

October 2014

## LCWR Members Explore 'Holy Mystery Revealed in Our Midst'



◀ Approximately 750 participants gathered in Nashville from August 12-15 for the 2014 LCWR assembly



◀ Members of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth led and provided the prayer, music, and movement. Shown here is LCWR member **Susan Gatz, SCN**

### 2014 LCWR Assembly Resources Available Online

[lcwr.org/calendar/lcwr-assembly-2014](http://lcwr.org/calendar/lcwr-assembly-2014)

- Press Release
- Animoto Video
- Addresses by Nancy Schreck, OSF
  - Opening Reflection (available in French and Spanish)
  - "However Long the Night?" (available in French and Spanish)
  - "What's a Leader to Do?"
- Tribute to Janet Mock, CSJ ([lcwr.org/janet-mock-tribute-video](http://lcwr.org/janet-mock-tribute-video) -- LCWR password required)
- Elizabeth A. Johnson, CSJ Acceptance Speech (available in French and Spanish)
- Homily by Jim Greenfield, OSFS
- Reflective Videos
- LCWR Call 2015-2022
- Information on Ordering CDs, DVDs and MP3s of Assembly Presentations

*Translations of these documents were made possible through the generosity of the Sisters of Bon Secours and LCWR associate Anne Bayart, SU*



◀ **Nancy Schreck, OSF** addressed the conference in three separate presentations focusing on the mastery of navigating the dark in the "middle space"



▲ **Carol Zinn, SSJ** delivered a presidential address using the metaphor of music to describe the challenges for women religious today

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*From the LCWR Presidency*

## We Have Returned Home, But Nashville is Not Over

by Sharon Holland, IHM — LCWR President

Over a month has passed since Nashville!

It was an extraordinary experience! The members gathered there because they wanted to be there, together, and the room was charged with their positive energy. There were extraordinary speakers, and beautifully prepared liturgies and prayer/rituals. The venue itself was extraordinary. Gaylord Opryland was filled with waterfalls and tropical plants, a river running around an island of shops and eateries, with a dome covering it all. In addition to the planned program there were those annual extras when federations, groups of common spirituality, and regions managed a time for lunch together to strengthen their bonds of communion.

But soon I began reflecting on what happens to me when I return home to “ordinary time.” There is the tendency to rush headlong into what’s waiting, clamoring to be next. Stories of the venue satisfy those curious to know if I saw anything interesting besides meetings. A few words about how inspiring the speakers were satisfy others, but I decided I was shortchanging myself if I didn’t take time to enter more deeply into the non-business part of the experience. What really would I retain from the “heart of the matter,” from the invitation to enter more deeply in faith into the mystery of God continuing to unfold in our midst?

My first approach was to use the presidential address of Carol Zinn, SSJ as the basis for prayer at our following team meeting. What did she really mean by



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that question: “Are we singing to the lamentations”? As we reflected on her words, we knew that truly “our consciousness is increasingly heightened to the lamentations of our world, country, church, and vocation. And we are called to stand in those lamentations, singing the music in God’s heart.”

We remembered our own sick and dying, and the unknown victims of Ebola; we thought of those seeking safety and a better life in our country, and those displaced by war and violence in teeming refugee camps across the world. Our minds and hearts turned to the poor and marginalized of our own country and beyond. From these came the desire to sing the compassion, mercy, forgiveness, and love of God’s heart to the lamentations around us. Only by reflecting on the “lamentations” can we be moved to sing with God’s own heart, with the heart of the compassionate and merciful Jesus.

With the words of Jan Novotka, we prayed that “all I/we do today” may sing the songs of God’s heart into the lamentations of our world. The haunting refrain from the keynote of Nancy Schreck, OSF offered a mantra for staying in touch with that desire. Weaving in and out of our days like the little river flowing through the

Gaylord, Nancy’s address repeated the refrain: “However long the night, we will be faithful.” Or, in the words of an African proverb, “However long the night the dawn will break.”

We have returned home, but Nashville is not over.

## LCWR Members Explore 'Holy Mystery Revealed in Our Midst'

*(continued from page 1)*



◀ Three LCWR members shared on how they experience Holy Mystery in their leadership ministry. Shown here are facilitator **Catherine Bertrand, SSND**; and the panelists: **Nancy Conway, CSJ**; **Ana Lydia Sonera, CDP**; and **Margaret Ormond, OP**

▶ The assembly met several times in executive session led by **Sharon Holland, IHM** (president-elect); **Florence Deacon, OSF** (past president); **Janet Mock, CSJ** (executive director); and **Carol Zinn, SSJ** (president)

▼ The conference passed a resolution to promote the national transition from fossil fuel energy sources to renewable energy sources, as well as a resolution to ask Pope Francis to formally repudiate the period of Christian history that used religion to justify political and personal violence against indigenous nations and peoples.



▲ The members voted in **Marcia Allen, CSJ** as president-elect and **Mary Beth Gianoli, OSF** as secretary



◀ LCWR members from Region 6 led the participants in a justice action focused on a call to move toward use of renewable energy sources. Following their presentation, the LCWR members signed postcards to persons in power positions who have led efforts for clean energy, protecting fresh water, and addressing global climate change issues, expressing gratitude and pledging support for these efforts.

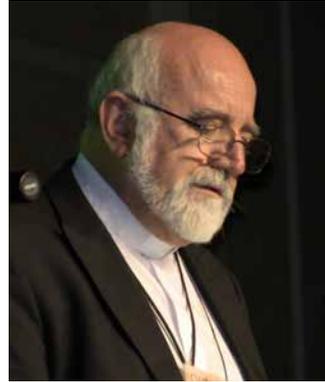
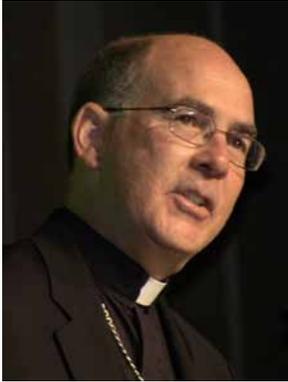
Also during the assembly, more than 270 leaders joined in a discussion about the needs of and responses to children and families fleeing violence in their home countries and seeking refuge in the United States.



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## LCWR Members Explore ‘Holy Mystery Revealed in Our Midst’

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▲ Archbishop J. Peter Sartain and Hank Lemoncelli, OMI, undersecretary at the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, greeted the assembly on the opening night

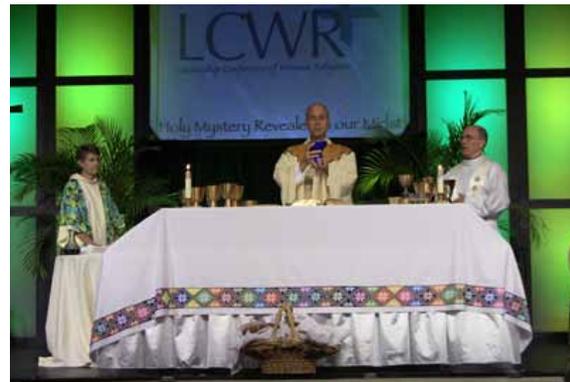
### CDF Mandate to LCWR

Immediately following the assembly, the 21-member LCWR national board held a three-day meeting that began with a one-hour session with Archbishop Sartain to discuss the mandate of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF). At the conclusion of its meeting, the board issued the following statement:

“Our study, discernment, and prayer led us to reaffirm our strong belief that ongoing conversation with church leadership is key to building effective working relationships that enable both women religious and church leaders to serve the world. It is our deepest hope to resolve the situation between LCWR and CDF in a way that fully honors our commitment to fulfill the LCWR mission as well as protect the integrity of the organization.

“We will continue in the conversation with Archbishop Sartain as an expression of hope that new ways may be created within the church for healthy discussion of differences. We know that thousands of persons throughout the country and around the world long for places where they can raise questions and explore ideas on matters of faith in an atmosphere of freedom and respect. We believe that the ongoing conversations between CDF and LCWR may model a way of relating that only deepens and strengthens our capacity to serve a world in desperate need of our care and service.”

▼ LCWR honored theologian **Elizabeth A. Johnson, CSJ** with its 2014 Outstanding Leadership Award at the assembly banquet. During the closing Eucharistic liturgy, the assembly paid tribute to **Janet Mock, CSJ** who will complete her tenure as LCWR executive director at the end of 2014.



▲ CMSM president **Jim Greenfield, OSFS** and **Archbishop Sartain** at the closing Eucharistic liturgy

▲ The members unanimously affirmed a new LCWR Call, a seven-year plan for the conference. The call enumerates initiatives for working with the evolving realities facing US religious life.

## LCWR National Board Meets in Nashville

The LCWR national board met in Nashville for one day prior to the LCWR assembly and for three days following the assembly.

At the pre-assembly meeting, the board welcomed the following new members:

- Rosemary Brennan, CSJ (Region 1)
- Carol Wagner, RDC (Region 2)
- Marian Durkin, CSA (Region 6)
- Ginger Downey, OLVM (Region 7)
- Maria Hughes, ASC (Region 8)
- Marilyn Geiger, OSF (Region 11)
- Jan Ginzkey, OSB (Region 13)

The board also blessed and thanked those whose terms ended during the transition of leadership at the assembly: Kathleen Turley, RSM; Judy Justinger, SSJ; Sharon Sullivan, OSU; Joan Marie Steadman, CSC; Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP; Penny Bingham, OSB; and Eileen Hurley, SCL.

In addition to regular reports and updates, the board attended to a number of other matters including:

- Evaluation of the LCWR assembly
- The Year of Consecrated Life
- Organizational/governance questions for the future of LCWR
- Regional responses to questions posed by the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations about marriage and care of families
- Efforts to support religious life internationally



Meeting prior to the LCWR assembly are board members Kathleen Turley, RSM; Judy Justinger, SSJ; Carol Wagner, RDC; Ellen Dauwer, SC; Rose Marie Jasinski, CBS; and Greta Jupiter, SSF



The board elected Rosemary Brennan, CSJ and Rose Marie Jasinski, CBS as the at-large members of its executive committee and approved the following committee appointments:

### USCCB Accounting Practices Committee

- Leora Linnenkugel, OLVM
- Maureen Geary, OP

### USCCB Ad hoc Committee on Revision of the Liturgy of the Hours

- Mary Ann Clarahan, RSM
- Ginger Downey, OLVM
- Ann Rehrauer, OSF

### LCWR Resolutions Committee

- Janet Folkl, CDP
- Catherine Darcy, RSM
- Maureen Irvin, OSF

### LCWR Global Concerns Committee

- Anne Curtis, RSM
- Pat McCluskey, IHM

### LCWR Nominations and Elections Committee

- Kathryn Clauss, IHM
- Barbara Dreher, CSJ

### LCWR Contemporary Religious Life Committee

- Maria Hughes, ASC

### Treasurer of LCWR

- Pat Eck, CBS

The board concluded its meeting using the LCWR contemplative process and focusing its reflection on the following: How might LCWR give greater attention to the movement of Holy Mystery? Does the movement of Holy Mystery call for a response at this time from LCWR? If so, what might that response be? What do you believe LCWR is learning as it gives attention to this movement of Holy Mystery?

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## Assumes Role of LCWR Director of Transitional Services

by Mary Hughes, OP

October 1 will mark the beginning of my service to LCWR congregations as the director of transitional services. Within our membership are congregations that have come to the realization that their ministerial activities may be drawing to completion. While the LCWR assemblies most often address the macro issues of religious life and leadership, the necessary work of individual congregations, especially those who find themselves in uncharted waters of diminishment, is significant and worthy of our collective attention and support. Working closely with the Resource Center for Religious Institutes and with the National Religious Retirement Office, we can together determine with a congregation the kinds of supports that would best service its members during this time of transition. We are grateful to the GHR Foundation for both recognizing and assisting LCWR in this work.

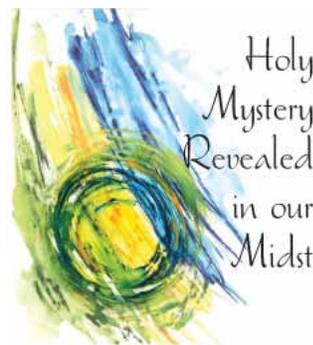


Even as we address the practical issues that arise, my role is primarily pastoral. There will be a variety of ways, many of them quite creative, in which small congregations may choose to walk into their future. However, no one should take that walk without realizing the enormous graces that have flowed through its members to the people of God. The Pascal Mystery demands nothing less. Whether the journey ahead of us is a long one or all too short, we witness the joy of the Gospel through whatever God might be asking—ever leaving room for surprises.

Rather than re-locate to Silver Spring, Maryland, I will work from the office in the cottage in which I live on the grounds of our Amityville, New York motherhouse. There are multiple airports and access to major highways. Ease of transportation, technology, and telephones should serve to keep me well connected to you and to the LCWR office personnel and resources.

It is with deep joy that I look forward to this new ministry. It will be such a privilege to learn more about the sacred and wonderful charisms that make up religious life in this country and within our church. I look forward to all that you will teach me and to walking with you, side by side.

Mary has served her congregation, the Dominican Sisters of Amityville, twice as its prioress. During her second time in this position, LCWR elected her to its presidency where she served from 2009-2012. Through her role in the LCWR presidency she was invited to address the National Press Club in Washington, DC in August 2012 and to offer the Dudlian Lecture at Harvard Divinity School in February 2013. Mary has served as a teacher educator beginning at St. Francis College in Brooklyn and continuing at Iona College in New Rochelle, New York. She served as chairperson of the Iona College Education Department and later as the special executive assistant to the president of the college. Internationally, she has served as the North American representative for Dominican Sisters International.



The LCWR board and staff thank all who volunteered their time and their skills to the LCWR assembly, especially Sharon Sullivan, OSU and the members of Region 6. Their assistance was invaluable.

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



## LCWR Represented at United Nations Conference

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious was represented at the 65th Annual UN Conference -- 2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda -- at the United Nations headquarters from August 27 to 29 by Ann Scholz, SSND, LCWR associate director for social mission.



More than 4000 representatives of civil society from around the world had the opportunity to discuss key issues on the post-2015 development agenda, including climate change, with the hope of encouraging UN member states to craft a successful post-2015 development plan and to accomplish positive outcomes of climate change negotiations.

Over the course of three days, participants attended presentations by international experts, including US ambassador to the UN Samantha Power, and participated in workshops organized by non-governmental, nation-state, and UN actors.

LCWR co-sponsored a workshop, Four Zeroes Add up to Positives for Global Education, where panelists addressed the need to remove barriers that block access to education for the more than 57 million out-of-school children.

The four zeroes campaign was sparked by the launch of the Emergency Coalition for Global Education Action by UN special envoy for global education Gordon Brown, and secretary-general Ban Ki-moon this past April. "The initiative promises to accomplish four zeros – zero exclusion from education, zero discrimination against girls, zero child marriage, and zero child labor," said Ann Scholz, moderator of the panel. "We aim to look at how targeting those four barriers and accomplishing those four zeros will add up to education for all and contribute to the accomplishment of the whole of the post-2015 development agenda."

As has become the custom, this 65th conference adopted an outcome declaration that offers a civil soci-

ety action agenda for the post-2015 development goals. The conference took place less than a month prior to the September 23, 2014 climate summit to be convened by UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon, and the launch of intergovernmental negotiations at the 69th Session of the general assembly. The declaration is available at: [tinyurl.com/parubor](http://tinyurl.com/parubor).

## LCWR National Board Meets in Nashville

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Small groups shared one insight about the movement of Holy Mystery within LCWR. The following was surfaced:

- Holy Mystery has deepened our identity. We are becoming clearer about what is ours to do and what is not ours to do. This frees us to claim more freely and fully the charismatic dimension of our vocation.
- In our experience of being church, we want to maintain a healthy degree of tension in order to work toward a mutual understanding of, and witness to, our purpose and mission.
- In the midst of Holy Mystery, we experience reality-based hope which challenges us to move forward with our sameness and our diversity.
- We are blessed as we stand on the firm foundation of those who inspired our lives and we embrace the deep wisdom of Holy Mystery revealed in the darkness.
- Through deep listening to Holy Mystery in our midst, we are beginning to wonder if the Holy Spirit is gifting LCWR with a charism for the church and the world. Are we open enough to embrace that charism and courageous enough to make it available to all?

## 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](http://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](http://lcwr.org/sites/default/files/calendar/attachments/lfwretreat15_0.pdf)

## 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

## 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](http://lcwr.org/members/lcwr-membership-information).

## Update

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## Two Upcoming Events Focus on Ministry for Justice

The next few months provide ample opportunity for renewal and exploration by those involved in ministry for justice, peace, and integrity of creation. The first is a convocation developed by, and designed for justice, peace, and integrity of creation (JPIC) promoters ministering with congregations of women religious. The second is the recently redesigned annual gathering sponsored by LCWR and now known as *Imagining Justice: A Learning Lab for Leaders and Justice Promoters*.

The convocation, *Entering the Transforming Future: JPIC Ministry in the Coming Age of Religious Life*, which will bring together justice, peace, and integrity of creation staff persons serving women's congregations, will be held November 11 to 13, 2014 at River's Edge Conference Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

Organizers hope the convocation will provide the opportunity for those engaged in JPIC ministry to strengthen regional and national networks, share resources and best practices, and discover ways to advance the justice agenda together.

The gathering will include a keynote address by Marie Dennis, co-president of Pax Christi International, as well as opportunities for open space discussions, participant-led workshops, and the chance to explore possibilities for future collaboration.



This spring LCWR will once again offer an opportunity for leaders, justice and peace promoters, and communicators to explore the depths of the call to minister for justice. *Imagining Justice*, formerly known as the LCWR Think Tank, will be held March 2 to 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](http://tinyurl.com/noaxvld).

The convocation is already overbooked, but registration continues through December 15 for *Imagining Justice*.

## Film Explores Community Response to the Violence of Intolerance

The film, *Waking in Oak Creek*, documents the powerful law enforcement and community response to the hate crime killings at the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin on August 5, 2012. After six Sikh worshippers were killed and an Oak Creek police officer was shot 15 times by a white supremacist, the Oak Creek police chief and mayor worked together to cultivate new bonds with the Sikh community and guide the community forward toward healing.

The film explores the unique aspects of addressing the needs of the victims and healing of communities in the aftermath of hate violence and can be used to spark the conversation and action needed to build bridges between different groups in the community; actively respond to hate and intolerance; and engage youth in building safe, inclusive communities.

Free DVDs of the film are available for community screenings, educational programs, and training workshops. Additional resources include a viewing guide, educator lesson plan, and press kit. The film trailer, information on a free DVD, and downloadable resources are available at: [www.niot.org/wakinginoakcreek](http://www.niot.org/wakinginoakcreek).

*Waking in Oak Creek* was produced in conjunction with the US Department of Justice, Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services through the Working Together for Safe, Inclusive Communities initiative and is being distributed by Not in Our Town.

## Congress is Back on the Hill — Briefly

Congress returned to Washington on September 9 with only two weeks scheduled for legislative activity before returning to their home districts ahead of the fall mid-term elections. While there are lots of pressing pieces of legislation in the hopper, there is little chance that many will make it to the floor.



That means that any hope for legislative action on immigration reform, the federal minimum wage, equal pay, tax reform, and human trafficking will have to wait for the December lame duck session of this Congress or for new legislation in the next.

The exception will probably be the passage of a resolution to continue funding the federal government at current levels beyond the October 1 fiscal deadline. Unfortunately, most Congress watchers doubt that the proposed resolution will include the much needed funding for costs associated with the increased numbers of migrant children and families.



## Creating a Climate of Solidarity Theme for Feast of Francis

The Catholic Climate Covenant has created an educational program to celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi Saturday, October 4, 2014. The program titled, "From St. Francis to Pope Francis to You! Creating a Climate for Solidarity," can be used with a wide variety of audiences including parishes, youth or young adult organizations, and high school and college classes. A Spanish language version will be available in time for the Feast of St. Francis. Those interested in registering and downloading materials may go to: [tinyurl.com/mm4ee7f](http://tinyurl.com/mm4ee7f).

## News from the UN

### International Day of the Girl Child

Since 2012, the United Nations has marked October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child. The day promotes girls' human rights, highlights gender inequalities that remain between girls and boys, and addresses the various forms of discrimination and abuse suffered by girls around the world. More information is available at: [www.un.org/en/events/girlchild/](http://www.un.org/en/events/girlchild/).

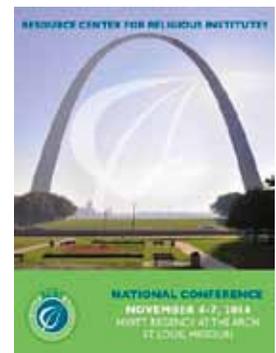


### Climate Summit

UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon has invited world leaders, from government, finance, business, and civil society to Climate Summit 2014 this September 23 to galvanize and catalyze climate action. He has asked leaders to bring bold announcements and actions to the summit that will reduce emissions, strengthen climate resilience, and mobilize political will for a meaningful legal agreement in 2015. More information is available at: [www.un.org/climatechange/summit/](http://www.un.org/climatechange/summit/).

## RCRI Hosts Annual National Conference in St. Louis

The Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) will hold its 2014 national conference in St. Louis, Missouri, from November 4 through 7. The venue will be the Hyatt Regency at the Arch, which is located directly across from the St. Louis Arch, the world-famous symbol of the city known as the Gateway to the West.



This year RCRI is offering two half-day pre-conference workshops: one on TRENDS and the other on the Affordable Care Act and its implications for religious institutes as employers and for their members. These workshops will be held on the morning of Tuesday,

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## RCRI Hosts Annual National Conference in St. Louis

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November 4, prior to the opening of the conference that evening. RCRI also offers 40 workshops on various topics from accounting to legal matters to dealing with members.

RCRI's national conference provides an unparalleled opportunity to network with others who minister as leaders and administrators of women's and men's religious institutes. Detailed information about the program and registration can be found at [trcri.org/national\\_conference\\_2014](http://trcri.org/national_conference_2014).



by Joan Mumaw, IHM, Development Director-USA

This update is being written on the Feast of the Mother of Sorrows. The readings of the day portray Mary standing at the foot of the cross, one with her son in his suffering and death. Like Mary, we are all called to stand close to the suffering Body of Christ in our world. Men and women religious, and particularly those serving in Iraq, Central America, the Middle East and here in the United States, are doing just that.

This is what Solidarity with South Sudan is all about – standing with the people as they endure the ongoing civil unrest in that country. “Standing with” also means reaching out and touching the needs of the people and strengthening the capacity of the people to meet their own needs: training teachers, healthcare professionals, farmers, and pastoral agents. It involves helping all to deal with the trauma of war and loss which often prevents them from acting in the best interests of those they are called to serve.

The work of Solidarity with South Sudan in teacher education continues at the Solidarity Teacher Training College (TTC) in Yambio. The TTC in Malakal, near

the northern and eastern border of the country, has been totally looted and conditions in the area prevent Solidarity from resuming teacher training in that diocese. Students from Malakal are being invited to attend the college at Yambio, although many are too fearful to make the journey. Yambio is west of the Nile and remains an area of peace.

Currently there are 90 students, nearly one-third of them women. Solidarity places a priority on enrolling women in the program, primarily because so few ever finish grade school and the literacy rate for women in the country is 17% as compared to 40% for men. The effort has resulted in a significant increase in the presence of young women on the campus leading to the need to build a dormitory and ablution block for women only. A much-needed classroom currently is being used as a dormitory for women. The support of religious congregations, as well as foundations, is being sought for construction of these buildings as well as for ongoing operational support. Thank you to all who are supporting this initiative.

Solidarity is the result of a commitment made to the church in South Sudan by the UISG and the USG on behalf of all religious congregations. It belongs to all of us and calls all of us to support the work being done through our sharing of personnel, resources, and prayers for the people of South Sudan and the work of Solidarity. To find out how you can join in the effort please contact me at [jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com](mailto:jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com).

## NRVC Celebrates 25 Years at its National Convocation

As the National Religious Vocation Conference culminates the yearlong celebration of its 25th anniversary, it invites vocation ministers, religious leadership, formation directors, communication directors, and all those who share responsibility and concern for future



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## NRVC Celebrates 25 Years at its National Convocation

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membership in religious life to attend its biennial convocation, November 6-10, 2014 at the Marriott O'Hare in Chicago.

Through the input of three keynote speakers, nine diverse workshops, theological reflection, and celebrations of mass and common prayer, NRVC hopes participants will leave with a renewed sense of conviction and a fearless desire to continue to invite other women and men to religious life. NRVC will honor Dr. Kathleen Mahoney, project director for the NRVC/CARA 2012 Study on Educational Debt and Vocations, with the NRVC Harvest Award. It will also recognize Patricia Wittberg, SC, and Anthony Vinson, OSB, for their outstanding contributions to vocation ministry. The conference will also express its gratitude to former NRVC employees who have generously committed years of service to the national organization.

The convocation brochure which highlights the schedule and all workshop and speaker information is available at [www.nrvc.net](http://www.nrvc.net), under the programs/events tab. Hotel reservation service for the Marriott Hotel is part of the registration process. The registration fee includes all sessions, workshops, opening reception, three lunches, morning coffee and tea breaks, and the closing banquet. Registrations may be made at [www.nixregistrar.com/events/578](http://www.nixregistrar.com/events/578).

## 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](mailto:cglidden@lcwr.org). Carol can also guide members through the process of signing up for the forum.