

November 2018

LCWR Participates in the Church's National V Encuentro

A 16-member delegation from LCWR attended the national V Encuentro held from September 20-23 in Grapevine, Texas.

The gathering, which drew more than 3000 invited delegates from dioceses and Catholic organizations throughout the United States, was the culmination of a four-year consultation with the Hispanic Catholic community. Hispanics now comprise 40 percent of US Catholics, and 60 percent of those who are younger than 18.

The goal of the Encuentro process was to provide an opportunity for Hispanics to organize, assess their needs, and assume leadership. More than 100 bishops were present to hear the ideas and concerns of the Hispanic people directly.

Throughout the keynote addresses and responses several themes emerged. Among them were:

- A desire for greater involvement of Latinos and women in church leadership roles
- Concern over the low numbers of people involved in Hispanic ministry in the church
- Fear over immigration issues in the United States
- A need for more ministry opportunities for young Latinos in the church

Thirteen of LCWR's 15 regions had representatives present among the LCWR delegation. The representatives have been sharing insights on what



LCWR member Imna Cuesta, CMS, played a key role in the V Encuentro

they learned at the Encuentro with their regions. In an effort to share their experience with all LCWR members, several of the LCWR delegates wrote short reflections on what impacted them the most at the Encuentro and questions the experience raised for the role of women religious in accompanying the Hispanic people in the United States. [Those reflections are available on the LCWR website.](#)

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Members of the LCWR delegation with other women religious Encuentro participants: (standing): Madonna Figura, SSCM; Annmarie Sanders, IHM; Chris Clark, DHM; Kristine Vorenkamp, SLW; Joan McGlinchy, MSC (participant); Veronica Esparza Ramirez, OP; Tere Maya, CCVI; Cecilia Sierra Salcido, CMS (AHMLA); an AHLMA member; Anna Marie Reha, SSND; Rosemarie Abate, HVM; Ivana Menchaca, CMST; (seated) Marina Aranzabal, STJ; Eileen Haynes, SCL; Cyndi Nienhaus, CSA; Barbara Flores, SCN; Ana Lydia Sonera Matos, CDP; and Donna Marie Gribshaw, CDP. Not pictured: Irene Muñoz, CHM

From the LCWR Presidency

From Memoria Histórica to Memoria Mística

by Teresa Maya, CCVI — LCWR Past President

When this newsletter is sent out, what the Salvadoran people have known for many years will have been confirmed by our church: Oscar Romero is a saint.

Many of our communities were touched, torn, and transformed by the tumultuous years in Central America when Oscar Romero was pastor of a suffering church. I wondered during this canonization, what would he be preaching about today? As we continue to advocate for a more humane immigration system that does not separate families, we are reminded these are the descendants of the people he stood with. As another caravan leaves Honduras headed for the US border, we are reminded that the political situation in Central America is the result of failed or neglectful US foreign policy. Oscar Romero's voice is indeed rising again in his people; how are we listening? And, what new responses are called for at this time?

As I read the accounts of those who lived through those tumultuous times, I feel compelled to reflect on "the option"-- the preferential option for the poor -- that shook our complacency and often divided communities, as either for the poor or against the poor. I remember stories of religious communities that struggled with the polarization around the option that divided them and often ended in bitter disputes that caused many religious to leave. As I watched St. Oscar Romero's banner hang in front of St. Peter's I could not help remembering the persecution of the Church of the Poor: the intervention of conferences of religious, the closing of seminaries, and the silencing of



Today our communities need to return to both sources of memory to transform the polarization of earlier times into the communion we are being called to.

theologians. How did we get through all that? Or did we? What can we learn from one of the most polarized times of our church in the last century that we inevitably remember as we hear accounts of Oscar Romero's martyrdom?

I still hear conversations about how "everyone is poor, including the poor in spirit," and I remember theological disputes from my early years in religious life about the hermeneutics of the Beatitudes in Mathew's Gospel or the "anawim" of the Old Testament. Ana Maria Pineda, RSM -- the only woman keynote at the V Encuentro! -- spoke about the different kinds of "memoria" that are required for times such as these. Yes, "*Memoria histórica*," an accounting of the events as salvation history, but also "*Memoria mística*," a spiritual-mystical memory of how we were transformed by those events. Today our communities need to return to both sources of memory to transform the polarization of earlier times into the communion we are being called to.

I hope that with healed memory we will come to understand how critical this option is for times such as these, how this option is a "both/and"-- an option for all kinds of poverty as well as an option for our communities as a whole. "*Memoria mística*" reminds me of all the conversions that over the years have called us to embrace diversity as gift and embody the banquet of the Reign of God.

May St. Oscar Romero and all of the Central American martyrs intercede for our own conversion into the option for all humanity.

LCWR Participates in the Church's National V Encuentro

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During the Encuentro, members of the Association of Latin Missionaries in America (AHLMA) met with the LCWR delegation to share some of their own hopes for their ministries here in the United States.



LCWR member Ana María Pineda, RSM, who had been involved in previous encuentros since the 1970s, gave an historical overview of these gatherings

New LCWR Leadership Resource Now Available Online

LCWR is offering a new leadership resource entitled, “[The Many Faces of Contemplative Engagement](#).” Throughout the year, the conference will provide monthly documents that explore a different aspect of leadership and the way in which attentiveness to contemplative engagement can assist one in living this particular aspect of leadership in a practical way. The documents are formatted so that they can be easily saved, printed out, or duplicated.

Each of the offerings contains

- information and inspiration
- suggestions for personal reflection
- an invitation to communal, contemplative dialogue with a suggested focus for the dialogue
- one or two practices to enhance contemplative engagement during the month ahead
- links to additional resources related to the topic

[The first month's document is now available.](#)

LCWR Pilots New Workshop on Practicing Leadership

In response to the reality of the ongoing evolution of religious life, LCWR will be piloting a new workshop entitled, “Practicing Leadership: How to Embrace a Vital and Vibrant Future.” This workshop is intended to deepen and enhance the experience of members who have been serving in elected leadership for two or more years.

Some of the topics the workshop will explore include:

- Making the connection between vision and implementation
- Translating vision and meaning into practical responses
- Holding the tension of that which is emerging and that which is passing and tending to both realities
- Shepherding the emergent while tending the emergencies
- Imagining and practicing a future full of hope

This three-day workshop will begin at 3 PM on the first day and will conclude with lunch on the final day. It will include input, small group work, time for reflection, and large group work. Carol Zinn, SSJ, executive director of LCWR, and Marie McCarthy, SP, program director for LCWR, will facilitate this experience.

The workshop will be offered twice in 2019:

- March 4-6, 2019 at the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center in Marriottsville, MD
- September 17-19, 2019. (The location for the second workshop will be held in a midwestern or western venue in the United States.)

The reduced cost for participating in this pilot workshop is \$200. Participation will be limited to the first 50 members who register.

A constant contact message announcing the opening of registration will be sent in upcoming weeks to all LCWR members.

Order Additional Copies of Upcoming Occasional Papers



A Force for Good: Activating Compassion

The Winter 2019 issue of *Occasional Papers* focuses on the urgent need to activate compassion in the world as a force for good. With the belief that compassion is essential for the healing of our personal and collective wounds, this issue demonstrates the power that the intentional practice of compassion holds. Writers explore how compassion can be a force for good and an antidote to violence, and how it is an essential part of leadership today. Included in this issue will be:

- Reflections by leaders on the place of compassion as they led through an experience of crisis in their communities
- An interview with writer **Joyce Rupp** on the possibilities that arise from living and leading from a stance of compassion
- An interview with theologian **John Haught** on how the concept of an unfinished universe impacts our understandings of suffering and compassion
- How Theory U and “presencing” can increase our capacity to live compassionately
- The use of social media to increase compassion in ourselves and in the world
- The need for training in love as an antidote to violence and abuse
- Forming religious life leaders for a future that will require compassionate love

Orders for this issue of *Occasional Papers* must be received by **Friday, December 7**. Contact Carol Glidden at cglidden@lcwr.org with any questions.

Opportunities for Leaders

The Leading From Within Retreat

There are a few remaining places available for members who wish to participate in the 2019 Leading from Within Retreat which will take place February 10 to 15 at the Bethany Center Retreat House in Lutz, Florida. Members who have made the retreat have found the experience deeply helpful in grounding and enhancing their ministry of elected leadership. Leaders who would like to participate in the [2019 retreat experience](#) are encouraged to sign up soon.



*Bethany Center Retreat House
Lutz, Florida*

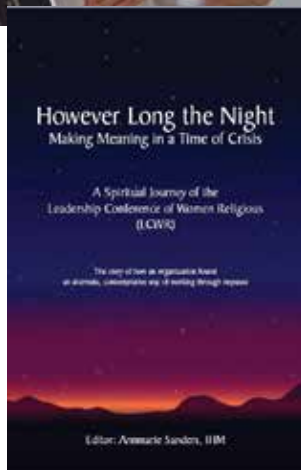
Deepening Groups

Over the past two years a number of LCWR members have formed deepening groups. These groups provide members with the opportunity to engage in conversation about the deep values and meaning at the heart of the life and to share with peers the joys and challenges of religious life leadership today. Any member is free to initiate her own deepening group and can find a description of the deepening groups along with some resources to assist the group in the members only section of the website under LCWR Deepening Groups. Anyone wishing for assistance in forming a deepening group or who would like to join an existing group is asked to contact Marie McCarthy at mmccarthy@lcwr.org.

However Long the Night Event



Former LCWR president Marcia Allen, CSJ (right) signs a copy of *However Long the Night: Finding Meaning in a Time of Crisis* for Frances Sedlacek, OSF, of Colorado Springs, at a Region 13 LCWR event at Manna House of Prayer in Concordia. The former LCWR presidents and executive directors who authored chapters in this LCWR book are available for presentations, book-signings, or other events related to this LCWR book that explores effective leadership practices.



2019 LCWR Membership Underway

The 2019 LCWR membership registration was launched on October 2, 2018 and the response of the members has been very positive.

Any congregation that needs to request assistance in meeting the cost of the registration fees is asked to contact Chris Beckett, SCN at cbeckett@lcwr.org. Due to gifts from LCWR members, the conference has a membership assistance fund to consider requests. Congregations needing assistance are encouraged to contact Chris as soon as possible.

Global Concerns Committee Publishes Fall RTA in Time for the Election

The Global Concerns Committee recently published the Fall 2018 edition of



Resolutions to Action just in time for the November 6 elections. In it Quincy Howard, OP reflects on the state of our nation and posits that this midterm election, while critically important, will not necessarily heal the deep division that characterizes our public life. Something more is needed. Quincy suggests, "Our institutions and our civic discourse will continue to erode until we are prepared to soften our hearts, to prioritize the common good, to create a culture of inclusion and forgiveness."

EMERGING QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND CONVERSATION

- How do we discern future choices in light of not only what is going to work for most of the members now, but also bearing in mind what the younger members can effectively carry into the future?



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Fidelity to the Journey: Together in Communion RCRI Workshop for Religious Leaders and Bishops

A group of 50 leaders of women's religious institutes, bishops, canon lawyers, diocesan delegates for religious, and collaborators from LCWR and NRRO came together in Oakbrook, Illinois to discuss issues related to the experience of transition in religious institutes that are moving toward completion or are in their last generation of leadership. The Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI), with the generosity of the GHR Foundation in Minneapolis, sponsored the workshop entitled "Fidelity to the Journey: Together in Communion." The September 25-26 gathering was the fourth in a series of fidelity workshops and the first that brought together bishops and leaders of institutes in transition to provide an increased understanding of the experience of transition and its impact not only on the religious institute and its members and ministries but also on the local church.

Following the 2017 fidelity workshop, Sharon Euart, RSM, executive director of RCRI, said, "It became clear that it was not only important but also timely to connect the experience of these leaders and their communities to diocesan bishops in a way that contributes to the bishops' understanding of the experience of diminishment (not a notion we are comfortable with, yet it is a shared reality) and its impact not only on the religious institute and its members but also on the local church."

The workshop program was structured around panel presentations, each with three presenters, and discussions addressing key areas related to the transition process: Experience of Transition Planning (decision-making process, discernment, ministry issues, challenges); Care of Members and Use of Resources (retirement, living arrangements, spirituality, grieving, divesting property, challenges); Canonical Governance (governing models when the institute is no longer able to govern itself, experience with models, challenges); Perspectives of Bishops (process of transition, implications for local church, concerns, challenges, opportunities for collaboration). The workshop concluded with a discussion of possible opportunities for further discussion on transition between bishops and religious leaders



Scenes from the "Fidelity to the Journey: Together in Communion" workshop

and how to replicate the experience of the workshop in other areas and make more broadly known what is happening in institutes today.

The sharing among bishops and religious was engaging, open, honest, moving, at times humorous, and filled with stories exemplifying generations of service to the church. As religious leaders shared the experiences and decisions involved in their own institutes' transitions, they spoke movingly of both the peace as well as the grieving among their members following decisions to leave ministries, sell motherhouses, find new ways to live their charism in the present, and move forward with a faith, joy, and hope that continue to guide their mission and their lives. Bishops spoke of religious in their respective dioceses, the sisters' ministries, service to the local church, and the conversations they have with religious leaders. At the same time, both religious leaders and bishops acknowledged the importance of ongoing communication and collaboration. Cardinal Joseph Tobin, CSsR expressed gratitude for the workshop and for the depth of sharing that took place among the bishops and religious. He commented that while grieving is a necessary part of the transition process, "it must be shared with the local church. People will remember us if we are true to who we are." All agreed that the workshop was an opportunity to deepen the experience of communion between bishops and religious leaders in the spirit of *Mutuae relationes*.

Standing Against Racism GCC Resource Sharing Column

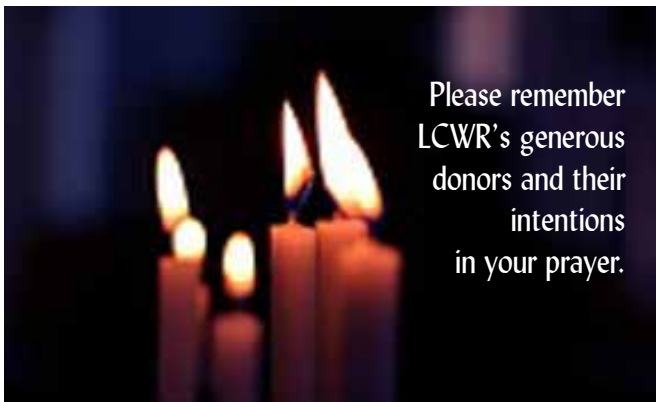
The Global Concerns Committee (GCC) is committed to providing resources to help with the implementation of the [2018 assembly commitment](#) to “go deeper into the critical work of creating communion, examining the root causes of injustice and our own complicity, and purging ourselves, our communities, and our country of the sin of racism and its destructive effects.”



Members are encouraged to share insights and suggestions for action on the [LCWR Resource Sharing Forum](#). This month’s contribution comes from **Eileen Haynes, SCL**.

The [Social Justice Resource Center](#) holds a treasure-trove of resources. Its mission statement reads: “The mission of the Social Justice Resource Center is to link faith to action by providing information and resources on the social issues of our time.” The resources include biographies, issues, links to diocesan offices, actions, and Catholic Social Teaching tools.

You can easily access the resources on racism by clicking on the tab ‘Issues’. Simply follow the two steps that will lead you to a page that provides a variety of resources specifically on racism: facts and figures, prayers, quotes, church teaching, films, publications, and websites.



Blessing of Offices Prior to the Move

LCWR, CMSM, RCRI, and Solidarity with South Sudan held a celebration and blessing of the offices the organizations have occupied since all will soon be relocating. Several board members and former employees of LCWR either attended the celebration or sent messages of remembrance.

LCWR tentatively plans to relocate in early December.



Some of the former and current employees of the conferences at the celebration

LCWR Endorses SOA Watch Border Encuentro 2018

LCWR has once again endorsed the School of the Americas (SOA) Watch Border Encuentro.

This will be the third year that the gathering will take place on the border in Nogales Arizona/Sonora. This year’s encuentro is a direct response to the call to active solidarity to resist militarization, support refugees and migrants, and denounce the US military, political, and economic policies in Latin America that create the conditions for forced migration and violence.



The program includes forums and workshops as well as a vigil at the Eloy immigrant detention center and a rally and concert at the border wall. Information about the encuentro, as well as instructions for registering or becoming an endorsing organization may be found on the [SOA website](#).

Resources Available from the National Catholic Sisters Project

The National Catholic Sisters Project (formerly National Catholic Sisters Week) has several resources available for congregations of women religious.

- Profundo Encuentro:** Escuchando Con Un Corazón Abierto (Deep Encounter: Listening with an Open Heart) is a national discernment retreat for Hispanic women ages 21-40. It will be held in San Antonio from March 7-10, 2019, and will accommodate both English and Spanish-speakers. Women discerning religious life, and candidates/aspirants who have not yet begun their canonical year are welcome to attend. There is no charge for the retreat, only a \$30 registration fee. Teresa Maya, CCVI and Debbie Borneman, SSCM are among the presenters. Registration materials are available [here](#) through January 15, 2019.
- Called and Consecrated:** Exploring the Lives of Women Religious (*Llamadas y Consagradas: Explorando las Vidas de las Religiosas*) is a new, online bilingual curriculum resource for middle and high school students. Currently, four different units on women's religious life are available online, with five more to come in the next few months. Each unit has several lessons, complete with video, original content, links to stories from *Global Sisters Report* and A Nun's Life Ministry, and teacher notes for each unit. It is easily adaptable for campus ministry settings and useful for vocation directors working with women in discernment.
- Applications for a **National Catholic Sisters Week 2019 mini-grant** may be submitted until November 15. NCSP plans to award \$85,000 in mini-grants, available in increments up to \$1,000, to organizations that host celebratory events during National Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-14, 2019. An application may be downloaded [here](#).

Questions about NCSP programs may be directed to Ann Oestreich, IHM, national coordinator at ann.oestreich@alverno.edu.



Upcoming LCWR Dates

Leading from Within Retreat

Bethany Retreat Center
Lutz, Florida
February 10 – 15, 2019

LCWR Practicing Leadership Workshop

Bon Secours Retreat & Conference Center
Marriottsville, MD
March 4 — 6, 2019

LCWR New Leader Workshop

Conference Center
University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois
April 4 — 7, 2019

LCWR Assembly

Scottsdale, Arizona
August 13 — 17, 2019

LCWR Practicing Leadership Workshop

Location to be Determined
September 17 — 19, 2019

Leading from Within Retreat

Redemptorist Renewal Center
Tucson, Arizona
January 12 – 17, 2020

LCWR New Leader Workshop

Conference Center
University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois
March 26 — 29, 2020

Imagining Justice

Bon Secours Retreat & Conference Center
Marriottsville, MD
April 20 – 23, 2020

LCWR Assembly

Dallas, Texas
August 11 — 15, 2020

Archivist Conference Sessions Available Online

The Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR) held its 2018 triennial conference, “Gratitude for the Past and Hope for the Future.”

The keynote speaker, Ray Maria McNamara, RSM, shared her experiences with mission and heritage room projects that have led her to connect with her community’s archives. From this engagement, she realized that women religious archivists are preserving their collections for the sake of the future and treat their profession as a ministry and vocation, which is embodied both in religious and lay staff. This talk ignited the group and had a tangible connection to all of the subsequent breakout and plenary sessions of the conference.

In the first plenary session, “Strategic Planning for Archives in a Time of Completion,” Monte Abbott, director of province center operations, suggested that the future of religious archives is inherently connected to legacy planning for the religious institutes that gave birth to them. He encourages archivists to engage with strategic planning by responding to opportunities to work across boundaries, engaging with leadership, and anticipating new roles and functions for archives in a coming world with fewer sisters.

A unique feature of this triennial conference was the ability for registrants to engage in one-on-one sessions with ACWR’s long-standing mentoring program as well as its Custodia program, ACWR’s initiative to assist in planning for the future of archives of women religious. Initiated in 2016, the program aims to work one-on-one with congregations and communities facing closure, mergers, or reorganizations of any kind. “We think it’s critical to explore each archives and its special issues since in our experience and those of our members, there is no ‘one size fits all’ solution,” said Dee Gallo, ACWR president and Custodia representative. “We have been in contact with dozens of archivists and community leaders. We offer what we feel are sensible and achievable steps to solutions to what are seemingly overwhelming issues. To that end, we are offering to meet with anyone attending the triennial in order to offer initial consultations or to have follow-up chats with those we’ve already assisted.”

The conference sessions are available to view online.

ACWR is a national organization of 250 members that was initiated in 1990 out of an awareness of a need for a separate organization to address the unique needs of religious archives and archivists.

Third National Convocation for Justice Promoters Scheduled for March 2019

The Steering Committee of the Justice Conference of Women Religious (JCWR) would like to extend an invitation to LCWR members to invite their justice promoters to attend the third convocation of JCWR which will be held at the Marriott St. Louis Airport Hotel, March 25-27.



This year’s theme, “Racism: Through the Prism of Social Justice,” invites participants to examine the roots of systemic racism and explore the difficult work of purging individuals, communities, and the country of the sin of racism and its destructive effects. Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Patricia Chappell and Anne-Louis Nadeau will keynote the convocation. Both are experienced presenters and workshop leaders specializing in anti-racism work. Patricia serves as executive director, and Anne-Louis as program director, of Pax Christi USA.

The convocation will open March 25 at 7:00 PM and close March 27 at noon. The registration fee is \$225.00. The convocation rate for rooms at the Marriott St. Louis Airport is \$130.00 plus tax per night. Registration is open to all who serve as justice promoters for women’s congregations. Registration information for both the conference and the hotel is available at www.jcwr.org.

JCWR is an ad hoc group of justice promoters serving women’s congregation which strives to strengthen the voice of congregations of women religious for justice, peace, and integrity of creation by providing opportunities for the professional growth and development of those who serve in this ministry including biannual convocations, networking opportunities, resource sharing, and collaborative advocacy.

Church Celebrates the Second Annual Day of the Poor

November 18, 2018 marks the second annual World Day of the Poor. Last year, Pope Francis suggested the Catholic Church set aside one day each year when communities can “reflect on how poverty is at the very heart of the Gospel.” He designated this day as the World Day of the Poor, and it will be celebrated on the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time each year. In this year’s [World Day of the Poor message](#), Pope Francis reflects on Psalm 34:7, “This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him.” He challenges us to use the day as an opportunity to consider whether we truly do hear the cry of the poor.



Catholic Relief Services has created [resources](#) to help participants learn, pray, and act in solidarity with those living in poverty. USCCB’s [PovertyUSA](#) program is offering a [pastoral aid \(Spanish\)](#) that includes reflections on the readings, prayers of the faithful, and a sample bulletin announcement.

Federal Judge Blocks Administration’s Move to End TPS

A federal district court in California has granted a [preliminary injunction](#) temporarily stopping the termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS), for four countries: El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Sudan. The court’s order in [Ramos v. Nielsen](#), requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to keep TPS in place for these four countries until the court makes a final ruling in the case.

The preliminary injunction stops the TPS terminations immediately and ensures the continued validity of TPS holders’ lawful status and employment authorization. While the decision only covers the four countries listed above, there are other cases challenging the administration’s TPS decisions that may provide relief to additional TPS holders. Important as the decision is, it is not permanent and does not fully protect TPS holders or their families.

IPCC Releases Report on Temperature Threshold

On October 8 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its special report on the 1.5°C temperature threshold. It was an exhaustive process that included compiling the work of 91 authors from 40 countries. The panel considered evidence from more than 6,000 papers and addressed more than 40,000 comments from experts and governments. A summary of the report is available [here](#).



The [final report](#) is an in-depth discussion of subjects ranging from mitigation to systems impact, and includes calls for strengthening the global response and reducing inequality. Its conclusions are sobering. Time is running out and governments must quickly raise their ambitions.

The report confirms that the difference between 1.5°C to 2°C, the upper limit governments committed to in the Paris Agreement, is critical and that the impact of a 2°C rise will be devastating to millions of people. It also makes clear that the 1.5°C limit could be reached between 2030 and 2052 and that the global net anthropogenic CO2 emissions must decline by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030 and net-zero emissions should be achieved by 2050.

The next United Nations Climate Change conference, COP 24, in Katowice, Poland, in December must be a milestone in the implementation of the Paris Agreement signed three years ago.

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.



- Letter to US Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs urging them to oppose any legislation that would expand the scale and length of immigrant family detention or overturn the child protection principles currently governing the treatment of migrant children in custody. LCWR (9/13/18)
- Letter to Members of Congress calling on them to oppose the administration's practice of family incarceration and any legislative effort to alter or weaken the protections of the Flores settlement agreement that would expand family detention and indefinitely lengthen the time immigrant children are held in custody, vulnerable to abuse and trauma. LCWR (9/13/18)
- Letter to Heide B. Fulton, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim, US Embassy, Tegucigalpa expressing deep concern over reports of renewed threats and intimidation against human rights defenders and journalists in Honduras and urging her to press the Honduran government to uphold the right to freedom of expression and safety for members of the press and human rights defenders. LCWR (9/13/18)
- Joint press release from Interfaith Immigration Coalition opposing President Trump's historically low refugee resettlement goal for FY 2019. Carol Zinn, SSJ (9/17/18)
- Letter to Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen asking the Department of Homeland Security to enact policies to ensure public safety during the period of evacuation, return, and recovery following Hurricane Florence's devastating impact. LCWR (9/19/18)
- LCWR statement in opposition to the proposed change in the public benefits rule which threatens the health and wellbeing of all and urging the administration to withdraw this dangerous proposal and work to build policies that support immigrant members of America's communities and families. LCWR (9/24/18)
- Quote for joint press release opposing the US

Department of Homeland Security's proposed changes to the public charge regulation which would force parents to make impossible choices between the well-being of their families and the prospect of future citizenship. Carol Zinn, SSJ (9/24/18)

- Letter to Secretary Kirstjen M. Nielsen, US Department of Homeland Security, and Secretary Alex Azar US Department of Health & Human Services urging them to immediately cease the recently formalized practice of using information obtained from detained immigrant children to find, arrest, and deport their parents and relatives. LCWR (10/8/18)
- Letter to President Donald J. Trump, Andrew R. Wheeler, Acting Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Ryan K. Zinke, Secretary of the Department of Interior urging them to end their rollback of environmental protections. LCWR (10/9/18)
- Signatory to Pax Christi Metro DC-Baltimore ad in the *National Catholic Reporter* calling for the right of all those morally opposed to war to direct that their federal income tax be used solely for non-military purposes. LCWR (10/10/18)
- Statement by more than 1500 organizations opposing the proposed public charge regulation. LCWR (10/10/18)
- Joint statement of principles of Strengthening America's Values and Economy for All (SAVE) calling on Congress to make budget decisions which protect vulnerable populations and are fiscally responsible. LCWR (10/10/18)

Join the Catholic Health Association's Campaign: Medicaid Makes It Possible

CHA's "Medicaid Makes It Possible" campaign is raising a collective voice to ensure that Medicaid remains a viable, efficient,

and effective program. This essential health insurance program, and the lives of 74 million people who rely on it, are at risk due to legislative and administrative proposals that could dramatically cut funding and reduce eligibility, causing millions of vulnerable individuals and families to lose health coverage. CHA is collecting stories about how Medicaid makes a difference in the lives of patients, families, and healthcare providers at "[Share Your Story](#)."



NRRO Launches 2018 Retirement Fund Campaign

In September, the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) launched the 2018 Retirement Fund for Religious campaign, which features senior religious from the archdiocese of Portland, Oregon. The national collection weekend is scheduled for December 8-9, although some (arch)dioceses may choose to hold the appeal on alternate weekends. Proceeds benefit hundreds of religious communities each year and underwrite all the work of the NRRO. NRRO asks all to offer the collection their vocal and prayerful support.



Once again, the NRRO will be offering a series of educational tracks during the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) national conference. Topics range from building partnerships to dementia support. The RCRI's annual gathering offers nearly 40 individual sessions and opportunities to network with other religious. Funding to attend the conference is available to eligible religious institutes through the [NRRO's Management and Continuing Education Assistance program](#). [Additional information about NRRO programs and assistance](#) can be found online.



by Joan Mumaw, IHM
President
www.solidarityfriends.org

Over these past few weeks, I have been preparing for a workshop on missions and mission. Yesterday I attended a seminar on mission as related to fundraising. Once again I am reminded of the core of our ministry in South Sudan. It is all about following in the footsteps of Jesus and spreading the Good News. St. Francis said, "Preach always, sometimes use words." All else is insignificant and pales in relationship to the mission. We are called to be missionary disciples in whatever we do. God's mission has a church and God's mission has us!

As we celebrate 10 years of Solidarity with South Sudan, we give thanks for those who are serving in war-torn South Sudan and for all of our supporters offering personnel, financial support and prayers. We so appreciate you!

Many of you are spreading the word about our need for personnel. Bill Firman, FSC, executive director of Solidarity with South Sudan, has sent two messages which I have shared with you. If you do not have personnel, perhaps you will consider supporting someone else taking up this challenging ministry. For more information contact: Joan Mumaw, IHM jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com

Advent is coming upon us soon. I call your attention to the *Advent Journey Calendar* present on the Resources page of the website. www.solidarityfriends.org It has been updated for 2018 and there is a version for youth and one for adults. You may find these useful in your ministries with students, youth and seniors as well with your own sisters. This is a way to get to know South Sudan and the work of Solidarity. The calendars can be downloaded here: [Advent Calendar Adult](#) and [Advent Calendar Student](#)

News from the UN

November 20 --**Universal Children's Day** was established to promote awareness of children and children's welfare worldwide. November 20 is the date in 1959 when the UN General Assembly adopted the [Declaration of the Rights of the Child](#). It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General Assembly adopted [the Convention on the Rights of the Child](#).



November 25—**International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women** reminds the people of the world that violence against women and girls is a human rights violation, public health pandemic, and serious obstacle to sustainable development. Violence against women and girls imposes large-scale costs on families, communities, and economies. The world cannot afford it. Women and girls cannot afford it, and should not have to.

JFI National Conference Planned for December 2018

The US Catholic Bishops' **Justice for Immigrants (JFI)** campaign is



convening a national conference just outside Washington, DC, December 5-7, 2018. The JFI Conference will offer an opportunity to discuss current migration policy and organize advocacy efforts for the 116th Congress in 2019.

The conference will include various panels with experts speaking on issues related to migration, refugee issues, asylum, and human trafficking. It will include opportunities for networking and an advocacy day on Capitol Hill December 7.

The conference will bring together JFI points of contacts; diocesan staff; supporters of immigrants, refugees, and unaccompanied minors; women and men religious; JFI core members and their affiliates; and Refugee Conference USA member organizations. The [conference registration site](#) contains additional information. Inquiries about a limited number of conference scholarships may be sent to Tony Cube at acube@uscgb.org.