



April 2013

LCWR Officers Express Hopes for the Church in National Media

National media called upon LCWR with frequency for commentary during the weeks between the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI and the election of Pope Francis. Although LCWR did not respond to all requests, the officers did accept some invitations where there were opportunities to express ideas about hopes for the future of the Catholic Church.

Among those opportunities were the following:

- *CBS This Morning* – March 11—Interview with Florence Deacon, OSF
www.cbs.com/shows/cbs_this_morning/video/2342231215/rebel-nuns-talks-female-priests-women-in-church/
- *The Guardian* – British Daily Newspaper – March 11 – Essay by Florence Deacon, OSF
www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/mar/11/catholics-worldwide-hopes-pope-interviews
- NPR's *Weekend Edition* – March 17 – Interview with Pat Farrell, OSF
www.npr.org/2013/03/17/174542921/nun-inspired-by-pope-francis-work-for-poor?ft=1&f=
- Florence also gave two interviews to BBC Radio.
- *Time Magazine* also invited Florence to write an essay about women's role in the church for a new commemorative book celebrating the election of Pope Francis. The book will be available soon on newsstands and at Amazon. com.

60 Minutes

The March 17 edition of *CBS 60 Minutes* included a segment entitled "American nuns struggle with Vatican for

change." LCWR had been working with the producers of the segment, Andrew Metz and Tanya Simon, since May 2012 when *60 Minutes* expressed interest in producing an educative piece on the doctrinal assess-

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Florence Deacon, OSF (right) on the set of *CBS This Morning*



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

Watch for registration materials coming soon

From the LCWR Presidency

‘Francis, Francis, Rebuild My Church’

by Florence Deacon, OSF — LCWR President

What a rollercoaster ride we have been on the past few weeks as we learned of the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI and reflected on what this might mean for the church-at-large and LCWR in particular. During this 50th anniversary year of the beginning of the Second Vatican Council, what is the Spirit asking of us today? What does the church need at this point in history? Pope Benedict’s action invited us to take stock of where we are as the people of God, what of Vatican II is still undone, and how to use this new beginning to apply the gospel message faithfully in our day. Many media outlets invited us to give a woman’s perspective or that of Catholic sisters on these questions. We accepted some of the invitations to widen the discussion, and included the insights of other people in our reflections.



voices of young women who are leaving the church in the United States in even larger numbers than young men; seeking out the counsel of women, including women religious; and appointing significant numbers of women to responsible positions in the universal church.

When Cardinal Bergoglio was introduced to the world as Pope Francis, he asked the faithful to bless him first and modeled an understanding of the church as the people of God, both lay and hierarchy journeying together as we apply the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the needs of today. Early in his conversion, St. Francis of Assisi heard God speak to him through a crucifix saying, “Francis, Francis, rebuild my church which is falling into ruin,” and a contemporary pope had a dream of him physically holding up the walls of St. John Lateran Church which was tottering precipitously.

Pope Francis seems to have many of the qualities or experiences we hoped for: a pope who understands

By reaching out in a similar spirit to those who are marginalized today, Pope Francis may bridge the disconnect many faithful feel with the church they so love, and be much richer for it.

religious life; who can capture the spirit of Vatican II and who sees the church as the whole people of God, not just the hierarchy; who has wide experiences with diverse people and understands the joys and challenges of trying to live the Gospel in the midst of chaotic family lives and stressful job situations; who values dialogue; who has experience in the global South, who understands how economic and social systems work, and is able to apply Catholic social teaching in a globalizing world.

We don’t have any indication yet of how Pope Francis might approach other areas of importance: valuing the

Although St. Francis initially took God’s call literally and began to physically reconstruct the little stone church, he was soon embracing the leper and living among outcasts. His radical commitment to the Gospel inspired many to follow in his footsteps as he faithfully followed Christ’s. By reaching out in a similar spirit to those who are marginalized today, Pope Francis may

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ment of LCWR. The segment includes interviews with Pat Farrell and with Archbishop J. Peter Sartain, the delegate of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith appointed to oversee LCWR, as well as b-roll from the 2012 LCWR assembly. The segment is available at www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=50143016n. Also online is 60 Minutes Overtime which includes three extra short segments that were not part of the final production. The script from the show is available at: www.cbsnews.com/8301-18560_162-57574762/american-nuns-struggle-with-vatican-for-change/?pageNum=4.



Florence Deacon, OSF is interviewed by CBS This Morning anchor Anthony Mason



Pat Farrell, OSF prepares for interview with 60 Minutes correspondent Bob Simon



Pat Farrell, Bob Simon, and LCWR associate director for communications Annmarie Sanders, IHM tour Sisters Academy in Baltimore

Organizations Honor LCWR and its Leaders

Two organizations have chosen to honor LCWR and its leadership with awards.

Franciscan Mission Service

On April 5 the Franciscan Mission Service will honor LCWR past-president Pat Farrell, OSF “for courageous and humble leadership during the organization’s assessment by the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. We celebrate her commitment to gospel living and being a prophetic voice in the face of adversity. From her two decades of mission in Latin America to her recent work with the LCWR, she has remained unwavering in her commitment to service to the poor, advocacy for the marginalized, and radical spirituality. We admire the LCWR’s work toward open and honest dialogue and toward the opportunities for the laity to have a voice in the Church. In presenting this award to Sr. Pat, we recognize and show our support for women religious and all those who stand up for justice.” Pat will receive the award in Washington, DC.

Pax Christi – Michigan

On April 20 Pax Christi – Michigan will award its 2013 Purple Ribbon for Peace to LCWR at a ceremony in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

The local organization was among the signers of a letter sent to LCWR last summer by Pax Christi International that stated in part, “Women religious in the United States have been deeply committed to promoting the peace of Christ. They are at the heart of our movement, proclaiming with clarity and love the possibility of a world without war, a future beyond dehumanizing violence.”

Former LCWR presidents Margaret Brennan, IHM and Carol Quigley, IHM will accept the award on behalf of the conference.

Rothko Chapel Hosts Lecture by Pat Farrell, OSF

The Rothko Chapel in Houston hosted a lecture on March 14 by LCWR past-president Pat Farrell, OSF on “The Transformed Experience of Sisters Since Vatican II.”

The lecture was a part of “Vatican II @ 50,” a series of programs recognizing the worldwide impact of the Second Vatican Council which notes that among the council’s great legacies are “increased tolerance of other religious traditions, a celebration of people’s growing awareness of human dignity, and a renewed perspective on sacred music and art.”

As a sanctuary open to people of all beliefs, the Rothko Chapel describes its mission as inspiring people “to action through art and contemplation, to nurture reverence for the highest aspirations of humanity, and to provide a forum for global concerns.”



Order New LCWR Reflective Journal

LCWR presents a new book, *Navigating the Shifts*, a resource for reflecting on living in a world in flux. The publication will provide poetry, artwork, and reflections written by LCWR members on the six tools named by 2012 LCWR president Pat Farrell, OSF for navigating the major changes of these times.



The book will be available in late spring, however, since LCWR only prints enough copies to fulfill pre-print orders, payment must be made by **April 4**, using the form that can be downloaded at lcsr.org/publications/navigating-shifts.

Mary Hughes, OP Delivers Lecture at Harvard Divinity School

by Mary Hughes, OP

Shortly after I spoke about LCWR at the National Press Club luncheon in Washington, DC last August, I received a gentle email inquiry from a student at Harvard Divinity School (HDS) asking if I might consider coming to meet with the Catholic students on campus and engage in discussion with them. Over a period of weeks, this inquiry morphed into a letter of invitation to come to Harvard Divinity School to offer the Duddleian Lecture. This particular lecture is advertised by HDS as its oldest and most prestigious endowed lecture. It was established in 1751 by alumnus Judge Paul Dudley. The topic to be covered this year was the validity of non-episcopal ordination.

We set the lecture date for February 28 and I selected the title “Priesthood of the Faithful: Light in the Darkness.” The opportunity was exciting but I must confess, I was also feeling a bit intimidated as to whether or not I was up to the task at hand. Throughout the visit, I was surrounded by some of the nicest people I had ever met. I was able to invite a few guests so I reached out to Kathleen Turley, RSM, chairperson of LCWR Region I. After all, it was because of the LCWR that this invitation came about. It was thrilling to have three Region I sisters at the lecture—Nancy Corcoran, CSJ; Sally McLaughlin, SC; and Ann Regan, SC. It is wonderful to have “sisters” in so many parts of the country. The lecture was live-streamed and is now on the Harvard Divinity School website (www.hds.harvard.edu/multimedia/video/2013-duddleian-lecture). The lecture was well received and was followed by a lovely dinner hosted by the Divinity School dean in the Harvard Faculty Club.

The following morning a student provided a tour of Harvard’s campus. Late morning there was a lay-led prayer service organized by the HDS students. This was followed by a lunch and informal conversation with students. As I listened to the student-led prayer and preaching, I was filled with hope for what these women and men could offer to our church and others as they step into ministries as chaplains, campus ministers, and leaders of faith communities. Those I met were highly attuned to the issues we have been facing and offered their wholehearted support. Some of the students had

sent letters to us during the assembly in St. Louis and were thrilled when I assured them they had arrived and of how much we valued their expressions of support.

There have been so many reasons to be grateful for my membership in the LCWR. This experience was just one more reason for gratitude. The memories of this experience will fill my heart and my mind for a long time to come.



Former LCWR president Mary Hughes, OP delivers Duddleian Lecture at Harvard Divinity School

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Assembly

Orlando, Florida

August 13 — 17, 2013

LCWR Retreat

Redemptorist Renewal Center

Tucson, Arizona

January 19 — 24, 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



SIGN ONs & Letters

- Written testimony on immigration reform to the Senate Judiciary Committee reiterating the concern that any immigration legislation be grounded in human rights principles. LCWR (2/13/13)
- Pastoral letter to President and leaders of congress offering faith-grounded counsel on the current stage of the budget negotiations and urging them to protect vital programs and create opportunities for people in or near poverty in the United States and around the world. Florence Deacon, OSF (2/25/13)
- Letter from clergy and faith leaders in solidarity with their colleagues from Newtown, Connecticut, calling on the Senate to pass comprehensive gun violence prevention legislation that will help stop the slaughter. Janet Mock, CSJ (3/4/13)
- Open letter to congress and the administration urging creation of a humane and just immigration process that provides a clear roadmap to citizenship for the 11 million aspiring citizens and ensures access to affordable health care and needed nutrition assistance. LCWR (3/7/13)

The Occasional Papers
The Leadership Conference of Women Religious



RELIGIOUS LIFE
Evolving

Extra Copies of Winter 2013 Occasional Papers Available

An order form can be found at lcwr.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/oporderswinter13.pdf



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Participate in Education Action Week: Every Child Needs a Teacher

Global Action Week (April 21-27) will focus on the importance of educators to ensuring a quality education for all. The annual week of action calls attention to the urgent need to invest in the future of the millions of out-of-school children around the world. Activities will take place in more than 100 countries as part of a coordinated effort by the Global Campaign for Education, www.campaignforeducation.org/en/.

Over 200 million children under the age of five in low- and middle-income countries will not attain their full potential because of poverty, nutritional deficiencies, and inadequate opportunities. They need trained teachers, 1.7 million more teachers; 1 million more in Africa alone. Every Child Needs a Teacher, everychildneedsateacher.org/ is a global campaign to demand that countries act now to ensure every child has well-trained and well-supported teachers.

During Global Action Week 2013, Global Campaign for Education-U.S. will urge policy makers, the media, and community members to build support for US leadership on access to a quality education through support and professional development for educators worldwide, enabling the world's most vulnerable children to make the most of their educational opportunities when they enter school. www.campaignforeducationusa.org

Raising awareness and getting others in the community involved in advocacy for Education for All is key to building the political will necessary to effect real change. Possibilities include giving a presentation, hosting an event, screening a movie, or organizing a "Big Picture Photo Petition Drive." Resources are available at www.campaignforeducationusa.org/host-a-global-action-week-event.

All are encouraged to send their Big Picture Photo Petition to GCE-US by April 25, The Day of Action, to be included in the organization's Washington, DC event. info@campaignforeducationusa.org.



New Leadership Development Program Available for Young Women Religious

The Collaborative Leadership Development Program (CLDP) is a forward-thinking program sponsored by a coalition of religious congregations of women, in partnership with LCWR. The program is an 18-month integrative process with a multi-cultural perspective, designed to prepare women religious, associates, and co-members with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to assume leadership positions in community and ministry.

The program will be of interest to religious institutes asking questions such as:

- Are younger members in our community prepared to meet the demands and challenges of leadership?
- Are they leading from a spirituality attuned to global and local realities?
- Who will embody our congregation's charism and mission?
- How will our congregation support and prepare associates and co-members for emerging leadership roles?

The CLDP blends relational and contemplative practices, while fostering self-growth and spiritual development through prayerful study and interaction, online webinars and teleconferencing, mentoring and coaching. The program instills skills for conflict-resolution, strategic planning, systems thinking, dialogue, and feedback. Its multi-congregational, multi-national approach broadens awareness of sustainability and social justice in a changing church and global society.

An invitational letter, detailed brochure, and application form may be obtained by contacting Kathleen Wade, program director, at kwade42@gmail.com or 301-587-0423, ext. 2314 for details.

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.

Get People Thinking about Poverty and Inequality

A number of groups offer excellent resources on poverty and inequality to those who want to explore the causes and search for solutions to the seemingly intractable problems of poverty and inequality.

PovertyUSA.org is an initiative of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), the domestic anti-poverty program of the US Catholic bishops, working to break the cycle of poverty. Their website boasts a variety of creative resources including the Poverty Tour video, an interactive map with local poverty statistics and stories of hope, a poverty quiz, and more. Many resources are also available in Spanish at www.povertyusa.org/es.

Catholics Confront Global Poverty (CCGP) recently launched a new website which seeks to draw Catholics into solidarity with the real faces and stories of people in poverty around the world, and to propel them to action. Its website, www.confrontglobalpoverty.org, provides the opportunity to sign up and stand with other Catholics in the United States to shape policies that protect those living in poverty overseas.

“Why Poverty?” uses film to get people talking about poverty. The project commissioned eight documentaries from award-winning film makers and 30 shorts from new and emerging talents. The films tackle big issues and pose difficult questions about hunger and profit, women and education, childbirth and change.

The films were shown around the world in November 2012 on more than 70 national broadcasts. The documentaries are now free to view online at www.whypov-erty.net and will be available on DVD in multiple languages with educational resources and teaching tools in the near future.

Nearly \$1 Million Available to Make Comprehensive Immigration Reform a Reality

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has approved special grants totaling nearly \$1 million to mobilize Catholics on behalf

of comprehensive immigration reform and to prepare Catholic institutions for the prospects of reform legislation. Bishop Jaime Soto, chairman of CCHD’s subcommittee, announced the grants on March 5, after the subcommittee determined that swift action by the Catholic community was essential to advancing immigration reform. “With these grants, CCHD is poised to make a significant difference in a way consistent with our mission and identity. The efforts supported are rooted in Catholic social teaching and reflect our deep ties to generations of immigrants,” Bishop Soto said.

These grants will support efforts to promote immigration reform by Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., an organization founded by the USCCB that supports immigrants’ rights; PICO National Network, a network of faith-based community organizations that works with Catholic parishes across the country; and the Justice for Immigrants Campaign, an initiative of the USCCB that works to educate Catholics on church teaching about immigration and promote immigration reform. More information is available online at www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/grants/cchd-immigration-reform-grants.cfm.

Immigration Reform and Affordable Care Act Implementation Intersect

Organizations that focus on low-income immigrants’ access to healthcare and public benefits enjoy tremendous opportunities this year as federal and state agencies gear up to implement federal healthcare reform and politicians from both parties work toward a major reform of the immigration system. However, they also face significant challenges including: large federal and state budget deficits, a shrinking middle class, and persistent scapegoating of immigrants for systemic problems.

It seems unlikely that legislation coming out of either the Senate or House will provide immigrants with access to healthcare and social safety net programs. Immigrant advocates fear that requiring low-income immigrants to wait for affordable healthcare and nutrition will defeat the goal of bringing them out from the shadows and allowing them to participate fully in society. While there would most certainly be short-term costs to providing these benefits to aspiring citizens,

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Immigration Reform and Affordable Care Act Implementation Intersect

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the long-term consequences and costs of not doing so would be devastating to families and communities.

The National Immigrant Law Center has launched a campaign to ensure that access to affordable health care and nutrition assistance for immigrants is included in this year's immigration reform legislation. More about their analysis of proposed access to healthcare and benefits under the current immigration reform proposals put forth by the Obama administration and a bipartisan group of US senators is available at www.nilc.org/document.html?id=856

Sequestration and Budget Proposals Fuel Poverty and Inequality

Time ran out and sequestration took effect on Friday, March 1, when President Obama instructed the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to direct all federal agencies to cut \$85 billion in budgetary resources between now and the end of FY2013 (Sept. 30, 2013).

According to the White House website, sequester will mean 70,000 children will lose their seats in Head Start; up to 373,000 seriously mentally ill adults and seriously emotionally disturbed children will go untreated; and Native American tribes will lose \$130 million in funding. Other analysts suggest that Medicare and Medicaid will be cut by 2 percent and non-exempt nondefense programs will be cut by 5.1 percent. Many are concerned that the sequestration cuts will have devastating effects on families living on the margins.

In addition, legislators and the public also face a possible government shutdown March 31. The continuing resolution (CR), recently passed by the House, to fund the government until the end of FY2012 in September,

would freeze existing appropriations levels and do nothing to change the sequestration cuts. However, the House bill does provide some additional funding and flexibility for the Department of Defense to manage sequestration. The Senate is expected to pass a CR of its own in time to avoid the threatened government shutdown.

Attention is already turning to the 2014 budget battles where the House and Senate Budget Committees introduced vastly different FY2014 budget blueprints. While each is expected to win approval in its own chamber, there is little hope that these fundamentally different proposals will ever be reconciled.

Republican House Budget Chair Paul Ryan's budget would cut spending by \$5.7 trillion, reduce the top tax rate to 25 percent and balance the budget within 10 years. The Ryan budget assumes the repeal of the Affordable Care Act but retains its over \$700 billion in Medicare cuts; outlines \$1.5 trillion in discretionary cuts, including many programs serving low-income families; changes Medicare to a "premium support" program for those 54 and younger; block-grants the Medicaid program; and reduces its spending by \$756 billion over 10 years. As in his past proposals, the current Ryan budget assumes no new tax revenues.

In the Senate, Democratic Budget Committee Chair Patty Murray introduced a proposal that, while reducing the deficit by \$1.85 trillion over the next decade with roughly equal amounts of spending cuts and tax increases, would not balance the budget. The Senate proposal does contain discretionary and entitlement program cuts, including \$275 billion to Medicare providers; \$10 billion in Medicaid; and \$200 billion in discretionary programs. But the Senate budget also provides for nearly \$1 trillion in increased revenues.

Both chambers anticipate passage prior to the Easter-Passover recess, which means appropriations work in the committees will begin in April.



NRVC Offers Final Opportunity Women Religious Moving Forward in Hope for Fourth Time

As of March, 97 congregations (one-fourth of the apostolic communities of women in the United States), have participated in NRVC's Women Religious Moving Forward in Hope gatherings.

Because of their success and with the support of the GHR Foundation, NRVC is offering a fourth and final gathering of Women Religious Moving Forward in Hope from May 28-30 at the Felician motherhouse in Chicago. Mary Johnson, SNDdeN will give input in a facilitated process on the demographics of Catholic women in the United States and their implications for new membership.

Vocation directors and a member of their leadership team are invited to participate. The only cost for a community is travel to and from Chicago. The application deadline is April 1. Further information may be found at: adobeformscentral.com/?f=Zi8d1a3xw7L1LHD%2AbzS5oA



Upcoming Programs of the Religious Formation Conference

ForMission Program

A two-year formation program for current and future ministers of formation and leadership liaisons to formation.

A new class starts June 2-10, 2013 at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. The theme for this upcoming session is Spirituality for Apostolic Religious Life. More information is available at relforcon.org/programs/formission. Call the RFC national office for an application packet at 301-588-4938.

Life Commitment Program

An eight-day program for temporary professed preparing for final vows. The daily schedule includes prayer, Eucharistic liturgy, presentation, reflection, small and large group conversations, and leisure.

July 24-August 1, 2013

Villa Maria Del Mar, Sisters of the Holy Name
Santa Cruz, California

More information may be obtained at relforcon.org/programs/life-commitment or by calling 301-588-4938.

Partial scholarships are available for both programs with demonstrated need.

Upcoming Justice Events

Immigration Reform Rallies in Washington, DC and across the country are being planned for April 10. Various racial, labor, and religious groups are expected to attend. More details will be announced as the event gets closer at www.citizenship-now.org.

Orientation to the United Nations will be offered by The Partnership for Global Justice at the Church Center in New York City, April 24-25. The program is designed to provide information about the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other groups that form the UN community. Designed especially for those involved in justice and peace ministry or teaching, the conference would also benefit anyone interested in global citizenship. Information and registration are available at www.partnershipforglobaljustice.com/un-orientation-programs.html.

Advocate for Immigration Reform The Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) and Justice for Immigrants (JFI) will spend May 21 on Capitol Hill on behalf of immigrants. The day will begin with a preparatory session which will include advocacy tips and a review of talking points and messaging. Then participants will head to the Capitol where they will meet with their senators and representatives to tell them how important immigration reform is to their constituents. This is an opportunity to advocate for compassionate, common-sense immigration reform for aspiring citizens. Registration: cliniclegal.org/advocacy-day.

El Salvador Literacy Campaign SHARE El Salvador is training literacy teachers to travel to El Salvador for a 10-day brigade or a two month immersion experience. The 10-day brigade will travel to El Salvador from June 29 to July 7 and the two month immersion will continue until August 29.

Working with counterparts in El Salvador, SHARE will train participants and place them in towns and communities where literacy education is taking place. Students, retirees, members of churches, unions, teachers, artists—any person willing to help is welcome. Cost for the 10-day experience is \$850, plus air fare. The fee for the two-month immersion is \$1,550, plus airfare.

There are still more than 500,000 Salvadorans, mainly women, who long to be literate. It costs just over \$100 to free someone from illiteracy. SHARE is inviting those not able to join a brigade to become a \$1000 sponsor and free 10 women and girls from illiteracy.

Additional information is available at www.share-elsalvador.org/literacy. The registration deadline is May 29.