

Update

*A Publication of the
Leadership Conference of Women Religious*

May 2012



Mystery Unfolding: Leading in the Evolutionary Now LCWR Assembly August 7 - 10 (evening) (Travel home recommended for August 11) St. Louis, Missouri

Assembly schedule and registration materials can be found in the Members area of the LCWR website

LCWR Participates in White House Prayer Breakfast

LCWR executive director Janet Mock, CSJ was among the 150 nonprofit leaders and pastors invited to the East Room of the White House by President Barack Obama for the third annual Easter Prayer Breakfast.

A video of the President's remarks is available at: www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/2012/04/04/president-obama-speaks-easter-prayer-breakfast.

Sandra Schneiders, IHM to Receive LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award

LCWR will confer its 2012 Outstanding Leadership Award on Sandra Schneiders, IHM in recognition of her creative and innovative leadership.

Sandra's contributions to the study of contemporary religious life are well-known to religious in the United States and throughout the world. Her books and numerous articles on the life are used in initial and ongoing formation programs in many countries where they have assisted thousands of religious to articulate new understandings of the life for these times.



A professor emerita of scripture and spirituality at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, California, Sandra holds a doctorate degree in sacred theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and a licentiate of sacred theology from the Institut Catholique in Paris, France. A highly gifted scholar and educator, she has been recognized for her extraordinary contributions to theological and biblical studies by numerous organizations and associations, has accepted multiple honorary degrees, and has received many prestigious honors including the 2006 John Courtney Murray Award conferred by the Catholic Theological Society of America. Sandra will receive the LCWR award at the August 10 banquet during the LCWR assembly.

LCWR thanks the Outstanding Leadership Award Committee: Marcia Allen CSJ; Mary Dacey SS; Teresa Donohue CSJP; Feliciana Mejia CCVI; and Pat Cormack, SCSC (staff) for coordinating the nomination process.

From the LCWR Presidency

We are Participants in God's Unfolding Paschal Mystery

by Mary Hughes, OP — LCWR Past President

This glorious season in which we celebrate the Paschal Mystery invites us, once again, to plumb the depths of our own understanding and experience. As I look back to the beginning of the season of preparation — Lent — I can remember spending time thinking and praying about how I would spend those days. There were a number of good and holy endeavors that were on my list of Lenten resolutions. However, this Lent, as in so many others, God moved me to put aside the list and to do something far more demanding. This Lent was the time in which I needed to watch my closest and dearest friend make the journey back to God.



may have served in schools, hospitals, or parishes with enthusiasm and fervor only to realize how many of them are no longer there. At times the ending of those ministries was not gentle. We grieve those losses.

Jesus had a journey that was far from gentle. A garden, usually described as a place of beauty became a place of agony. Friends, for whom he had poured himself out again and again, seemed to disappear. Often his response, at that point in time, was one of silence. There

were no words that had not been said. Goodness was repaid by evil. Life was brought to an end. While many grieved, few stood at the foot of this cross.

If you are blessed, you know what it is to have such a friend. He or she is one with an enormous capacity to listen, to hold the secrets of your heart, and to help you reflect upon your own reality with wisdom. They pour their own gifts out to us and to others, over and over again. Such a friend knows us better than ourselves and continually encourages us to bring our talents forward rather than trying to hide them under the bushel.

Scripture tells us those realities are not the end of the story. There was this incredible resurrection from the dead. The miracle reminds us that the seed that seemed to be lifeless became life in its fullness. God's power

God's ability to work through the circumstances of the ordinary, the beautiful, the disappointing, and even the wrong, is a constant.

So this Lent my holy hours were not in the chapel. They were in my weekly trips to a bedside. Much of the time was spent in silence so as not to disturb sleep, inviting me to pray from the depths of my heart that this journey would be a gentle one. At times the silence was punctuated by the blessing of a few sentences, allowing us to say all that needed to be said. I thought I was ready, until the call came. He was waked and buried just prior to our beginning the holiest of weeks.

and grace are beyond understanding and nothing can diminish that reality. God's ability to work through the circumstances of the ordinary, the beautiful, the disappointing, and even the wrong, is a constant.

These journeys are so much like the journey of religious life at this time as well as like the journey of Jesus. No matter when we entered our congregations, there are practices and ministries that we came to love deeply. They grounded us. Many of us used forms of prayer that don't seem to work in smaller groups. The prayer is rich but it is perhaps lacking some of the elegance we came to love. Housing is a continual challenge. We

We live this sacred life during a time of enormous uncertainty. We are acutely aware of the areas of diminishment. Yet, there is a blessing here. We are participants in God's unfolding Paschal Mystery. Good friends, wise souls, and Jesus would not want us to become "stuck" in our areas of bereavement. We choose whether or not we sit at the bedside of death or the bedside of birthing and re-birthing. "Behold, I am doing something new. Can you not perceive it?"

CDF Calls for Reform of LCWR

On April 18, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) informed the officers of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious that it had called for a reform of the organization. The communication was delivered by the CDF prefect Cardinal William Levada and members of the CDF staff during the LCWR officers' annual visit to Rome.

Cardinal Levada shared with the officers the document, the "Doctrinal Assessment of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious" which outlines the findings of the CDF-initiated doctrinal assessment of LCWR which began in 2008. The document indicates that CDF named as its apostolic delegate for this initiative Archbishop Peter Sartain of Seattle, who will be assisted by Bishop Leonard Blair and Bishop Thomas John Paprocki. According to the CDF document, the apostolic delegate's role is to provide "review, guidance and approval, where necessary, of the work of the LCWR."

The mandate for the delegate "will be for a period of up to five years, as deemed necessary," the document notes. It also calls for additional advisers – "bishops, women religious and other experts – to work with the LCWR leadership to achieve the goals necessary to address the problems outlined in this statement." It also called for a formal link between the delegate and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

The mandate of the delegate is to include the following:

- To revise LCWR statutes to ensure greater clarity about the scope of the mission and responsibilities of this conference of major superiors.
- To review LCWR plans and programs, including assemblies and publications, to ensure that the scope of the LCWR's mission is fulfilled in accord with church teachings and discipline.
- To create new LCWR programs for member congregations for the development of initial and ongoing formation material that provides a deepened understanding of the church's doctrine of the faith.
- To review and offer guidance in the application of liturgical norms and texts.
- To review LCWR links with affiliated organizations.

Five hours after the meeting between CDF and the LCWR officers in Rome, the USCCB announced the CDF plan to the public through a press release, and placed a copy of the CDF report on its website.



LCWR presidency: Mary Hughes, OP; Pat Farrell, OSF; and Florence Deacon, OSF

The report and mandate have received significant coverage in major media outlets throughout the United States and in many parts of the world. A search on the Internet reveals links to numerous articles and columns, television news shows, radio programs, and postings on blogs, websites, Facebook, and Twitter. The news led several groups to circulate petitions and organize various forums and projects where the public can express their opinions about the CDF action. A collection of some of these articles can be found at: ncronline.org/SistersUnderScrutiny.

Various organizations and individuals have also created vehicles for expressing their support and gratitude to women religious, including a video tribute produced by Jim Martin, SJ of *America* magazine: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALx-eolC1FI&feature=share

The LCWR national board is holding a special session to discuss the CDF report. In a public statement issued on April 27, the LCWR presidents (Pat Farrell, OSF; Florence Deacon, OSF; and Mary Hughes, OP) noted, "The board will conduct its meeting in an atmosphere of prayer, contemplation, and dialogue and will develop a plan to involve LCWR membership in similar processes. The conference plans to move slowly, not rushing to judgment. We will engage in dialogue where possible and be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit. We ask your prayer for us and for the Church in this critical time."

LCWR Makes Annual Visit to Rome

The LCWR presidency (Pat Farrell, OSF; Florence Deacon, OSF; and Mary Hughes, OP) and executive director (Janet Mock, CSJ) represented the conference on its annual visit to Rome. In addition to its meeting with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, this year's schedule included visits with:

- The Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life
- The Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue
- The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace
- The Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Immigrants
- The Pontifical Council for Social Communications
- The Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization
- The US Ambassador to the Vatican
- The leadership of Union of Superiors General and the International Union of Superiors General
- The superiors general of religious institutes with members in the United States

Some of these visits were made jointly with the officers of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men.



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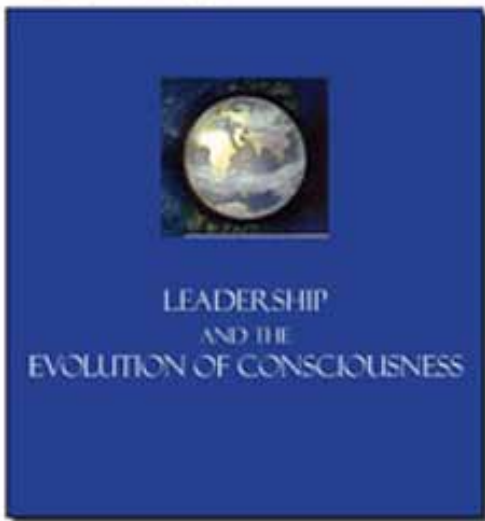


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1. Archbishop Joseph Tobin and Cardinal João Braz de Aviz at the meeting of CICALSAL and LCWR
2. US Ambassador Miguel Diaz; Jesuit general superior Adolfo Nicolás, SJ; and LCWR president-elect Florence Deacon, OSF
3. Superiors general with members in the US attend reception
4. The LCWR and CMSM officers meet jointly with officials of several dicasteries
5. LCWR and CMSM visit the US ambassador and his wife, Marian

THE Occasional Papers

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious



Leadership and the Evolution of Consciousness

Humanity finds itself in the midst of an explosion of new understandings of the universe, as well as an increasingly polarized world of political, ecclesial, and ideological tensions. Where do we find God in this? To what are women religious being called in light of these realities? What is the specific call to those entrusted with leadership at this time? This issue of *Occasional Papers* will explore these questions and more.

Articles include:

- An interview with **Ilia Delio, OSF**, senior research fellow at Woodstock Theological Center, Georgetown University, where she concentrates in the area of science and religion. She is the author of 11 books including *Christ in Evolution*, *The Emergent Christ: Exploring the Meaning of Catholic in an Evolutionary Universe*.
- Various other contributions from women religious reflecting on religious life leadership in the face of new understandings of the universe.

Orders for this issue must be submitted by **June 8, 2012** using the form found at <https://lcwr.org/sites/default/files/publications/attachments/oporderssummer12.pdf>. LCWR will only print the number of copies orders by that date.

Additional Copies of Winter 2012 Occasional Papers Available

Due to a printer overrun, the LCWR national office has additional copies of the Winter 2012 issue of *Occasional Papers*. Copies may be purchased for \$4.00 each, using the order form on the LCWR website at lcwr.org/sites/default/files/publications/attachments/OPorder-sWinter12.pdf



Extra Copies of the 2012 LCWR Reflection Book, Live the Questions Now, Available

Use the order form available on the LCWR website at: <https://lcwr.org/sites/default/files/products/attachments/2012reflectionorder.pdf>

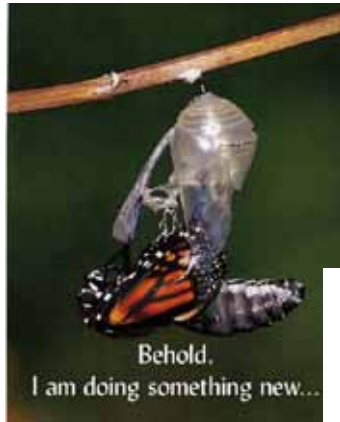


Reflections begin on **May 31**

LCWR Receives NETWORK Award

At its 40th anniversary celebration, NETWORK honored LCWR in recognition of its years of collaboration in its work for justice.

The remarks of LCWR president Pat Farrell, OSF, who accepted the award, are available online at <https://lcwr.org/publications/may-2012-0>.



Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Assembly
St. Louis, Missouri
 August 7 — 11, 2012

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat
Holy Spirit Retreat Center
Encino, California
 January 20 — 25, 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 Assembly
Nashville, Tennessee
 August 12 — 16, 2014

Additions to the LCWR Bibliography

Over the course of the next few months leading to the LCWR assembly, the Contemporary Religious Life Committee will be adding new suggested reading to the LCWR annotated bibliography, available on the LCWR website at: https://lcwr.org/sites/default/files/page/files/bibliography5-12_0.pdf.

Recently added are an address by Philip Pinto, CFC (“Out of Darkness Breaks”) and another by Barbara Fiand, SNDdeN (“Religious Life for the Twenty-First Century: Embracing Our Past Toward a Different Future”). Both were delivered at the International Conference on Religious Life, sponsored by the Conference of Religious of Ireland in May 2011.



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

Faithful Federal Budget Protects Social Programs

LCWR's associate director for social mission, Ann Scholz, SSND, took advantage of two recent opportunities to visit with legislators on Capitol Hill; first as part of a US Catholic Conference (www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/catholic-social-ministry-gathering/index.cfm) delegation in February, and then in March with an interfaith group during the annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days (advocacydays.org/)

Visits focused on the budget battle engaged legislative staffers in discussions about the absolute necessity of protecting programs that serve the needy and vulnerable both here and abroad. Constituents urged them to draw a "circle of protection" around programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, supplemental nutrition assistance, children's health insurance, and temporary assistance for needy families, and poverty focused international development assistance. They also thanked the staffers for congressional action that extended the temporary payroll tax cut and long-term unemployment benefits and provided the Medicare "doc fix."

In other budget-focused action LCWR endorsed the preamble to the Interfaith Budget Campaign's Priorities for a Faithful Federal Budget (faithfulbudget.org). Released just days after Representative Paul Ryan unveiled his budget plans and little more than a week after President Obama presented his budget, the Faithful Budget message is grounded in the sacred texts of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. It calls on the administration and leaders of both parties in Congress to "act with mercy and justice for the common good, robustly funding support for poor and vulnerable people, both at home and abroad, and exercising proper care and keeping of the earth."

The Faithful Budget lays out ideas for restoring economic opportunity, ensuring adequate resources for the country's fiscal needs, fostering true security, reducing poverty and hardship, taking responsibility for future generations, caring for the environment, improving access to healthcare, and recognizing the robust role of government in combating poverty.

The budget initiative was spearheaded by some of the nation's most recognizable Christian, Jewish, and

Muslim faith-based organizations. It is a continuation of the Faithful Budget Campaign, an effort launched by the religious community in May 2011 to lift up faithful voices on behalf of the nation's most vulnerable in order to encourage the administration and Congress to maintain a robust commitment to domestic and international poverty assistance programs.

Supreme Court to Hear Challenge to Arizona's Immigration Law

On April 25, the Supreme Court of the United States heard oral arguments in a landmark case, *United States of America v. State of Arizona*, challenging Arizona's authority to enact its own immigration enforcement law.

LCWR was one of 50 faith-based groups which joined an amici curiae brief urging the Supreme Court to uphold the suspension by lower courts of some of the most onerous provisions of Arizona's anti-immigrant law (SB-1070).

The brief (www.nilc.org/document.html?id=641) argues that the Arizona law "endangers a large swath of Arizonans" by requiring law enforcement officials to demand that residents provide proof of citizenship. As the brief points out, the law deputizes local police officers as immigration agents, creating a host of legal problems and humanitarian concerns.

Arizona was the first state in the US to pass this type of "attrition through enforcement" anti-immigrant law, and dozens of other states have since taken up similar proposals, including Alabama and Georgia where similar legislation is now law. Faith leaders in these states continue to speak out against laws that divide communities and separate immigrant families.

Signers of the brief expect the Supreme Court to overturn the law, but regardless of the verdict remain focused on the duty rooted in our faith and in the US Constitution to treat all people with dignity and respect.

Advocates and Opponents of ACA Watch and Wait

LCWR is committed to doing all it can to ensure that all people enjoy their right to quality affordable healthcare and that the conscience concerns of religious organizations are fully addressed. It is the right thing for LCWR to do and it is wholly in keeping with its mandate to serve the leadership of congregations of women religious who continue to provide health care to so many in need. While the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) is by no means a perfect piece of legislation, it is a much needed step toward the provision of universal care.

The faith community in Washington, DC followed the recent events at the Supreme Court with much interest and a good deal of concern. A crowd of hundreds gathered outside the court on the first day of oral arguments in the State of Florida v. US Department of Health and Human Services. People came to pray and to raise their voices on behalf of the millions of people still without health care.

The petitioners challenged the constitutionality of number of provisions in the ACA and the Court agreed to hear arguments on four constitutional questions. First, can the individual mandate be justified as an exercise of Congress' power to regulate commerce? Second, if the individual mandate is found unconstitutional, is that provision severable from the remainder of the ACA? Third, does the ACA's requirement that states expand Medicaid eligibility or risk losing federal funds, constitute coercive intrusion on states' rights? Finally, is the individual mandate a tax, meaning that plaintiffs seeking to challenge the mandate cannot do so until it goes into effect in 2014?

The critical nature of the questions attracted a record number of friends-of-the-court briefs. The Catholic Sisters Amicus Curiae Brief (aca-litigation.wikispaces.com/file/view/Catholic+Sisters+amicus+%2811-400+Medicaid%29.pdf) submitted by LCWR along with NETWORK and 20 congregations of women religious, argued that the provision requiring states to expand Medicaid eligibility to include people earning up to 133% of the federal poverty level is not only constitutional but an absolutely necessity to protect the common good. Rulings on the questions are not expected before June.



The California Museum of History, Women & the Arts
Sacramento, California -- January 24 - June 3, 2012

Consider Purchasing a Women & Spirit DVD



An excellent educational resource produced by LCWR that chronicles the contributions made by Catholic sisters to the growth of the nation from 1727 to today.



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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 so that the LCWR membership may be properly transferred to the new leaders. This will ensure that there will be no gap in communications from the national office. Please use the change of leadership form found in the LCWR Members Information section (password-protected) of the website at www.lcwr.org/members/index.html.

Conference on Haiti: Accepting Additions to its Wait List

Haiti: One Table Many Partners (onetable.crs.org), a national solidarity conference, will bring together more than 300 participants representing dioceses, religious congregations, and partnership organizations throughout the United States and representatives from Haitian dioceses and parishes June 1-3, 2012 at Catholic University in Washington D.C. Organizers of the conference, which has sold out, are encouraging those still interested in participating to add their names to the conference wait list (<https://www.cvent.com/events/Register/Waitlist.aspx>)

A workshop for religious will be held on Saturday, June 2 at 10:15-11:30. The workshop will provide an opportunity for those who attend it to discuss how they can best support each other's work in Haiti.

Workshops Offered by the National Catholic Development Conference

May 15, 2012

St. Louis Area Regional Workshop
Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
St. Louis, Missouri

Major Gifts: Making the Ask – A Call to Action
Presented by Leslie Biggins Mollsen, American City Bureau, Inc. and Paulette Karas, CFRE, Marist Brothers
\$50/members/\$65 non-members (includes lunch)

May 16, 2012

NCDC Webinar
Who's Telling Your Story?

Presented by
Marc A. Pitman, CFCC, FundraisingCoach.com
\$75.00/members \$100/non-members

May 17, 2012

New England Area Regional Workshop
Assumption College
Worcester, Massachusetts

Major Gifts: Making the Ask – A Call to Action
Presented by Theresa A. Shubeck and Milissa Else,
Ruotolo Associates, Inc.
\$50/members/\$65 non-members (includes lunch)

May 23, 2012

Pittsburgh Area Regional Workshop
Capuchin Franciscan Friars (Pittsburgh, PA)
What's Happening in Catholic Fundraising?
Presented by Georgette Lehmuth, OSF,
National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC)
\$50/members \$65/non-members (includes lunch)

Registration for all programs may be completed online at www.ncdc.org