

November 2014

Plans Begin to Mark The Year of Consecrated Life

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations announced at a press conference on October 1 its plans to commemorate the Year of Consecrated Life. The plans include "Days with Religious," a series of initiatives and resources to help people learn about the consecrated life of religious men and women. Activities will focus on sharing experiences of prayer, service, and community life with those living a consecrated life.

The Year of Consecrated Life will begin on the First Sunday of Advent, the weekend of November 29, 2014, and end on February 2, 2016, the World Day of Consecrated Life. The year also marks the 50th anniversary of *Perfectae Caritatis*, a decree on religious life, and *Lumen Gentium*, the Second Vatican Council's constitution on the church. Its purpose, as stated by the Vatican is to "make a grateful remembrance of the recent past" while embracing "the future with hope."



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

"The 'Days with Religious' activities will represent opportunities for families and adults to look at the many ways men and women serve Christ and the Church while answering the call to live in consecrated life," said Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh, North Carolina, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

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Upcoming LCWR Programs

The first months of 2015 offer spiritual and educational opportunities for LCWR members. More information is available on each of the following on page 4.



Leading from Within Retreat
January 11 — 16, 2015
Bethany Retreat Center -- Lutz, Florida



Imagining Justice: A Learning Lab for
Leaders and Justice Promoters
March 2-5, 2015
Presentation Center -- Los Gatos, California



New Leader Workshop
March 19-22, 2015
University of St Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois

From the LCWR Presidency

Leaving a Path of Fidelity

by Carol Zinn, SSJ — LCWR Past President

The season of autumn holds the texture, images, and scent of transformation. Everywhere we look there is change in the air, falling from the trees, and calling us to deeper contemplation, consciousness, and conversion. Joyce Rupp remarks in her book, *Fresh Bread*, that the changing colors of this season remind us that “even dying can be beautiful” because the beauty we see around us in autumn is nothing more and nothing less than leaves dying, falling to the ground, transforming the soil, and providing the seedbeds for the future. The autumn season demonstrates what it looks like to leave a path of fidelity to the fullness of life in our natural world.

In October we Sisters of Saint Joseph celebrate our founders’ day with the same spirit of joy, gratitude, and awe that religious all over the world enjoy on their respective founders’ days. The CSSJ family from Le Puy, France recalls that in 1650 six women sat in a kitchen sharing in the dream of their Jesuit friend and mentor, Jean Pierre Medaille, that the union of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God was worthy of their life commitment. The dream of each of our founders lives deep within our soul’s marrow and compels all of us to live in such a way that our living leaves a path of fidelity in our congregational and ecclesial worlds.

During the III Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops meeting in Rome in October on the theme, “Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the



Context of Evangelization,” it became increasingly clear that Pope Francis has a dream for the family of God. With language coming from this preparatory meeting of listening, accompanying, respecting, valuing, discerning, welcoming, and conversing, it is easy to sense that dream: that the People of God are a family and need to be cared for as a family. While it is too soon to tell what will be the ultimate outcome of the XIV Ordinary General Assembly in October 2015 with the theme, “Jesus Christ reveals the mystery and vocation of the family,” it is not too soon to anticipate that the dream and journey onward will be shaped by mutuality, compassion, engagement, dialogue, mercy, and love. The family of God welcomes the invitation to live in such a way with one another that a path of fidelity to the communion of relationship is nurtured and sustained.

Celebrating the upcoming feasts of All Saints and All Souls remind us that the lyrics of Steve Green’s hymn, *Find Us Faithful*, meet us at every turn:

“May all who come behind us find us faithful. May the fire of our devotion light their way. May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe and the lives we live inspire them to

obey. O may all who come behind us find us faithful.”

Let us pray with and for one another as we lead towards a path of fidelity for the life of the world.

The family of God
welcomes the invitation
to live in such a way
with one another that
a path of fidelity to the
communion of
relationship is nurtured
and sustained.

Plans Begin to Mark The Year of Consecrated Life

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Catholics are invited to join activities that will be promoted in collaboration with the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, (CMSWR), the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM).

The events planned are as follows:

- **February 8, 2015: Religious Open House.** Events will be coordinated to also celebrate the World Meeting of Families to take place in Philadelphia and will include tours, open houses, receptions, family activities, and presentations on the history of religious communities at convents, abbeys, monasteries, and religious houses.
- **Summer 2015: Day of Mission and Service with Religious.** Events will include joining religious in their ministries or special service projects, such as assisting the elderly, ministering to the poor and homeless, and caring for the less fortunate.
- **September 13, 2015: Day of Prayer with Religious.** Events will include vespers, rosary or holy hours in convents, monasteries, religious houses, parishes, and churches.

Prayers intentions, prayer cards, a video on consecrated life and other resources are available at: www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/consecrated-life/year-of-consecrated-life/index.cfm.

LCWR president-elect Marcia Allen, CSJ participated in the October 1 press conference. A video recording of the event is available at: www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/consecrated-life/year-of-consecrated-life/year-of-consecrated-life-media-conference.cfm.



Transitional Services Update

by Mary Hughes, OP

It is just a few weeks since I have assumed the responsibilities of this new position at LCWR and this time has been filled with opportunities for networking. The welcoming by Janet Mock, CSJ and the LCWR office staff could not have been warmer. I have connected with the leadership of the National Religious Retirement Office and with the Resource Center for Religious Institutes. Thanks to technology, I was able to chat with the leaders who are spearheading the RCRI complementary grant as we determine the best ways to be of service to you without overlapping. Representatives of the three primary offices involved in the LCWR grant met in St. Louis on Columbus Day in order that we could learn from a canonist who has worked with many communities in the Netherlands as they enter into their new reality. A sister who ministers in Australia was part of the conversation. We are rapidly grasping that the diminishment we are experiencing is not simply a North American phenomena.

While I am still very much in the learning phase, I do want to be sure you know how to reach me. My telephone number is 631-789-5356. Messages may be left and I am the only person who listens to them. I am also available by email at either: mhughesop@amityop.org or mhughes@lcwr.org.

Consider Giving a Women & Spirit DVD for Christmas

As the world prepares for the Year of Consecrated Life, members are ordering the LCWR *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America* DVD to give as Christmas presents. The DVDs make fine gifts for benefactors, associates, boards of sponsored ministries, coworkers, and more.

The DVD provides a comprehensive history of Catholic sisters for just \$19.95. Reduced prices are available for bulk orders. All proceeds benefit LCWR. Order forms are at: lcwr.org/item/org/item/women-spirit-dvd.



Leading from Within Retreat

Leading from a New Place

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



January 11 — 16, 2015
Bethany Retreat Center -- Lutz, Florida
bethany.catholicweb.com

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



Mary Ann Zollmann, BVM

Just a few spaces are still available.

Registration form:

lcwr.org/sites/default/files/calendar/attachments/lfwretreat15_0.pdf



Imagining Justice: A Learning Lab for Leaders and Justice Promoters

The recently redesigned LCWR annual gathering now known as Imagining Justice: A Learning Lab for Leaders and Justice Promoters will take place from March 2-5, 2015 at Presentation Center in Los Gatos, California. Kathleen Pruitt, CSJP will guide participants as they seek to ground their work for justice and peacemaking in the heart of the gospel message and to experience the essential relationship between contemplative consciousness and prophetic action for justice. A flyer with a full description of the gathering and registration information is available on the LCWR website at: tinyurl.com/noaxvld.

Registration must be submitted by December 15.



New Leader Workshop

The 2015 LCWR New Leader Workshop will be held from March 19 to 22 at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois. This annual LCWR offering is recommended not only for those who are new to religious life leadership, but also for those who may be returning to leadership. The program is specifically tailored to the unique questions and challenges of religious life leadership today and includes presentations, processing experiences, ritual, and integration sessions where participants begin to apply the workshop learnings into their own institute's realities.

This workshop will cover topics of critical importance for religious life leaders in the areas of spiritual leadership, canon and civil law, human development, team-building, care of the elderly, and more. Participants are encouraged to attend as councils, although individuals are welcome to attend as well.

LCWR Mourns the Passing of Former LCWR President Christine Vladimiroff, OSB

Former LCWR president Christine Vladimiroff, OSB, 74, died at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, in Erie, Pennsylvania, on September 25, after a long illness. She was prioress of her community from 1998 to 2010, and served in the LCWR presidency from 2003-2006.



Christine taught at the elementary, secondary, and college levels, and was an administrator at those levels. She served as multicultural coordinator and later as secretary of education for the Diocese of Cleveland; president and CEO of the Second Harvest National Food Bank Network, Chicago; and the executive director of St. Benedict Education Center.

She served as president of the Conference of American Benedictine Prioresses (2009-2013) and was a delegate to the International Organization of Benedictine women, *Communio Internationalis Benedictinarum*.

Her education included a doctor of philosophy degree awarded by the Universidad Internacional, Mexico City, Mexico as well as post-graduate study at several universities.

Her community noted the following: "Bright, strong and accomplished, Sister Christine used her uncommon gifts uncommonly well. She taught by example to do the right thing in the right way at the right time with grace, with courage. She taught for the good of those she served: students, refugees, the poor, the hungry and, always and above all, her community. She taught that life is to be lived fully for the sake of the reign of God and always with joy."

LCWR joins with the Benedictine sisters in mourning the loss of Christine as the conference remembers her and her many achievements with great gratitude.

THE Occasional Papers

Leadership in the Middle Space



In her address at the 2014 LCWR assembly Nancy Schreck, OSF explored the concept of living and ministering in what she termed "the middle space." As she noted, religious life is currently in a middle passage with "the in-breaking of something new, of major shifts in world view, our cosmology, with the concurrent breakdown of so much of what is familiar."

The Winter 2015 issue of *Occasional Papers* will explore the challenges of embracing religious life in the middle space and the potential of these times. Articles will examine

- Leadership in the middle space
- A closer look at the LCWR Call 2015-22 and its relation to the middle space
- The prophetic identity of religious life for these times
- Thriving in the middle space
- Perspectives on religious life in the middle passage from a younger religious
- The middle space created as one crosses cultures
- Unmasking long-held assumptions

The issue also includes an interview with John Sivolon, MM, author of *God's Mission and Postmodern Culture: The Gift of Uncertainty*.

Although all LCWR members, associates, and subscribers will receive a copy of *Occasional Papers*, many leaders order additional copies for their own members and associates. Orders and payment must be received by **December 16, 2014**. Orders may be placed online at lcwr.org/item/winter-2015-leadership-middle-space.



An Update on Leadership Pathways

The initial pilot groups for Leadership Pathways are nearing the end of the process for the first module on “Identity as a Leader.” The group members continue to report finding the materials and processes engaging and helpful in the ministry of leadership even in the midst of very full calendars and commitments. The feedback the group members are providing continues to provide helpful suggestions for improving the material and processes.

Two new opportunities to participate in Leadership Pathways are being offered to members in the coming months. In early November the learning lab on Leading in an Evolving Universe will begin to be piloted. Currently 20 LCWR members have volunteered to assist with piloting this material. Since interest in this particular initiative continues to be quite high, LCWR will accept up to eight more volunteers for this experience. Volunteers must be willing to provide feedback on the experience to LCWR so that the material and processes can be fine-tuned. Anyone interested in participating in this pilot experience is asked to send an e-mail to mmccarthy@lcwr.org by November 1. Volunteers will be accepted in the order in which the e-mails are received.

Leadership Pathways will begin piloting an initial module on mission-grounded leadership entitled, “Rooted in God’s Mission: The Foundations of Transformational Leadership.” The learning cohorts for this experience will begin in mid to late January and continue for approximately nine months. Volunteers will also be needed to pilot this module. Members interested in volunteering for this experience may send an e-mail indicating their willingness to serve LCWR in this way. This e-mail should be sent to Carol Glidden, cglidden@lcwr.org, along with all pertinent contact information. The subject line of the message should read “Mission-Grounded Leadership.” As in the past, all regular fees

for these experiences will be waived for those who volunteer to participate in a pilot group.

Some Wisdom from the Regions

As promised in a previous issue of the newsletter, here is a glimpse of some of the wisdom which is emerging in the regions as a result of the contemplative process used in the spring regional meetings this year.

Attentiveness and sensitivity through contemplative listening to multiple feelings connected to decision-making should not be an obstacle to decisions that need to be made, but are an important part of the process. Coming to a meeting having dealt with your own reaction to the issue can be really helpful.

Listening to one another is at the heart of the process. It is important to be respectful of each other but not to allow “fears” to keep us from moving forward. But we need to hear the voices.

Any questions or suggestions about Leadership Pathways should be directed to Marie McCarthy, SP at mmccarthy@lcwr.org.

Help Make LCWR Membership Possible Through a Donation to the LCWR Scholarship Fund

LCWR is aware that fees for membership are financially challenging for some members. Any congregation that has the means to support members is invited to consider a donation to the LCWR scholarship fund. The conference is grateful to those congregations who have already sent in contributions.

Donations (checks payable to LCWR) may be directed to Grace Hartzog, SC, associate director for business and finance, at 8808 Cameron Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Any congregation that needs financial support is also asked to contact Grace (ghartzog@lcwr.org).

Women Religious Continue Work to Abolish Human Trafficking

U S Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking (USCSAHT) met in Washington, DC from October 5-8 to take the next steps in developing a national coalition of women religious committed to the abolition of modern day slavery. USCSAHT is working to broaden its network of Catholic sisters to address this pressing human rights issue.

Those present discussed structures and processes that will enable the collaborative to grow its membership and further its mission to multiply the faith-based efforts of women religious to offer education, provide access to survivor services, and engage in legislative advocacy. The collaboration has already produced several educational modules which are available at <http://bakhitainitiative.com/u-s-catholic-sisters-against-human-trafficking/>.

The meeting also afforded the opportunity to meet with **Estrella Castalone, FSA**, director of Talitha Kum, the International Network of Consecrated Life Against Trafficking in Persons, housed within the International Union of Superiors General (UISG), who introduced participants to the network and its worldwide work against human trafficking. She also invited USCSAHT to join the international network. Her remarks about the scourge of trafficking in persons and the work of Talitha Kum will be available shortly on YouTube.



Participants heard from Brittany Vanderhoof of Polaris who discussed the accomplishments of the 113th Congress and offered guidance on trafficking legislation which is still pending.

Ashley Feasely, a migration attorney for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops office of Migration and Refugee Services, shared recent developments in the plight of unaccompanied children and families

fleeing violence in the northern triangle of Central America and efforts to provide alternatives to detention for immigrant families with children.

Participants also took their message of human dignity and freedom to Capitol Hill meetings with House and Senate staffers to discuss the need for legislation to address both labor and sex trafficking. Sisters reported that they persuaded at least one member to co-sponsor Representative Carolyn Maloney's bill, HR 4842 Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2014.

CTU Launches Center for the Study of Consecrated Life

Catholic Theological Union (CTU) will launch a new Center for the Study of Consecrated Life in February 2015. The goal of the center will be to dynamically engage in research and dialogue on contemporary issues in consecrated life today. Yearly courses, workshops, and symposia will be offered at CTU and online on topics such as: vowed life in today's world; community living that welcomes a diversity of cultures; and collaborative models of church among religious congregations.

CTU appointed visiting associate scholar of ethics Maria Cimperman, RSCJ as the center's first director. In accepting the appointment, Cimperman said, "Religious communities are a vital presence in today's global Catholic church. With new forms of consecrated life also emerging, there is a compelling need for a center where the theology, spirituality, and history of religious and consecrated life can be studied, and where collaboration, dialogue, and creativity will yield valuable resources for these communities worldwide.

"We want to encourage new scholarship across disciplines, provide processes for dialogue; assist in the discovery of new vocations; and explore the internationality of consecrated life," she added.

Maria earned a master of divinity from the University of Notre Dame; a licentiate of sacred theology from Weston Jesuit School of Theology; and a PhD from Boston College in theological ethics. CTU is a Catholic graduate school of theology and ministry located in Chicago.

Women Religious Join the People's Climate March

Scores of women religious joined an estimated 400,000 others for the People's Climate March, September 21 in New York City. They came from across the country and around the world to demand that world leaders gathered for the UN climate summit on September 23 take action to end the climate crisis.



Women religious were out in force. LCWR, the Sisters of Mercy, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, the Congregation of the Infant Jesus, the Maryknoll sisters, the Loretto Community, and the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Monroe, Michigan) were all represented. There were sisters from a number of Franciscan congregations. The Ursulines brought their students. The Vincentian family included congregations of Sisters of Charity. The Dominicans were there, as was UNANIMA, Franciscan Action Network, and many, many more.

The sisters who gathered with more than 10,000 members of faith communities on 58th Street were among the last to join the march. While they waited there was music, including a performance by Peter Yarrow, formal vocal prayer from many traditions: Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and with moments of deep silent prayer, a practice which cuts across all the traditions. Pat Daly, OP, executive director of the Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment, offered a prayer from the Catholic community.

Marchers hope to continue to build momentum for a strong climate agreement in preparation for the 21st yearly session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held in Paris on December 2015. According to the organizing committee, the objective of the 2015 conference is to achieve, for the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, a binding and universal agreement on climate, from all the nations of the world.

Organizers of the climate march are encouraging people of faith to publicly commit to pray that the Paris 2015 UN Climate Summit succeed in reaching a strong and just global climate agreement. More information is available at ourvoices.net.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

Leading from Within Retreat

*Bethany Retreat Center
Lutz, Florida
January 11 — 16, 2015*

Imagining Justice

*Presentation Center
Los Gatos, California
March 2 — 5, 2015*

LCWR New Leader Workshop

*Conference Center - University of St.
Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois
March 19 — 22, 2015*

LCWR Assembly

*Houston, Texas
August 11—15, 2015*

LCWR Assembly

*Atlanta, Georgia
August 9—13, 2016*



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Editor: Annmarie Sanders, IHM

8808 Cameron Street — Silver Spring, MD 20910

Phone: 301-588-4955

Fax: 301-587-4575

E-mail: asanders@lcwr.org. Website: www.lcwr.org



- Letter from faith-based organizations to Secretary Kerry strongly supporting US investments in humanitarian and poverty-focused development assistance programs. LCWR (8/4/14)
- Letter to President Obama in support of using his legal authority to broadly expand administrative relief and work authorization to aspiring citizens and urging him to make application fees for an expanded deferred action program affordable. LCWR (8/14/14)
- Letter to President Obama celebrating the potential of executive action to alleviate the suffering caused by our nation's broken immigration system but cautioning, it must not come at the cost of due process and access to humanitarian protection for children and families fleeing violence in Central America. Janet Mock, CSJ (8/25/14)
- Religious leaders letter to President Obama expressing concern over the recent escalation of US military action in Iraq and urging him to address the crisis through long-term investments in supporting inclusive governance, nonviolent resistance, sustainable development, and community-level peace and reconciliation processes. Janet Mock, CSJ (8/26/14)
- Letter to President Obama from U.S. organizations that work to support children and families both in the United States and abroad urging him to send the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to the U.S. Senate for ratification. Janet Mock, CSJ (9/1/14)
- Letter to Ambassador Susan Powers urging her to support UN resolution a/68/L.57, Towards a multilateral convention to establish a legal regulatory framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes. Ann Scholz, SSND (9/8/14)
- Statement on President Obama's decision to delay executive action on immigration relief. Janet Mock, CSJ (9/12/14)
- Letter to the members of the US House strongly urging them to allow an open debate and a floor vote on the Democracy for All Amendment which

would re-establish Congress and the states' ability to pass common-sense guidelines for election spending. LCWR (9/17/14)

- Letter to President Obama urging him to exercise his executive authority to broadly expand administrative relief and to make it as affordable as possible. LCWR (9/22/14)
- Letter to President Obama, Secretary Jeh Johnson, and Attorney General Eric Holder expressing our disappointment at the decision to delay administrative relief and to ask for immediate action to address crucial human rights, civil rights, transparency, and governance issues that continue to plague the U.S. government's immigration enforcement practices. LCWR (9/30/14)
- Letter to leaders of the US House and Senate urging members to take action in the upcoming lame duck session to provide continued funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). LCWR (10/13/14)
- Letter to chair and ranking members of the Senate and House Appropriations committees thanking them for supporting US leadership to combat poverty, hunger, and disease around the world and urging them to provide the maximum level of funding possible for humanitarian and poverty-focused development as they finalize the FY2015 Agriculture and State-Foreign Operations Appropriations bills and/or drafts another FY2015 Continuing Resolution/Omnibus. LCWR (10/13/14)

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 lcsr.org/members/lcsr-membership-information.



FAITHS UNITED
TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

National Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath Weekend Scheduled for December 11-14

The National Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath weekend is being rescheduled to complement Newtown Action's National Vigil for Gun Violence Victims, December 11-14. Approximately 75 congregations of women religious participated in last year's event which was held in March.

The National Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath weekend has been a cornerstone in the national conversation about gun violence and, specifically, what people of faith can do in their own communities to prevent it. This year, organizers are hoping to strengthen their outreach while also bolstering the efforts of a key partner, Newtown Action newtownaction.org.

As gun violence prevention organizations look to be more effective advocates for policy change, Faiths United has chosen to strengthen its partnerships with organizations such as Newtown Action and to schedule the National Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath weekend to coincide with the anniversary of the tragic Sandy Hook shootings and Newtown Action's National Vigil for Victims of Gun Violence.

Plans for this year's Sabbath include the National Vigil for Gun Violence Victims at the Washington National Cathedral (and in states across the country) on Thursday, December 11, and an invitation to congregations across the nation to participate via prayer, song, vigils, and education from December 11-14.

Congregations can pledge to join the Newtown community, and hundreds of religious congregations, the weekend of Dec 11-14 at marchsabbath.org/sabbath/.

Gun violence prevention resources for religious congregations are available at: d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/faithsunited/mailings/1/attachments/original/GVP_Faith_Leader_Guide_Sept2014.pdf?1411613652.

News from the UN

Universal Children's Day is celebrated each year on November 20. It is a day of activity devoted to promoting the welfare of the children of the world. The date marks the day on which the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, in 1959, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in 1989. Resources are available at: www.un.org/en/events/childrenday/.



November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, is a day set aside by the UN to recall that violence against women and girls, while pervasive, is not inevitable. It is a consequence of discrimination, in law and in practice, and of persisting inequalities between men and women. Prevention is possible and essential if this global pandemic is to end. More information is available at www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday/.

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, December 2, marks the date of the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others in 1949. The focus of this day is on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labor, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict. More information is available at www.un.org/en/events/slaveryabolitionday/.



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



SOLIDARITY with South Sudan

By Joan Mumaw, IHM
jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com

Recently I received an update from our executive director, Bill Firman, FSC, who recently returned to South Sudan from his native Australia. Bill visited our Teacher Training College at Yambio and provides a good update on the work in that college. While civil unrest continues to plague one third of this new country, the area west of the White Nile has remained, for the most part, a place of peace. Solidarity continues to offer training for nurses, midwives, teachers, farmers, and diocesan pastoral teams. Here are excerpts from Bill's account:

"It is always a joy to meet our students in the Teacher Training or Nurse and Midwife education programs. Their study ethic is generally very good and many of them make significant sacrifices to achieve their goals. The students can't pay the full cost of the programs; we depend on generous, outside donors to fund the major part of the cost of program delivery. Where possible, students are called on to make contributions by way of small fees or provision of labor, but our funding partners essentially underpin the service we deliver.

"We need more dormitories and more staff accommodation in Yambio where there are now four, full-time classes of pre-service teacher training in action. There are two semesters per year and the programme extends over two years – thus, for four semesters. At the beginning of each semester there is a new intake. Initially, we projected four streams to be our maximum enrollment but with the indefinite closure of our Malakal campus – a consequence of the senseless civil strife in South Sudan - we are planning on expanding our Yambio campus to six streams. There are many young men and women keen for higher education.

"Unfortunately, I cannot say they are all avidly keen to be teachers. Yes, the two classes undertaking practice teaching in the schools at present are very enthusiastic but the reality is that South Sudan teachers are very poorly paid (less than US\$100 per month on average). So we know that many graduates will seek other jobs

that are better paying. In one respect, that can be discouraging but the fact that we have prepared them well for whatever they undertake is very encouraging.

"An unfortunate, graphic statistic for South Sudan is that a 15 year-old girl has more chance of dying in childbirth than of completing her secondary education. Some new good schools, such as Loreto in Rumbek, are changing that. Solidarity makes a special effort at affirmative action and offers teacher training to each class of Loreto graduates. At our Teacher Training College in Yambio, we endeavour to encourage as many girls as possible to train to be teachers. Too few girls have the secondary qualifications to begin teacher training.

"Our academic staff in Yambio are very diverse in nationality and background coming from New Zealand, Ireland, Ghana, Brazil, Ecuador, Australia, USA, and Juba, South Sudan. All of these men and women, from different traditions, live happily together in one religious community. It is a healthy mix of vision and skills.

"So it is that we varied persons stand together in solidarity to encourage the young men and women in the college, from diverse tribes, to live together in peace and mutual respect. The obvious happiness of the students and their good relationships is evidence that this is working well. Clear expectations are set for the students and we have found that very quickly they take a real pride in who they are and what they are achieving."

Spiritual Leadership for Challenging Times Available in Hard Copy and as E-book

Spiritual Leadership for Challenging Times, the book of 10 LCWR presidential addresses published by Orbis, is available in hard copy and as an e-book through Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Information on ordering and a free downloadable reflection and study guide are available at: lcwr.org/publications/spiritual-leadership-challenging-times





Fall Webinars:

Friday November 14, 2014 - 3:00 PM EST

Resilience: An Inside Job

Presenter: Eran Talitman, PhD, Southdown Institute
Holland Landing, ON Canada

Martes 2 de diciembre, 2014 - 7:00 PM Tiempo del Este

Llamados a servir interculturalmente:

retos y posibilidades de la transición al ministerio en los Estados Unidos

Facilitadora: Teresa Maya, CCVI, Superiora General
Hermanas de la Caridad del Verbo Encarnado, San Antonio TX

Wednesday December 3, 2014 - 3:00 PM EST

Basics of Immigration Law for Religious Men and Women

Presenter: Ms. Megan S. Turngren,
Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC),
Silver Spring, MD

More information is available online at www.relforcon.org.
Registration will open early November.

Orientation to Formation

December 12-14, 2014

Presenters: Ray Dlugos, OSA and Maria Hughes, ASC

Location: Immaculata Retreat House, Willimantic, CT

More information is available online at www.relforcon.org or by
calling 202-827-4562

The LCWR Resource Sharing Forum

LCWR reminds its members and associates of its LCWR Resource Sharing Forum. The forum is a listserv that is open only to LCWR members and associates that provides a means for communicating with one another online with a question or to share information.

What is being discussed on the LCWR Forum?

Members have posed questions on a wide variety of issues including the following:

- Policies on credit card use
- Recommendations for a chapter facilitator
- Guidelines for use of social media
- Articles on leadership discernment
- Input on the use of palliative care

So that all forum members are not receiving the answers to these questions, persons who wish to respond to a question are asked to send their response directly to the individual making the request for information.

What are the benefits of participating?

Members can easily ask other members for help any time they have a question or are looking for information, resources, speakers, facilitators, translators, policies, or good ideas. Members report that they have received very helpful information on questions they have asked.

Members can also participate in polls initiated by the national office, asking for input on LCWR issues. Forum participants can also access the archives of past messages.

What is needed to make the forum successful?

The participation of as many members and associates as possible! The more LCWR members who are a part of the list, the more effective this service will be.

How do I sign up for the LCWR Forum?

Information on signing up for the LCWR Forum is available on the LCWR website in the "Members" section, which is password-protected. Any member or associate who does not have the username and password to access this part of the site may obtain this information from Carol Glidden at cglidden@lcwr.org. Carol can also guide members through the process of signing up for the forum.