

Public Expresses Gratitude for Catholic Sisters

Since the release of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's doctrinal assessment of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the LCWR national office has been flooded with messages expressing support of and gratitude for Catholic sisters.



Participant in DC prayer vigil to support sisters

On May 11, representatives from Sojourners delivered to the LCWR office three binders of more than 9000 responses to campaigns they and Faithful America initiated to let sisters know that they stand with and are praying for them. Many of these respondents also included personal notes of gratitude.

Among the themes noted in all these messages are: gratitude, solidarity for and with Catholic sisters, and the identification of this moment as being an important one in the history of the Catholic church.

(continued on page 3)

The thousands of messages that have been received over these weeks come from organizations and individuals, lay women and men, Catholics and persons of other faith traditions. Conferences of religious in other countries, congregations of women and some men religious, and many individual sisters, brothers, and priests also wrote and expressed support.



**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



A representative from Sojourners presents binders of messages of support to LCWR executive director Janet Mock, CSJ; and executive assistant Chris Costello

From the LCWR Presidency

A Counter-Melody Beneath the Words

by Florence Deacon, OSF — LCWR President-Elect

As the LCWR presidency met with various Vatican councils and congregations shortly after Easter, our experiences paralleled those of the liturgical season recalling death and resurrection, persecution and a faith community committed to the Gospel, and Jesus' greeting to his dispirited disciples, "fear not, I bring you peace." We appreciate your prayers, words of wisdom, and encouragement as we continue to discern both "what is the new emerging?" and our response to the mandate given to LCWR by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.



is dynamic and changing. "We need to go beyond the fragmentation... and find signs of unity." A complementary of approaches helps reach larger groups, he noted, that one person would not be able to reach. After asking the rhetorical question, "How can we be recognized as Catholics?" he quoted Acts 2, "They shared all things in common."

The archbishop was harmonious in his approach. To be successful, the new evangelization needs to enter into each country's culture, to know it, to understand it, to transform it. He listed the use of catechism, liturgy, homilies, and the sacraments as ways to promote the new evangelization. "We put a big emphasis on sacramental life," he noted, but pointed out there are also other aspects of church life involved. The transmission of faith is always the result of personal relationships, and women are very important in this, especially religious. He affirmed the special capacity of sisters to approach people as "nuns are received everywhere." We need more concrete signs of acceptance of the involvement of many, of our capacity to go to people who are searching for truth in their lives, he concluded.

Listening very carefully for what was said and what was unsaid during our meetings with this council

*To be successful,
the new evangelization needs to enter
into each country's culture, to know it,
to understand it, to transform it.*

I used the phrase "new evangelization" to describe the need for a new commitment to spreading the Gospel message in ways that correspond both to the truth and to the needs of modern men and women.¹

While Archbishop Ruiz Arenas might not have intended it, I listened to him with our experience at the CDF as a subtext. He reminded us that we are in the midst of a difficult cultural crisis with one era -- the era of Modernity -- ending and another beginning. This period of transition calls not for "doing," but for a moment of reflecting. He noted that cultures and ecclesial traditions are different in each country and that culture

*The transmission of faith
is always the result of personal relationships,
and women are very important in this,
especially religious.*

and with others, I heard a counter-melody beneath the words, and saw another facet of a truly universal Church.

¹ Cindy Wooden, "Pope announces formation of pontifical council for new evangelization," Catholic News Service, June 28, 2010

Public Expresses Gratitude for Catholic Sisters

(continued from page 1)

Many individuals and groups have found creative ways of expressing their gratitude including those who organized prayer vigils and services in at least 31 cities across the country. Other actions have included the creation of bumper stickers and ribbons, and letter-writing to various Catholic church leaders.

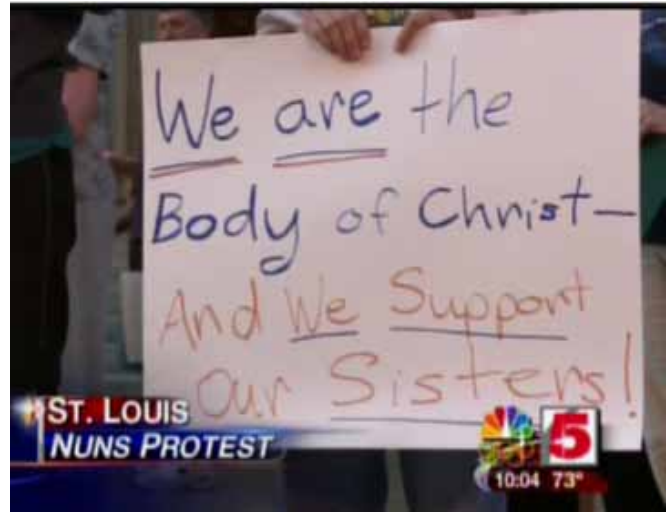
Others are utilizing social media as a way of communicating about the situation and offering support. Two different petitions were started on Change.org; Jim Martin, SJ initiated a Twitter effort - #WhatSistersMean-ToMe; and another grouping of organizations is coordinating a statement to be published in the *National Catholic Reporter* in June that expresses love for and gratitude to women religious.

In addition to the general offers of assistance and the promises of continued prayer, some individuals also volunteered their time and professional expertise to LCWR. Among them were Mary J. Novak, who compiled a report on the messages received by LCWR, and Kerry Turner, who collated copies of the massive number of articles, editorials, and opinion pieces that have appeared in newspapers and magazines throughout the US and around the world, and on the Internet.

The work of these two women will assist the LCWR national board as it begins its meeting on May 29. Copies of all messages received will be available for the board members to read during the meeting days. A synthesis of the messages will also be available to LCWR members following the board meeting.

Of the thousands of messages received, less than 25 have not been supportive of LCWR and its members.

(continued on page 4)



Media stories have included coverage of the prayer vigils, including those in St. Louis, Missouri



Prayer vigil outside of St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City



Candlelight service in Los Angeles



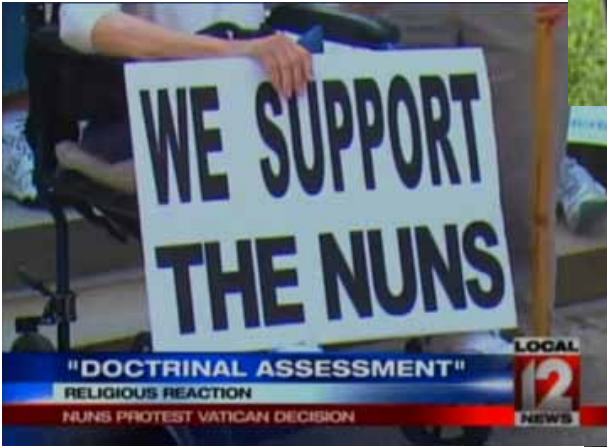
Prayer service honoring women religious held at Old St. Patrick's Church in Chicago



Prayer vigil in Baltimore, Maryland



Washington, DC



Television news coverage of prayer service in Cincinnati, Ohio

Washington, DC

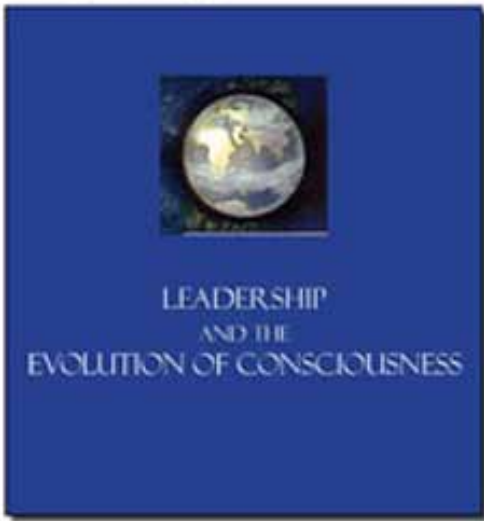


Washington, DC



Poster used in New York City vigil

THE Occasional Papers
The Leadership Community of Women Religious Summer 2012



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.

LCWR Offers Interview with Judy Cannato in Spanish and French

Through the generosity of the Sisters of Bon Secours, LCWR is able to make available translation in Spanish and English of an interview with the late author Judy Cannato.



Entitled “Sustained by Holy Mystery,” the piece originally appeared in the Summer 2011 issue of LCWR’s *Occasional Papers*. The interview focuses on Cannato’s view on what religious life may be able to contribute to the transformation of the world. A retreat leader and spiritual director, Cannato’s books include *Radical Amazement: Contemplative Lessons from Black Holes, Supernovas, and Other Wonders of the Universe*; and *Field of Compassion: How the New Cosmology is Transforming Spiritual Life*.

The translated versions can be found at: lcwr.org/other-resources.

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 and CMSM Justice Committees Meet

The annual meeting of the members of the justice committees of Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) was held on May 1 at the Oblates of Mary Immaculate residence in Washington, DC, followed by separate meetings of the two committees.

Members of LCWR's Global Concerns Committee (GCC): Vicki Bergkamp, ASC; Kathleen Bryant, RSC; Dorothy Pagosa, SSJ-TOSF; Judy Justinger, SSJ; Maureen Foltz, CCV; Sharon Altendorf, PBVM; were joined by Seamus Finn, OMI; Chris Promis, CSSp; Juan Molina, OSST; Perry Henry, CM; Tom Greene, SJ of the CMSM justice committee and staff members Ann Scholz, SSND and Michael McNulty, SJ.

Simone Campbell, SSS, executive director of NETWORK, reflected with the group on the current political climate. The conversation touched on everything from the grid-lock in Washington to misunderstanding in the church. Simone placed the current polarization which seems to dominate public discourse in a cultural frame that helped to explain some of the inability of people to hear and understand one another.

The joint meeting also provided the opportunity for each committee to learn about the work of the other and to explore ways in which the two can work together on common concerns. After some conversation the two groups agreed to focus their combined efforts on issues related to immigration and to explore the possibility of undertaking a mapping project to identify strengths and concerns of their members working in the field.

The following day each group met separately to pursue its own work. Members of the GCC continued their discussion of actions related to immigration, human trafficking, economic justice, and implementation of the affordable care act; reviewed topics and writers for upcoming Resolutions to Action; and explored the possibility of moving the joint meeting to the fall and holding an electronic meeting in the spring.

In addition members explored ways that the GCC and the LCWR Social Mission office could work more closely with justice and peace groups operating at the regional level. It appears that many of the LCWR

regions have either formal or informal groups that meet regularly for support and collaboration. Communication and cooperation between the regions and the national office may be helpful to both.

There are also various issues-oriented groups that have formed or are forming throughout LCWR. Each provides a forum for sharing information, ideas, and expertise. There is a group that is involved in efforts to support members in partnership with colleagues in Haiti. Another group of those working with or on behalf of immigrants was formed this past winter. Yet a third group, the Bakhita Initiative: U.S. Catholic Sisters United Against Human Trafficking, is presently being formed.

The meeting concluded with thanks to Kathleen Bryant and Judy Justinger who will complete their terms in August and the unanimous election of Dorothy Pagosa, SSJ-TOSF to a one-year term as chair.



Members of the Global Concerns Committee met in DC

Upcoming LCWR Dates Help CBIS Fight Human Trafficking at the London Olympics

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 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 Assembly
Nashville, Tennessee
August 12 — 16, 2014



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



Click here to find a prayer written by LCWR member Chris Koellhoffer, IHM for this time as LCWR discerns its response to the Vatican mandate. A PDF file is also available for those who wish to make copies of the prayer to share with others.

Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS) and a coalition of US and UK investors and NGOs have united to call on corporations to strengthen their focus against human trafficking and modern slavery in advance of the 2012 Summer Olympic Games taking place in London from July 27 to August 12, 2012.

The initiative focuses on the London tourism industry and key sponsors of the Olympic Games that may be at a higher risk for on-premise child and labor trafficking and that have the potential to help raise public awareness of these crimes.

To learn more about the coalition's efforts visit the Celebration without Exploitation website www.iccr.org/issues/subpages/olympics_home.php.

Urge G20 Leaders to Support the Financial Transaction Tax for Development

The Economic Justice Working Group of the JPIC Commission of the International Union of Superiors General/Union of Superiors General (UISG/USG) (jpicformation.wikispaces.com/) is encouraging a campaign of letters to the G20 Heads of State before their Mexico meeting in June 18-19, 2012. The letter campaign is designed to urge G20 leaders to affirm a financial transaction tax to support international development efforts.



Organizers hope that religious leaders and their councils will send letters to the heads of state and government of the G20 countries in which their members live and minister. A sample letter along with addresses of G20 Heads of State is available on the JPIC wiki site (jpicformation.wikispaces.com/EN_Economic_Justice).

Senator Rubio Proposes ‘DREAM Act Light’

LCWR associate director for social mission, Ann Scholz, SSND and colleagues from the Justice for Immigrants (JFI) campaign took their concerns about Senator Marco Rubio’s (R-FL) proposal for a new version of the DREAM Act to the Senate side of the Hill. Visiting with aides in Senators Manchin, Casey, and Landrieu’s offices, they sought to forestall support for legislation many are characterizing as “DREAM Act Light.”

Senator Rubio has discussed introducing a revised version of the DREAM Act (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DREAM_Act) first offered by Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL). While Senator Rubio has not yet committed his ideas to legislative language, there has been no shortage of speculation and concern about the Rubio DREAM Act.

In the past, Senator Rubio has been highly critical of specific provisions of the Durbin DREAM Act which provides a path to citizenship for young people who meet education or military service requirements. As US citizens they could then sponsor family members for citizenship.

Senator Rubio has said that his version of the act would regularize young people’s status and permit them to stay in the country, but it would not provide “dreamers” a path to citizenship. He has said he is concerned some of those the young people could sponsor would be their parents—the very people who brought their children to the US illegally.



LCWR weighed in on pending legislation.

- LCWR joined national faith and justice groups in a letter urging Congress to cut Pentagon spending rather than social programs as it attempts to deal with the deficit. Cutting the Pentagon budget to preserve food, education, and employment programs is the right thing to do.
- A letter from US-based religious institutions urging senators on the Foreign Operations Appropriation Committee to increase funding for poverty-focused international development assistance and global health programs was co-signed by LCWR.
- Executive director Janet Mock, CSJ, signed two letters to members of the House of Representatives in reference to HR 4970 reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Congress created VAWA in 1994 and voted twice to reauthorize the law. However, the proposed version would roll back years of progress and bi-partisan commitment on the part of Congress to protect vulnerable immigrant victims of domestic violence, stalking, sex crimes, and trafficking.



Update is an official publication of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious published monthly and distributed to members nationally.

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

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 lcwr.org/members/lcwr-membership-information.



Election 2012: Catholics Vote for the Common Good

This year Catholic voters face critical choices as they help decide who will lead their nation, states, and communities. It is not too late to get involved. Join 15 Catholic organizations, including LCWR, which are committed to being actively engaged in election 2012.

The goal is to create common-good platforms for each state and the District of Columbia, which will be signed and delivered to candidates and public officials. Each will be written with the input of people at the local level and include a national preamble designed to outline a common-good perspective.

Possible actions:

- Sign the National Preamble (commongood2012.org/)
- Organize a discussion (commongood2012.org/get-involved);
- Take the common good survey (www.surveymonkey.com/s/commongood2012).

National Religious Retirement Office Offers Planning Workshops

Since 2009, 66 religious institutes have entered the NRRO planning and implementation process of the National Religious Retirement Office. Twenty-five have completed the process, and \$8.3 million has been distributed in planning and implementation assistance. There still are one or more openings for the September 2012 workshop.

Anyone interested may contact NRRO as soon as possible. NRRO also is accepting applications for 2013. Additional information and/or an application form may be found on the NRRO website (www.usccb.org/about/national-religious-retirement-office/). Click on "Financial Assistance."

NRRO encourages every community with 25 or more members and less than 50% of what they are projected to need for retirement to consider availing themselves of this opportunity.



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



Moving Forward in Hope: Keys to the Future

Out of 177 applicants, 75 participants representative of the three leadership conferences have been selected to attend the NRVC sponsored Keys to the Future workshop to be held in San Antonio, Texas from June 4-6. This training workshop, facilitated by Lynn Levo, CSJ, will focus on learning skills to facilitate discussion in community around the issues of community life, common prayer, celebration of Eucharist, and visibility.

All major superiors will receive a complimentary copy of this process, which includes a 30-minute DVD of eight younger religious reflecting on these critical questions. NRVC is grateful to the GHR Foundation for generously underwriting this project.

NRVC Convocation, November 1-5, 2012

NRVC cordially invites all LCWR members to attend its biennial convocation to be held at the Marriott Town Center Hotel in Plano, Texas from November 1-5. Keynote speakers, Archbishop Joseph Tobin, CSsR, secretary to the Vatican Congregation for Religious, and Kathryn J. Hermes, FSP, author, lecturer, and retreat director, will address the theme of Vocation Ministers as Ambassadors for Christ: A Reconciling Presence.

In addition to a panel discussion on how religious communities implemented the best practices from the 2009 NRVC/CARA Study on Recent Vocations, presentations will also be made on the recent NRVC Study on Educational Debt and the USCCB study on vocation promotion within the Hispanic community. Registration is online only at www.nrv.net.

Women Religious Moving Forward in Hope, Regional Gatherings for Women Religious

In implementing a key objective of the 2010 NRVC National Plan for Vocations, NRVC will sponsor three regional gatherings for women religious. The purpose of these gatherings is to explore the ethnic and cultural demographics of Catholic women and the implications for new membership in religious life. Mary Johnson, SNDdeN, will be the keynote speaker and Gloria Marie Jones, OP, and Kieran Foley, FSE, will be co-facilitators. Donald Senior, CP, president of Catholic Theological Union, will serve as presider and theological reflector.

An invitation letter and application will be sent to all NRVC members in June. Twenty-five communities, represented by the vocation director and one member of the leadership team, will be invited to each gathering. Since the cost of the program is covered by the GHR Foundation, the only expense incurred by each participating community will be transportation to and from the program. Scholarship money is available for communities in need. Consideration for acceptance into this program will be given to NRVC member communities.

The dates and locations of these programs are as follows:

November 26-28, 2012

Felician Sisters Motherhouse, Chicago, Illinois

January 7-9, 2013

Mercy Center, Burlingame, California

March 5-7, 2013

Carondelet Hospitality Center, Latham, New York

More information will be forthcoming.