

# Update

*A Publication of the  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious*

June 2019

## LCWR Members Participate in International Gathering of Women Religious in Rome

Many LCWR members, including the LCWR presidency (Sharlet Wagner, CSC; Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ; and Teresa Maya, CCVI), as well as executive director (Carol Zinn, SSJ), were among the 820 participants at this year's plenary assembly of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) held from May 6-10 in Rome, Italy. The participants, who came from 80 countries, used 13 languages during the assembly which centered on the theme, "Sowers of Prophetic Hope."

Teresa Maya was the first keynoter at the assembly, addressing the topic, "A Vision for the Future of Religious Life." Her address, as well as the others, are available in video and written form on [the UISG website](#). Other presenters included Judette Gallares, a Religious of the Cenacle, who spoke on caring for creation, and Adriana Milmanda, a Missionary Servant of the Holy Spirit, who addressed intercultural living. Sheila Kinsey, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, presented the results of the UISG Sowing Hope for the Planet Campaign which is rooted in the relational character of *Laudato Si'* which encourages interdependence and "obliges us to think of one world with a common plan" (no. 164). [A newly created website](#) hosts plans and suggestions for how women religious can participate in the campaign.

The final day of the plenary included a private audience with Pope Francis, at which time UISG launched the "Nuns Healing Hearts" campaign marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Talitha Kum—a network of women religious combatting human trafficking on an international level.

The photos on page 3 are of some of the LCWR members participating in the plenary.



*Teresa Maya, CCVI addresses the UISG plenary in Rome*

### *2019 LCWR Assembly*



August 13 – 16, 2019  
Scottsdale, Arizona

### Imagining Leadership in a Global Community

As of mid-May, 620 people have registered for the 2019 LCWR assembly. Registration costs increase after June 21. Information and registration materials are available on the members' side of the [LCWR website](#).

*From the LCWR Executive Director*

## Building Bridges and Breaking Down Stereotypes

Sharlet Wagner, CSC — LCWR President

Canon law is not a topic that typically causes the eyes of women religious to light up. It is generally seen as dry and dogmatic, with a focus more on rules than on spirit and heart. I recently told some of our sisters that I find a great deal of wisdom and inspiration in the Code of Canon Law. They looked at me in a way that suggests they were mentally making plans to have me assessed for early-onset dementia!

Yet, there was a palpable energy in the room last month as 100 women religious gathered in Chicago to address the topic of Canon Law and Temporal Goods. It was not the agenda that led to the air of excitement, but rather the fact of the gathering itself. The participants were 50 members of LCWR and 50 members of CMSWR (Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious) and the day was jointly planned by the two conferences. The room was filled with introductions and joyful greetings and an underlying sense of the significance of the event.

The presentations by the three canon lawyers were excellent, each of them both thought-provoking and practical, but what gave life to the day and left many of us wanting more was the simple act of being together and sharing our experiences as leaders of our diverse congregations.

A common learning expressed in the evaluations was the discovery that we are all dealing with the same issues. One of the CMSWR sisters at my table, in speaking of our congregations' different charisms, used the analogy of the different facets of one precious diamond. Each of our charisms is a particular expression of the one Gospel that is rule of life for all of us. At the end of the day we were aware that our time together had been one small step in the process of building bridges and of breaking down stereotypes.



Our world desperately needs the witness and guidance of persons of religious conviction who are willing to do the work of building bridges and breaking down stereotypes. Rigid belief systems, old grievances, and hunger for power are fueling an epidemic of religious-based violence. The litany of these attacks just over the past year strikes at our hearts, both literally and symbolically – a Jewish synagogue in Pittsburgh, Catholic Churches in Sri Lanka, A mosque in New Zealand, another Jewish synagogue in California. Each time we are confronted

with death and destruction ostensibly motivated by religious belief I wonder anew how it is acceptable to some believers to clutch sacred scripture in one hand while raising the other in a fist of fury against those who dare to be different.

Of course, the historic differences between our two conferences are in no way akin to the deep animosities felt by some toward those of different faiths. Yet the willingness to come together and discover anew both our commonalities and our differences lends credence to our work toward reconciliation and peace in our world. In this simple act of gathering lies one answer to the question of what we can do in response to the epidemic of attacks on those who are different. We can drop pebbles of peace into the troubled waters of our world, trusting that the ripple effects will be felt. We can gather with those with whom we differ, and dialogue respectfully about those differences. We can speak to our world and speak again, in our actions and in our words, in as many ways as we can, of the truth that God is God of all and that all of God's wonderfully-diverse children are different facets of one diamond.

*We can drop pebbles of peace into the troubled waters of our world, trusting that the ripple effects will be felt.*

*We can gather with those with whom we differ, and dialogue respectfully about those differences.*

*See more about this event on page 4.*

# LCWR Members at the UISG Plenary



## LCWR and CMSWR Host Charism and Mission Workshop

The Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) and LCWR co-sponsored a day of reflection on aspects of the ministry of religious leaders on April 30 at the Felician Center in Chicago. The day included input, reflection, and conversation guided by three canon lawyers: Deborah Cerullo, SSND; Sharon Euart, RSM; and Lynn Jarrell, OSU. Approximately 100 leaders participated. *(See reflection about the event by LCWR president Sharlet Wagner, CSC on page 2)*



*LCWR and CMSWR executive directors Carol Zinn, SSJ and Sister Mary Christine Cremin, RSM*



*Presenters: Deborah Cerullo, SSND; Sharon Euart, RSM; and Lynn Jarrell, OSU*



## Order Summer 2019 Occasional Papers

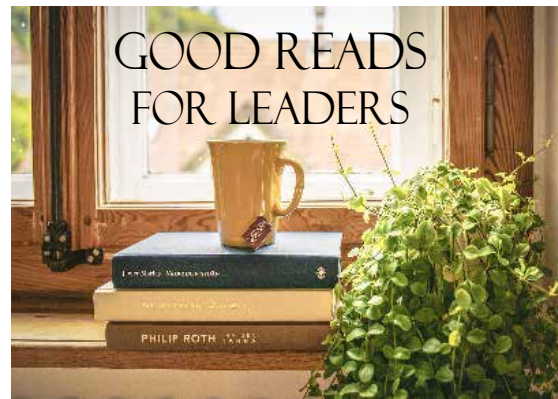


The Summer 2019 issue of *Occasional Papers* is entitled **Our Search for Meaning**. A document created by LCWR several years ago, “Dimensions of Leadership,” notes that an essential part of spiritual leadership is “an ability to connect the richness of the inner world with the significant challenges and movements of a given time. The symbolic/meaning-making dimension attends to urgent human longings for God, wholeness, meaning, and harmony.”

Women religious are increasingly experiencing a call to join with others in this search for meaning. With so much in flux in the world today and with all the ambiguity and uncertainty in our life experiences, being able to find and articulate meaning is an essential component for a healthy and fruitful life.

This issue of *Occasional Papers* will explore some of the significant changes occurring in religious life and the seeds of newness that are appearing – such as the growing intercultural make-up of congregations, the greater sense of an intercongregational religious life, the draw of young adults to women religious in experiences of shared meaning and belonging, as well as all the efforts to right-size our communities to our new realities. The issue will also include reflections by individuals from different fields on how they find meaning: Walter Brueggemann; Margaret Farley, RSM; Edwina Gately; Anthony Gittens, CPPS; Katie Gordon; Nicholas Kristoff; Courtney E. Martin; Jim Martin, SJ; Cokie Roberts; Mary Southard, CSJ; and Jean Stokan.

LCWR prints only the number of copies that are pre-ordered. [Orders for this issue may be placed here](#) and must be received by **June 3, 2019**. Copies will be mailed in June 2019.



## The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

by Rachel Joyce, Random House, 2012

Recommended by Nonie Gutzler, MM

This lovely book is a modern-day parable drawing the reader into the seismic shifts in the life of Harold Fry as he embarks on his pilgrimage of 600 miles to see his dying friend Queenie Hennessey. Through the skillful writing of Rachel Joyce, his pilgrimage becomes ours too. We meet some of those he encounters on the way – an immigrant from Eastern Europe, a gay businessman who lives in a world of shame and secrets, people who follow him and then leave when he doesn’t fulfill their expectations. The suicide of his son, David, and his estranged relationship with his wife, Maureen, has enclosed Harold in a world of unresolved and heartbreaking grief and regret. Each of these characters touches a part of Harold’s life and a part of our life too.

Joyce’s writing brings us to the heart of those in our communities – and our world – who carry wounds and hurts from years ago and who are in need of healing and reconciliation. With Harold, we enter the reality that parts of how we have lived our life in the past are dying – just as Queenie is dying – so that all can be made new. This novel is a call to reflect on the seismic shifts we are encountering in religious life today, the interior journeys yet to be made and the healing that needs to happen on our pilgrimage into the future.

## Refugee Advocates Take to the Hill

Refugee Council USA hosted its annual Advocacy Days on May 8 and 9. More than 200 people from 33 states meet with the staff of their representatives and senators to demonstrate support for refugees and asylum seekers.



This year, the administration has set the national US refugee admissions goal at a paltry 30,000, far below the 30-year annual average of 95,000. This despite the record number of United Nations estimates that more than 50 million people worldwide need refuge.

Advocates included five women religious who accompanied delegations on visits to legislators from Minnesota, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, and Utah. The delegations asked members of Congress to demand that the administration meet the 30,000-refugee admissions goal for this year and called on them to demonstrate their support for an admissions goal of at least 75,000 next year.

Participants asked that their members of Congress support two pieces of legislation currently before both houses. The *Guaranteed Refugee Admissions Ceiling Enhancement (GRACE Act)*, S 108/ HR2146, would restore US leadership on refugee resettlement and uphold the nation's commitment to provide safety for refugees fleeing persecution. This bill would set a minimum floor for annual refugee admissions at 95,000, the historic average, and increase oversight of the administration through mandatory reporting requirements to Congress.

The second, *The National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act, (NO BAN Act)* S1123/ HR2214, would repeal the executive orders that have halted refugee admissions, banned individuals from a number of Muslim-majority countries, and barred individuals from seeking asylum between ports of entry. It would also strengthen the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit religious discrimination and limit overly broad executive authority to issue such bans.

At the workshop preceding the visits to the Hill, Senator Edward Markey (D-MA) told participants the

story of his immigrant grandfather who came from Ireland. "They didn't know what was possible in America, but they knew that the possibilities in Ireland were not good. They took a chance. They came to build this country.... Those people were great heroes. Today's refugees and asylum seekers are no different," he said.

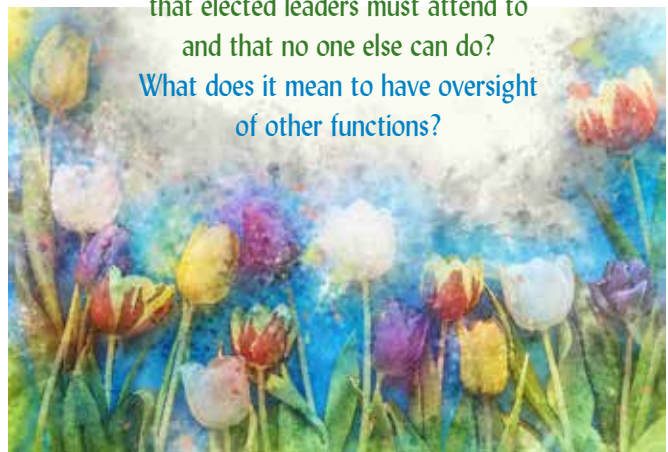
## Global Concerns Committee Share Anti-Racism Resources

This month, the Global Concerns Committee is pleased to be able to share our spring 2019 publication of *Resolutions to Action*. Many thanks to Bea Triboldi, OP for her piece, *White Privilege* and to all who are working to implement the LCWR assembly resolution: *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.*



## EMERGING QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & CONVERSATION

What is the real role of religious life leaders today?  
 What are the canonical and administrative functions that elected leaders must attend to and that no one else can do?  
 What does it mean to have oversight of other functions?



## Bills to Protect Dreamers and TPS Recipients Introduced in Congress

Bills that would protect both Dreamers and those with Temporary Protective Status (TPS) have been introduced in the House and Senate.

The bipartisan S 874 [Dream Act of 2019](#), introduced by Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Richard Durbin (D-IL), would protect numerous immigrant youth from deportation, including the approximately 700,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. The bill offers qualifying immigrant youth “conditional permanent resident status” and a path to full lawful permanent resident status and eventual citizenship.

Senate bill S 879 the [Safe Environment from Countries Under Repression and Emergency Act](#) (SECURE Act) sponsored by Senator Chris Van Hollen (D- MD), would protect Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) holders and provide them with a pathway to lawful permanent resident status. TPS is a renewable immigration status that allows individuals to remain and work lawfully in the US during a period in which it is deemed unsafe for them to return home. DED is a discretionary and temporary stay of removal that is granted by the President to individuals from designated countries. There are approximately 320,000 TPS holders in the United States who have recently experienced cancellation of the TPS designation for their home country and whose futures are currently being litigated in federal court.

Similar legislation was introduced earlier in the House. The [Dream and Promise Act of 2019](#), HR 6, establishes a roadmap to US citizenship for immigrant youth and current or potential holders of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or Deferred Enforced Departure (DED). Like the Senate bills, HR 6 would provide conditional permanent resident status and a path to lawful permanent resident status and eventual US citizenship for immigrant youth who entered the United States before age 18, have four or more years of residency,



and graduated from high school (or the equivalent). It also provides an opportunity for people who currently have or who may be eligible for TPS or DED who have three or more years of residency to apply for lawful permanent resident status and, eventually, US citizenship.

## Go Orange on June 7 -- National Gun Violence Awareness Day

People across the country will be wearing orange on Friday June 7 to mark the 5<sup>th</sup> annual National Gun Violence Awareness Day. The

“Wear Orange” campaign was inspired by a group of Chicago teens who asked classmates to commemorate the life of their friend, 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton, who was shot and killed one week after marching in President Obama’s second inaugural parade. By wearing orange, a color that hunters use to protect themselves in the woods, proponents hope to make orange a symbol for the value of human life and honor the 88 American lives cut short by gun violence every day.

[Everytown](#) and their partner organizations continue to do life-saving work in order to realize a future free from gun violence. “We wear orange to be seen, and demand that we be heard.” Organizations and communities can [sign on here](#) to participate and host an action. More information and a list of local events can be found at [Wear Orange](#).



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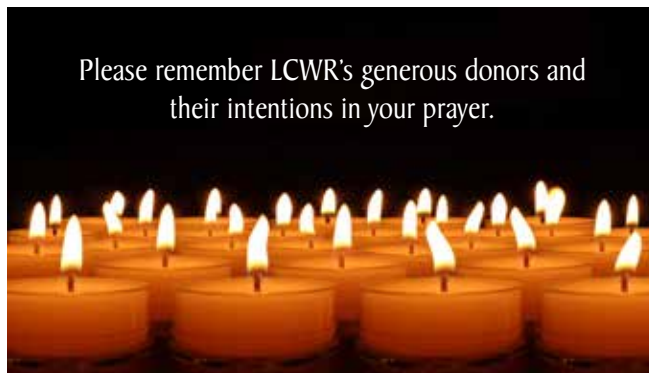


- Letter to EPA Administrator Andrew R. Wheeler urging him not to weaken the Environmental Protection Agency's Mercury and Air Toxic Standards. LCWR (4/16/19)
- Letter to Senate and House leadership and appropriators urging them to prioritize funding for programs that address true human needs instead of increasing the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) budget for deportation, detention, and border militarization. LCWR (4/19/19)
- Letter to members of the House of Representatives asking that they support HR 9, the *Climate Action Now Act*, legislation that is intended to keep the United States in the *Paris Agreement*, and requiring the Administration to assemble a plan to meet U.S. commitments under the agreement. LCWR (4/29/19)
- Amicus brief on behalf of faith-based groups in support of the State of California'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 (4/30/19)
- Endorsement of HR 1945, the *Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act of 2019*. LCWR (4/25/19)
- Joint statement to the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* (NPT). LCWR (4/26/19)
- Faith-based letter to the House Judiciary Committee urging members to support family and community unity, while rejecting amendments to HR 6, *The Dream and Promise Act*, that are punitive or focus on criminality. LCWR (4/28/19)
- Letter to members of Congress from faith-based organizations expressing strong support for the

*Guaranteed Refugee Ceiling Enhancement Act* (GRACE Act), which would set the minimum floor for annual refugee admissions at 95,000, the historic average. LCWR (5/9/19)

- Letter to members of Congress opposing the Administration's proposal to significantly weaken regulation and oversight of firearms exports. These legal gun exports, typically rationalized in Latin America as part of the drug war, have been used in human rights violations in Mexico, Honduras, and many other countries. LCWR (5/13/19)
- Petition calling on the White House, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Justice to end its relentless attacks on asylum seekers and to restore justice. LCWR (5/10/19)
- Letter from faith-based organizations expressing support for the *Background Check Expansion Act*, S 42. LCWR 5/10/19)
- Letter to Congress from racial justice, immigrant rights, humanitarian, good governance, and faith-based organizations urging Congress to reject the White House's request for additional funding for detention and border militarization. LCWR (5/10/19)

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





## 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

## Catholic Health Association Names New Leader

Mary Haddad, RSM has been appointed as the 10th president and chief executive officer of the Catholic Health Association (CHA). She currently serves as vice president, sponsorship and mission services for CHA and will succeed Carol Keehan, DC, who will retire in June after serving 14 years as CHA's president and CEO.



Mary has served with CHA since 2009 and oversees critical areas of sponsorship, mission, ethics, leadership formation and learning integration for CHA. In her current role she consults with Catholic health ministry sponsors, CEOs, board members and church officials to advance the mission of Catholic health care in the United States and collaborates on strategic planning and advocacy for the association.

Mary has served in a variety of roles in ministries that care for the sick and vulnerable. Early in her career she worked as a teacher, school principal, and social worker as well as a volunteer in Belize and Trinidad. Prior to joining CHA, she was administrative fellow at Saint Anthony's Health System in Alton, Illinois and served on the regional leadership team of the Sisters of Mercy, St. Louis.

### 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.



## NRVC Offers Workshops

The mission of the National Religious Vocation Conference reflects its commitment to provide membership with educational opportunities, relevant resources, and other supportive services that strengthen and enhance the practiced ministerial skills of those serving in vocation ministry. Information and registration materials are available at [NRVC.net](http://NRVC.net). In addition to the foundational courses (orientation program, ethics, and behavioral assessment), there are three new workshops:

### Due Diligence in Vocation Ministry, July 18-20, 2019

This workshop is designed for experienced vocation ministers who have been involved in vocation ministry for *at least three years*. It will provide a comprehensive approach to update participants on the trends, best practices, and challenges of contemporary vocation ministry. Topics include the demographics to consider when inviting discerners, specific candidate issues that delay or preclude admission, animating membership, and the latest research on newer members.

### Communication Skills to Promote Vocations, July 22-24, 2019

This workshop is created from the syllabus of the NRVC Vocation Ambassadors Program and will teach those vested in vocation ministry and new membership how best to promote vocations through diverse platforms. This interactive, hands-on workshop will focus on practicing new ideas, strategizing for more effective communications, and avoiding online mistakes. Learn practical tips for developing social media platforms, website, newsletter, and other technology to share the community charism.

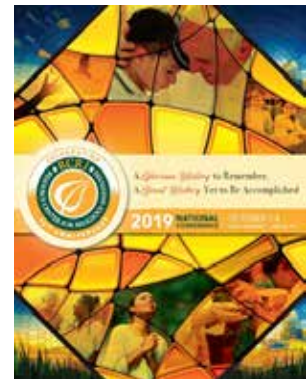
Communities that bring a millennial, member/employee/associate of their religious institute will receive a \$300 refund at the conclusion of the workshop for the additional participant.

### The Art of Accompaniment and Discernment, October 21-23, 2019

Approaching the theme from their own expertise, each presenter will offer their professional insights and ministerial experiences to stir the collective imagination for implementing the core messages from the Synod on Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment.

## Registration Opens Soon for RCRI 2019 Conference

RCRI's 2019 national conference, celebrating RCRI's 10th anniversary, will be held from October 1 to 4 at the Hyatt Regency Dallas, Texas. The theme will be *"A Glorious History to Remember; A Great History Yet to be Accomplished."*



**Keynote Speaker: Norma Pimentel, MJ**, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley

**Workshops:** 39 workshops covering topics related to finance, canon and civil law, and planning for institutes in transition. RCRI will offer once again a track on eldercare sponsored by NRRO. Mass will be available each day and on October 3, a conference liturgy will be celebrated for all participants.

**Pre-Conference Workshops:** Four pre-conference workshops will be offered prior to the conference: *The Role of a Commissary: Assisting Communities on the Journey of Completion* – Paula Cooney, IHM; Jane Hibbard, OSB; and Ann Lacour, MSC; *Cor Orans – A Year Later* – Lynn McKenzie, OSB and Nancy Bauer, OSB; *Legal Overview for Religious Institutes 2019* – Michael Airdo; and *TRENDS for Beginners* – Larry Lundin, SJ and Hertha Longo, CSA.

**Conference Registration:** A link will be posted on the RCRI website at [www.trcri.org](http://www.trcri.org) in late May for members and guests to register. RCRI members will receive a discount if they register before the deadline.

## Updates from NRRO

This spring, the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) launched *Leading with Pastoral Presence*, a new workshop designed to help congregational leaders better support members with addiction, depression, and other serious challenges. Fifty-nine participants attended the inaugural gathering, which was held at the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien, Illinois. The workshop offered practical knowledge and resources to leadership and to several healthcare support partners who were also in attendance.



The results of the 2018 Retirement Fund for Religious collection are being finalized. Once again, US Catholics have responded with loving generosity to the needs of senior religious and their communities. As a result, the NRRO will distribute financial assistance to hundreds of eligible religious institutes in mid-to-late June. These funds offer supplemental support in meeting the current and future needs of elder members. [More information about NRRO assistance is available.](#)



### Final Call for RFC Life Commitment Program

The **Life Commitment Program (LCP)** is an eight-day experience that provides an opportunity for Catholic religious women and men to contemplate and reflect on their call to embrace a lifetime commitment to consecrated life. Those discerning or anticipating profession of final vows gather in the company of their peers with presenters, seasoned in religious life and skilled in adult learning processes, to engage the compelling questions, experiences, and insights that speak to the reality of living vowed religious life in the 21st century. [Application available.](#)



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

### Grace Abounds...

In recent weeks we have been celebrating the Christ event. With the Resurrection we live in the hope that all of God's creation, each and every one of us, is destined for eternal life with the Triune God. The situation in South Sudan often seems hopeless and yet grace abounds in the midst of civil war and ethnic hatred. I was left speechless, a few weeks ago, as I viewed [the video of Pope Francis](#) kissing the feet of the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir, and four of the five designated Vice-Presidents of the interim government of South Sudan which is scheduled to assume leadership in May. Important to note is the hostility that exists between the President, Salva Kiir and the First Vice-President, Riek Machar, who belong to the two major ethnic groups of South Sudan, the Dinka and the Nuer. These two men and their tribes have been at war with one another for decades and are the cause of the most recent civil war during which nearly 400,000 people have died and 4 million out of 12 million people have been displaced. This unusual act of humility in the service of peace concluded a two-day retreat for the leaders of South Sudan hosted by Pope Francis, at his residence, along with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the former moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. These three Christian denominations represent the major religious denominations in South Sudan. One South Sudan expert, Payton Knopf, said, "It would literally take a miracle from God for Riek and Salva to ever be part of the solution here." Perhaps we are witnessing a miracle.

Recently, in a meeting of S. Sudan leaders and leaders of surrounding countries (IGAD), a joint resolution was signed to extend the date of implementation of the resigned agreement for six months beyond the May 12 deadline. The description of the meeting was one of cordiality and a genuine interest of the leaders to seek peace. Yes, grace abounds.

*(continued on page 12)*

## News from the UN

**June 5—World Environment Day** is the United Nations' most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of the environment. Since it began in 1974, it has grown to become a global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated in more than 100 countries.



World Environment Day 2019 will be hosted by China, with a theme of “Air Pollution.” Today, 92 per cent of people worldwide do not breathe clean air. Approximately 7 million people worldwide die prematurely each year from air pollution, with about 4 million of these deaths occurring in Asia-Pacific. Air pollution costs the global economy \$5 trillion every year in welfare costs and ground-level ozone pollution is expected to reduce staple crop yields by 26 percent by 2030.

World Environment Day 2019 will urge governments, industry, communities, and individuals to come together to explore renewable energy and green technologies and improve air quality in cities and regions across the world.

**June 12—World Day Against Child Labor** was launched by the International Labor Organization in 2002. Today, throughout the world, approximately 168 million children work, many full-time. They do not go to school and have little or no time to play. They are denied the chance to be children. More than half of them are exposed to the worst forms of child labor such as work in hazardous environments, slavery, and illicit activities including drug trafficking and prostitution, as well as involvement in armed conflict. Each year on June 12, the world day brings together governments, employers, and workers, as well as civil society to highlight the plight of child laborers and to explore what can be done to help them.

**June 20—World Refugee Day** was inaugurated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001 in recognition of the tremendous work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. More than 50 million people are currently displaced by war and violence, some 33.3 million in their own country and 16.7 million as refugees, mostly in neighboring countries. Every 15 minutes one family is forced into flight. In a world where violence forces families to flee for their lives, the time is now to show that the global public will [stand with refugees](#).

## Grace Abounds ...

*(continued from page 11)*

Let us join with Pope Francis and the other religious leaders and continue to pray for peace in South Sudan. On another note, Solidarity continues to seek personnel for the work being done in S Sudan. [More information on openings is available.](#)

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry initiated by members of UISG in 2009. [jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com](mailto:jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com) 8737 Colesville Rd, Ste. 610, Silver Spring, MD 20910