



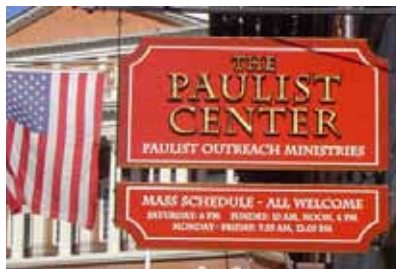
February 2013

Women Religious and LCWR Selected as Award Recipients

US Catholic women religious and LCWR will be honored in several upcoming events across the country.

The Paulist Center

LCWR president Florence Deacon, OSF will accept an award on January 26 from The Paulist Center Community in Boston on behalf of all women religious of LCWR congregations. The 2013 Isaac Award for Social Justice will honor the work done by women religious for social justice over the course of many years.



Susan Rutkowski of the The Paulist Center noted that the center was deeply impressed by LCWR's commitment to peace and justice, stating, "You challenge us to live in hope, to be light and to live Resurrection now, to be peacemakers and agents of change for current economic, political, social, governmental, environmental, and religious practices that do not reflect the teachings of Jesus; in short, to transform the world by living as a Resurrection people. We applaud LCWR's efforts to abolish human trafficking, to protect the environment and treat the earth responsibly, to secure universal access to healthcare, to view immigration as an important social justice issue, and to develop stockholder resolutions to promote just corporate actions."

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Catholic Health Association president and CEO Carol Keehan, DC speaks at a press conference on gun control surrounded by representatives of various religious groups, including LCWR associate director for social mission Ann Scholz, SSND (fourth from left).

LCWR Joins Effort to End Gun Violence

Following the mass shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, LCWR issued a statement (www.lcwr.org) calling on all its members to take action to prevent gun violence. The statement asked members to urge elected officials at every level of government to work for responsible gun legislation, to fund robust care for those with mental illness, and to address the growing use of violence as a means of entertainment.

In January, LCWR joined with other religious leaders at an event in Washington, DC where they released a letter to President Obama and Congress signed by LCWR and more than 40 other religious leaders of various faiths asking for action to end the gun violence crisis. The letter called on the US government leaders to:

- Require every person who buys a gun to pass a criminal background check
- Remove high capacity weapons and ammunition magazines from the nation's streets
- Make gun trafficking a federal crime.

LCWR associate director for social mission Ann Scholz, SSND represented LCWR at the January 15 event.

From the LCWR Presidency **Engaging Differences**

by Pat Farrell, OSF — LCWR Past President

As LCWR continues to respond to the process of the doctrinal assessment, I have frequently called to mind Einstein's assertion that it is impossible to solve any problem with the same mindset that created it. That thought carries a challenge. First of all, our own mindsets are usually quite invisible to us. How do we personally and collectively touch into and live from a new consciousness capable of transcending our blind spots?



Personally, I'm quite fond of clarity, though it seems to be increasingly elusive these days. Differing viewpoints and perspectives abound in ways that often seem to clash and muddy the waters. But what if muddiness is the most direct way forward? What if transformation most frequently happens when differences come into uncomfortable contact with each other, inviting mutual re-shaping? What if the encounters that disturb and confuse us are privileged pathways to a new consciousness otherwise difficult to access?

This moment in history calls us to stretch in that direction, for the sake of the church and world. I imagine that you, like I, want to offer the best of ourselves in response. One thing is clear to me. It is God who opens new spaces within and among us as we surrender in contemplation towards gratuitous grace. What often seems to lead us to that surrender is finding ourselves really not knowing what to do.

Constance Fitzgerald, OCD, in "Impasse and Dark Night" says: "The experience of impasse can be a source of creative growth and transformation if it is fully ap-

Margaret Wheatley tells us that "change always starts with confusion; cherished interpretations must dissolve to make way for the new... Curiosity is what we need. We don't have to let go of what we believe, but we do

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propriated within one's heart and flesh with consciousness and consent; if the limitations of one's humanity and human condition are squarely faced and the sorrow of finitude allowed to invade the human spirit with real existential powerlessness; if the ego does not demand understanding in the name of control and predictability but is willing to admit the mystery of its own being and surrender itself to this mystery; if the path into the unknown, into the uncontrolled and unpredictable margins of life, is freely taken when the path of deadly clarity fades."

need to be curious about what someone else believes. We do need to acknowledge that their way of interpreting the world might be essential to our survival."

I recently had an experience of proposing something to a group in my congregation, certain that there would be very broad, if not unanimous agreement. There wasn't. I was surprised. However, an important awareness arose in me as a result. Bumping up against assumptions about what my colleagues thought led me to a new curiosity about their ideas and experience. Deeper conversation resulted, leading to a richly expanded view of the issue at hand. The affirmation of like-minded peers is the more comfortable path. But engaging differences may be the more direct route to bringing our assumptions and invisible mindsets into awareness, making them more available for transformation.

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The Association of Priests of Chicago

The Association of Priests of Chicago will also honor LCWR with the presentation of an award. Florence will receive that honor in the name of the conference on February 2.

Gwynedd-Mercy College

Gwynedd-Mercy College in Philadelphia invited Florence to accept the college's Beacon of Mercy Award on behalf of LCWR and to serve as the commencement speaker at the May 11 graduation ceremonies.

The award is presented to honor an organization whose commitment to integrity and compassion, dedication to service, and leadership in the transformation of society radiates gospel values and inspires others to share in the mission of mercy.

Honored for Work to Stop Human Trafficking

Several women associated with LCWR have been recognized recently for their efforts to end human trafficking.

Kimberly Ritter, a senior account manager at Nix Conference & Meeting Management, was honored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for her efforts to protect children from sex trafficking. She received the 2012 Director's Community Leadership Award at a ceremony in St. Louis. Nix is the company with which LCWR collaborates in organizing its annual assembly, and Kimberly has been staffing LCWR's assembly for a number of years.

According to Dean C. Bryant, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI St. Louis Division, "Raising awareness goes a long way to preventing sex trafficking or any crime. By challenging their counterparts to raise awareness

among the tourism industry, Ms. Ritter and Nix are creating a force multiplier that could eventually have a nationwide impact."

Kimberly and the owners of Nix – Jane Quinn and Molly Hackett – have become experts on the topic, addressing the issue of child sex trafficking at conferences and in meetings with hotel general managers.

Earlier this year, Nix worked with ECPAT-USA (End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking) to initiate and sign the first-ever Meeting Planners Code of Conduct. Nix reaches out to industry peers and competitors, encouraging meeting planners to join them in addressing the issue at every hotel where they do business. Companies that adopt the Code of Conduct agree to establish an internal social responsibility policy, implement an action plan with objectives and time-frames, and report to ECPAT annually.

The FBI in San Francisco presented the same award to the **Sisters of the Holy Family** in Fremont, California. On December 12, nine FBI officials visited the sisters' motherhouse to thank Caritas Foster, SHF and Elaine Marie Sanchez, SHF and present the award.

"As with many national LCWR members, we took to heart the LCWR assembly resolutions about anti-trafficking and in 2007 released a sister to work fulltime in that arena," said Gladys Guenther, SHF, congregational president. "We made a commitment to education, advocacy, and to find creative ways to collaborate with those doing direct service." She estimates that the sisters give 30 to 50 talks on this topic a year to various groups and donate about \$30,000 a year to community-based organizations helping victims of human trafficking. During the last two years they have also worked closely with the FBI. In presenting the award, acting special agent Joel Moss stated, "We are very grateful to them for helping to get the word out and were especially grateful to them for helping to care for the victims who are identified in these cases."

Each of the FBI's 56 field offices annually selects an individual or organization to receive this award, which honors efforts in combating crime, terrorism, drugs, and violence in America. In April FBI director Robert S. Mueller will present a plaque to Kimberly, the Sisters of the Holy Family and the other recipients at a national ceremony to be held at FBI headquarters in Washington, DC.





Resources Available to Promote LCWR's Women & Spirit Documentary

All LCWR members are asked to assist the conference in promoting the *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America* DVD.

Ads have been placed on the LCWR website that congregations may use in their internal and external publications to inform their own audiences about the DVD. Not only does the DVD provide valuable information about the historic contributions made by women religious to culture and growth of the United States, sales of this resource help with the operating expenses of LCWR.

Leaders are asked to share the link to the ads with their communications personnel: lcwr.org/item/women-spirit-dvd.

Review for Religious Collection Available Online

The Pius XII Library at Saint Louis University is hosting a digital archive of all issues of *Review for Religious*. The collection can be accessed at cdm.slu.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/rfr. The archive is searchable by article or author and materials can be downloaded without charge. Permission is granted to copy and distribute articles for personal, classroom, or workshop use. Copyright for the articles published in *Review for Religious* is held by the Missouri Province of the Society of Jesus. Anyone using articles is asked to credit *Review for Religious*; reference the volume, issue, and page number; and cite Saint Louis University Libraries as the host of the digital collection.



CHA Offers Workshop on Caring for Seriously Ill or Aging Persons

In response to a need voiced by many LCWR members, the Catholic Health Association will offer a one-day workshop designed especially for women and men religious life leaders and persons who have administrative responsibility or oversight for sponsored senior services.

The workshop objectives include:

- To root the care of aging and dying persons within the context of the Paschal Mystery and the theological teaching of the church
- To educate participants about the challenges that aging and dying individuals experience
- To connect the church's ethical teaching about end-of-life decisions with the theological and spiritual foundations of the religious tradition
- To address the particular needs of vowed religious in chronic illnesses and end-of-life
- To provide religious superiors and administrators of religious nursing homes with practical guidance in their role and responsibilities.



LCWR executive director Janet Mock, CSJ and LCWR associate Karin J. Dufault, SP were among those serving on the workshop planning committee.

More information is available at www.chausa.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=11018.

LCWR Board to Meet in February

All LCWR members are asked to remember the LCWR national board and staff as they meet from February 17 to 21 at Bethany Retreat Center in Lutz, Florida. Information on the board's proceedings will be shared in the March 2013 issue of *Update*.

Implementing the LCWR Assembly Resolutions

Local LCWR and CMSM Regions Organize to Combat Human Trafficking at Super Bowl and Mardi Gras Celebrations

In December Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond of New Orleans; Beth Fitzpatrick, O Carm, LCWR Region 5 chair; and Ronald Talbot, SC, CMSM Region 4 chair issued a joint letter published in the diocesan paper, *The Clarion Herald*, regarding human trafficking and the upcoming celebrations surrounding the Super Bowl and Mardi Gras events.

In the letter they reminded readers that, “The Catholic Church’s passionate stand against so great an assault on human dignity is rooted in the Gospel of Jesus, and in Catholic Social Teaching . . . For more than a decade, the United States Catholic Bishops, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, and the Conference of Major Superiors of Men have educated and advocated to eradicate this assault on human dignity. We stand at this time to draw attention to this grave human evil.”

Their call for prayer and action was answered by people around the city and once again women religious took the lead in efforts to help combat human trafficking at major sporting and cultural events. Greta Jupiter, SSF and Rose Weidenbenner, RSM are heading up efforts in the New Orleans area to ensure that these occasions which will bring tens of thousands of people to the city do not provide opportunities for human traffickers to exploit and abuse citizens or visitors.

Preparations began in January with daily prayer to Saint Bakhita, the patroness of survivors of human trafficking. Prayer continued with a city-wide vigil on January 11, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, at St. Rita’s Church in New Orleans sponsored by 21 congregations of women religious. Those gathered offered prayers for victims of human trafficking, for an end to this horror in the world, and for an increase in awareness of its presence in their city.

Sisters also worked diligently with area hotels to make them aware of the danger of human trafficking. They

faxed letters, followed-up with phone calls, and distributed packets of materials to hotel management urging them to do their part to end the scourge of this form of modern-day slavery.

Sisters of the Holy Cross Approve Corporate Stand against Human Trafficking

On January 11, Trafficking Awareness Day, the Sisters of the Holy Cross overwhelmingly approved a corporate stand against human trafficking. They join other congregations of women religious throughout the United States and around the world who have spoken communally against this form of modern day slavery.

By their action the Indiana-based community sheds light on the plight of millions trapped in labor and sex slavery. They remind society at large of their complicity in the cultures and structures that commoditize human beings and contribute to the inequality that fuels human trafficking.

In their statement the Sisters of the Holy Cross affirm the dignity and human rights of all persons and denounce the sin of human trafficking and the economic and social conditions that breed modern-day slavery. They pledge to eliminate the root causes that create the demand and the economic arrangements that make trafficking profitable; to ensure that traffickers are pursued and prosecuted; and to assist survivors to recover and flourish in mind, body, and spirit.

Finally, they acknowledge that ending the horrific crime of human trafficking will require the collaborative efforts of governments, international and national non-governmental organizations, communities, and individuals.

Trade of Innocents Explores the Horrors of Human Trafficking

Trade of Innocents explores human trafficking in the back streets of a tourist town in present-day Southeast Asia. There viewers find a little girl waiting as a human trafficking investigator, playing the role of her next customer, negotiates with the pimp for the use of the child. The story of struggle, life, hope, and redemption unfolds against the backdrop of the horrors of human trafficking. This award winning film can be used to raise awareness and spark discussion. The film is rated PG-13 and its website has a variety of resources including study guides for general audiences and communities of faith. Groups are invited to host a movie screening, www.screentradeofinnocents.com. More information is available at www.tradeofinnocentsthemovie.com or by contacting Rose Corazza at rose@tradeofinnocentsmovie.com. USCCB staff has screened the movie and can answer questions at lrymer@usccb.org.



Sisters in Louisiana Urge Governor Jindal to Accept Medicaid Expansion

Major superiors of 14 congregations of women religious with sisters serving the people of Louisiana, signed a letter to Governor Bobby Jindal strongly urging him to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income people without health coverage. The letter, which was hand-delivered to the governor's office on January 15, pointed out that costs of expansion would be covered by the federal government and that failure to expand Medicaid would "breach the moral duty" to Louisiana's families in need.

The June 2012 Supreme Court decision upholding the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) ruled that the federal government could not use the provisions of the ACA to require states to expand Medicaid to include people with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level. Some governors, including Governor

Jindal, indicated they would oppose expansion in their states. This is despite the fact that one in five people in Louisiana, including 124,000 children, lack health insurance.

As noted in the letter, Medicaid expansion "would provide health care for up to 400,000 Louisianans who currently lack coverage, while simultaneously offering Louisiana tremendous cost savings opportunities, including savings on uncompensated care costs, behavioral health expenses, immunizations, and other costs currently borne by our state."

In their letter the sisters requested a meeting with the governor to discuss their experiences working with Louisianans directly impacted by this issue.

The effort was a joint project of LCWR, NETWORK, and the Coalition on Human Needs in cooperation with Region 5 chair Beth Fitzpatrick, O Carm and sisters in Louisiana.

Hope Rising for Immigration Reform

The results of the November 2012 election may represent a significant shift in the prospects for humane immigration reform. Members on both sides of the aisle seem ready to tackle the nation's broken immigration system. Most expect immigration reform will figure prominently on the legislative agenda of the 113th Congress. Few expect that reform of the nation's broken immigration system will be easy.

LCWR plans to work with its members, associates, and friends to advocate for immigration reform that respects the dignity and rights of immigrants and provides a pathway to citizenship; prioritizes family unity; addresses the root causes of migration; protects the rights of all workers; ensures that immigrants and refugees have access to services; facilitates immigrant integration; and restores due process and reforms enforcement and detention policies.

Success will require the coordinated efforts of LCWR partners including USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services' Justice for Immigrants Campaign (www.justiceforimmigrants.org) and the Interfaith Immigration Coalition (www.interfaithimmigration.org).

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Think Tank Symposium

Redemptorists' Renewal Center

Tucson, AZ

February 11-14, 2013

LCWR New Leader Workshop

Conference Center - University of St. Mary of the Lake

Mundelein, Illinois

March 21 — 24, 2013

LCWR Assembly

Orlando, Florida

August 13 — 17, 2013

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



- Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) statement calling on the Obama Administration to champion legislative reform of the broken immigration system, promote immigrant integration, and reduce harmful enforcement practices through administrative actions. LCWR (12/4/12)
- Letter to President Obama from members of the faith community working throughout the world to support those striving to meet basic human needs congratulating him on his re-election and urging him to consider the needs of smallholder farmers and the importance of environmental sustainability as he develops new policies to address global hunger and rural poverty. LCWR (12/11/12)
- Letter to Congress from the faith community urging members to remember the importance of restraining Pentagon spending as they address national fiscal priorities. LCWR (12/19/12)
- A letter authored by Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) to President Obama calling on the President to redouble his efforts to broker a negotiated peace in the Middle East during his second term. Janet Mock, CSJ (12/20/12)
- Statement mourning the massacre in Newtown, Connecticut and calling for action to stop the killing, reject the culture of violence, and restore civility. LCWR Statement (12/20/12)
- Interfaith letter asking Congress to make careful choices to deal with the deficit. Cautioning them not to leave a legacy of debt for future generations, or a legacy of rising poverty. Deficit reduction should not increase poverty or inequality and it must include new federal revenues. LCWR (12/27/12)
- Letters from Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence to members of Congress calling for immediate legislative action to ensure that every person who buys a gun has to pass a criminal background check; high capacity weapons and ammunition magazines are not available to civilians; gun trafficking is made a federal crime. Janet Mock, CSJ (1/15/12)



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CRS Renews Rice Bowl Campaign

February 13, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of the season of Lent and once again Catholic Relief Services (CRS) will be asking Catholics across the country to use this time to connect with the millions of people around the world struggling to overcome hunger.



While this will be the 38th year of a campaign familiar to parishioners and school children of all ages, the program has been significantly revised and updated. Rechristened, "CRS Rice Bowl," it was also given a new message: "For Lent, for Life: What you give up for Lent changes lives."

CRS has developed a series of online, multimedia, and social media resources to supplement the tradition of collecting funds in a cardboard "rice bowl" placed on family tables and in school classrooms. Materials will be accessible via computers, tablet computers, and cellphones. Materials for Lent 2013 will focus on CRS efforts in Burkina Faso, Dominican Republic, East Timor, Lesotho, and Pakistan.

CRS president Carolyn Woo stated, "Through prayer, sacrifice, and donations, the CRS Rice Bowl enables our actions to make a difference in the lives and well-being of others." She added, "It is important to remember that CRS Rice Bowl is about living our faith and doing our part to alleviate hunger both in the United States and overseas."

Additional information and resources for CRS Rice Bowl are available at: www.crsricebowl.org. Parishes, schools, and communities may order CRS Rice Bowl materials free of charge online at crs.org/act/us-materials/itemlist.cfm?cat_id=1 or by calling 1-800-222-0025.

Upcoming Justice Events

Pacem in Terris Conference

A conference commemorating the 50th anniversary of Pacem in Terris sponsored by Catholic Peace Building Network and more than a dozen Catholic universities and agencies is scheduled for April 9-10, 2013 at the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. Confirmed speakers include Cardinal Peter Turkson; Bryan Hehir, SJ; Carolyn Woo; Scott Appleby; Drew Christiansen, SJ; Amb. Douglas Roche; Marie Dennis; and Maryann Cusimano Love. The conference is free but registration is required. Further information and registration materials can be found at cpn.nd.edu/announcements-media-and-past-events/events.

Catholic Social Ministry Gathering

Online registration for the USCCB's ministry gathering, Promoting Human Life and Dignity in the Year of Faith, February 10-13, 2013 ends Wednesday, February 6, 2013. Registration is available at www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/catholic-social-ministry-gathering.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days

Early registration continues through March 15 for Ecumenical Advocacy Days. This year's national gathering, scheduled for April 5-8, 2013, will focus on food justice. Register at advocacydays.org/2013-at-gods-table/registration.

Call-In Day to Prevent Gun Violence

The Interfaith Call-in Day to Prevent Gun Violence on February 4 is an opportunity to demand swift Congressional action to stop gun violence and to share the faith community's commitment to address the culture of violence in America. This call to collective action provides a chance to do more than lament the loss of life and comfort those who grieve.

NRRO Seeks Assistant Director of Retirement Services

The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) is seeking an assistant director of retirement services. Responsibilities will include outreach to religious institutes with a small number of members and/or a high median age as well as development of educational materials and web-based resources for retirement planning. The job description can be found at www.usccb.org/about/employment/.

The candidate should have experience in elder care delivery for religious institutes and/or religious institute

administration. Strong communication and pastoral skills are a must. A vowed religious or someone with a minimum of five years' experience in working with religious institutes is strongly preferred.

Clergy/religious candidates must request written approval from their diocesan bishop or religious superior before an application can be considered. Diocesan lay employees must also request approval from the local bishop.

The position is available immediately but the start date is negotiable.



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

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.