

May 2013



Women religious working to end human trafficking outside of the White House

Women Religious Convene to Consider their Role in Combating Human Trafficking

LCWR partnered with the Bakhita Initiative: US Catholic Sisters United Against Human Traffickers to bring together women religious from around the country deeply involved in the fight against human trafficking for two-and-a-half days of discussion and planning. The meeting was designed to increase collaboration in order to better minister to those caught-

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

LCWR Officers Meet with Vatican Representatives

During the week of April 15, LCWR president Florence Deacon, OSF; president-elect Carol Zinn, SSJ; and executive director Janet Mock, CSJ; met with representatives of both the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) and the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL).

Present at the meeting with CDF were prefect Archbishop Gerhard Ludwig Müller, secretary Archbishop Luis Ladaria, and other members of the CDF dicastery, as well Archbishop J. Peter Sartain. In the course of the meeting, the LCWR officers reviewed the activities of this past year since receiving the report of CDF's doctrinal assessment of LCWR in April 2012.

In his opening remarks at the meeting, Archbishop Müller informed the group that he had met with Pope Francis who "reaffirmed the findings of the assessment and the program of reform for this Conference of Major Superiors." The CDF office also shared this information with the public in a press statement that was picked up by media outlets throughout the world. Following the meeting, LCWR made a statement on its website stating, "The conversation was open and frank. We pray that these conversations may bear fruit for the good of the Church."

At CICLSAL, the LCWR officers met with prefect João Braz de Aviz; the new secretary José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM; and seven other members of the dicastery staff including Hank Lemoncelli, OMI. According to Janet Mock, "LCWR was received with gracious hospitality and members of the dicastery listened attentively to the concerns of the LCWR leadership."

From the LCWR Presidency
Celebrating Itinerancy

by Pat Farrell, OSF — LCWR Past President

In the midwest spring has been slow in coming this year, so most of us are more than ready for it. Nature's dramatic flowering and greening always seem to be suddenly upon us, abrupt and surprising, even as we suffer through the drabness of March anticipating it. Spring so aptly coincides with the Easter season in the northern hemisphere, surrounding us with symbols of new life! We have much to celebrate. Hopeful signs in Rome seemed to appear as abruptly and surprisingly as the spring, lifting spirits in as global a way as the change of season.



your hands and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go." (Jn. 21: 18b) Some things simply come to an end: our time in leadership, our work, living situations, life itself. There is no choice but to let go and to move forward into the unknown. But itinerancy of the heart is chosen, cultivated. It is not an automatic posture, given the human tendency to settle into the familiar. But it is a virtue long-honored in religious life. Inner itinerancy keeps us appropriately dislodged for outer movement towards

the God who is coming to us from the future. I celebrate it with this poem:

For women in congregational leadership spring is frequently a time of busy transition. Many congregations are preparing for a general chapter, or elections, or transition of leadership. LCWR spring regional meetings are often a time of welcoming new leaders and of appreciative leave-taking of those going out of office. Lives are either in transition, or preparing to be. That reminds me of stories in my congregation of the annual custom of sisters finishing the school year and packing their trunks in preparation to move to another mission, in case they would be reassigned. I can hardly imagine doing so, yet there is something in that practice I find attractive. It gives stark expression to the itinerant quality of radical discipleship.

In our case, the vowed life positions us in freedom to respond to new situations of need. Itinerancy is a fundamental disposition of the heart, a posture of readiness for God's compelling claim on our lives for mission. The spring, end-of-the-school-year custom of packing a trunk in readiness to move, gave outward expression to that inner disposition. The practice is now obsolete, but the posture has never been more urgently needed. In this springtime of massive paradigm shift, letting-go is the most essential of skills.

Clearly, life leads us into an itinerancy not necessarily of our choosing. "When you grow old you will stretch out

To all that is brief and fragile
 Superficial, unstable,
 To all that lacks foundation
 Argument or principles,
 To all that is light,
 Fleeting, changing, finite
 To smoke spirals,
 Wand roses,
 To sea foam
 And mists of oblivion...
 To all that is light in weight.
 For itinerants
 On this transient earth
 Somber, raving,
 With transitory words
 And vapory bubbly wines
 I toast
 In breakable glasses....

Maria Eugenia Baz Ferreira

*Inner itinerancy keeps us appropriately dislodged
 for outer movement towards the God
 who is coming to us from the future.*

Women Religious Convene to Consider their Role in Combating Human Trafficking

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up in trafficking, educate the public about modern-day slavery, and influence public policy to put an end to this sex and labor trafficking.

During their time in Washington, participants heard from leaders in the anti-trafficking movement both inside and outside of government. Speakers from the Administration included: George Sheldon, assistant secretary for Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at Health and Human Services (HHS); Mara Vanderslice Kelly of the President's Advisory Council for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships and HHS's ACF; Katherine Chon of the Anti-Trafficking Office at HHS; and Lindsay Waldrop and Jean Bruggeman from the Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime. All the speakers encouraged women religious to continue to partner with government agencies to increase their effectiveness.

The group also had time for exchange with leaders of national nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Nathalie Lummert, director of special programs at USCCB, talked about two new initiatives the bishops' conference has undertaken: the Amistad Movement and the Dignity of Work Program. Catherine Chen of Humanity United shared information about their efforts to end modern-day trafficking, and Brad Myles of Polaris pointed to the many ways that NGOs can address the multiple challenges posed by human trafficking.

One of the highlights was the opportunity to participate in the release of the recommendations of the President's Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships: Building Partnerships to Eradicate Mod-

ern-Day Slavery. The report from the council, of which Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA, past-president of LCWR is a member, is a call to government to partner with religious and secular institutions across society to end the heinous crime of human trafficking.

The report details the extent and reveals the face of modern-day slavery. There are more slaves in the world today than at any other point in human history, with an estimated 21 million in bondage across the globe, such as the woman in Texas who was forced into prostitution by a group of men who targeted single mothers through their children's daycare.

The advisory council's 10 comprehensive recommendations call for the Administration and civil society to partner in a number of areas in order scale up efforts to eradicate modern-day slavery. The full report is available at: www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/advisory_council_humantrafficking_report.pdf.

The women religious present committed themselves to continue their exploration of new modes of collaboration that will help to multiply the work of the many congregations committed to ministering to the needs of those caught up in this horrific crime and to changing the culture that enables modern-day slavery. Kathleen Coll, SSJ; Ann Oesterich, IHM; and Anne Victory, HM volunteered to serve as a steering committee for the group.



Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA delivers part of the report on eradicating modern-day slavery.



President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, including Marlene Weisenbeck (4th from right)

Occasional Papers Article Available in Spanish and French

Through the generosity of the Sisters of Providence of Montreal, Canada, the article "The Vow to Obedience," by Gary Riebe Estrella is now available on the LCWR website in both Spanish and French. The article was written for LCWR and appeared in the Winter 2013 issue of *Occasional Papers*. lcwr.org/other-resources



Making Translations Available

LCWR encourages other congregations that are translating English-language articles into other languages to consider making the translations available to others. Please contact LCWR associate director for communications Annmarie Sanders, IHM at asanders@lcwr.org with the translated materials.

Orders of New LCWR Reflective Journal are Now in Mail

Orders for LCWR's new book, *Navigating the Shifts*, a resource for reflecting on living in a world in flux, will be in the mail at the end of April. Members are asked to bear in mind that the amount of time orders may take to reach them will vary.



TIME Magazine Publishes LCWR President's Reflection on Pope Francis

TIME invited LCWR president Florence Deacon, OSF to submit an essay for a special commemorative book published after the election of Pope Francis.

Entitled, "We've Waited Enough," the essay reads in part: "Our experience with the doctrinal assessment of our organization reaffirms our conviction that that the church desperately needs to create spaces of authentic and candid dialogue. We need to listen to the experiences of Catholics from all over the world who attempt to live their faith in the midst of diverse cultures and ways of understanding life. We need to hear more from women whose insights, wisdom and perspective often go unheard. Cardinal Jorge Marie Bergoglio demonstrated this interest in listening to people from all walks of life throughout his years of local leadership. We have great reason to feel confident that he will create new avenues for people to express their viewpoints and share their experiences. Imagine if together, as men and women of various cultures, we could revision the church so it continues to be a beacon of light as it applies the Gospel today."

The book, *Pope for a New World*, will remain on newsstands through the end of June.



More Than 100 LCWR Members Attend New Leader Workshop



More than 100 LCWR members gathered at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois from March 21 - 24 for the LCWR New Leader Workshop. The experience included presentations by Nancy Schreck, OSF; Lynn Levo, CSJ; Simone Campbell, SSS; Lynn Jarrell, OSU; Janice Bader, CPPS; and Janet Mock, CSJ.

In addition to opportunities to interact with the presenters, the participants had multiple opportunities to integrate the workshop learnings into their own congregation realities. Most participants attended with other members of their leadership teams and teams met together periodically throughout the workshop.

The workshop, which will be held again in Mundelein from March 27 - 30, 2014, is highly recommended for those new to or returning to leadership.



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

LCWR Releases Statement on the Immigration Modernization Act

LCWR released a statement on April 19 welcoming the release of the Immigration Modernization Act and noting that the Senate bill “provides hope to our immigrant brothers and sisters and the promise that values that are the bedrock of our national identity will flourish.”

The statement reads in part, “We applaud provisions in the legislation that would create a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million individuals currently forced into the shadows; clear systemic backlogs that keep families apart; and provide a process for future flow of immigrants that protects the rights and dignity of all.” LCWR also expresses appreciation for the recognition of the special circumstances of DREAMERS and persons fleeing persecution and violence.

LCWR notes its concern for those who may be left behind including: “brothers, sisters, and adult children of aspiring Americans; low-income people who are unable to pay required fines; and women and others working in the informal economy who are unable to establish employment documentation. We are concerned about those who while contributing to our communities and paying taxes, will be denied rights and benefits, including basic health care.”

The full statement may be found at: lcwr.org/media/lcwr-statement-immigration-modernization-act.

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.



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Editor: Annmarie Sanders, IHM
8808 Cameron Street — Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: 301-588-4955 Fax: 301-587-4575
E-mail: asanders@lcwr.org Website: www.lcwr.org

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

Florence Deacon to Address Conference on the History of Women Religious

The ninth triennial meeting of the Conference on the History of Women Religious will be held at St. Catherine University, St. Paul, Minnesota from June 23 - 26, 2013. The theme for the conference is "Women Religious through the Ages: Managing Individual and Institutional Realities." LCWR president Florence Deacon, OSF will be giving the keynote address, "Women of the Gospel, Women of the Church: A Delicate Weaving." Further information is available at www.chwr.org.



- Endorsement of the Assault Weapons Ban of 2013. LCWR (3/8/13)
- Written testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on how comprehensive immigration reform should address the needs of women and families. Janet Mock, CSJ (3/18/13)
- Letter from a coalition of organizations thanking Senators who voted to defeat Senator Sessions' anti-immigrant amendment to the budget resolution. The amendment would have denied immigrants who earn legal status access to federal health insurance programs and the new exchange subsidies that will make health insurance more affordable under the Affordable Care Act. LCWR (4/3/13)
- Letters to House and Senate thanking them for supporting international humanitarian and poverty-focused development assistance in the fiscal year 2013 Continuing Resolution. LCWR (4/9/13)

Kim Smolik, executive director of the Franciscan Mission Service, presents the Anselm Moons, OSF Award to Pat Farrell at the organization's annual benefit on April 5 in Washington, DC.

LCWR Past President Delivers Lecture at The Rothko Chapel

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."

Fairfield University Honors Pat Farrell, OSF

LCWR past president Pat Farrell, OSF will be among those receiving honorary degrees at the 63rd commencement ceremonies of Fairfield University. The ceremonies will take place at the Jesuit-sponsored university's campus in Connecticut on May 19.

Accepts Franciscan Mission Service Award



Religious Continue to Lead on Medicaid Expansion

US Catholic recently published a Catholic News Service article which points to the determination of women religious and US bishops to push the nation's governors to accept the federal money made available by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and expand Medicaid benefits to currently uninsured adults with incomes up to 138 percent of the poverty level, approximately \$15,000 for an individual.

Analysis by the Urban Institute's Health Policy Center suggests that the approximately 15.1 million uninsured adults who could gain coverage under the ACA Medicaid expansion are a diverse group. Nationwide, just over half are white, but their racial and ethnic composition varies substantially across states. And while more than four out of five of these uninsured are adults who are not living with dependent children, 2.7 million are parents living with dependent children. Just over half (53 percent) of the uninsured who could gain coverage under the Medicaid expansion are male, but 4.6 million are women of reproductive age. More information is available at: www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412630-opting-in-medicaid.pdf.

Tom Corbett of Pennsylvania was among a number of Catholic governors to hear from concerned Catholic constituents about Republican governors' reluctance to expand coverage to the uninsured in their states. Governor Corbett was the recent recipient of a petition signed by 1,300 sisters, brothers, and priests from across the state urging him to reverse his decision not to expand Medicaid.

The petition campaign was organized by Donna Korba, IHM, director the Office of Justice and Peace of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scranton; Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ, social justice coordinator for the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill; and Diane Guerin, RSM justice coordinator, Mid-Atlantic Community of Sisters of Mercy.

Dennis Sadowski's article in its entirety is available at: www.uscatholic.org/news/201304/religious-join-bishops-urging-states-opt-medicaid-expansion-27152.

News from the United Nations

Together LCWR and the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) are associated with UN Department of Public Information. Associated nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) help to support the work of the UN and to promote knowledge of its principles and activities. Periodically *LCWR Update* will include news from the UN community.



- The UN Department of Public Information has released a new iPhone app that will highlight all the activities of the UN system around the world. The app is available at: unp.un.org/calendar.
- UN WomenWatch recently released A History of UN Work on Violence against Women: 1975-2000. Womenwatch is the central gateway to information and resources on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women throughout the United Nations system. A short summary in English is available at: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/news/unwvaw.html.
- Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi, permanent observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, spoke out strongly against the trafficking of children in a statement during the 22nd Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The full text of Archbishop Tomasi's remarks is available at: omiusajpic.org/files/2013/03/Holy-See-on-child-trafficking-07mar13.pdf.
- The International Day of Families is celebrated on May 15 each year. This year's celebration will highlight the need for work-family balance. The aim is to help workers provide for their families financially and emotionally, while contributing to the socio-economic development of their societies. More information is available at: www.un.org/en/events/familyday.



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.

RFC Seeks Associate Director

The national office of the Religious Formation Conference (RFC), located in Silver Spring, MD, is seeking a full-time associate director with experiential knowledge of religious life and a well-grounded operational theology of apostolic religious life in the 21st century. In this key position the person will work collaboratively with the executive director, engage with readiness and creativity in day-to-day leadership of national office activities, and continuously work to advance the mission with unwavering energy and passion. In addition, this individual will facilitate ongoing communication and collaboration on various RFC matters with current and future membership and partner-

ing organizations. Qualifications include a master's level in theology or equivalent. The successful candidate must be a member of a religious congregation and have administrative experience that includes a working knowledge of finances and technology. More detailed information is available at www.relforcon.org.

Applicants should submit cover letter, resume and three reference letters to Violet Grennan, mfc, executive director at staff@relforcon.org by May 31, 2013.

News from NRRO

Seeking Assistant Director

The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) is seeking an assistant director of retirement services. The candidate should have experience in elder care delivery for religious institutes and/or religious institute administration. A former leader with experience in retirement planning would be an ideal fit. 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. The position is available immediately but the start date is negotiable. More information can be found online at www.usccb.org/about/employment. Leaders are asked to share this information with their membership and with others who might be potential candidates.

Planning and Implementation Process

Do you have concerns about care delivery for frail elder members? Are your buildings a mismatch for your current demographic? Are your savings inadequate for future retirement needs? Any leader answering "yes" to any of these questions, may want to consider the NRRO Planning and Implementation process. Communities that have 25 or more members and are more than 40% under-funded for retirement, are encouraged to consider taking advantage of the consultative and financial assistance available through this program. Previous participants may be contacted about their experiences with the process. Their names and a description of the program can be found at www.usccb.org/about/national-religious-retirement-office/upload/P-and-I-Booklet-2.pdf. Openings still are available for the September 2013 workshop, and a form for expressing interest can be found on the website.

RCRI National Conference
Anaheim, California
October 22 – 25, 2013



Pre-Conference Workshops
Tuesday, October 22
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

The Affordable Care Act

The Office of Health and Human Services (HHS), Washington, DC, has agreed to present a workshop on the new healthcare legislation which is to be fully implemented in 2014. Lisa Carr of HHS will be the presenter and will address the ACA in general and also its application to religious institutes, Catholic organizations, and employers. Tuition: \$100 includes lunch.

Leadership: Legal, Canonical and Financial Issues

This workshop is the result of the GHR grant for leadership that was received two years ago. The workshop will address legal, canonical, and financial issues encountered by leadership. The workshop will also introduce the new website for RCRI and LCWR members. The website with its search engine enables a person to search for answers to legal, canonical, and financial issues and provides links to related materials. Tuition: FREE, includes lunch

Post-Conference Workshop

Friday, October 25

The New TRENDS

New TRENDS: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Refresher: 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The new generation of TRENDS is complete. TRENDS has been re-engineered to perform on newer computer operating systems and versions of Excel. A new user interface, My TRENDS, has been added to assist the user with setting up TRENDS. The care-level projection methodology has been revised, and other enhancements have been added to allow for greater flexibility in modeling one's own situation and doing scenario analysis.

During the morning session the workshop presenters will introduce the new TRENDS; point out the features that have been updated; and demonstrate the new user interface. The afternoon session will be geared toward

users who are less familiar with TRENDS or need a refresher course. In the afternoon, the workshop presenters will review the basics of the TRENDS application with emphasis on how to make sure the projection is accurate and reliable. It is recommended that everyone attend the morning session. New users or those who would like a refresher on the basics of TRENDS, should plan to attend the afternoon session also. Since both sessions will be demonstration, individual laptops will not be necessary; "getting started" handouts will be provided.

The use of TRENDS is not only advantageous for an institute's strategic planning and projects, but also for applying for assistance from NRRO and for planning for the future and covenant relationships.

System Requirements: TRENDS and the new tool My TRENDS were developed using Windows 7 and Microsoft Excel 2010.

Tuition: \$250 for the whole day includes breakfast and lunch

\$125 for a half day includes breakfast

\$500 for TRENDS program (required).

Note: Regular price of new TRENDS program is \$650.

The RCRI conference program ends on the evening of Thursday, October 24.

Opportunities to Act for Justice

Comment on the Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States (SAP)

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has worked on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and with co-chairs Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security to create the SAP. This five-year plan is a part of the Obama administration's ongoing efforts to combat human trafficking at home and abroad. Anyone interested can go to the online community from now until May 24, 2013, to read the draft of the plan and add comments and ideas to strengthen the plan. Once the comment period is over, ACF and its co-chairs will review the feedback and use it to strengthen the final version. Details available at: acfstrongertogether.ideascale.com.

Call on Congress to Prioritize Family Unity in Immigration Reform

The public is asked to weigh in with senators and let them know the country needs immigration reform that strengthens, not weakens, the family immigration system. All are asked to tell senators that

their constituents oppose making it harder for people to reunite with their families. More information, talking points, statements, and media coverage is available at: www.interfaithimmigration.org/family. It is suggested that all call 1-866-940-2439 twice to leave both their senators a voicemail.



Catholics Confront Global Poverty (CCGP) has launched a new website to help Catholics pray, learn, act, and give to confront global poverty. The CCGP website provides background information, a video, and stories of how real people are impacted, and an opportunity to take action on four current issues that affect poverty: international assistance, hunger and nutrition, conflict and peace, and natural resources. confrontglobalpoverty.org.



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