

November 2019

## CCUSA Honors LCWR Response to the Southern Border Crisis

Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) honored LCWR with its Good Samaritan Award for its rapid and generous response to assist with the needs of asylum seekers crossing the border between Mexico and the United States. LCWR members missioned more than 1000 women religious for volunteer service at the border and donated more than \$1,000,000.

CCUSA president and CEO Donna Markham, OP noted as she presented the award and a proclamation to LCWR that when she had turned to LCWR for assistance in caring for the asylum seekers she was aware she was looking to “the most formidable women” she knows.

LCWR president Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ accepted the award (given by CCUSA only in extraordinary circumstances) on behalf of the conference and its members at the annual CCUSA assembly in Albuquerque, New Mexico on September 25. [Donna’s remarks](#) as well as [a video presentation](#) on the service of women religious at the border are available online.



CCUSA president and CEO Donna Markham, OP and LCWR president Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ at the CCUSA annual assembly.

The proclamation and award



## Registration Open for the 2020 New Leaders Workshop

The LCWR New Leaders Workshop for 2020 is now open for registration. The workshop will be offered from Thursday, March 26 at 3:00 PM to Sunday, March 29 at 11:00 AM at St. Mary of the Lake University Conference Center in Mundelein, Illinois. LCWR urges anyone who has been serving in elected leadership for two years or fewer, or has recently returned to leadership after previously serving, to consider this workshop.

This workshop provides resources and processes that assist participants in developing the dispositions and skills needed to serve as a transformational leader. The workshop focuses on the topics that leaders have named as critically important including spiritual leadership, canon and civil law, human development, team building, care of the elderly, and planning for the future. With an outstanding group of resource persons, participants will explore these topics through processes grounded in contemplative engagement, input, case studies and role play, reflection, and discussion. Participants consistently cite the workshop as being extremely helpful in their ministry as elected leaders.

Register Now  
March 26 - 29, 2020  
Mundelein, Illinois

*From the LCWR Presidency*

## Reflections Under the Redwoods

by Sharlet Wagner, CSC — LCWR Past President

*I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.\**

During my first term on the general leadership team I came across a painting of a grove of redwood trees. As a lover of trees, the scene particularly appealed to me. I put the painting on my office wall, and it remained there for my 10 years in office. Sometimes, on the days when everything was just too much, I would walk over to the painting and gaze into it, focusing on the ground at the base of the redwoods. I could almost feel the soft forest floor beneath my feet and hear the hush of the place, and my body and spirit would take a deep breath and relax a little.

I am currently enjoying the great gift of a sabbatical at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, and imagine my delight last week when the sabbatical group visited Muir Woods and I found myself in the midst of my painting come to life! A grove of Coast Redwoods surrounded me, the ground was soft beneath my feet, visitors spoke in voices of hushed awe, and I felt my spirit take a deep breath and relax a little.

In the visitors center I learned that the redwood trees, a species that has been in existence for 240 million years, are now threatened by climate change. My thoughts went to trees in other parts of the world, and particularly at this moment in the Amazon. As I write this column the Synod on the Amazon is underway, and the forests of the Amazon continue to burn.

The pope has spoken at the synod about the interconnectedness of all life and the Vatican News summary notes that the issues being discussed are all related. Such issues include ecology, the future of the planet, violence toward the Amazon and its indigenous peoples, culture, evangelization, and the enculturation of the Gospel. The people of God are



What would we do  
differently  
if we truly grasped  
the reality of our  
intertwined roots?

continuing to discover ever more deeply the interconnected reality of all of God's creation.

During my visit to Muir Woods I learned other facts about the Redwoods that spoke to our current reality and the interconnectedness being discussed at the synod. I learned that a Coast Redwood tree can reach heights of nearly 400 feet, but its roots are shallow, only about five or six feet deep. How do such shallow roots hold such massive height? Redwoods live in groves, and the roots, which can spread out up to 100 feet from the trunk, intertwine, sometimes even fusing together. The trees literally help hold one another up.

We would all do well to reflect upon the redwoods. What would we do differently if we truly grasped the reality of our intertwined roots? Imagine a world in which civil and religious leaders and members recognized the truth that we are all rooted in common soil, and that the well-being of each depends upon the well-being of all. We are deeply

aware that our congregational roots and our lives as religious intertwine with one another. Our roots as people of God likewise intertwine with those of all God's children around the world, and we all together are part of the massive interwoven roots of creation and the cosmos. In God's magnificent design we hold one another up, and we have much to learn from the trees.

*Poems are made by fools  
like me  
But only God can make a  
tree.\**

\*Trees by Joyce Kilmer



## LCWR Launches New Effort to Explore Religious Institute Governance Possibilities

LCWR members will soon be receiving an announcement about the new effort the conference is making to look at how religious congregations may assist one another to sustain their own governance into the future. On November 4, LCWR will send a message that introduces the program and some materials for further reflection and conversation. All leadership teams are asked to set aside time (one hour) to work with the materials, which includes a short video of Mary Hughes, OP, director of LCWR's transitional services, and Carol Zinn, SSJ, LCWR executive director.

The new program is being developed based on what LCWR has learned over the past five years as it worked with congregations that were seeking ideas and assistance about how to best move into the future particularly as US religious life demographics change significantly. Many congregations are seeing that their pools of viable candidates for elected leadership are dramatically decreasing. As these congregations explore their capacity to sustain their own governance (especially canonical governance) and look for ways to creatively collaborate with other institutes, they are discovering that the connections are most likely to be with institutes that are nearby geographically. This important insight has now shaped the next steps for exploring how the transitional services ministry might best serve US religious life at this time.

With funding from the GHR Foundation, LCWR will gather members and share what has been learned thus far more fully in the format of five geographic gatherings of religious institutes throughout the country in May and June 2020. Two gatherings will be on the east coast, two in the mid-west, and one in the southwest.



*Video with  
Carol Zinn, SSJ and Mary Hughes, OP*

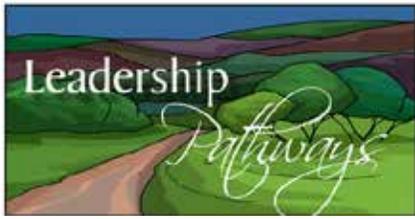
## Women Religious Explore Concepts of Global Leadership

On October 26 LCWR executive director Carol Zinn, SSJ presented at a gathering of sisters from Vietnam, Africa, Mexico, Spain, and the United States at the Comboni Missionary Sisters center in Richmond, Virginia for a day of prayer, input, cultural awareness, and relationship-building. Co-sponsored by the Comboni Sisters and the Association of Latin American Missionary Sisters (AHLMA), the day drew on the theme of the 2019 LCWR assembly, *Imagining Leadership in a Global Community*. Those gathered reflected on their own capacity to exercise leadership with a global heart and mind bringing the diversity of gifts together through the lens of the gospel message of unity, hope, and joy.

When one of the participants asked if there could be a curriculum written about how to lead in a global community, Carol invited some of the sisters to stand and link arms, remarking, "Women religious are the curriculum about how to lead in a global community as we continue to learn how to celebrate the rich gift of diversity that religious life expresses." The day included life-giving prayer, rituals of inclusion, small group conversation, and a delicious home-made lunch.



*Carol Zinn, SSJ (second from left): "Women religious are the curriculum about how to lead in a global community as we continue to learn how to celebrate the rich gift of diversity that religious life expresses."*



## New Opportunities for Accessing LCWR Programs

The fall registration period for LCWR Leadership Pathways programs has finished and several new groups have formed. Under the recommendation of the Leadership Pathways Advisory Committee, LCWR is now experimenting with a rolling registration process whereby already existing groups could register and begin a program anytime throughout the year. While it is necessary to have a specific enrollment period when forming random groups, an already existing group can begin at any time.

In an effort to increase the ease of participating in Leadership Pathways, the conference encourages LCWR members who already have a group formed to register at any time during the year. Groups may consist of a leadership team, members of a specific LCWR region, or any other configuration of LCWR members. The ideal size for the group is four to six members. Groups need to send the names and contact numbers of each person in the group as well as the name of the program in which they are interested to LCWR associate director for programs Marie McCarthy, SP at [mmccarthy@lcwr.org](mailto:mmccarthy@lcwr.org). She will then provide registration forms to the group and also arrange for a group mentor.

This new practice of allowing a group to start a program when it is ready is likely to work particularly well for “A Guide to Facilitation” and for “Becoming the Leaders We hope to Be.” Any questions about registering a group for Leadership Pathways may be directed to Marie McCarthy.

### Financial Assistance Available for LCWR Programs

LCWR wishes to remind members that, as a part of the generous support of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, some financial assistance is available to members who register for LCWR programs. Members who need financial assistance in order to afford participation in the programs may contact Marie McCarthy, SP ([mmccarthy@lcwr.org](mailto:mmccarthy@lcwr.org)) to request assistance.

## Deepening Groups

In 2018, in response to the expressed desire of a number of members to participate in an ongoing deepening group, LCWR set up a process to assist members who so desire to form a group. At that time, several groups formed and have continued to meet. The groups are self-organizing and set their own agenda and meeting times.

Since that time some additional members have indicated that they would like to participate in a deepening group. LCWR would be happy to facilitate interested members in finding one another and establishing a group. Once the groups are formed they will be self-organizing with group members accountable to one another. Any LCWR member looking for assistance in forming a group is asked to contact [mmccarthy@lcwr.org](mailto:mmccarthy@lcwr.org).

A fuller description of the groups and their purpose can be found under the members only section of the website. Some resources for getting started and for structuring the groups are also available on the site.

## Renewal for 2020 LCWR Membership Underway

All LCWR members are reminded to renew their 2020 membership now. Since renewal opened on October 2, a large number of leaders have responded.

Any congregation that needs to request assistance in meeting the cost of membership is asked to contact Chris Beckett, SCN at [cbeckett@lcwr.org](mailto:cbeckett@lcwr.org) as soon as possible. Because of the generous gifts of LCWR members, the conference has a membership assistance fund that can be used for such requests. The conference encourages any community in need to take advantage of this help.

## 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.

## LCWR Representatives Attend CMSWR National Assembly

The Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) held its national assembly in September in St. Louis under the theme, "Called to be Experts in Communion." The days focused on the members' union in the Body of Christ and the ways in which that union is affected by cultural differences. The time included a panel by religious superiors who lead communities of sisters from diverse cultural backgrounds. Speakers included Mother Mary McGreevy, RSM; George Weigel; and Sr. Maria de Guadalupe, SSVM.

LCWR president Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ and executive director Carol Zinn, SSJ represented LCWR at the assembly and enjoyed the warm welcome and gracious hospitality of the CMSWR sisters.



*LCWR executive director Carol Zinn, SSJ; CMSWR executive director Sr. Mary Christine Cremin, RSM; CMSWR chair Mother Mary McGreevy, RSM; and Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ at the CMSWR national assembly*

## Leadership Collaborative Works to Prepare Religious and Associates for the Future

Several LCWR members, associates, and staff serve on the board of the Leadership Collaborative, a working group of women's religious congregations and organizations that strives to develop the capacity for transformational leadership among younger women religious and associates. The collaborative's board and staff met from October 8-10 at the Maritime Center in Baltimore to reflect on religious life and its evolution, discuss how the efforts and programs of the collaborative can continue to effectively deepen relationships among religious and associates, and prepare religious to assume leadership in a variety of settings, particularly noting the growing intercultural make-up of the women coming to religious life today.



Shown here are the Leadership Collaborative board and staff (standing): Rita Waters, RSM; Ellen Dauwer, SC (LCWR associate); Joan Gallagher, CSJ (LCWR member); Montiel Rosenthal, SC; Michelle Stachowiak, CSSF (LCWR member); Judith Frikker, RSM (LCWR member); Vicki Wuolle, CSA (LCWR associate); and Charlene Diorka, SSJ; (seated): Patty Johnson, CSJ (LCWR associate); Barbara Hagedorn, SC; Tina Bernheimer; Mary Stanco, HM; Mary Hughes, OP (LCWR staff); Krista Clements Orlan; and Annmarie Sanders, IHM (LCWR staff).

More information on the Leadership Collaborative is available on its [website](#).



## Talitha Kum Delegates Gather in Rome for First General Assembly

Eighty-six delegates representing 52 networks in 48 countries journeyed to Rome for the first assembly of the Talitha Kum international network of consecrated life against trafficking in persons, a project of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG). United by the desire to seek paths of freedom and justice, and by the commitment to end human trafficking they came together to reflect on the theme, “Together against trafficking: weaving a network in love,” to learn from one another, celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Talitha Kum, and set direction for the network for the next five years.

On Thursday, September 26, Pope Francis received the delegates and staff, offering his support and encouragement. “I congratulate you on the important work you are doing in this complex and dramatic field. A work that unites the mission and collaboration between the institutes [of consecrated life]. You have chosen to be at the forefront. Therefore, the numerous congregations that have worked and are working as the vanguard of the Church’s missionary action against the scourge of human trafficking deserve gratitude,” declared the Holy Father during the private audience, in the Sala del Concistoro, in the Apostolic Palace. He then added, “Working together like this is an example. It is an example for the whole Church, also for us: men, priests, bishops... Keep it up!” Finally, while he said he understood that the many struggles congregations face today might cause them to hesitate to take on a new ministry, he said, “tell them the pope said that internal problems are solved by getting out onto the street, letting in fresh air.”

After the Holy Father took time to greet each of those present, the sisters gifted him with an icon from Syria,

created by the artist Nemat Badawi with fragments of the ruins of Aleppo.

A week of cross-cultural dialogue and continental discussions led delegates to unanimously affirm a statement of direction for 2020-25. The [statement](#) reads in part: “As members of an international network and followers of Jesus Christ, we hear the call to respond to the root causes of human trafficking which transcend national borders. In order to live our mission and vision, we have identified three priority areas of structural injustice to address in the fight to end human trafficking.

1. The power differential between men and women in all sectors: economic, social, familial, political, cultural, and religious.
2. The dominant model of neo-liberal development and unfettered capitalism creates situations of vulnerability that are exploited by recruiters, traffickers, employers, and buyers.
3. Unjust and inadequate immigration law and policy coupled with forced migration and displacement puts people at greater risk of being trafficked.

They called on the church and governments to address these root causes of human trafficking and pledged themselves to work in collaboration and solidarity to confront the structural issues that perpetuate human trafficking.

The “10 Years Talitha Kum Award” was awarded to 10 sisters, including Ann Scholz, SSND, LCWR’s associate director for social mission, for their contributions to the development of the international network.



## Leading from Within Retreat

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



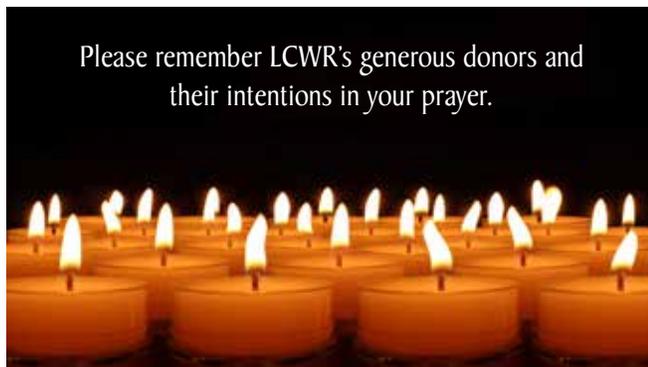
January 12 — 17, 2020  
Redemptorist Renewal Center

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 group sharing and individual conversation with the directors.

Space is limited to 35 persons and just a few more spaces are available.

More information and registration materials can be found at [lcrw.org/calendar/leading-within](http://lcrw.org/calendar/leading-within).



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

## Save the Date for Imagining Justice – 2020

The bi-annual **Imagining Justice** event which will be held at the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center in Marriottsville, Maryland from April 20 to 23, 2020.

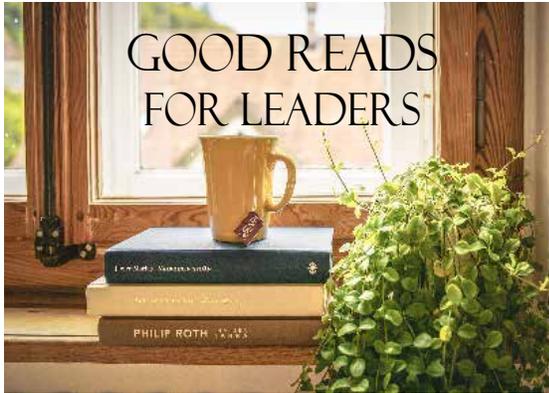
The retreat/workshop, led by award winning songwriter and performing artist, educator, and activist Carrie Newcomer, will explore the ability to envision and maintain hope during times of individual and community challenge. Carrie will use music, poetry, reflective writing, and small and large group conversation to explore the personal stories and practices that keep us resilient and help us to stay centered in daily, faithful, life-giving action. Participants will explore the things that have helped them maintain hope and find meaning in the beautiful-not-yet, as well as the hope maintained through the power of the gathered community.

## Participates in Discussion in Rome on Women Religious in the Media

LCWR's director of communications Annmarie Sanders, IHM led a workshop in Rome on religious life communications that was co-sponsored by Multi-Media International and the International Union of Superiors General. The workshop was preceded by a public gathering on the coverage of women religious by the media which featured an interview of Annmarie and Philip Pulella, a Reuters reporter based in Rome, by UISG communications director Patrizia Morgante. The interview is available in [English](#), [French](#), [Italian](#), and [Spanish](#).



*Patrizia Morgante interviews Annmarie Sanders, IHM and Philip Pulella in Rome*



## Women Rowing North: Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing as We Age

By Mary Pipher

Reviewed by Margaret Hickey, ND

*Women Rowing North* is a keeper; and using our creativity and adaptability skills, we can well apply it to our current lives as consecrated women and leaders.

In *Women Rowing North*, author Mary Pipher focuses on the challenges women face transitioning from middle to old age. Her premise is that women can learn "how to cultivate resilient responses to the challenges (they) face." (p. 1)

As alluded to in the title, Pipher uses the analogy of navigating a river and the skills that are needed to survive the trip. "Maneuvering this stretch of river (aging) requires flexibility, a tolerance for ambiguity, openness to new vistas, and the ability to conceptualize all experiences in positive ways." (p. 7) Mary reflects on her own personal experiences and blends them with those of women who met the challenges of aging and flourished in their later years, in community with other women.

Pondering the last chapter of the book, "The Northern Lights," I recalled the rollercoaster experience of Sharlet Wagner, CSC and Tere Maya, CCVI and the call of Pat Murray, IBVM to listen to the long note. Pipher concludes her book with this statement: "I want us to sense how big life is --- how intense, joyful, painful, complicated, and beautiful our lives can be. Let us embrace everything." (p. 251)

I resist the temptation to record some of Mary Pipher's illuminating and powerful quotes here; you'll soon discover them as you read the book, and maybe form a book club to discuss it.

## All-New Review for Religious

**R**evue for Religious: New Series is launching in 2020. The new journal will explore the vocation, theology, and life of consecrated men and women, and will be published the Conference of Major Superiors of Men in partnership with Catholic University of America Press. More details may be found at [RFRJournal.org](http://RFRJournal.org).

## Outstanding Leadership Award Recommendations

All LCWR regions are reminded to submit their Outstanding Leadership Award recommendations after their fall meeting. The recommendation form should be sent to Chris Beckett, SCN at [cbeckett@lcwr.org](mailto:cbeckett@lcwr.org) no later than November 12, 2019.



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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)

## Upcoming LCWR Dates

### 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 Practicing Leadership: How to Embrace a Vital and Vibrant Future Workshop

*Mater Dolorosa Retreat House | Sierra Madre, CA*  
May 11 — 13, 2020

### LCWR Assembly

*Dallas, Texas*  
August 11 — 15, 2020

### LCWR Practicing Leadership: How to Embrace a Vital and Vibrant Future Workshop

*Bethany Center | Lutz, Florida*  
September 14 — 16, 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

### Leading from Within Retreat

*Redemptorist Renewal Center | Tucson, Arizona*  
January 16 — 21, 2022

### LCWR Assembly

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



- Letter to Congress urging them to reduce funding for deportation, detention, and border militarization; support funding for refugee resettlement and asylum; keep families together and invest in alternatives to detention; exert robust oversight over detention and uses of federal funding. Ann Scholz, SSND (9/12/19)
- Letter to Congressional leaders and appropriators asking that they stand strong and demand cuts to immigration detention and enforcement funding and accountability measures to close loopholes in the appropriations process. LCWR (9/12/19)
- Letter to leaders of the House of Representatives expressing support for three bills being considered by the House which address various aspects of gun violence: the Keep Americans Safe Act (HR 1186), the Disarm Hate Act (HR 2708), and the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2019 (HR 1236). LCWR (9/13/19)
- Quote for press release from Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence urging Congress to pass legislation address various aspects of gun violence. (Carol Zinn, SSJ (9/13/19)
- Amicus brief of 127 religious organizations in Department of Homeland Security, et al. v. Regents of the University of California, et al. in support of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).
- Statement in solidarity with the Central American church denouncing US “third country” policy denying Central Americans the right to seek asylum in the US LCWR (9/27/19)
- Letter to Senators urging them to quickly take up and pass the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019. LCWR (10/8/19)



## Amazonian Synod Draws Attention to Pressing Ecological Issues

On October 6, Pope Francis opened the synod of bishops for the Pan-Amazon region, *The Amazon: New Paths for the Church and for Integral Ecology*. The synod has been guided by two documents: the preparatory document and the *instrumentum laboris*. The [preparatory document](#) includes the fruits of listening sessions with local communities in the Amazon, to ensure the synod responds to local expertise and concerns. The [instrumentum laboris](#) is based on wisdom from these conversations and from church teaching.

The synod has been considering ecclesial, social, and ecological aspects of life in the Amazon region. While it is focused on the 34 million people and the territories of Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Suriname, Guiana, and French Guiana, in a very real way, the synod will affect every person on the face of the earth since this region is critically important to the well-being of the planet.

Pope Francis has called the Amazon region one of the “lungs of our planet.” It provides roughly 20 percent of the oxygen we breathe and the water we drink. It is the most biodiverse ecosystem in the world and critically important to mitigating the impacts of climate change.

The region is also home to nearly three million indigenous people from 390 ethnic groups. This cultural diversity presents the church with an opportunity to build a “church with an Amazonian face,” one that responds to the needs and unique circumstance of the people that live there. The Amazon synod highlights the importance of how marginalized communities, including creation, are at the center of God’s presence in history.

Most of the 185 voting members of the synod are bishops or priests from the nine countries of the Amazon region. Members also include 13 members of the Roman curia, cardinals, bishops, and priests nominated by Pope Francis, and 14 priests and one brother nominated by the Union of Superiors General (USG).

The women’s International Union of Superiors General (UISG) was invited to elect 10 observers who can speak to the assembly and participate in the small-group work, but do not have a vote. In addition, Pope Francis invited eight other women religious, including Gloria Franco Echeverri of the Company of Mary, president of the Confederation of Latin American Religious (CLAR). Two permanent deacons, two religious brothers, 15 laymen, seven priests, and 11 laywomen serve as observers. More information is available on the [official synod website](#).

## Updates from NRRO

The national Retirement Fund for Religious collection will be held **December 7-8** in most US parishes. Since 1988, US Catholics have donated \$872 million to the annual collection. Yet hundreds of religious institutes still struggle to provide for older members.



Whether an institute receives direct financial assistance or benefits from the education and services the collection makes possible, all are asked to give the appeal their vocal and prayerful support. The [NRRO website](#) contains downloadable campaign resources, including a speaker guide and a [social media toolkit](#) that makes it easy to promote the collection on any institute’s social media platforms.

[Registration](#) for the upcoming webinar, *Beads, Bells and Blessings: Understanding Why the Mass and Other Catholic Practices are Essential* is now open. Scheduled for November 12 at 1:00 PM EST, this presentation is designed to help care staff better understand how and why various Catholic practices are important to women and men religious.

## President Delivers Virtual Death Blow to US Refugee Resettlement

In yet another move designed to close US borders to refugees, President Trump has proposed a

new record-low refugee admissions goal for fiscal year 2020 of 18,000. The proposal is an affront to people fleeing danger worldwide and a serious blow to the US refugee resettlement community. It is also a rejection of the values held by people of faith and conscience in the United States. The new limit, known as the Presidential Determination or PD, represents a 40 percent decrease from last year's PD of 30,000 refugees and an 80 percent drop from the 2016 PD of 110,000. The Trump Administration is also breaking with precedent by predetermining which refugees will be eligible reserving 4,000 slots for those who worked for the US mission in Iraq; 1,500 for people from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala; and 5,000 for people persecuted for their religious beliefs. The remaining 7,500 slots are set aside for other refugees, including those attempting family unification in the United States, certain refugees coming through Australia, and others already vetted for resettlement.

An admissions goal of just 18,000 amounts to a virtual refugee ban. It would further starve the resettlement infrastructure in the United States, destroy the vital support services that it took decades to build, and have disastrous consequences for the refugee families already resettled and awaiting reunification with loved ones overseas.

Simultaneously, the President signed [Executive Order \(EO\) 13888](#) that permits state and local officials to block resettlement in their communities, despite the hundreds of elected officials, congregations, and business leaders who have been expressing their strong support for refugee resettlement across all 50 states. Justice for Immigrants (JFI) has created a [backgrounder](#) on the [state/local refugee EO](#) and materials to help build support for refugees with local, state, and federal elected officials. They are strongly encouraging local stakeholders to make public expressions of support for welcoming refugees in their community. ([EO 13888 Toolkit](#))



## Final Statement from April Nonviolence Workshop in Rome Released

Pax Christi International and its Catholic Nonviolence Initiative recently released the [final statement](#) from its recent workshop. The following was affirmed by most of the participants.



“As Christians committed to faithfully following in the footsteps of Jesus, we are called to take a clear stand for active nonviolence and against all forms of violence. In this spirit, people from many nations gathered for Path of Nonviolence: Towards a Culture of Peace, a consultation held at the Holy See’s Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development on April 4-5, 2019 in Rome. This was an important follow-up to the Nonviolence and Just Peace conference held in Rome in April 2016 co-sponsored by the then-Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and Pax Christi International.

“We are grateful for the special focus that Pope Francis has placed on the spiritual and practical power of active nonviolence to promote integral human development and cultures of peace, including through the 2017 World Day of Peace message on *Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace*, where he proclaimed: “To be true followers of Jesus today...includes embracing his teaching about nonviolence.” We know that Jesus consistently practiced nonviolence in a context that was extremely violent, but “nonviolence was not just a response to particular situations in the life of Jesus – it was the whole life of Jesus” (Cardinal Peter Turkson, University of San Diego, October 7, 2017)”

The statement goes on to call attention to two critical signs of the times: “the global crisis of violence with the unspeakable suffering it unleashes and, by the grace of God, the spread of active and powerful nonviolence.” It calls the church, as an institution and as the people of God, to commit to active nonviolence and to bring nonviolence from the periphery of Catholic thought on war and peace to the center, mainstreaming nonviolence as a spirituality, lifestyle, a program of societal action, and a universal ethic. The full statements are available [here](#).



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

### National Vocation Awareness Week, November 3-9

To assist religious institutes in publicizing National Vocation Awareness Week, NRVC has created two new videos to share on any institute's social media platforms. NRVC also created a new info-graphic using excerpts from *Christus Vivit*. The videos and info-graphic can be downloaded [here](#).

### NRVC Annual Report

The [2018 NRVC annual report](#) has been uploaded to the NRVC website. The conference is deeply grateful for the support of its members and benefactors highlighted in this report.

### 2020 NRVC/CARA Study of Newer Entrants Concludes Phase Two

The first phase of the NRVC/CARA study of newer entrants into religious institutes involved a survey sent to 752 major superiors in the United States. There was a 67% return rate as compared to 66% in 2009. The second phase included a survey sent to more than 3,000 identified newer entrants with a 63% return rate compared to 40% in 2009. The third phase concluded with focus groups of 112 participants in eight states. NRVC intends to release the findings of newer entrants who entered between 2003-2018 in February 2020.

## News from the UN

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



These days the people of South Sudan are living with great uncertainty. Will the government and the opposition implement the provisions of the peace agreement required for the formation of the national transitional government to be seated on November 12? Issues still to be determined include border demarcation, the number of states (the current configuration favors the Dinka-led government), and the integration of armed groups into a national army of 83,000. People fear a return to armed confrontation if these issues are not dealt with. All are asked to join in prayer for peace in South Sudan. [Prayer for Peace](#) When *Solidarity with South Sudan* embarked on the education of teachers in this war-torn country 10 years ago, the founders decided to focus on training primary school teachers, saying, "Let's get the basics right." The need was for 26,000 teachers; the need now is for even more qualified teachers. Solidarity is entering into a joint pilot program with the Catholic University of South Sudan to send 20 students to participate in a program resulting in a BA degree. Information on this new program and how to support it can be found at [Proposal for B.A. at CU in SS](#).

Advent is just around the corner. Friends in Solidarity has designed an Advent calendar for middle school students and higher, as well as one for adults. The calendars provide an opportunity to learn more about South Sudan and the work of Solidarity. [Advent Journey - Adult](#) [Advent Calendar - Student](#)

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