

July 2013



Participants in the 2013 InterAmerican Committee Meeting visit with members of a new community of men and women religious in Canada



**LCWR 2013 Assembly
Leadership Evolving:
Graced, Grounded & Free**
Orlando, Florida
August 13 - 16, 2013

To date, approximately 750 LCWR members and associates have registered for the 2013 LCWR assembly -- Leadership Evolving: Graced, Grounded & Free. Any member or associate still planning on attending is encouraged to sign up before prices increase again on July 16. This important assembly will explore how the growing awareness of an evolving universe impacts understandings of religious life and leadership.

Keynoter **Ilia Delio, OSF** will address the topic, "Religious Life on the Edge of the Universe." Members will have an opportunity to hear and interact with Archbishop J. Peter Sartain, as well as discuss with one another the CDF mandate to LCWR in executive sessions.

The LCWR national board strongly encourages all members to participate in the summer regional meetings in order to prepare for the assembly. In addition, it would be helpful to read:

- *The Unbearable Wholeness of Being: God, Evolution, and the Power of Love*, a book by Ilia.
- The interview with Ilia from the summer 2012 edition of *Occasional Papers*: "Seeing Christianity as a Religion of Evolution and the Implications for Religious Life." The interview is available at: lcwr.org/sites/default/files/page/files/interview_with_ilia_delio_-_op_summer_12.pdf

Religious of the Americas Meet in Montreal

by Janet Mock, CSJ

Florence Deacon, OSF and Janet Mock, CSJ represented LCWR at the annual meeting of the Confederation of Latin American Religious (CLAR), the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC), the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious at the International Center of the Sisters of Providence in Montreal, May 20-25. Unfortunately, the representatives from CLAR were unable to be with us. The CLAR president was not able to obtain a visa; the executive director had submitted his passport to obtain a visa for an upcoming trip and the passport was not returned in time for the

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From the LCWR Presidency

Don't Be a 'Starched Christian'

by Florence Deacon, OSF — LCWR President

I was amused recently when I read a homily in which Pope Francis cautioned us not to become “starched Christians” but rather “courageous” ones. During the Pentecost Vigil he admonished,

“We cannot become starched Christians, those overeducated Christians who speak of theological matters as they calmly sip their tea. No! We must become courageous Christians and go in search of the people who are the very flesh of Christ, those who are the flesh of Christ!”¹



because he is God and he is that breeze that comes and goes, and you don't know from where.”

And he used the image of “building a monument” as the way many want to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the council rather than by changing anything. Pope Francis cautioned, “... there are voices saying we should go back. This is called being hard-headed, this is called wanting to domesticate the Holy Spirit, this is called becoming ‘foolish and slow of heart,’” like the

disappointed disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Starched Christians who discuss theology calmly sipping their tea... What a picture. And courageous Christians who go in search of people who are the body of Christ... What a contrast. I have been delighting in both the imagery and spontaneity of Pope Francis' refreshing way of calling Catholics to live the Gospel today.

Pope Francis' imagery was equally as vivid when he was discussing the actions of the Holy Spirit in our lives and church in light of the Second Vatican Council.² During a homily at a mass in honor of Benedict XVI's birthday, he described a struggle between the Spirit who annoys us and our attempts to tame it.

“The council was a beautiful work of the Holy Spirit,” he said. “But after 50 years, have we done everything the Holy Spirit in the council told us to do?” His answer was a strong, “No!”

“To speak plainly: The Holy Spirit annoys us,” he said. The Spirit “moves us, makes us walk, pushes the church to move forward.” But he said we are too often like the apostles at the transfiguration. They say, “Oh, how nice it is to be here all together,” but “don't bother us.” “We want the Holy Spirit to sleep,” he said. “We want to domesticate the Holy Spirit, and that just won't do

The same phenomenon can be at work in Christians' personal lives, he said. “The Holy Spirit pushes us” to live the Gospel more seriously, but resistance is often our reply.

Aside from the breeze, Pope Francis' expressions aren't words or actions usually connected with the Holy

I have been delighting in both the imagery and spontaneity of Pope Francis' refreshing way of calling Catholics to live the Gospel today.

Spirit, and they helped me see this Person of the Holy Trinity in a whole new light.

They also invited me to reflect not only on resistance to the implementation of the council, but also on whether I am a “starched Christian” or a courageous one in my response to the Spirit today.

1 Pope Francis, Pentecost Vigil, May 18, 2013

2 Pope Francis, April 16, 2013 homily in Domus Sanctae Marthae chapel

Religious of the Americas Meet in Montreal

(continued from page 1)

trip to Canada. We felt impoverished by the absence of our counterparts in Latin American, yet Yvon Pomerleau, OP and Michel Proulx, OPraem did everything to assure that we had a rich educational and cultural experience, tasting and drinking in the fruits of Quebec, figuratively and literally.

Four areas of conversation took on particular meaning during our days together:

1. Each conference had time to share with the others new initiatives as well as ongoing programs, publications, and activities of the conferences.
2. The formal educational component of our meeting included an exceptional presentation by theologian-sociologist Rick van Leirs, OP on his study and analysis of emerging religious communities since Vatican II. Following this presentation, we had the pleasure of meeting and interacting with members of two new communities, La Famille Marie-Jeunesse and the Fraternity of Jerusalem. We then joined the Fraternity of Jerusalem for vespers and liturgy in the city of Montreal. La Famille Marie-Jeunesse works primarily with youth in the area of evangelization; the Fraternity of Jerusalem, a contemplative community has their monasteries in urban areas, desiring "to meet the heart of God in the heart of the city."
3. Yvon and Michel made certain that we visited significant sights in Montreal and Quebec City so that we understood the religious and cultural underpinnings that make modern citizens of the Quebec Province adamant about holding on to their French language and heritage. In Montreal, we visited the Oratory of St. Joseph, erected through the efforts of St. Andre Bessette, CSC, a porter at the Notre Dame College in Montreal for more than 40 years. In Quebec City, we had the opportunity to visit the first church in North America north of the Spanish settlements in Florida and California and have lunch at the home of the archbishop with auxiliary bishop Gaetan Proulx, OSM and members of the staff. Of special interest was our visit to the Ursuline Convent, established in 1639, which still operates a large day school for elementary students. Everywhere we went, the hospitality was exquisite.

4. In our conversations about collaboration, we discussed what each conference is doing to begin an outreach to the Religious Conference of Haiti. We made a decision to explore the possibility of working together with CLAR in a common project, taking our lead from the Haitian religious themselves and working together to provide the assistance we can that will most benefit the Religious Conference of Haiti in their present and future ministries.

We left Montreal on May 25, greatly enriched by the experience and committed to work together in the future. Our next meeting will be in the United States, March 31 - April 4, 2014.



Conference executive directors at the InterAmerican Committee meeting: Yvon Pomerleau, OP (CRC); Janet Mock, CSJ (LCWR); John Pavlik, OFM Cap (CMSM)



Conference presidents: Michel Proulx, OPraem (CRC); Florence Deacon, OSF (LCWR); and John Edmunds, ST (CMSM)



Members of the LCWR national board and staff at the May meeting in Chicago

LCWR National Board and Regions Prepare for the 2013 Assembly

The LCWR national board held a special session at the end of May in Chicago to prepare for the August LCWR assembly.

At the meeting, the LCWR officers briefed the board on the status of the mandate of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to LCWR. Following discussion, the board planned an agenda for special regional meetings to be held throughout June and July for all LCWR members.

In addition to sharing information on and engaging the members in conversation about the mandate, the regional meetings will also allow time for discussion of a new proposed assembly resolution created by Region 2 and 8 on nonviolence and gun control.

Help Make Assembly Attendance Possible for Members Through a Donation to the LCWR Scholarship Fund

LCWR is aware that attendance at the national assembly is financially challenging for some members. Any congregation that has the means to enable the attendance of another member is invited to consider a donation to the LCWR scholarship fund. The conference is grateful to those congregations who have already sent in contributions.



Donations (checks payable to LCWR) may be directed to Grace Hartzog, SC, associate director for business and finance, at 8808 Cameron Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Any congregation that wishes to attend the conference, but needs assistance also is asked to contact Grace (ghartzog@lcwr.org) to request a partial scholarship. Partial assistance with registration and/or hotel accommodations is available through the LCWR scholarship fund.



Screen shot from the video made by the Interfaith Center to honor Pat Farrell.

LCWR Past President Receives Interfaith Center Award

LCWR past president Pat Farrell, OSF received an award from the Interfaith Center of New York at a dinner on June 10 in Manhattan.

In her acceptance speech Pat noted in part, "I also appreciate the Interfaith Center of New York's tradition of honoring religious leadership in a broad and inclusive way. You recognize the significance and influence of those not holding formal positions of power who nonetheless lead by relationship, service, inspiration, in short, by the authority of their lives. That is often the case for women of faith who lack formal recognition from their mostly male hierarchies. Thank you for your deliberateness in valuing the undervalued and empowering the disempowered which so resonates with our own commitment to prophetic social action."

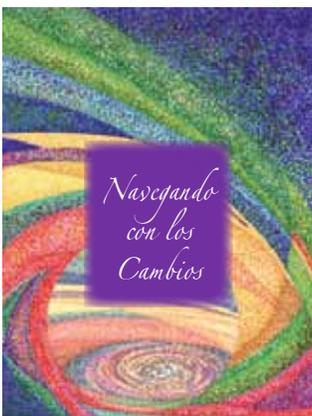


Pat Farrell, OSF accepts an honorary doctorate at the Fairfield graduate commencement ceremony

Fairfield University Bestows Honorary Doctorate on LCWR Past President

Fairfield University bestowed an honorary doctor of laws degree on LCWR past president Pat Farrell, OSF at its May 19 graduate school commencement exercises. The Connecticut Jesuit-sponsored university noted Pat's commitment to her pastoral work in Texas and Latin America, as well as her service in the presidency of LCWR.

After accepting the degree, Pat stated, "I receive this honorary doctorate in the name of all the women religious organized in the Leadership Conference of Women Religious: the thousands of unsung heroines around the country, women of conscience and courage, women who have spent their lives in service to some of the most vulnerable people of our world. In the name of all of them, my sisters, I gratefully accept this honorary degree from Fairfield University."



Navigating the Shifts Now Available in Spanish

Due to the generosity of the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque and one of their members, Reyna Badillo, the content of the LCWR reflective journal, *Navigating the Shifts*, is being translated into Spanish. The introduction and first three weeks are now available online as a PDF document at: lcrw.org/sites/default/files/page/files/navengando_con_los_cambios.pdf.

Other congregations have also generously donated their own translations of LCWR materials -- primarily into Spanish, with some in French. These are available at lcrw.org/articles-pertinent-religious-life. LCWR welcomes the translations of other LCWR materials so they can be shared more widely with other religious.

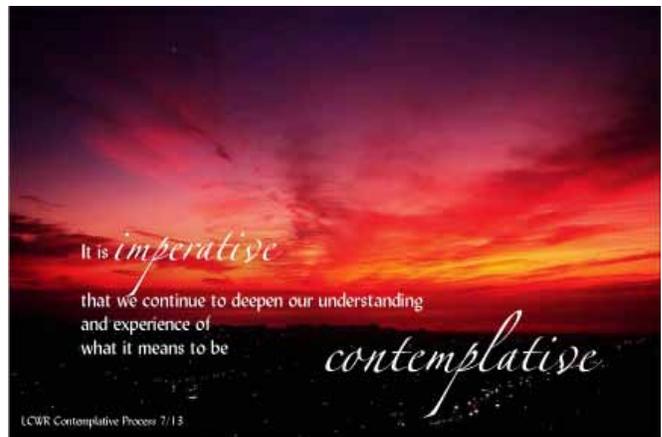
LCWR Members Encouraged to Reflect on Emerging Insights

A new LCWR contemplative insight card is now available for downloading. The July 2013 card (pictured below) is available at: lcrw.org/sites/default/files/page/files/july_2013.pdf.

The insights on these cards are drawn from the responses submitted from the 15 LCWR regions after completing the "Behold, I am Doing Something New" contemplative process. Members are using these cards in ways such as the following:

- Placing the card in their own personal prayer space
- Placing the card in the leadership team prayer and/or meeting space
- Forwarding the card to their members and associates and inviting them to pray with the insight
- Including the artwork in their institute's publications

Additional insights will be offered each month.



Leading from Within Retreat

Leading from a New Place

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



January 19 - 24, 2014

Redemptorist Renewal Center - Tucson, Arizona

Join with other women religious leaders for a five-day retreat that will provide opportunities to reflect on the blessings and challenges of religious life leadership today.

The days will include input, contemplative space, a variety of ritual experiences and some opportunity for individual and group spiritual direction for those who choose.

Retreat Directors



Marie McCarthy, SP



Mary Ann Zollmann, BVM

Space is limited to 25 persons.

More information and registration materials will be sent soon to all members and associates

Imagining Justice – A New Name for a Familiar Gathering

For the past couple of years the group that convenes and plans the LCWR systemic change think tank has been in conversation with the participants about both the purpose of the gathering and the name of the gathering.

The group agreed that the purposes of the gathering are to assist those in elected leadership and justice promoters in working together to:

- Integrate the work of justice as constitutive of who women religious are as Catholic Christians rooted in the gospel message
- Deepen the spirituality that undergirds their work for justice
- Enhance skills in being effective agents of justice in the world
- Maintain a focus on systemic change
- Strengthen the collaboration between elected leaders and justice promoters.

In order to attend to these purposes the group decided to structure future gatherings so that they include:

- Space for fellowship
- Space for deep and courageous conversation
- Space for imagining together the work of justice from an evolutionary perspective
- Space for contemplative integration.

This clarification of purpose led the group to name the gathering: Imagining Justice: A Learning Lab for Leaders and Justice Promoters.

The first gathering under this new title will occur from **March 3 to 6, 2014** at Bethany Retreat Center in Lutz, Florida. Nancy Sylvester, IHM will serve as a guide for these days. LCWR invites its members to consider participating in this event as a way of evolving and engaging the work of justice.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Assembly
Orlando, Florida
August 13 — 17, 2013

Leading from Within Retreat
Redemptorist Renewal Center
Tucson, Arizona
January 19 — 24, 2014

**Imaging Justice: A Learning Lab for Leaders
and Justice Promoters**
Bethany Retreat Center
Lutz, Florida
March 3 — 6, 2014

LCWR New Leader Workshop
Conference Center - University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois
March 27 — 30, 2014

LCWR Assembly
Nashville, Tennessee
August 12 — 16, 2014

LCWR Assembly
Houston, Texas
August 11—15, 2015

News from the UN

A recently released report by the UN High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda proposes a road map to eliminate extreme poverty by 2030. The report on post-2015 development offers recommendations that focus on ending extreme poverty, fostering sustainable development, and building sustained prosperity.



Building on 13 years of unprecedented progress sparked by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) the new goals are grounded in respect for universal human rights and a commitment to finish the job of eradicating extreme poverty from the face of the earth by 2030.

The panel offered their recommendations, “with a feeling of great optimism that a transformation to end poverty through sustainable development is possible within our generation.” They outline five transformational shifts, applicable to both developed and developing countries, as the basis for a single, universal post-2015 agenda.

1. Leave no one behind, After 2015 efforts should move from reducing to ending extreme poverty, in all its forms.
2. Put sustainable development at the core.
3. Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth.
4. Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all.
5. Forge a new global partnership.

The full report is available at: www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/UN-Report.pdf.



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Is Your Leadership Term About to End?

If your leadership term is ending this month, you must submit a change of leadership form found in the LCWR Members Information section (password-protected) of the website at lcwr.org/members/lcwr-membership-information.

Women Religious Act to Stop Human Slavery

Stop Slavery: Northern California Coalition of Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a partnership of nine Bay Area congregations. The coalition decided to take action in advance of the America's Cup yacht races scheduled locally for summer 2013. Last summer the coalition chose a prominent hotel corporation with known connections to event preparations and compiled a list of its hotels in the Bay Area. Their aim was to encourage the managers to have their personnel trained to recognize the signs of onsite human trafficking and to report suspicious activity to authorities.

The coalition coupled its local actions with the activities of sisters attending an Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) shareholder conference in New York. ICCR advocates met with executives of the same hotel corporation and that collaborative effort made a difference. Corporate management, which had already been in the process of developing a web-based training for their hotels and resorts worldwide, was receptive to the sisters' request and agreed to instructor-led trainings in the Bay Area hotels in advance of this summer's yacht races.

The sisters' success was a result of the hotel corporation's commitment to prevent human trafficking at their sites, the support of sisters working with corporate investments on the east coast, and the months-long efforts of the sisters locally to raise concern about this form of modern-day slavery.

Half way across the country members of Project IRENE (Illinois Religious Engaging in Nonviolent Endeavors), an LCWR Region 8 initiative, were instrumental in securing the passage of a bill in the Illinois General Assembly that eliminated the felony upgrade for women caught in the web of prostitution and trafficking.

Rose Mary Meyer, BVM, director of Project IRENE, was one of the members of the End Demand Illinois advocacy team that organized thousands of sisters, associates, and peace and justice promoters to push Illinois state legislators to enact SB 1872. The new law will help to shift law enforcement's attention to sex traffickers and people who buy sex.

LCWR Members Continue to Advocate for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

After three weeks of sometimes heated debate the Senate Judiciary Committee approved 13-5 the



bipartisan Senate immigration reform bill, S.744: Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, allowing the bill to make its way to the Senate floor for further debate and a vote from the full Senate. All Democratic members and Republican Senators Graham (SC), Flake (AZ) and Hatch (UT) voted YES. The NO Votes were Senators Grassley (IA), Sessions (AL), Cornyn (TX), Lee (UT) and Cruz (TX).

Committee members introduced more than 200 amendments covering issues ranging from increased border security to access to healthcare. During the amendment process, supporters, including the 167 members of the LCWR Immigration Group, generated 3,000 calls, and were a big part of defeating the worst amendments and gaining modest improvements to the bill, specifically helping immigrants in detention, beneficiaries of the Violence Against Women Act, and children while prohibiting dangerous deportations; discouraging racial profiling; and restricting immigration enforcement actions near schools, hospitals, victims services locations and places of worship. A full list of amendments can be found at www.judiciary.senate.gov.

Despite the many amendments S.744 advanced to the full Senate with its core elements intact, There it cleared its first procedural hurdle and received overwhelming bipartisan support, with 82 Democratic and Republican senators voting to proceed with debate on the bill. The Senate is expected to consider a large number of amendments to the bill, including many defeated in the Judiciary Committee. Proposed border security provisions already have become a flash point for many senators. Most expect that the path to citizenship, access to health care and social services, and family reunification will be equally contentious.

Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has promised to bring the bill to a vote before the Senate's July 4 recess.



- Letter to Senators Mikulski and Shelby urging support for international humanitarian and poverty-focused development assistance for fiscal year 2014. LCWR (5/22/13)
- Letter to Secretary of State John Kerry addressing the problem of unfair visitor visa denials that adversely impact religious organizations and their members in the United States. LCWR (6/1/13)
- Letter to the United States Ambassador to the United Nations expressing deep concern about the lack of progress by the United Nations in addressing Haiti's cholera epidemic and asking her to prioritize its elimination. LCWR (6/4/13)
- Letter to President Obama thanking him for his commitment to comprehensive immigration reform and asking him to immediately suspend deportations for those who would eventually be eligible for the Senate bill's legalization program. LCWR (6/10/13)
- Letter to women of the Senate urging them to stand together to ensure that women's priorities and lived realities are at the forefront of the immigration debate, LCWR (6/11/13)
- Letter to Senators urging support of Senator Hirono's (D-HI) amendment to S-744 to restore taxpayer fairness to aspiring citizens. The amendment provides that all immigrants who are lawfully present, employed, and have satisfied their federal tax liability shall not be prohibited from using any federally-funded program or tax credit solely on the basis of their immigration status. LCWR (6/17/13)
- Letter asking Senator John D. Rockefeller to include provisions in S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act that ensure that lawfully present children and pregnant women who qualify for Registered Provisional Immigrant (RPI) or blue card status or obtain a V nonimmigrant visa be treated the same as other children and pregnant women who are lawfully present under current law. (6/23/13)

- Letter to Members of the House urging them oppose appropriations based on the House-passed levels that slash domestic and non-defense international programs by \$45 billion while increasing Pentagon spending. LCWR (6/25/13)



NCNWR to Hold National Conference in Baltimore

The National Communicators Network for Women Religious (NCNWR) will host its 19th annual conference October 1-4 in Baltimore, Maryland. Presentations and breakout sessions will focus on the conference theme "Harbor Lights: Illuminating the Missions and Ministries of Women Religious."

Simone Campbell, SSS will be the keynote speaker and will address her role in the highly publicized Nuns on the Bus tour as well as the emerging voice of women religious in national issues.

Other general sessions will include "Theology of Social Media" with Julie Viera, IHM and Maxine Kollasch, IHM of A Nun's Life ministry; "Strategic Marketing for Congregations of Women Religious" by Debra Thompson of Strategy Solutions, Inc.; and "American Catholics Today" by Dr. Gregory Smith of the Pew Research Center, Washington, DC.

The conference, which will be held at the Holiday Inn, Inner Harbor, will also offer four breakout sessions: "Tailoring Communications to Specific Audiences," "How to Conduct an Effective Communications Self Audit," "The Matrix: A Hands on Marketing Tool" and "Preparing for the Worst: Crisis Communications Planning." A best practices panel will feature NCNWR members presenting "Creative Ideas for Celebrating Milestones."

NCNWR encourages communication professionals, congregation leaders, vocation directors and development directors to attend this informative conference. More information is available at www.ncnwr.org.

The Religious Formation Conference
presents:
Congress 2013



**Rooted in the Mission of Jesus:
Reaching out to the Margins**

November 14-17, 2013
St. Louis Union Station Hotel by Doubletree
St. Louis, MO

Keynote Speakers:
Rev. Donald Senior, C.P.
Sr. Nancy Schreck, OSF

Information on pre-Congress workshops,
congress seminars and registration is available at
www.relforcon.org
or by contacting the RFC office at
301-588-4938 or kkandefer@relforcon.org



**Position Open for Executive Director of
the Resource Center for Religious
Institutes**

The board of directors of the Resource Center for Religious Institutes is seeking a qualified person to be executive director beginning January 1, 2014. RCRI is located in Silver Spring, Maryland and is housed in the same building as CMSM and LCWR. More information is available on the RCRI website at www.trcri.org.



LCWR is on Facebook
www.facebook.com/lcwr.org

Catholic Health Association Hosts Annual Assembly

More than 940 Catholic health executives and sponsors, a number of them LCWR members, gathered in Anaheim, California, June 2-4, for “Living Mission in a Changing World,” the 2013 Catholic Health Assembly.

Helen Amos, RSM, executive chair of the board of trustees of Mercy Health Service in Baltimore, gave the opening keynote address, offering insight into what it means to “live mission” in light of the challenging and changing business climate facing Catholic health systems today.

She urged health care leaders to help shape the future of health reform to the benefit of those who could be “left behind or left out.”

“Going forward, what we should care about most is improving the situation of those for whom — through no fault of their own — the present system does not and cannot work,” she said.

Deborah Proctor was formally installed as the 2013-2014 chair of the CHA board of trustees. Ms. Proctor is president and chief executive of Irvine, California-based St. Joseph Health. At the assembly opening, she said the Catholic health ministry must stay actively involved in shaping healthcare policy in the United States to protect the welfare of the vulnerable and to ensure that public policy respects the sanctity of life.

Dr. Ira Byock who has written extensively about improving the quality of death in the United States, and

Dr. Richard Jackson, an author and public health specialist who has been instrumental in promoting community health design that encourages exercise and a good quality of life, also delivered key note addresses.

LCWR co-sponsored a pre-assembly meeting, “Caring for Those with Life-Limiting Illnesses,” which focused on excellence in palliative care by providing a compassionate response to suffering for patients, families, and communities. The program was for those who care for the elderly or seriously ill, including members of religious communities in Catholic long-term care and assisted living facilities.

Nuala Kenny, OC, a pediatrician, told the participants that contemporary culture is “death-denying, death-defying.” Catholic care providers are called to better formulate a Christian response to the ill and frail facing decline, dependence, and dying, she said.

Dr. Melinda Lee, a geriatrician, spoke about her family’s experience with illness and death, and the personal and emotional challenges she faced caring for her own aging parents.

Rev. Myles Sheehan, SJ, a geriatrician and provincial of the New England province of Jesuits, offered several steps care providers and facilities can follow to improve care for aging religious, including suggesting that the supervisor of pastoral care not be from the same congregation as the people receiving care because that may limit the ill or aged from speaking openly.

More information is available at: www.chausa.org/publications/catholic-health-world/2013-assembly-closing#sthash.o10WTN8P.dpuf

Announcing the New and Improved Blue Campaign



Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano recently announced the launch of the redesigned Blue Campaign, the Department of Homeland Security’s unified voice for combating human trafficking. Working together with law enforcement, government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector, the Blue Campaign strives to protect the basic right of freedom and bring those engaged in human trafficking to justice.

Anyone may learn more, take the training, print the posters, and share the public service announcement by visiting www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign.