2016 report claims that there are presently 14.2 million people in forced labor exploitation and 168 million child laborers scattered across the global economy. Many are forced to work in the farms and factories that feed the apparel industry. For millions of others working in the industry, wages remain so low that they are unable to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

This interweaving set of factors unites in such a way as to demand concrete action at every level to stop the exploitation of those who make clothes. Catholic Social Teaching and the challenge by Pope Francis give Catholics an undeniable responsibility to address the ways they clothe themselves each day and to become more conscious of their connectedness with their brothers and sisters who make the clothes they wear. “Not paying fairly, not giving a job because you are only looking at balance sheets, only looking at how to make a profit . . . goes against God,” Pope Francis said. His *Evangelii Gaudium* exposes the globalization of indifference in a throw-away culture of mass consumerism in ways that blot out compassion for those most in need.

In an effort to respond to this tragedy and to address the dimension of human trafficking, especially of women, members of the Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment have created The Human Thread. Inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, The Human Thread seeks to foster Catholics’ awareness that promotes solidarity between consumers of clothing and the people who produce them in order to create a more just economy and sustainable communities. More information is available at www.humanthreadcampaign.org.

Justice Promoters to Meet in Chicago

The second convocation of justice and peace promoters for congregations of women religious will be held March 5-7, 2017 at Techny Towers in Chicago.



The theme, “Which Roots Will We Water? Systemic Change and JPIC Ministry,” will allow participants to explore the root causes of the many forms of violence and injustice that plague society today.

Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, author of *Resisting Structural Evil: Love as Ecological and Economic Vocation* will provide the keynote. Dr. Moe-Lobeda has lectured around the world on theology and matters of climate justice, economic justice, environmental racism, economic globalization, moral agency, and eco-feminist theology.

Registration is open to all those who currently serve as promoters of justice, peace, and integrity of creation for women’s congregations in the United States. The convocation registration fee is \$195.00, plus housing. Space is limited. Register at tinyurl.com/grh6s5x. Questions may be sent to jcwrteam@gmail.com.



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Endorse the Appeal to Nonviolence and Just Peace

The Nonviolence and Just Peace Conference, held in Rome from April 11-13, 2016, brought together more than 80 people for an unprecedented gathering to discuss the Catholic Church's historic commitment to nonviolence. It continues to stimulate conversations and engage people of faith around the world. Conference papers have been published, articles have been written, and resources gathered in support of the efforts to promote nonviolence. The Catholic Working Group for Nonviolence (CWGN) has been formed to carry the initiative forward. Resources and papers are available at nonviolencejustpeace.net.

At the conference participants affirmed an outcome document that appeals to the Catholic Church to recommit to the centrality of Gospel nonviolence. It is a commitment to further Catholic understanding and practice of active nonviolence on the road to just peace

CWGN is inviting other organizations and individuals to join them in endorsing the statement from the conference, "An Appeal to the Catholic Church to Re-Commit to the Centrality of Nonviolence" at tinyurl.com/zrdaawl.

July 24 March for a Clean Energy Revolution

The March for a Clean Energy Revolution is an initiative planned for July 24, the eve of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. The initiative is a joint effort of Americans Against Fracking and Pennsylvanians Against Fracking, and has been endorsed by more than 300 organizations. This march offers advocates the opportunity to raise the visibility of the issue, highlight concerns, and catapult the conversation on to the national agenda.



More information is available at www.cleanenergy-march.org.

Sing for Peace on September 25

On Sunday, September 25, 2016, people around the country will remember the forgotten victims of America's gun violence epidemic with The Concert Across America, a series of live music events from coast to coast. Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, of which LCWR is a member, is encouraging places of worship across the country to hold their own music event, be it a hymn at liturgy or a full-blown concert with symphony orchestra. It is time to raise the volume on the national effort to save lives from gun violence.



Online coverage of the national concert and hundreds of concerts in villages, towns, and cities across the country, can reach millions of people on one day to raise awareness and save lives from completely preventable gun violence.

Ideas for hymns to add to a worship services and repertoires for full concerts are available at concert.faiths-united.org and remembersept25.org.

LCWR Stands with Muslims Against Hate

LCWR joined 13 other national Catholic advocacy organizations in condemning the bigotry, hate, and violence being aimed at Muslims in the United States. "With hate-crimes against our Muslim sisters and brothers on the rise, we are concerned about where the inflammatory rhetoric of this election cycle might lead," said Ann Scholz, SSND, LCWR associate director for social mission. "During this holy season of Ramadan we promise our prayerful support and presence to the Muslim community."



The joint statement read in part, "Though fear of violent acts by criminal organizations worldwide is understandable, we must realize that Muslims are fearful, too. Many have had to flee their homes to keep their families safe from war and persecution, and here in the United States they are fearful of what those in places of privilege and power might say or do to them because of their religion." The full statement may be found at tinyurl.com/h4puhjj.

Positions Available

Catholic Health Association: Senior Director, Sponsor Services

The Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA) is seeking a senior director, sponsor services. CHA advances the Catholic health ministry of the United States in caring for people and communities. Comprised of more than 600 hospitals and 1,400 long-term care and other health facilities in all 50 states, the Catholic health ministry is the largest group of nonprofit health care providers in the nation.

This position serves as a primary resource to all sponsors as they seek to guide and influence their sponsored works, and prepare for transition to evolving forms of sponsorship to support their health care ministry goals. Responsibilities include the development, implementation, and evaluation of programs, services, and products designed to support leaders of religious institutes, laity and bishops who sponsor American Catholic health care; to work in cooperation with other service areas within CHA, providing research and development, and education and facilitation to foster evolving forms of sponsorship to meet future ministry needs. Travel is required (approximately 35%).

More information may be found at www.chausa.org/careers/job-listings/details/sr-director-sponsor-services.

Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters Executive Director

The Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters, located in Agoura Hills, California, is a philanthropic organization that engages in grantmaking to Catholic sisters worldwide. The fund is committed to helping the world's disadvantaged and vulnerable people in accordance with Conrad N. Hilton's Last Will and Testament and it disburses approximately \$7-8 million in small grants annually.

The executive director is the public face of the fund and carries out the central role of working with the board of directors in the development and implementation of the vision of the Fund. The executive director is responsible for the overall operations of the fund both in development as well as implementation of board approved

strategies. This position reports to the board of directors and oversees the fund's staff and its operations. Ideal candidate will be a member of a Roman Catholic congregation of women religious (required) with significant knowledge and experience with congregations of women religious and have 5+ years of management level experience; a passion for the fund's vision and mission; proficiency in strategic planning, program development and evaluation; expertise in education, health, leadership development and/or human services; strong oral and written communications skills; demonstrated leadership and collaborative relationship-building abilities; solid analytical, research, evaluation and computer skills. A master's degree and international field experience are preferred. International and domestic travel are required for this position.

Applications will be accepted through September 1, 2016 with an anticipated start date of January 2017. Expanded job description available upon request. Interested candidates are to send a cover letter, resume and salary history to Hiltonfundforsisters@rscj.org.

Updates from the Religious Formation Conference

Registration is open for the fall workshops of the Religious Formation Conference, entitled "Conversations at the Well." Information is available on the RFC website: www.relforcon.org/programs/conversations-at-the-well.



RFC is moving its national office at the end of June. The office in Washington, DC will close on June 17 and reopen in Chicago on July 7. The new office will be located at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Is Your Leadership Term About to End?

If your leadership term is ending this month, we ask you to submit a change of leadership form found in the LCWR Members' Information section (password-protected) of the website at lcwr.org/members/lcwr-membership-information.



- Statement by US faith-based organizations seeking to empower the impoverished and marginalized throughout the world by supporting the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (S. 1252/H.R. 1567) and urging final passage of the bill through Congress. LCWR (5/12/16).
- Letter to the US attorney for the District of Arizona requesting a review of practices regarding protection of immigrants in unauthorized border-crossing proceedings and potential violations of international law in regard to asylum requests and credible fear interviews during Operation Streamline. LCWR (5/31/16)
- Letter from faith-based organizations to President Obama and Secretary of Homeland Security Johnson calling on the US government to grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to those in the United States who have fled El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras and asking that the government immediately cease detaining those seeking protection here. LCWR (6/8/16)
- Statement opposing a three-state block grant of the school meal programs contained in the House Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill (H.R. 5003). LCWR (6/8/16)
- Letter to Senators urging opposition to the inclusion of non-germane, border enforcement-specific legislation in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Section 1091 of the NDAA is border legislation that deserves its own debate and specific consideration in the context of an immigration reform bill, rather than simply being tacked on as a non-germane NDAA provision. LCWR (6/9/16)
- Endorsement of the Leahy-Levin-Akaka-Durbin Refugee Protection Act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reaffirm the United States historic commitment to protecting refugees who are fleeing persecution or torture. LCWR (6/14/16)
- Letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Johnson and Attorney General Lynch expressing deep concerns about the ongoing aggressive enforcement actions by US immigration authorities against families and children seeking protection

from targeted violence in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras and urging an end to the raids.

LCWR (6/16/16)

- Letter to members of the House of Representative urging them to reject efforts to increase Pentagon spending and instead invest in effective programs to improve human security at home. LCWR (6/20/16)



Resource Center for Religious Institutes National Conference

October 11 – 14, 2016

Anaheim Marriott – Anaheim, California

Theme: Celebrating the Year of Mercy

- Keynote address by John L. Allen, Jr., editor of *Cruce*, specializing in coverage of the Vatican and the Catholic Church
- 38 workshops on a broad range of topics including finance, accounting, human resources, investment approaches, liability, corporate structures, Affordable Care Act, planning for the future, canonical options for governance, social media, tax exemption, aging, grieving, government regulations, immigration, real estate, eldercare, retirement, and canon and civil law issues facing religious institutes. Rev. Hank Lemoncelli, OMI, an official of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Life, will also give a workshop on the future of religious life.
- General session updates on legal matters, RCRI and NRRO

Pre-Conference Workshops

- Management Issues for New Leaders and Finance Personnel of Religious Institutes (full-day)
- TRENDS for Beginners and a Refresher for Users (afternoon)

The full program and registration materials will be available online at www.trcri.org in mid-June.



Archivists Assist Congregations About to Close or Merge

The board of the Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR) has formed a new working group to gather information on issues and obstacles that impact a community's archives when there is a decision to close or merge. The working group, called Custodia, consists of ACWR president Sarah Cantor, ACWR vice president elect Dee Gallo, ACWR members-at-large Jennifer Head and Colleen McFarland Rademaker, and ACWR member Patricia Carroll. Ultimately, Custodia hopes to be able to advise congregations planning to close or merge their archives.

In accordance with its newly-adopted mission and vision statement, the ACWR will "advocate for the protection of the historical records of women religious," whether those records are in the care of members of ACWR or not. While some members of the ACWR working group have specific expertise in dealing with these situations, others are actively researching best practices and possible solutions to ensure proper storage and future accessibility to congregational records.

The group invites congregational leaders and/or archivists of communities considering a merger or closure of their archive within the next five to 10 years to contact Dee Gallo at denise.gallo@doc.org to share information about their situation and needs. The working group members also welcome those who have already merged, consolidated, or closed their archives to share their experiences with them.

Updates from the Communicators for Women Religious

The board of the Communicators for Women Religious (CWR) has hired the organization's first executive director. Nicholas T. Schafer began serving in this position June 1 at the Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago, where CWR now has its international office.

As CWR executive director, Schafer will be spearheading the implementation of CWR's three-year strategic plan and helping the organization realize its vision to become the go-to organization for communications about women religious. A \$1.5 million grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, distributed over the next three years, has enabled CWR to hire full time staff, set up a national office, and begin the process of expanding its mission beyond a network of support for its members. "There has never been a more important time to talk about the good works in which the sisters are engaged," Schafer said. "The vital work our members do in telling the stories of women religious is at the heart of who we are as an organization. CWR's strategic plan focuses on expanding the organization's infrastructure, enhancing member services, media and outreach to the public, and development of CWR as a leader in the area of communications for women religious. I look forward to working with the CWR board and members to accomplish these goals."

By establishing its office at CTU, CWR joins several religious organizations, such as the National Religious Vocation Conference, Religious Formation Conference and Giving Voice, with national offices in Chicago. CWR's new office is located at 5401 South Cornell Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60615. More information about CWR can be found at www.c4wr.org.



Communicators for Women Religious (CWR) Conference

Advance Your Mission!
Turbocharge Your Communications

Indianapolis – October 4-7, 2016

Keynoters: Nancy Sylvester, IHM; Patricia Wittberg, SC;
Angela White, CFRE; Jan Craven, SP

Other events include a welcome by
Archbishop Joseph Tobin, CSSR and workshops on social
media, photography, and fundraising

More information is available at www.c4wr.org



by Joan Mumaw, IHM
US Regional
Development Director

Solidarity and 'Added Value'

Gatwech Wiyual, a graduate of the Solidarity Teacher Training College in Yambio lives in the Protection of Civilians Camp (PoC) in Juba. Originally from Malakal, he is unable to go home due to insecurity in his home area. The UN Camp provides food and shelter, but no schooling. So Gatwech and 13 other secondary school graduates, eight of whom are trained teachers, have begun a voluntary school for more than 300 primary school children. Rather than just sit around, these teachers decided to start their own school using borrowed premises in the camp, but with virtually no other resources. The school, called the Upper Nile Learning Centre, teaches not only the basic subjects, but also children from various tribes in the camp. There are 20,000 people in the camp and Solidarity has trained 20 people from the camp to become teachers through the Yambio TTC. Solidarity and these teachers are seeking funds for basic resources. There will be 45 children per teacher and the 14 teachers will each receive a stipend equivalent to \$22.00 per month. The overall budget for teaching 300 children grades 1-7, is less than \$20,000 and includes textbooks and stationery, benches and blackboards, uniforms and sports gear! Solidarity teacher training has "added value" for these refugee children. Anyone who would like to help with this effort can contact me at Jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com

In Maban, Jesuit Refugee Services is partnering with Solidarity TTC at Yambio to train teachers in this remote area. Solidarity will share its curriculum and materials with JRS and graduates will be nationally certified through the Yambio TTC. Sharing of resources is one way to maximize the contribution of donors to Solidarity.

Another piece of good news! Friends in Solidarity has launched its new website – www.solidarityfriends.org. We are also present on Facebook – Friends in Solidarity. Please check these out and "like and share" us on Facebook.

News from the United Nations

July 18—Nelson Mandela International Day

Every year on the anniversary of Nelson Mandela's birth, the UN joins a call by the Nelson Mandela Foundation to devote 67 minutes of time to helping others, as a way to honor his legacy. For 67 years Nelson Mandela devoted his life to the service of humanity as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker, and the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa. More information is available at www.un.org/en/events/mandeladay.



July 30—International Day of Friendship

The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures, and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities and to support the goals and objectives of the Declaration and Program of Action on a Culture of Peace. More information is available at www.un.org/en/events/friendshipday.

July 30—World Day against Trafficking in Persons

In 2013 the UN General Assembly held a high-level meeting to appraise progress in the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. At the meeting member states also adopted resolution A/RES/68/192 and designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons. The resolution declared that such a day was necessary to "raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights." More information on the day and the UN's Blue Heart Campaign can be found at www.un.org/en/events/humantrafficking/index.shtml.