



July 2019

2019 LCWR Assembly



August 13 – 16, 2019  
Scottsdale, Arizona

Imagining Leadership in a Global Community

As of mid-June, 770 people have registered for the 2019 LCWR assembly. Planning continues for this event that features some important opportunities to explore what is needed in leadership today and how religious life may thrive into the future.



The LCWR president Sharlet Wagner, CSC and LCWR staff members join with keynoter Pat Murray, IBVM; facilitators Cathy Bertrand, SSND and Donna Fyffe; and liturgist Kathy Wray via Zoom for an assembly planning meeting.

LCWR National Board Looks to the Future

The LCWR national board affirmed the directions suggested in the conference’s emergent planning process as they have surfaced thus far while meeting on May 29 and 30 at Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center in Marriottsville, Maryland.

Facilitator Donna Fyffe, as well as Michelle Marie Stachowiak, CSSF, a member of the planning process design team, joined the board and the national office staff for significant discussion of input gathered from LCWR members, former LCWR officers, young religious, facilitators working with sisters, religious from outside of the United States, and members of the public to determine the best ways that LCWR can serve religious life leaders and the whole of religious life.

Representatives of the 15 LCWR regions also joined the board for part of the meeting to further discuss

*(continued on page 3)*



Carol Zinn, SSJ; Teresa Maya, CCVI; Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ; Kate Katoski, OSF; Rita Cammack, OSF; Yesenia Fernandez, MGSpsS; Rose Marie Jasinski, CBS; Eileen Haynes, SCL; Sharlet Wagner, CSC; Mary Jo Nelson, OLVM; Susan Durkin, OSU; Elise Garcia, OP; Janice Cebula, OSF; and Theresa Sandok, OSM

*From the LCWR Presidency*

## Leading on Empty, Finding the Grace

by Teresa Maya, CCVI — LCWR Past President

My first car was a hand-me-down from Mom that spoke: “a door is ajar,” “parking brake applied,” and, of course, “gas level low.” [You should know though, that my car said it in Spanish: “Nivel de gasolina bajo”] Despite the handsome voice, I ran out of gas several times much to my father’s despair as he tried to teach me how to care for my car. “If this were the Mexican Revolution,” he used to say, “and the car was a horse, you would already be on foot!” My only defense was that every single time someone had helped me find my way home: Triple-A, a ride to the gas station, a tow. So, I never learned.



At the same time, I also continue repeatedly to find grace. When I am on “empty” I truly see that leadership in our institutes is impossible without grace. When I have depleted all my emotional and spiritual resources, I wake up, and find I am still on this road of leadership. When I know I have nothing left, yet need to keep facing what lies ahead, my sense of responsibility can take me only so far. The final lift, the definitive push comes from the mystery of God’s grace boosting my very soul. I have found it there at the bottom of my “empty

tank” every single time. While I have learned to be more proactive about filling the tank, I have also come to understand with deep gratitude that when the unexpected depletes it fast, I will always find the grace – which often comes from my LCWR sisters.

The last few months have been so challenging, so difficult that I know I am leading on “empty,” literally walking barefoot, wondering what the equivalent Triple-A hotline for leadership should look like, RCRI included, of course! Unexpected illness in my immediate family, the increasing frailty of my older sisters in community, the ministry challenges that no level of strategic planning could ever foresee, and even learning to address mental health as simply another health issue. When it all happens at the same time, I know I am headed to “empty.” The yellow light has been blinking, and that deep voice comes back from the past “*nivel de gasolina bajo.*” Dad was right; I should have learned how to keep the tank full!

LCWR  
is my  
“Triple-A”- road assistance,  
motor club,  
and Triptik all included.

Meanwhile, our world and church continue to spin off the rails we have known for so long. We watched in despair with all of Paris as Notre Dame burned. The scale of the abuse scandal seems to multiply exponentially, politics that polarize get louder, and we see the plight of displaced peoples everywhere. How can I even behold all this if I am leading on empty?



The last three years have indeed been filled with grace for me while serving in the LCWR presidency. LCWR is my “Triple-A”- road assistance, motor club, and Triptik all included. Through our conference, I have learned about grace-filled leadership, about leadership as companionship, about why we need one another to navigate the roads where we will be empty many times but where we will also run into God’s grace often. I know without our conference I would have despaired, but instead, with Paul, I can say: “We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God.” (Rm 5:1-2)

Thank you, friends.

## LCWR National Board Looks to the Future

*(continued from page 1)*

the input and the directions for LCWR that the input suggests. These directions will be considered more extensively throughout the LCWR assembly.

Other business for the board included:

- A board development session with David J. Nygren, a consultant who specializes in board effectiveness, organizational strategy, and executive leadership
- Discussion of the 2020 LCWR assembly
- Discussion of the survey responses from the 15 LCWR region chairs regarding how LCWR can best be of service in the future
- Ongoing reflection and discernment on where religious life and LCWR are moving over the next 10 to 20 years

The board also made the following appointments:

- LCWR treasurer: Kate Katoski, OSF
- Global Concerns Committee: Christine Garcia, SSND and Lucy Slinger, FSPA
- Governance Committee: Sangeeta Ayithamattam, SCN; Vicki Bergkamp, ASC; Maureen Geary, OP

## LCWR Committee Explores the Essential Dimensions of Leadership Today

LCWR's Contemporary Religious Life Committee met in May in Washington, DC to explore possible ways to respond to the requests from LCWR members to find ways to lead most effectively religious life now and into the future, given the changing realities and growing demands that leaders face.

The committee worked to name some of the essential dimensions of religious life leadership needed for these times, as well as ways of responding to the most critical challenges facing leaders today. The outcomes of this work will be discussed and processed during this year's LCWR assembly during some of the "Imagining Leadership in a Global Community" sessions.

Joining the committee for its meeting were two facilitators who are well-experienced working with communities of women religious: Marisa Guerin and Nancy Schreck, OSF. Both women brought enormous insight and wisdom to the work of the two days.



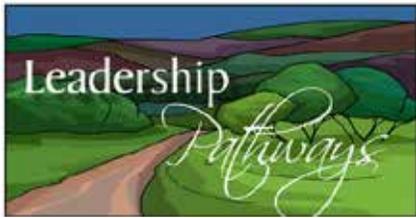
*Contemporary Religious Life Committee members and guests: Annmarie Sanders, IHM; Nancy Schreck, OSF; Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ; Miriam Ukeritis, CSJ; Marisa Guerin; Sheila Lemieux, CSJP; Cathy Bertrand, SSND (facilitator); Rosalia Meza, VDMF; Maria Hughes, ASC; Pat McDermott, RSM; Carol Zinn, SSJ; and Marie McCarthy, SP*

## UISG-LCWR Dialogue Session Online

The International Union of Superiors General (UISG) invited the LCWR presidency (Sharlet Wagner, CSC; Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ; and Teresa Maya, CCVI) and executive director (Carol Zinn, SSJ) during their annual visit to Rome this spring to participate in a dialogue attended by religious in Rome. Moderated by UISG executive secretary Pat Murray, IBVM, [Sharing the Vision: A Dialogue on Religious Life Today and into the Future](#), is available online. Discussion topics included leadership responsibility for fostering religious life during this time of evolutionary change, promotion of vocations to religious life, the relationship between the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) and LCWR, advocacy on various justice matters, and the visits of LCWR to several Vatican offices.



*UISG dialogue: Teresa Maya, CCVI; Carol Zinn, SSJ; Pat Murray, IBVM; Sharlet Wagner, CSC; and Jayne Helmlinger. UISG president Carmen Sammut, MSOLA is in corner photo.*



## News From Leadership Pathways

The Leadership Pathways Advisory Committee had an engaging and lively meeting at Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center May 30 and 31. The committee had deep conversation around insights that have been emerging both from the LCWR Contemporary Religious Life Committee conversations as well as from the LCWR emergent planning process and reviewed current offerings in the light of those insights.

As a result of those conversations, as well as the work that has been done throughout the year, the committee agreed to open registration in July for three Pathways modules: *Becoming the Leaders We Hope To Be*, *The Foundations of Transformational Leadership*, and a brand new module, *A Guide to Facilitation: How to Improve the Odds of Hosting a Great Meeting*.

A constant contact message will be sent to all the members in early July announcing the opening of the registration for all three of these offerings. The modules themselves will begin in early September. Fuller descriptions of *Becoming the Leaders We Hope to Be* and of *The Foundations of Transformational Leadership* are available on the LCWR website. A description of the new offering, *A Guide to Facilitation: How to Improve the Odds of Hosting a Great Meeting* can be found on page 5.

The committee also looked at ways to offer some of the content of the current Pathways modules in shorter, more contained and focused segments for those who are unable to participate in the full, year-long process. The committee decided to wait until an upgrade of the site platform is completed before opening up these offerings.

The committee welcomes suggestions from the members, for programs and offerings that would be helpful in the ministry of religious life leadership. Comments and suggestions may be sent to Marie McCarthy, SP, associate director of programs, [mmccarthy@lwr.org](mailto:mmccarthy@lwr.org).



Advisory committee members (standing) Karin Dufault, SP; Pat Kozak, CSJ; Alba Letelier, SP; Jeanne Hagelskamp, SP; (seated) Ellen Dauwer, SC; and Marie McCarthy, SP. Not pictured: committee member Margo Ritchie, CSJ as well as Susan Weber who serves as evaluator for the project and facilitator of the meetings.

## Purchase Extra Summer 2019 Occasional Papers



The Summer 2019 issue of *Occasional Papers* is entitled **Our Search for Meaning** should be arriving soon in mailboxes. A limited supply of extra copies is available. [Orders may be placed here.](#)

## LCWR Offers New Program to Assist in the Ministry of Leadership

LCWR is excited to be able to offer leaders a new tool to assist in honing members' skills as leaders. This new module is titled, *A Guide to Facilitation: How to Improve the Odds of Hosting a Great Meeting*. This three-session program was developed in response to concerns noted by both LCWR members and professional facilitators. Members have been raising questions such as: How do we know when we need a facilitator? When is it better to have an objective outsider? When does it make more sense to just do it ourselves? What do we need to consider when facilitating a group where a variety of cultures are present? What's the difference between leading a meeting and facilitating a process -- and how do we know which is needed?

Professional facilitators who are working with religious congregations have also noted that their expertise could be used more effectively. For example, sometimes they are brought in late to assist with challenging congregational matters -- often when emotions are high and the questions are urgent. At other times, they are invited to facilitate an already wonderfully planned assembly that easily could have been facilitated by a member of the congregation's own leadership team. Sometimes they are invited to facilitate a community situation that is serious, perhaps even critical, and can see that the questions that a leadership team has already posed to the group are a bit "off" and not likely to help the group move forward in ways that will engender buy-in and energy.

The new module addresses ways to assist with these types of situations and more. Created by skilled, seasoned facilitators, the module explores the art and the skill of facilitation and is designed both to enhance the skills of experienced leaders and to assist newer leaders in developing the skills needed to facilitate well. Some of the key topics include: the importance of knowing one's self and one's biases, when to consider using contemplative engagement and communal discernment, when to engage an outside facilitator and when to "do it yourself," discovering the right question to ask, and common challenges for facilitators. A basic template for use in facilitation is included, along with the opportunity to work through an actual facilitation experience. Resources for this work include articles,

You Tube videos, and videos created by facilitators who work with LCWR communities.

Members will be able to participate in the process either by signing up as a leadership team or by signing up individually and being assigned to a group through the LCWR office. Each group will be accompanied by a facilitator /mentor during the process.

A message will be sent soon to all LCWR members announcing the opening of registration and urging all to consider signing up for this helpful – and hopefully – fun process.

## Mexican Religious Conference Includes Presentation on LCWR

LCWR national board member Yesenia Fernandez, MGSps represented LCWR at the assembly of the Conference of Religious of Mexico (CIRM) from May 3-5 in Colima, Mexico. Yesenia delivered a 30-minute presentation on LCWR's leadership formation resources, including its retreats, workshops, publications, and assembly.

Representatives of the Mexican conference have attended recent LCWR assemblies and will be present at the 2019 gathering in Scottsdale.



*Yesenia Fernandez, MGSps explains how LCWR serves its members at Mexican religious conference*

## Religious Life Conferences Respond to Hispanic Leadership Formation Needs

LCWR held a brainstorming session on how to respond to the growing need for leadership formation for persons working in Catholic Church ministry to the Hispanic population.

Held at its offices in Silver Spring on May 20, the meeting drew together representatives from the Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC), the Association of Latin American Missionary Sisters (AHLMA), the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), the Religious Brothers Conference (RBC), and LCWR. A representative from the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) will be part of this effort but was not able to attend this meeting.

The initial efforts of responding to this need will be covered by a grant received by LCWR for this specific purpose. The group discerned that its resources would be best spent by focusing on the formation needs of women and men religious who are working in ministries that serve the Hispanic population. The group will continue its planning with the intent of providing programming in 2020.



Participants in initial gathering: (standing) Inma Cuesta, CMS (LCWR/AHLMA); Arturo Chávez (MACC); John Skrodinsky, ST (RBC); Carol Zinn, SSJ (LCWR); Mark Padrez, OP (CMSM); Annmarie Sanders, IHM (LCWR); (seated) Guadalupe Ramirez, MCDP (MACC/LCWR) and Cecilia Sierra, CMS (AHLMA)

## US Bishops Address the Sexual Abuse Scandal

By Carol Zinn, SSJ – LCWR Executive Director

The spring meeting of the US Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) is usually held in various places around the country and often takes the form of a retreat. This year the already scheduled June 11-13 meeting was relocated to Baltimore where the November USCCB plenary takes place and the agenda shifted to the work of conversation and decision-making by the United States bishops. Pope Francis' recently published norms contained in the "motu proprio," mandated that bishops' conferences throughout the universal church create mechanisms for accountability of bishops in response to the ongoing impact of the sexual abuse crisis and abuse of power scandal. The timeline for this implementation is May 2020. Because of the shift in focus of this meeting, LCWR was among the organizations invited to attend as observers.

The urgency could be felt as the bishops gathered in Baltimore and their agenda was almost completely focused on the approval of the implementation of process and procedures in response to the mandate from Pope Francis. Suffice it to say that the continuing presence of the pain, anger, sense of betrayal, loss of the bishops' credibility, and the weakening of the moral authority of the Catholic Church in the United States (and globally) continues to prevail. Even as the bishops struggle to move towards increased accountability, transparency, involvement of the laity in governance structures, and pastoral compassion and outreach to the survivors of sexual abuse, there remains the work of healing, transformation, and deep listening.

The words in the outcome document express this reality in stark terms: "We, the bishops of the United States, have heard the anger expressed by so many within and outside the church over these (our) failures. The anger is justified; it has humbled us, prompting us into self-examination, repentance and a desire to do better, much better. We will continue to listen."

LCWR members are advised to take the time to review [the documents](#) that resulted from this meeting.

## LCWR Participates in National Convening on Lay Leadership for a Wounded Church and Divided Nation

LCWR was one of 40 national organizations/individuals invited to a gathering at Georgetown University sponsored by the Institute on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life made possible by the Connelly and GHR Foundations. This gathering, held from June 14-15, provided time for large group conversation as well as small group strategy discussions focused on finding paths to repair, renew, and revitalize the church's mission in the world in the wake of the clergy abuse crisis. With the recognition that there are two crises present (sexual abuse and the scandal/cover up made possible by abuse of power among the church hierarchy), the conversations revolved around:

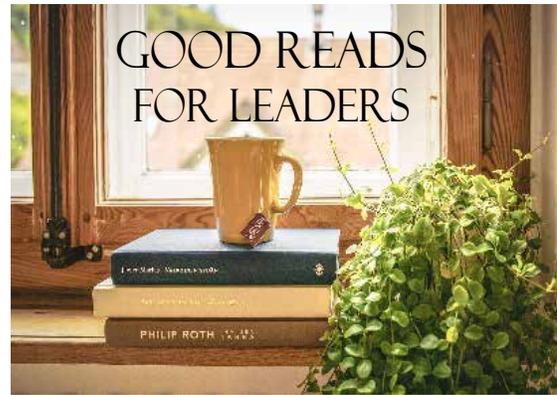
- What have we learned in the past year about the current situation and how to move forward?
- What needs to be done in order for the church to move forward?
- How can we work together as we move forward?

The strategy group topics included:

- listening to and learning from survivors
- institutional accountability
- diverse lay leadership
- overcoming clericalism
- ecclesial context for reform and renewal (theological, ecclesial, canonical, pastoral)
- faithful citizenship in an election year
- communication in a time of crisis
- pursuing the common good in a polarized church and nation
- reflecting a diverse church and a diverse nation

This gathering provided a rich opportunity for collaboration and partnerships across sectors of expertise in addressing “what is ours to do in these times?” The connections made during this gathering hold the seeds of future possibility for the laity of the United States Church to step into the fullness of their baptismal call in more intentional and creative ways. The proceedings will be published in the near future.

LCWR executive director Carol Zinn, SSJ represented the conference at the convening.



### To Dare the Our Father: A Transformative Spiritual Practice

by John Shea (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press 2018)

Recommended by Kathleen Harmon, SNDdeN

The Our Father “is a concise digest of the mind of Christ, a mind that can be appropriated by his followers who pray the prayer” (52). *How* we take on the mind of Christ through conscious, meditative, persistent praying of the Our Father is the *raison d’être* of this book.

Shea warns that choosing to make the praying of the Our Father a “transformative prayer practice” will have its challenges. We will resist changing our way of thinking and acting. We will struggle with our gradual progress. We will have to re-examine our desires and recalculate our expectations. Moreover, the text of the Our Father itself will raise challenges.

This book is not a fast read. Reading it requires reflective pauses, second and third passes at a paragraph or passage, and prolonged stops to grapple with its content. The book opens us to the Our Father as a transformative text that will change our sense of self, our understanding of the relationship between heaven and earth, and our manner of engagement with the world.

This book would be an excellent read for LCWR members because Shea’s description of transformative spiritual practice parallels the practice of contemplative prayer to which we are committed, and because his insights into the meaning of the prayer which Jesus taught us accord fully with our self-understanding as committed women religious in today’s world.

## Global Concerns Committee Share Anti-Racism Resources

*White Privilege and What to Do About It*  
by Jacqueline Battalora

Reviewed by Maria Elena Perales, Director of St. Joseph Justice Center, Orange, California

This article appears in *A Matter of Spirit*, No. 122 / Spring 2019, a publication of the [Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center](#) and explores the US Naturalization Law of 1790, which limited citizenship to whites. For 150 years the law reinforced the notion that white=American. It is just one example of systemic white advantage that is part of our heritage, the effects of which we still experience today. Whites continue to enjoy access to resources and real and symbolic advantages simply because of the color of their skin. The author further explains that white folk need not feel personal guilt as it is not their individual fault. The fault is systemic. There is, however, a need for whites to make daily choices to end the marginalization and exclusion of others.



## 'Nuns Healing Hearts' Exhibit at UN

Pope Francis launched the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of [Talitha Kum](#) last month at the UISG meeting by opening the [Nuns Healing Hearts](#) photo exhibit at the Vatican. This exhibit is a collection of photographs taken throughout the past year by Lisa Kristine, a photographer who has a great deal of experience photographing those whose lives have been affected by human trafficking.

This exhibit will be traveling to five or six countries throughout the coming year. In the United States, the exhibit will be in New York at the United Nations, hosted by the Holy See Mission, on Monday, July 29 and Tuesday, July 30, the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.



Organizers hope that hundreds of women religious will have the opportunity to view the exhibit at the UN and honor and celebrate the work being done by sisters throughout the world to end human trafficking and to form healing bonds between sisters and survivors. Gabriella Bottani, CMS. coordinator of the Talitha Kum international network, will be in New York for the opening of the exhibit.

## LCWR Supports Gun Violence Prevention Legislation in the Senate

Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence (FUPGV), a diverse multi-faith coalition of more than 50 faith-based organizations and denominations, recently sent a letter to Senators expressing strong support for the *Background Check Expansion Act*, S 42. Now that the House has passed a companion bill, it is up to the Senate to take up this life-saving piece of legislation.



In the wake of seemingly endless gun violence, faith communities are urging Congress to take up its moral obligation to enact meaningful and substantive reforms. Senate bill S 42 represents a crucial step that Congress can take to reduce the 96 deaths per day caused by guns and make communities safer.

Under current federal law, only licensed gun dealers are required to conduct a background check before completing a gun sale. Individuals and unlicensed sellers, including those at gun shows or online, can sell firearms without any background check. Today 22 percent of all gun purchases are made without a background check allowing individuals who are prohibited from owning a gun, like domestic abusers and persons with violent criminal histories, to purchase firearms. S 42 closes this loophole and prevents these individuals from having easy access to firearms. Experts estimate that this simple step could save thousands of lives.

The passage of S 42 is a critical step toward addressing gun violence.

## Upcoming LCWR Dates

**LCWR Assembly**  
 Scottsdale, Arizona  
 August 13 — 16, 2019

**LCWR Practicing Leadership: How to Embrace a Vital and Vibrant Future Workshop**  
 Carmelite Spiritual Center | Darien, Illinois  
 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

**Leading from Within Retreat**  
 San Pedro Retreat Center  
 Winter Park, Florida  
 January 10 – 15, 2021

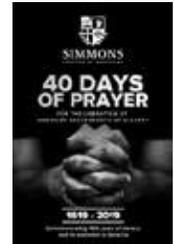
**LCWR New Leader Workshop**  
 Conference Center  
 University of St. Mary of the Lake | Mundelein, Illinois  
 March 25 — 28, 2021

**LCWR Assembly**  
 Orlando, Florida  
 August 10 — 13, 2021

**LCWR Assembly**  
 St. Louis, Missouri  
 August 9 — 12, 2022

## Join Simmons College in 40 Days of Prayer

For the past three years Simmons College of Kentucky, one of the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), has attempted to raise awareness about the upcoming anniversary of black enslavement in the United States. August 20, 2019, marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the first 19 enslaved Africans on these shores.



Multiple denominations have collaborated to give life to the *Angela Project*, an initiative named for the first enslaved person from Africa to set foot on soil that would become the United States of America. Organizers have written a book, *The Angela Project Presents: 40 Days of Prayer for the Liberation of American Descendants of Slavery*, which provides personal accounts of enslaved people describing the horrors of slavery which motivated them to escape on the Underground Railroad; facts about black history; and a daily declaration for justice.

On August 20, the day of culmination, organizers are asking black and white Churches across this nation to gather together in observance of the anniversary. They have produced a *Commemoration Ceremony Book* that will serve as a program guide. The guide includes a call for reflection on the past and projects a new hope for the future.

Congregations of women religious are invited to review the *40 Days of Prayer Book* along with the *Commemoration Ceremony Book* and to participate in days of reflection and repentance, so that people of faith might together remember the horrors and brutality of slavery, in hope of charting a new course of racial justice in the US and beyond.

Both books may be purchased on Amazon and Barnes and Noble. Information on bulk orders may be obtained from Claudette Linder at Simmons College of Kentucky, 502-776-1443, ext. or [clinder@simmonscollegeky.edu](mailto:clinder@simmonscollegeky.edu). As time draws near to August 20, information on [locations for the commemoration ceremony](#) will be available online.

## HUD Threatens to Cut Housing Assistance to Immigrant Families

The Department of Housing and Urban Development



(HUD) recently published a proposed rule that would strengthen regulations to stop undocumented individuals in mixed-status households from receiving housing benefits. Currently, residents in mixed-status households can declare themselves “ineligible” for housing subsidies and government housing assistance is then pro-rated to exclude undocumented household members making it possible for mixed-status families to live together while maintaining benefits for authorized members of the household.

The proposed rule would force families to choose between abandoning undocumented family members or losing their home and could ultimately lead to the eviction of over 100,000 people, including 55,000 children who are legal U.S. residents or citizens.

The National Housing Law Project and the National Low Income Housing Coalition have launched the [#keepfamiliesaltogether](#) campaign to raise awareness and share information including factsheets and talking points. Opponents of the rule change have until July 9 to submit comments. More information about the proposed rule and an opportunity to submit comments may be found [here](#).

## House Passes Sweeping Immigration Legislation

On June 4, the US House of Representatives voted to protect immigrant Dreamers, and recipients of Temporary Protective Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED). Seven Republicans joined the Democratic majority to pass the [American DREAM and Promise Act of 2019](#), 237-187.



The bill provides a path to citizenship for up to 2.1 million undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children. Under this act, Dreamers could be granted conditional permanent residence if they possess at least a high school education or its equivalent and meet physical presence requirements. Those who demonstrate that they have met further educational requirements, have served honorably in the Armed Forces, or have been gainfully employed for three or more years could obtain unconditional permanent residency and would be eligible to apply for citizenship after five years.

The House bill would also create a path to citizenship for more than 460,000 beneficiaries of TPS, a program which allows citizens of designated countries that are experiencing conflict or disaster to live and work legally in the United States. DED is an exercise in executive discretion not to deport a designated group for a set period. Qualified TPS and DED recipients would be granted permanent residence and could apply for citizenship after five years.

LCWR has long championed the cause of Dreamers and TPS recipients and fully supported the passage of [H.R. 6, the DREAM and Promise Act of 2019](#). In a press statement issued by the Interfaith Immigration Coalition just before the vote, LCWR executive director Carol Zinn, SSJ, reiterated the conference’s support, “LCWR is honored to stand with this nation’s Dreamers and TPS recipients. We invite members of the House to join us in acknowledging the gifts they offer our communities and to reaffirm the values upon which this nation was founded by supporting the passage of the Dream and Promise Act of 2019. It provides a commonsense path to justice for those who have long called the United States home and stability for our families, communities, and local economies.”

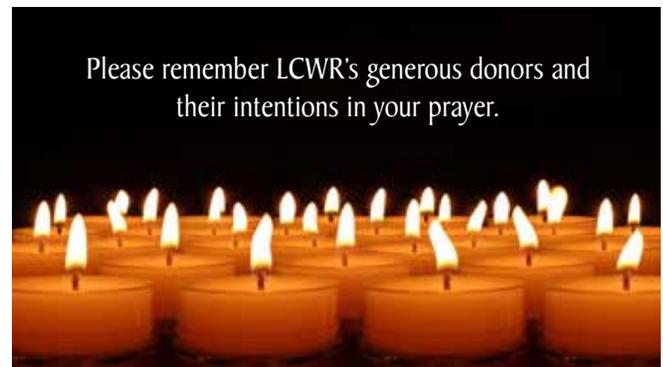
Advocates now turn their attention to the Senate which will consider two companion bills, the bipartisan S 874, [Dream Act of 2019](#) and S 2144, [SECURE Act](#). Both face an uphill battle in the Republican controlled Senate.



- Quote for press statement in support of S 42 *Background Check Expansion Act of 2019*. Carol Zinn, SSJ (5/14/19)
- Amicus brief on behalf of faith-based groups in support of the El Paso County's motion for a preliminary injunction barring the federal government from diverting funds from the Department of Defense and the Department of Treasury toward construction of a wall on the US southern border. LCWR (5/17/19)
- Letter to Bank of America and Sun Trust urging them to stop financing private prison corporations including Geo Group and CoreCivic. LCWR (5/18/19)
- Letter to Benjamin S. Carson, secretary of US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) urging him to reconsider his decision to implement proposed regulation changes which would require families receiving housing assistance to prove eligibility of all the members in their household. LCWR (5/22/19)
- Letters to Representatives Nita Lowey and Colin Peterson thanking them for their support for funding for Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) practices in the Fiscal Year 2020 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill. LCWR (5/24/19)
- Letter to HHS Secretary Azar and DHS Acting Secretary McAleenan demanding an independent investigation and greater transparency into the deaths of children in federal immigration custody. LCWR (5/28/19)
- Letter to Members of the US House of Representative urging them to vote against any anti-immigrant motions to recommit (MTRs) to the Dream and Promise Act of 2019, HR 6. LCWR (5/28/19)
- Quote for press statement in support of the Dream and Promise Act of 2019. Carol Zinn, SSJ (5/31/19)
- LCWR letter to members of Congress calling for

a robust U.S. refugee resettlement program. Carol Zinn, SSJ (6/27/19)

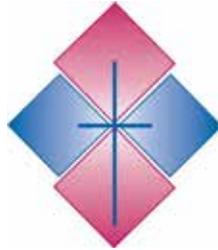
- Letter to Congress urging members to preserve and strengthen the family-based immigration system and calling on both chambers to pass the Reuniting Families Act (RFA), without undermining immigrant or border communities. LCWR (6/10/19)
- Letter to Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; Lynn Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services; and Jonathan Hayes, Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement, condemning the administration's decision to suspend recreational and educational services for unaccompanied migrant children and youth in federally contracted migrant shelters and urging them to reverse the decision and maintain these vital services. LCWR (6/10/19)
- Letter to members of the US House of Representatives encouraging members to maintain robust funding for the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Interior. LCWR (6/10/19)
- Endorsement of the No Federal Funds for Public Charge Act which would prohibit any federal funds being used to implement Department of Homeland Services' public charge rule. LCWR (6/10/19)
- Endorsement of the *Family Reunification Act*, legislation to ease the burden on immigrant families and workers by providing them with certainty regarding their status by restoring the program, known as "Section 245(i)." LCWR (6/12/19)
- Letter to Senators asking them to support the International Climate Accountability Act that is intended to keep the United States in the Paris Agreement, and to require the Administration to assemble a plan to meet our commitments under the agreement. LCWR (6/17/19)



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

## National Religious Retirement Office Updates

Once again, Catholics across the United States responded with overwhelming generosity to the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Donations to the 2018 appeal totaled a little more than \$27 million. The yearly collection underwrites all the financial assistance and services provided by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO).



For the third year in a row, the NRRO will be offering a series of educational tracks during the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) national conference. The conference is scheduled for October 1-4, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency in Dallas, Texas. Six NRRO workshops are included and feature topics ranging from music-based approaches for older adults to cultural differences around aging and death.

Religious institutes may apply to the NRRO for financial support to attend the conference. Among other areas, [Management and Continuing Education Assistance](#) offers assistance for travel expenses, accommodations, meals, and/or registration fees.



*Update* is an official publication of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious published monthly and distributed to members nationally. All rights reserved © 2019 LCWR

Editor: Annmarie Sanders, IHM  
 8737 Colesville Road, Suite 610  
 Silver Spring, MD 20910  
 Phone: 301-588-4955 Fax: 301-587-4575  
 E-mail: [asanders@lcwr.org](mailto:asanders@lcwr.org) Website: [lcwr.org](http://lcwr.org)



### Catalyst for Research

All women and men who entered religious life from 2003 – 2018 were emailed a questionnaire from CARA in April. Currently, there is a 41% response rate. Leaders are asked to remind newer members to complete the survey. Anyone who has lost or never received the questionnaire, may contact Thu T. Do, LHC, CARA research associate, via email at [ttd9@georgetown.edu](mailto:ttd9@georgetown.edu) or at 202-687-1290.

### Catalyst for Professional Development

NRVC is providing nine workshops for vocation ministers and those who support vocation ministry. The Summer Institute will be held July 9-24 at the Catholic Theological Union. There are more than 140 registrations to date. The Fall Institute will be held October 8-23 at the Marillac Center in Leavenworth. There are limited scholarships available for religious institutes needing financial assistance to keep updated in the trends, issues, and best practices in vocation ministry. All information about workshops can be accessed at [NRVC.net](http://NRVC.net).

### Catalyst for National Networking

LCWR assembly participants are asked to stop by the NRVC booth at the assembly to pick up resources for vocation ministers. NRVC looks forward to meeting LCWR members and learning more about the needs of their religious institutes.

## 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.



by Joan Mumaw, IHM  
President  
[www.solidarityfriends.org](http://www.solidarityfriends.org)

## Leave a Legacy – Make an Investment in the Future

South Sudan will be celebrating eight years since its independence on July 9. The renewed peace effort needs the support of the power of prayer from people around the world. [A prayer resource is available](#) on our website.

Solidarity volunteers are gathering, as you read this message, for their annual assembly at the Good Shepherd Peace Center outside of Juba. This is a time to renew friendships and share the mission and vision of Solidarity. A 10-year evaluation of the organization and its goals has been conducted and will set the stage for planning for the future. Keep all gathered in your prayers.

When Solidarity with South Sudan embarked on the education of teachers in this war-torn country 10 years ago, they decided to focus on training primary school teachers. “Let’s get the basics right.” The need was for 26,000 teachers. During the civil war of the past five-and-a-half years, many schools have been destroyed, teachers have been killed, displaced or fled the country. In spite of all the challenges, the Solidarity Teacher Training College has continued to educate and graduate nearly 400 new primary school teachers. These teachers are well qualified, and most are employed as educators. There is a need, however, to prepare educators as tutors and educational administrators.

Solidarity is entering into a joint pilot program with the Catholic University of South Sudan to send 20 students, 10 per year, to participate in a two-year program at the CU of SS which will result in a bachelor’s degree for those who successfully complete the program. Solidarity has agreed to provide scholarships for 20 students, 10 per year, at the cost of \$1,200 per student. As this is a two-year program, / Solidarity needs to raise \$48,000 to support 20 students who will participate in the 2019-2021 program. Students

are responsible for their own accommodations and other expenses. Some of these BA degree graduates will be sent for further studies in order to return as tutors and someday, hopefully, administrators of the STTC.

Those of us who are educators and wish to leave a legacy of education are invited to join us by contributing to this initiative which, while it seems like a “drop in the bucket” when the need is so great, will build the capacity of the education community, one teacher at a time. *These teachers will be the leaders of the future*, precisely because we, you and I, have invested in their education. A wise investment, indeed!

[Donations can be made online.](#) Checks can be sent to Friends in Solidarity, the US partner to Solidarity with South Sudan: Joan Mumaw, IHM - 8737 Colesville Rd, Suite 610 - Silver Spring, MD 20910 - [jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com](mailto:jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com)



## News from the UN

**July 18—Nelson Mandela International Day**—Every year on the anniversary of Nelson Mandela’s birth, the UN joins a call by the Nelson Mandela Foundation to devote 67 minutes of time to helping others, as a way to honor his 67 years of service to humanity as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker, and the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa.



**July 30—World Day against Trafficking in Persons**—In 2013 the UN General Assembly held a high-level meeting to appraise progress in the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. At the meeting, member states also designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons. The resolution declared that such a day was necessary to “raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.”