

Navigating the Shifts

Annual Report of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious
2012 -- 2013





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LCWR Presidency



Carol Zinn, SSJ; Florence Deacon, OSF; and Pat Farrell, OSF

Navigating the Shifts

During last year's LCWR assembly, Barbara Marx Hubbard described a world in flux in the midst of comprehensive paradigm shifts poised for a cosmic breakthrough. Putting her presidential address in that context, Pat Farrell, OSF suggested tools to help us navigate these tumultuous times with trust and a spirit of adventure: contemplation, prophecy, solidarity with the marginalized, community, non-violence, and joyful hope.

LCWR members have had plenty of opportunities to use these tools in responding to the challenges and opportunities facing our church and world as they carried out the mission of Jesus Christ this year. The tools were particularly helpful as the presidency began our dialogue with the apostolic delegates appointed by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

LCWR's community expanded as increased visibility provided the conference with new opportunities for networking and collaboration with the people of God. LCWR continued to receive ongoing support from groups of laity and priests who recognized LCWR for its commitment to the Gospel of Jesus and to Catholic social

teaching. The LCWR presidency was invited to give presentations to lay groups not only across our country but in Switzerland, Austria, Germany, and Ireland.

LCWR's partnership with the religious of Haiti as they rebuild from the devastating earthquake of 2010 has been expanded to include collaboration with the leadership conferences of women and men religious from Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

The mid-February resignation of Pope Benedict XVI was a shift that none of us imagined, and brought multiple requests

from the media for LCWR to reflect on our hopes for a new pope and for the future of the church. With the election of Pope Francis, the church itself seemed poised for a paradigm shift, as the new pope spoke of starting out on "a journey of fraternity, of love, of trust among us," bishop and people together. Pat's navigational tools seem a perfect complement to this new journey which we as ecclesial women travel with Pope Francis, bishops, laity, and clergy together.

*Florence Deacon, OSF -- LCWR President
Carol Zinn, SSJ -- LCWR President-Elect
Pat Farrell, OSF -- LCWR Past President*

Pat's navigational tools seem a perfect complement to this new journey which we as

ecclesial women

travel with Pope Francis, bishops, laity, and clergy together.

LCWR Executive Director



Called to the Limits of Longing

Where does one begin with what this past year has been for LCWR?

Perhaps with a poem from *Rilke's Book of Hours: Love Poems to God*

*God speaks to each of us as he makes us,
Then walks with us silently out of the night.*

These are the words we dimly hear:

*You, sent out beyond your recall,
Go to the limits of your longing.
Embody me.*

*Flare up like flame
And make big shadows I can move in.*

*Let everything happen to you, beauty
and terror.
Just keep going. No feeling is final.
Don't let yourself lose me.*

*Nearby is the country they call life.
You will know it by its seriousness.*

Give me your hand.

Called to the limits of longing, we found ourselves flaring up – on camera, we who prefer to be hidden, working in the shadows, suddenly finding ourselves making big shadows others could move in.

We let everything happen to us – beauty, terror.

We found goodness where we feared hostility, and suspicion, where we expected understanding. We found a host of hospitable companions, standing in solidarity, who seek safe places to express their faith in all its complexity in these very complex times.

We learned that we cannot paint everyone with the same brush – because we – all of us – are graced and sinful; we - all of us – are capable of heroic love and the greatest of violence. We learned we all need mercy and we need to learn to give mercy.

We kept going and we found life very serious and in the midst of life, we found

God-with-us, bringing solace and relief and laughter in unexpected ways, through unexpected people.

We are a very human church and LCWR is a very human organization and just when we thought we could never get through this, an elderly pontiff embraced his limitations and another, his gifts, and through both, God broke through to show love. God simply showed love and compassion.

No feeling is final, yet this has been a very good year for LCWR.

We found a host of hospitable companions,
standing in solidarity,
who seek safe places to
express their faith
in all its complexity in these very complex times.

The 2012 LCWR Assembly

Mystery Unfolding: Leading in the Evolutionary Now



St. Louis, Missouri
August 7 - 10, 2012
Approximately 900 participants



Prayer vigil held by the public outside of the assembly site

Speakers

Barbara Marx Hubbard, a futurist and author, addressed the assembly on consciousness evolution, noting the need for a high level of ethical, shared commitment and social synergy to realize positive change as the world faces an array of serious crises.



Barbara Marx Hubbard

Tom Fox; Jennifer Gordon, SCL; and Jamie Manson served on a panel where they shared ideas on the evolution of religious life into the future.



Tom Fox, Jamie Manson, and Jennifer Gordon, SC

LCWR 2012 president **Pat Farrell, OSF** addressed the assembly on six tools for navigating the shifts in the world and church today.



Pat Farrell, OSF

A panel spoke to the assembly on human trafficking.

CDF Mandate

The assembly met in executive session several times during the assembly to discuss how the conference would respond to the findings of the CDF doctrinal assessment of LCWR and its mandate for reform. The sessions included input from the LCWR officers, contemplative processing, and small and large sharing. At the end of the assembly, the 900 members reached consensus on a way forward, which was summarized in a public statement.



Several hundred people gathered throughout the assembly days to express their support of LCWR

The 2012 LCWR Assembly

Press Briefings

Because of the interest in LCWR's response to the CDF mandate, a large number of reporters and writers attended the assembly. To accommodate their needs for education and information, four press briefings were held during the assembly. Among the media outlets represented at the assembly were: NY Times, National Catholic Reporter, Toronto Star, Ms. Magazine, 60 Minutes, Associate Press, Reuters, Catholic News Service, Religion News Service, and various St. Louis-based radio, TV, and print outlets.



Former LCWR presidents Helen Maher Garvey, BVM; Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA; and Nancy Schreck, OSF were among those who led the daily press briefings

Outstanding Leadership Award

LCWR bestowed its 2012 Outstanding Leadership Award on theologian Sandra Schneiders, IHM. In her acceptance speech she addressed Gospel leadership in a post-modern culture.



Sandra Schneiders, IHM received the 2012 LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award

Assembly Resolutions

The members passed a resolution calling on Congress to pass the Dream Act and comprehensive immigration reform, as well as another committing them to work for the abolition of human trafficking.

The assembly participants, guests, and members of the press listen to the presidential address



Many of the former LCWR presidents and executive directors participated in a special advisory session with the current LCWR officers

The Mandate of Reform from CDF to LCWR

Throughout this year, LCWR officers and the members have engaged in serious study and reflection on its response to the mandate of reform issued to the conference by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) in April 2012. LCWR hired for one year Mary J. Novak as special assistant to the executive director, to give support to the conference as it prepared its response.

Through a process of prayer and dialogue, nearly 900 LCWR members arrived at a consensus for the conference's first step in responding to the mandate. The members declared their intention to maintain LCWR's canonical status and to use every opportunity to explain to church leaders LCWR's mission, values, and operating principles. The members charged the officers to begin a conversation with Archbishop J. Peter Sartain, the apostolic delegate appointed by CDF to oversee the reform of LCWR, with the expectation that dialogue will lead not only to greater understanding between the church leadership and women religious, but also to creating more possibilities for the laity and, particularly for women, to have a voice in the church. The assembly instructed the LCWR officers to proceed with these discussions as long as possible, but to reconsider if LCWR is forced to compromise the integrity of its mission.

Archbishop Sartain attended part of the meeting of the LCWR national board in August 2012 where he listened to the board's response to the mandate, and asked for assistance from LCWR in deepening his understanding of religious life. To that end, the board commissioned LCWR executive director Janet Mock, CSJ to meet with Archbishop Sartain to discuss the development of apostolic religious life since Vatican II. Several meetings were held, as well as two meetings with the LCWR officers, Archbishop Sartain, and the other bishops assigned by CDF to assist him: Bishop Leonard Blair and Bishop Thomas Paprocki.

In April 2013 the LCWR officers also met with Archbishop Gerhard Müller, who assumed the role of CDF prefect in 2012, and members of the CDF staff to further discuss the mandate. At that time, Archbishop Müller informed the officers that a press statement was being issued noting that, during a meeting with the archbishop, Pope Francis had "reaffirmed the findings of the assessment and the program of reform for this conference."

The LCWR national board met in a special session in May 2013 to discuss the status of the mandate and to prepare for the 2013 LCWR assembly where all the members will engage in conversation about next steps. The LCWR regions are holding special summer meetings as well in preparation for the assembly's discussion of this matter.

The assembly instructed the LCWR officers to proceed with these discussions as long as possible, but to reconsider if LCWR is forced to compromise the integrity of its mission.



Some of the thousands of messages and petitions of support for LCWR in light of the mandate



Hundreds of supporters gathered in vigils around the country to pray for LCWR and all women religious

Awards & Honors to LCWR

A number of organizations in both the United States and Europe chose to honor LCWR in a variety of ways. The honors included the following:

- During the summer of 2012, Representative Rosa DeLauro introduced a resolution in the **US House of Representatives** honoring Catholic sisters for their contributions to the people of the United States. Senator Barbara Mikulski introduced a similar resolution honoring the lives and works of women religious. In addition, 75 members of the House filmed a YouTube video thanking women religious for their work on behalf of people who are marginalized.
- **Call to Action (CTA)** honored Pat Farrell, OSF on November 10 in Louisville, Kentucky with its leadership award, established to honor an individual or organization's prophetic stance. Speaking of the collaborative process used to discern LCWR's response to the CDF mandate, CTA noted, "That process led to their courageous and inspiring statement that puts dialogue ahead of dogma, places people before policies, and invites the entire Catholic community to discern the signs of the times and boldly follow where the Spirit leads."
- **The Central Methodist Church of Detroit** honored Florence Deacon, OSF at its peace and justice banquet on December 2.
- On behalf of all women religious, Pat Farrell, OSF accepted an award to LCWR from the **SHARE Foundation** for the conference's dedication to walking with people in need to working for justice in El Salvador and throughout the world.

- **The Paulist Center Community** in Boston honored all women religious of LCWR congregations with its 2013 Isaac Hecker Award for Social Justice. Florence Deacon, OSF accepted the award on January 26.

- **The Association of Priests of Chicago** honored LCWR with an award on February 2. Florence Deacon, OSF and Region 8 chair Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP received the honor.



Call to Action



SHARE Foundation



Paulist Center Community



Association of Priests of Chicago

Awards & Honors to LCWR

- **The Franciscan Mission Service** honored Pat Farrell, OSF in Washington, DC on April 5 with its Anselm Moons, OSF Award. The organization paid tribute to both Pat and LCWR for its “work toward open and honest dialogue and toward opportunities for the laity to have a voice in the church.”
- Mary Hughes, OP accepted on behalf of LCWR the Voice of the Voiceless Award given by **Annunciation House**, a ministry extending hospitality to immigrants coming from Mexico. The award ceremony was held in El Paso, Texas on April 13.
- Pat Farrell, OSF accepted the 2013 prize of the **Herbert Haag Foundation for Freedom in the Church** given to LCWR in order to “give weight in Europe to the strong voice of these women.” Outgoing president of the Herbert Haag Foundation, Fr. Hans Küng was among those present at the April 14 award ceremony.
- **Pax Christi – Michigan** awarded its 2013 Purple Ribbon for Peace to LCWR at a ceremony on April 20. Former LCWR presidents Margaret Brennan, IHM and Carol Quigley, IHM accepted the award on behalf of the conference.
- **Gwynedd-Mercy College** in Philadelphia honored LCWR with its Beacon of Mercy Award. LCWR president-elect Carol Zinn, SSJ accepted the award and delivered the commencement address at the May 11 graduation ceremonies.
- Pat Farrell, OSF received an honorary degree from the Jesuit-sponsored **Fairfield University** in Connecticut on May 19.

- **The Interfaith Center of New York** honored Pat Farrell, OSF at its James Park Morton Interfaith Awards Dinner on June 10 in Manhattan. The organization chose as a theme for the event, “The Courage of Conviction: Then & Now,” since this year’s honorees have taken “extraordinary actions in their personal and/or professional lives that have contributed to a more peaceful, fair, and just society.”



Franciscan Mission Service



*Herbert Haag Foundation
(with Hans Küng)*



Fairfield University



Annunciation House



Interfaith Center of New York

Sharing LCWR's Story Around the World

Organizations throughout the United States and Europe extended invitations to the LCWR officers to speak on a range of issues including the Catholic Church, religious life, and LCWR. While the officers were not able to respond to all the invitations, among those they accepted were:

- Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts – lecture of Mary Hughes, OP on “Priesthood of the Faithful: Light in the Darkness”
- Rothko Chapel, Houston, Texas – a lecture on March 14 by Pat Farrell, OSF on “The Transformed Experience of Sisters Since Vatican II”

A number of Catholic organizations in Europe asked for an LCWR representative to speak in conjunction with the presentation of the Freedom in the Church Award by the Herbert Haag Foundation. Pat Farrell, OSF delivered several presentations in Lucerne, Basel, and Zurich, Switzerland, while Florence Deacon, OSF spoke in Innsbruck, Austria; Frankfurt and Munich, Germany; and Dublin, Ireland.

At the plenary of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) in Rome, Italy, Florence Deacon, OSF addressed approximately 800 women religious leaders with an update on the doctrinal assessment of LCWR by CDF.



Harvard Divinity School



Germany



Switzerland

LCWR *in the News*



LCWR received numerous requests to grant interviews to television, radio, and print journalists and to filmmakers regarding the CDF mandate to LCWR, as well as the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI and the election of Pope Francis. While declining the majority of requests, the LCWR officers did accept some invitations where there were opportunities to express ideas for the future of the Catholic Church. These included the following:

- *Up w/ Chris Hayes* -- Interview with Mary Hughes, OP (February 17)
- *CNN* -- Special Coverage of the Pope Leaving the Vatican -- Interview with Mary Hughes, OP (February 28)
- *NPR's Weekend Edition* - Interview with Pat Farrell, OSF (March 3)
- *CBS This Morning* -- Interview with Florence Deacon, OSF (March 11)
- *NPR's Weekend Edition* -- Interview with Pat Farrell, OSF (March 17)
- *CBS 60 Minutes* -- "American nuns struggle with Vatican for change" -- interviews with Pat Farrell, OSF; Archbishop Sartain; and footage from the 2012 LCWR assembly (March 17)
- *BBC Radio* -- Two interviews with Florence Deacon, OSF (March)

In addition, articles about LCWR have appeared this year in numerous newspapers and magazines, primarily in reference to the LCWR-CDF situation and its implications for the Catholic Church and religious life.



CBS This Morning



CBS 60 Minutes

Time Magazine published "We've Waited Enough," an essay by Florence Deacon, OSF in *Pope for a New World*, a special commemorative book published after the election of Pope Francis. The British daily newspaper, *The Guardian*, published on March 11 an essay by Florence Deacon, OSF as well.



Time Magazine



National Press Club/C-Span

Resources for *Leadership Development*

Given LCWR's diverse population and its varying needs, the conference offers a variety of resources aimed to assist members with their spiritual and professional development as leaders. These include the following programs.



New Leader Workshop

Approximately 120 LCWR members attended the March 2013 LCWR New Leader Workshop held in Mundelein, Illinois.

Through presentations and small group processes, the participants engaged in sessions focused on spiritual leadership, canon and civil law, human development, team-building, and effective collaboration with staff. During each day of the workshop, participants also met as teams to explore the implications of the presentations for them as a group and for their congregations.



Leadership Retreat

Seventeen LCWR members participated in LCWR's leadership retreat offered at Holy Spirit Retreat Center in Encino, California. Led by Maria Elena Martinez, OSF and Mary Waskowiak, RSM, the retreat centered on pertinent themes for religious life leaders today and provided input, contemplative space, rituals, and opportunities for spiritual direction and sharing.



Leadership Pathways

The Leadership Pathways initiative is a process designed to assist all members in deepening their capacities for contemplatively grounded, transformative leadership. The initiative will offer a variety of modalities for learning and engagement, including the use of online learning modules, small learning cohorts, and mentors to work with the learning groups. In addition, all members will be invited to participate in ongoing courageous conversations focused on topics of importance for contemporary religious life.

This initiative has moved from the early conceptual stages to the development of program content and processes. An advisory group has been established to help guide the unfolding of the initiative which should move into implementation in late 2013.

In late 2012 LCWR hired Marie McCarthy, SP as its associate director of programs to coordinate and facilitate these various offerings.

Resources for *Leadership Development*



Systemic Change Think Tank

Thirty-four congregational leaders and justice promoters participated in the XV LCWR Think Tank for Systemic Change, “Between Religion and Revelation: Faithful Discipleship in Today’s Church,” in February at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson. The presenter was Anthony Gittins, CSSp.

Leadership Collaborative

LCWR is part of a collaborative initiated by the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas to create a multi-congregational, international leadership development program for vowed members, associates, and co-members of religious congregations who are under 60 years of age.

The leadership collaborative seeks to prepare younger women to assume leadership in the church and in civil society, recognizing that the future will require leadership expertise within religious congregations and their formally established associations, and in external ministerial, ecclesial, and societal arenas.

Annotated Bibliography

In an effort to keep members apprised of resources, LCWR provides members with an annotated bibliography. Compiled by the LCWR Contemporary Religious Life Committee, the online listing includes readings that can help inform the shaping of religious life as it moves into the future.

Contemplative Insight Cards

All LCWR regions and committees, as well as the LCWR national board are engaged in a contemplative process centered on the scriptural passage: “Behold I am doing something new.... Can you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19). The process is designed to foster a national conversation around the critical issues in the world and church today which impact religious life and which call for a response from women religious and LCWR.

Monthly, LCWR makes available on its website cards that contain an insight that has arisen from this process. Members



and associates are encouraged to print these cards and use them for their personal and communal reflection as part of the conference’s commitment to communal contemplation of its call into the future.



Information and Inspiration for Religious Life Leaders

LCWR communicates information on the organization and on issues pertinent to religious life and leadership, as well as provides materials for reflection and inspiration in a variety of formats.



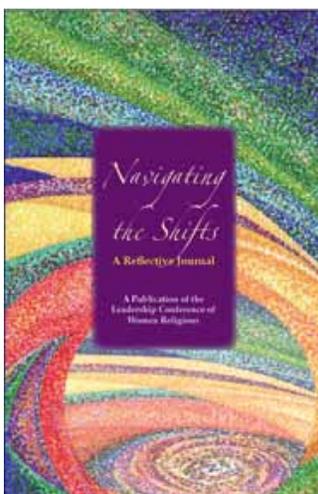
Electronic messaging system



www.lcwr.org



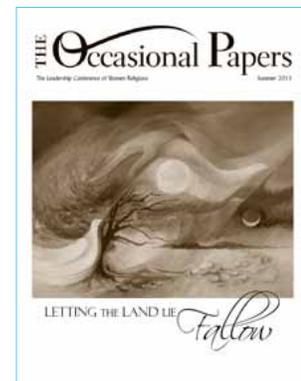
www.facebook.com/lcwr.org



More than 23,000 copies of *Navigating the Shifts*, the 2013 LCWR reflection journal, are in circulation throughout the United States and abroad



Update, LCWR's monthly newsletter



Occasional Papers, LCWR's biannual journal



Resolutions to Action, a periodic resource on justice issues

Translated Materials Due to the generosity of LCWR members, some of the LCWR assembly presentations, as well as some articles from LCWR's *Occasional Papers* and portions of the LCWR reflection journal, have been translated into Spanish, with some materials also in French, and made available on the LCWR website.

The Contemporary Religious Life Project

Contemporary Religious Life Committee

The Contemporary Religious Life Committee oversees the development of initiatives to study and engage in theological reflection on emerging questions facing religious life. Particular emphasis is placed on examining these questions from the perspective of their ramifications for leadership development. In its role of assisting the conference to actively read the signs of the times from a gospel perspective and assume an anticipatory role in understanding the implications for religious life, the committee has tried to bring the emerging questions, issues, and trends to the attention of the members. These questions have informed the planning of the programs, services, and resources offered to LCWR members to assist them in their ministry of leadership, and particularly the planning of the LCWR annual assembly.



Committee members: (top) Rosemary Smith, SC; Janet Mock, CSJ; Patricia Rayburn, OSF; Marie McCarthy, SP; Annmarie Sanders, IHM; (bottom) Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP and Catherine Bertrand, SSND. Missing: Susan Schorsten, HM



Committee members: Marie McCarthy, SP; Grace Hartzog, SC; Sharon Sullivan, OSU; Janet Mock, CSJ; Bea Hernandez, OSF; Theresa Sandok, OSM; Pat Cormack, SCSC; Kathleen Durkin, CSJ; and Pat McDermott, RSM. Missing: Ann Scholz, SSND

Strategic Operational Planning Committee

The Strategic Operational Planning Committee engaged the membership over the last few years in a review of the structures and operational practices of LCWR. In particular, the committee looked at the configuration and structures of the regions as well as the national board and its executive committee, and the three-year presidency. The committee completed its work in the spring with the preparation of a report of its findings as well as six recommendations regarding a variety of concerns which surfaced during the review. At its May meeting, the LCWR board reviewed the report and approved it for presentation and discussion at the August assembly.



The LCWR national board met three times during this year, with its executive committee meeting several times as well, both in person and by conference call. Business of the board included:

August

- Meeting with Archbishop J. Peter Sartain
- CDF mandate to LCWR
- Plan for development work for LCWR
- Possibilities for assisting women religious in need in developing countries
- Initiative to assist the religious of Haiti

The board also recommended at this meeting that LCWR contract with Joyce Meyer, PBVM for one year as a grant writer and resource person who could seek ways in which LCWR could be in relationship with communities of sisters beyond the United States.

February

- A new initiative undertaken by LCWR, the National Religious Retirement Office, and the Resource Center for Religious Institutes to work on behalf of religious orders that are in financial crisis or will be facing crises in the next 10 years.
- A process for creating safe spaces for people to talk about matters of importance regarding the Catholic faith

- The CDF mandate to LCWR
- The 2013 LCWR assembly

May

- The CDF mandate to LCWR
- The report of the Strategic Operational Committee
- The 2013 LCWR assembly

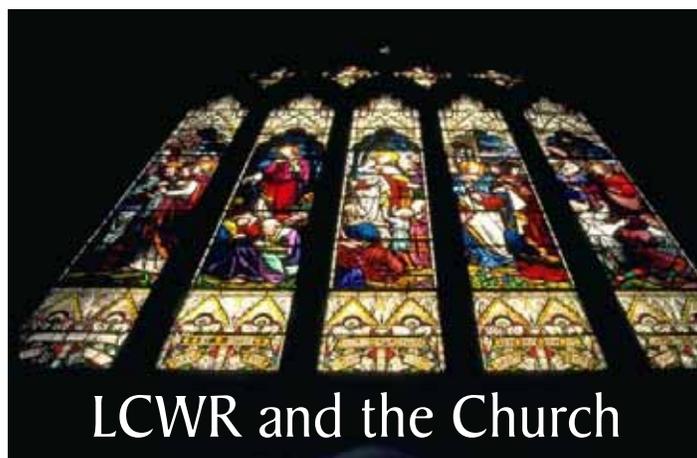
LCWR-CMSM Board Session

Each February the boards of both LCWR and CMSM meet in the same location so that some sessions can be held jointly.

Agenda items for these sessions included:

- A study to be conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate of orders of men and women religious to learn more about work being done in service to immigrants as well as orders that are receiving immigrant religious
- Possible responses to the needs of the religious of Haiti





The LCWR officers and staff interacted with the Catholic Church leadership in various settings throughout the year.

In November 2012, Florence Deacon, OSF; Carol Zinn, SSJ; Pat Farrell, OSF; Janet Mock, CSJ; and LCWR secretary Barbara Blesse, OP attended an annual meeting of the Commission on Religious Life and Ministry. The commission is comprised of

representatives of LCWR, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, and the US Catholic Conference of Bishops. In June, Florence and Janet attended another meeting of representatives of the four organizations.

Janet Mock represented LCWR in November at a meeting of the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

She and the presidency also attended some sessions of the November USCCB meeting as observers.

In April the LCWR presidents and executive director traveled to Rome where they met with representatives of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

The *Inter American* Committee

LCWR president Florence Deacon, OSF and executive director Janet Mock, CSJ represented LCWR at the annual meeting of the InterAmerican Committee held at the International Center of the Sisters of Providence in Montreal, May 20-25, 2013. The committee is comprised of the presidents and executive directors of the Confederation of Latin American Religious (CLAR), the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC), the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. Unfortunately, the representatives of CLAR were not able to be present.

The focus of this year's InterAmerican meeting was on:

- New initiatives as well as ongoing programs, publications, and activities of each conference.
- A presentation by theologian-socialist Rick van Leirs, OP on his study and analysis of emerging religious

communities since Vatican II. The InterAmerican participants also visited and interacted with members of two new communities.

- Visits to significant religious and cultural sites in Montreal and Quebec City.



Conference presidents: Michel Proulx, OPraem (CRC); Florence Deacon, OSF (LCWR); and John Edmunds, ST (CMSM)

- Discussion of a possible common outreach project among the four organizations to the Religious Conference of Haiti and its present and future ministries.



Conference executive directors: Yvon Pomerleau, OP (CRC); Janet Mock, CSJ (LCWR); John Pavlik, OFM Cap (CMSM)



Priorities and Public Witness

LCWR's social mission efforts focus on priorities set last year: comprehensive immigration reform, human trafficking, economic justice, and the Affordable Care Act.

LCWR has authored or signed 30 letters and 10 statements and submitted written testimony to three Congressional hearings outlining its position on these issues. All flow from LCWR's commitment to the intrinsic value of all life, the dignity of each person, and the common good.

Assembly Resolutions

LCWR members passed two resolutions at their 2012 national assembly. The first called on Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform that includes provisions of the Dream Act, prioritizes family unity, and provides a path to citizenship for aspiring citizens, while calling for opposition to state laws that discriminate against immigrant communities. The second resolution committed members to work for the abolition of human trafficking calling it a form of modern-day slavery.

Resolutions to Action (RTA)

The Global Concerns Committee continued its publication of Resolutions to Action to encourage reflection on justice concerns. This year's RTAs included: "Sex Trafficking in the Hotel Industry" by Kimberly Ritter; "Costs of Hydrofracking" by Maureen Foltz, CCV and JoAnn Showalter, SP; "Right to Water" by Kathleen Ries, CSA; "Health: Essential to a Flourishing Life" by Mary Margaret Mooney, PBVM.

Actions for Justice

Women religious continue to push Catholic governors to expand Medicaid coverage. Governor Tom Corbett of Pennsylvania

was the recent recipient of a petition signed by sisters urging him to reverse his negative decision. LCWR members signed a similar letter to Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal that resulted in a meeting of sisters with the governor's health policy advisor to discuss the experiences of those who must choose between health and hunger.

LCWR Region 4 invited members of Congress and their staffs to join them for discussion on immigration reform. The April 24 briefing attracted house Minority Whip, Steny Hoyer (D-MD), as well as Representatives Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), and Bobby Scott (D-VA). Regional leaders also delivered letters to their members of Congress urging support for compassionate, commonsense legislation.

LCWR convened a gathering of 13 sisters active in the fight against human trafficking for two days of discussion and planning. The Washington meeting was designed to increase collaboration in order to better minister to those caught in trafficking, educate the public, and influence public policy. Participants met with Administration officials and non-governmental organization (NGO) leaders in the anti-trafficking movement. The group also participated in the release of the President's Advisory Council on Faith-

based and Neighborhood Partnerships' report, "Building Partnerships to Eradicate Modern-Day Slavery." The report from the council, of which Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA, is a member, calls for government partnerships with NGOs to abolish modern-day slavery.

LCWR/CMSM Justice and Peace

The Justice and Peace Committee of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) joined the LCWR Global Concerns Committee for their joint meeting May 1. Committee members shared reports detailing the efforts on their mutual commitment to immigration reform.

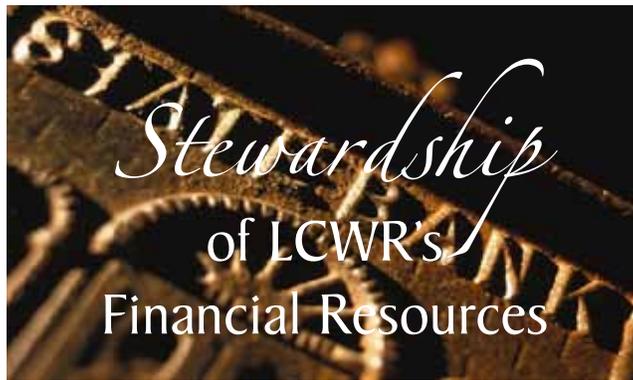
External Partners

The associate director for social mission, Ann Scholz, SSND, serves on a number of USCCB staff committees including: Justice for Immigrants Core Group, Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, Catholics Confront Global Poverty, and Catholic Coalition against Trafficking. She also serves on the boards of the Catholic Health Association and NETWORK.

LCWR also regularly collaborates with the interfaith community in DC including: Heads of Faith-Based Washington Offices, Interfaith Immigration Coalition Steering Committee, and Interfaith Working Group on Foreign Assistance.



Women religious fighting human trafficking gather in front of the White House during their two-day session in Washington



During 2012, the LCWR Finance and Audit Committee and the office staff have continued to work diligently to ensure the careful stewardship of LCWR's resources. Mergers and re-configurations continue to affect membership. In 2012 the number of members declined by 3.5% and the number of units declined by 1.8%. Preliminary counts for 2013 indicate a 3.6% decline in members and a 1.5% decline in units.

Auditor's Report

Linton, Shafer, Warfield and Garrett, P.A. completed an audit of LCWR's financial statements, noting that they present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of LCWR as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the changes in net assets and cash flows in accordance with accounting principles. LCWR received a clean opinion.

Investments

The LCWR Finance and Audit Committee met with Eileen O'Connell, representative of Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS), to review investment performance. In 2012, there was a very positive increase in unrealized gains over unrealized gains in 2011. In 2012, the total LCWR investments increased by 18.8% over 2011.

LCWR Building

The Cameron Street building, jointly owned by LCWR and CMSM, includes offices for their own staffs as well as for the Religious Formation Conference and the Resource Center for Religious Institutes. The income from rents continues to cover expenses and to provide necessary capital improvements. As of December 2012, LCWR has approximately \$525,000 net investments after depreciation in the Cameron Street Building.

Revenues

There was a major increase (96.6%) in the revenues in 2012 over 2011. This increase was mainly a result of the increased unrealized gains and the unusual spontaneous donations to LCWR. Membership dues accounted for 22% of all gross revenues in 2012 and 39% in 2011.

Expenses

Total expenses in 2012 decreased by 3.1% over 2011 expenses. Program services expenses decreased by 12.5%. The largest decrease is in the declining expenditures for the LCWR History Project, which is coming to a close in 2013. The *Women & Spirit* exhibit tour concluded in 2012.

Donations for the project will cover all remaining expenses. LCWR continues to receive orders for the *Women & Spirit* DVD and proceeds from its sale contribute to LCWR revenue. Finally, Management and General 2012 expenses were 9.8% higher than expenses 2011.

Net Assets

2012 LCWR net assets increased by 22% over 2011 net assets.

Budget 2012 to Actual 2012

Budget targets for expenses and revenues were carefully monitored. Revenue was 45% higher than budget, while expenses were 1.7% over budget.



LCWR Statement of Activities & Changes

For the Year Ended December 31, 2012

(with comparative totals for 2011)

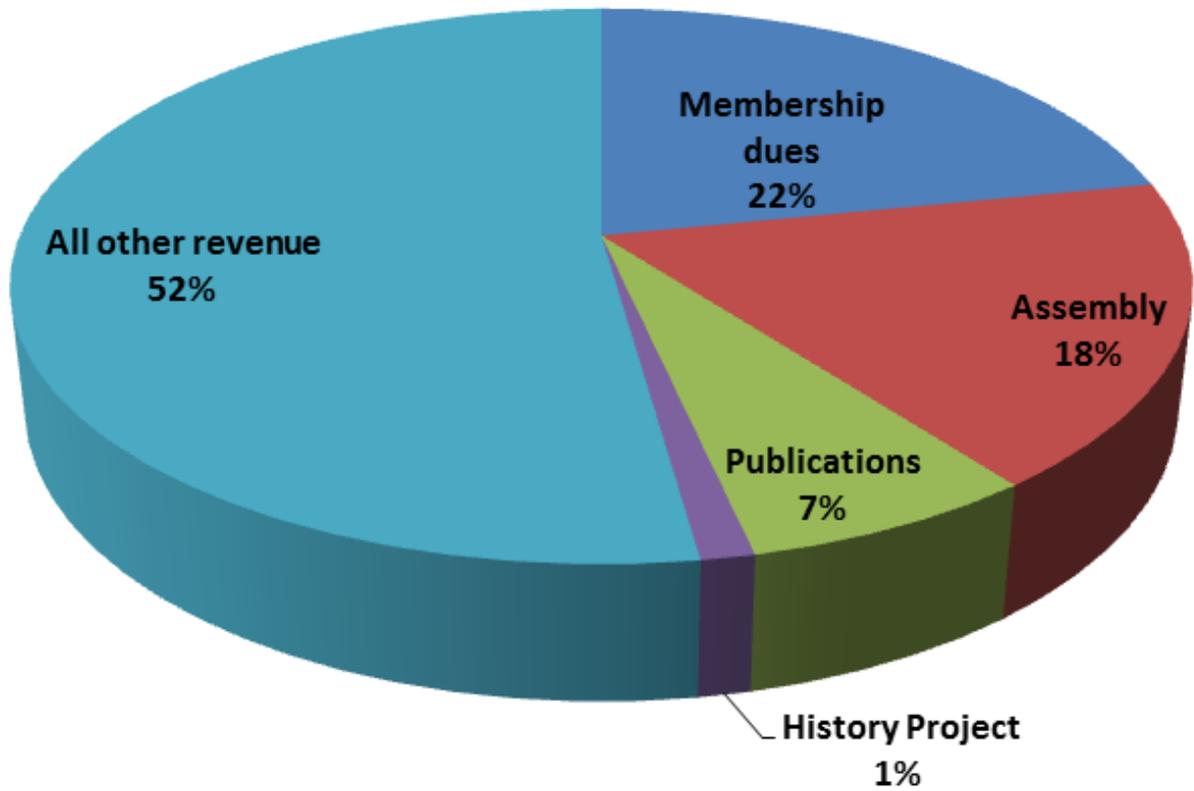


Members of the LCWR Finance and Audit Committee: (standing) Grace Hartzog, SC; Karin Dufault, SP; Pat Cormack, SCSC; Janet Mock, CSJ (executive director); (seated) Sheila Megley, RSM (LCWR treasurer); Helen Ingles, IHM; and Nora Hahn, PHJC; and Pat Eck, CBS (below)

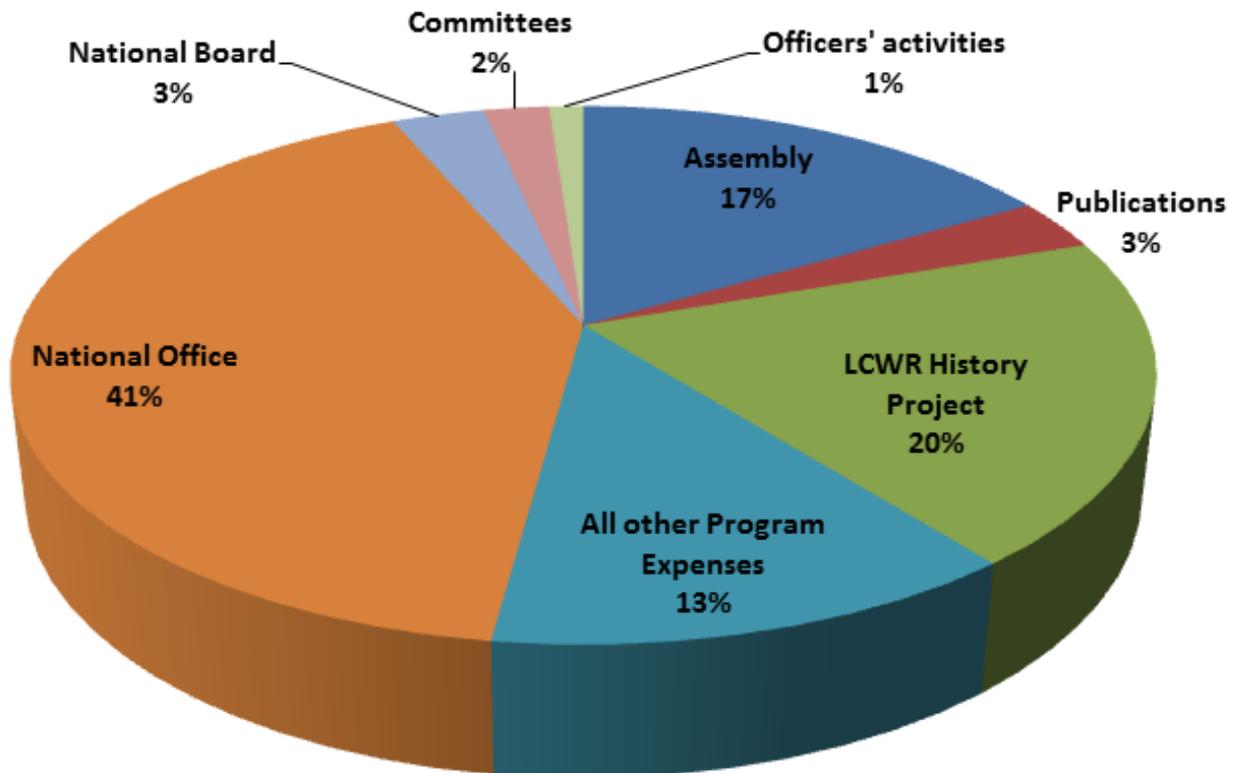


| Revenue | 2012 Audited | 2011 Audited |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Membership dues | 535,311 | 490,835 |
| Assembly | 435,481 | 343,140 |
| Workshops | 77,715 | 70,770 |
| Contributions | 471,581 | 6,676 |
| Publications | 169,138 | 149,353 |
| Exhibits - History Project | 30,633 | 61,276 |
| Interest & dividends | 71,036 | 73,612 |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on fair value of investments | 470,349 | (54,557) |
| Realized gain (loss) on sale of investments | 2,820 | 7,027 |
| Other | 186,393 | 97,789 |
| Net assets released from restrictions | - | - |
| Total Revenue | 2,450,457 | 1,245,921 |
| | | |
| Expenses | | |
| Program services | | |
| Assembly | 251,468 | 259,012 |
| Workshops | 70,172 | 67,404 |
| LCWR History Project | 297,732 | 413,179 |
| Leadership development | 16,912 | 27,845 |
| National Coalition for Catholic Healthcare Ministry | - | 10,826 |
| Committees/Commissions | 9,893 | 9,080 |
| Liaison relations | 8,953 | 5,763 |
| Special projects | 88,268 | 120 |
| History DVD | - | 68,638 |
| Publications | 46,947 | 41,577 |
| Total Program Services | 790,345 | 903,444 |
| | | |
| Management & General | | |
| National Office | 627,300 | 568,807 |
| National Board | 47,242 | 44,731 |
| Committees | 33,494 | 24,761 |
| Officers' activities | 17,505 | 22,045 |
| Total supporting services | 725,542 | 660,344 |
| Total Expenses | 1,515,887 | 1,563,788 |
| | | |
| Change in Net Assets | 934,570 | (317,867) |
| Net Assets - Beginning of Year | 4,313,053 | 4,630,920 |
| Net Assets - End of Year | 5,247,623 | 4,313,053 |

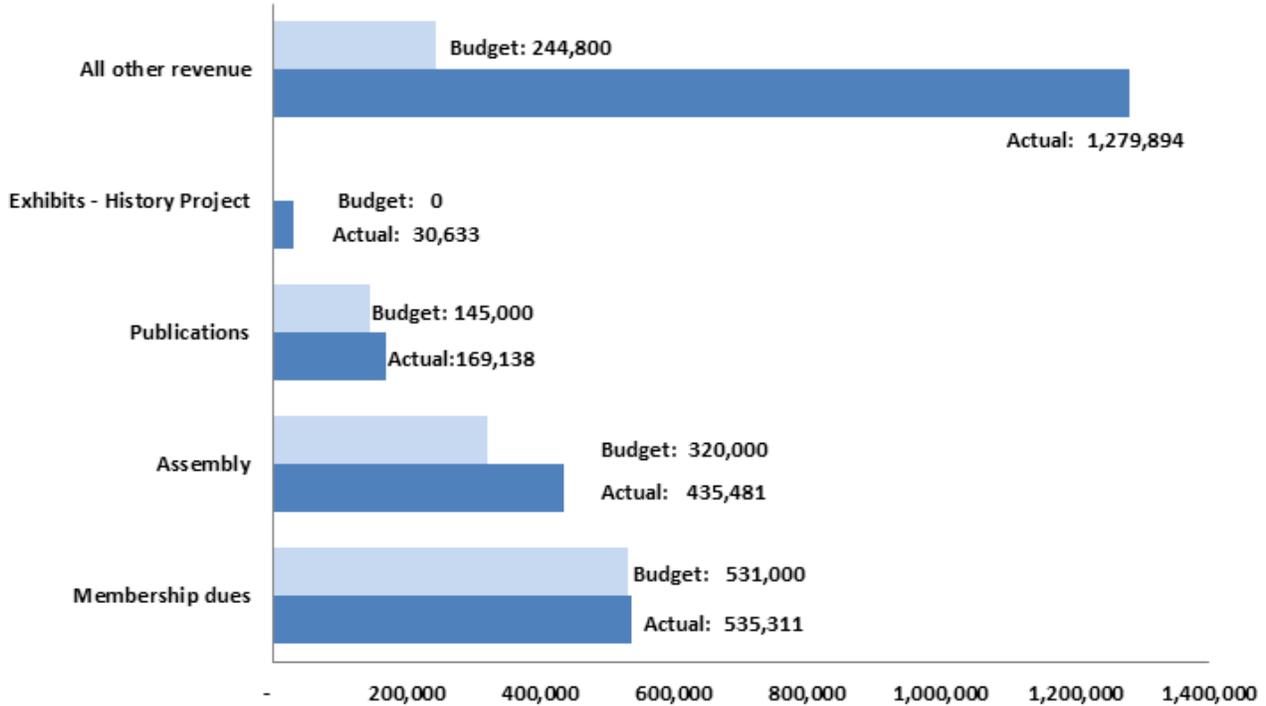
2012 LCWR Revenue



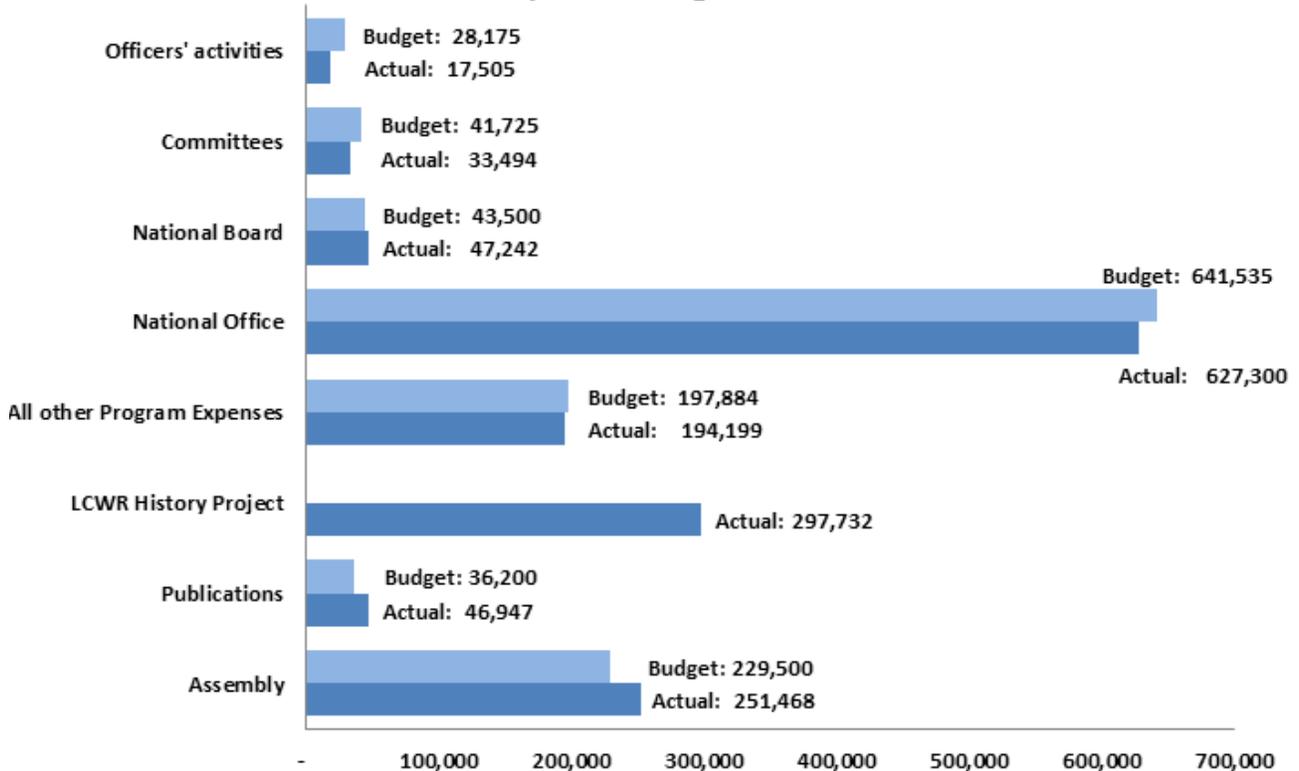
2012 LCWR Expenses



2012 Revenue Budget to Actual



2012 Expenses Budget to Actual



Navigating the Shifts in the *LCWR Regions*

Each of the 15 regions of LCWR addresses the question:
How has your region attempted to navigate the shifts occurring in
the world, the church, LCWR, and/or religious life?



At our fall meeting members reviewed the report submitted to all regions for discussion of the resolution process. Although we concluded that the current policy did not need changing, we were drawn to explore in depth the resolution on human trafficking. The group realized that we need more education. At our spring meeting we engaged Theresa Flores, survivor and author, who travels the United States sharing her story of trafficking and being a sex slave while living in an upper middle class suburb of Detroit, Michigan. Today Theresa is a social worker who is determined to stop human trafficking by sharing her slave story. Theresa describes the situation as an epidemic with a different face in the United States and taking on many forms of slavery throughout the world.

Theresa led us to see that trafficking is happening right in our schools; it is not

something that happens only to immigrants. By reaching out to the trafficked, we serve the poor in a different way. We realize that this problem is a global problem.

We also wondered what actions to help stop trafficking are happening in our own region. The LCWR group in the Boston area have established a safe house for those who are trafficked and have a coalition which educates the public about human trafficking by sponsoring symposiums. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, Massachusetts are working with hotels in their area to introduce

the “code of conduct” for hotels in collaboration with the worldwide program headquartered in Bangkok. Sister Eleanor McNally of Fall River, Massachusetts described her efforts as a provincial team member to network in the Fall River area connecting people with available resources, programs, and the state task force. The Holy Union Sisters have taken a corporate stand against human trafficking.

Sisters left the meeting knowing much more about human trafficking than they did when they came, especially the collaborative efforts being done in our own region.

Trafficking is happening right in our schools.

2

The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ.” (Gaudium et Spes) “Action on behalf of justice is a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel.” (Justice in the World)

These two passages describe the focus of Region 2 during this past year. At our fall gathering, Chris Partisano, CSJ led a reflection on Vatican II. At this same meeting we agreed to sponsor two region members to participate in the celebration of the lives of the four American Church women who were killed in El Salvador in 1980. In April, our justice committee led a reflection on the needs of our day through the viewing of a film, Weapons of the Spirit,

which told of a small village’s response to victims of the Holocaust. The villagers had to help because “people knocked on their door and they/we are called to love God and to love our neighbor.” We asked ourselves, “Who is knocking on our door today?” It is a question we need to continue to ask. Our meetings offer the opportunity to pray, learn, share ideas, and enjoy each other’s good company.



3

The contemplative process has helped us to look at things in a different way. This approach is rooted in many of our congregational spiritualities and is not just a process for regional meetings. Used as a daily practice, it slows us down as we give deeper consideration to all we do as women religious in the church today. The world is experiencing shifts and we are helping to model this reality for a divided world as we come from a different place. We are rooted in collaboration and contemplation and feel there is an evolutionary consciousness materializing in us. Membership numbers are moving off the table. All congregations are in the same situation and there is a new awareness that we are in it together. Diminishment gives us a new way of thinking about who we are and what we can do together. There is a new level of trust in sharing information within congregations as

well as in LCWR. There is a sense of collaboration among us that can be felt very concretely, especially around sponsorship and planning for the future. It is also evident in cross-congregational ministries. The pre-assembly meetings last summer brought about greater collaboration, energy, and support among us, and the press release from the assembly was a wonderful experience of each of us participating. We are most appreciative of the efforts of the national office to keep membership updated on the CDF dialogue, and we are responding as promised at the assembly, by staying at the table in our local areas, and listening and sharing at a deep level. Collectively we tried to keep the idea of “faith” present in the presidential election. Participation in Nuns on the Bus was an energizing experience for the region, and we found much commonality and solidarity in the ways we implemented the resolutions on immigration and trafficking. We experienced the power of raising awareness, the power of combined action, the mutual support so necessary to make any initiative succeed.

The year left us pondering two continuing questions:

- In the fall presentation given by Nancy Schreck, OSF, we experienced a shift in thinking around the 65-80 age cohort, looking at them as an energy group, as opposed to a pre-retirement group. We continue to ask ourselves, how do we free them to live the mission more fully and be unleashed? How can we initiate this freeing in our area?
- In the past year, we have walked with a congregation as they sold their motherhouse and with another as they transitioned through a merger. How do we continue to care for one another?



The *Women & Spirit* exhibit reminded us that we have a history of “navigating the shifts.” Today those shifts are often attitudinal as well as action-oriented. Engaging in the contemplative process, as LCWR has modeled, has borne fruit a hundred-fold. It has refined our self-understanding, highlighted the importance of relationships, broadened our vision of mission and ministry, and stretched us beyond our comfort zone to collaborate with other religious congregations and civil organizations on the local and global level. Trust has grown and we are more attentive to the need for transparency in these collaborative efforts. Participation in the South Sudan and Haitian Projects, Nuns on the Bus, human trafficking, and the immigration advocacy on Capitol Hill that we did during our Region 4 spring meeting brought us life-

giving awareness that while our numbers are decreasing, our capacity to influence seems to be increasing. As a result of the CDF mandate, we have heard the laity calling us forth to be leaders in the church and civil society and we feel a serious responsibility not to fail them. Learning how to navigate the shifts occurring in every aspect of our lives has been a defining moment and a true gift of the Spirit.



In her address at the 2013 LCWR assembly, Pat Farrell, OSF suggested some “tools” to help us navigate the shifts occurring in our world, our church, LCWR, and religious life. During our fall 2013 meeting we had the opportunity to spend time in contemplation with Hildegard of Bingen as our “navigator.” She knew from the inside what it means to experience the various shifts in life and she provided us with some necessary wisdom. Our physical space, the beautiful property of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Chatawa, Mississippi, enabled us to dwell with our beautiful Creator God.

others we prayed and educated for an end to this very present evil.

So many of our navigational skills are strengthened by our support of one another. Members of Region 5 were together on March 19 when Pope Francis was installed and were able to watch part of his installation together. Joyful hope characterizes our presence to one another as we pray together, labor together, and celebrate together.

Our prophetic voice and our desire to be in solidarity with the marginalized were focused in efforts to draw attention to the human trafficking around the Super Bowl held in New Orleans in January and Mardi Gras in February. In collaboration with





The congregations in LCWR Region 6 navigated the shifts in our world, church, LCWR, and religious life by reaffirming the strong relational core of LCWR that supports us in our common mission.

Programs in the fall featured a further exploration of the thoughts of Barbara Marx Hubbard and a presentation by one of our congregations that had just completed a major review of their property which resulted in the decision to sell and restructure. As important as the programs were, the opportunity to share was even stronger. In the spring, we held an educational session on leadership requirements attendant upon uses of technology and social media and conducted a rich exploration and sharing through self-selected interest groups, including questions

regarding vocations, sponsorship, and sharing resources.

In regard to immigration reform and stopping human trafficking, we recognized and strengthened efforts of coalitions of our metropolitan congregations and provided opportunities for the more rural congre-

gations to support these same efforts. At the same time the member congregations shared information about their own programs and continued their ministerial work in these same areas. On the whole, we continued to celebrate and support one another as women who share a common call.



Region 7 has journeyed together responding to Pat Farrell's call to navigate the shifts we are experiencing.

Through contemplation: Gatherings have been woven together in a spirit of prayer that drew us into a quiet space to discern the movement of the Spirit within us, among us, and around us.

With prophetic voice: Hearts and minds have been touched by presentations and reflections on forming conscience and religious life as prophetic.

Through solidarity with the marginalized: Working with congregation justice promoters strengthened our efforts to address issues of immigration and human trafficking within and among the states in the region.

Through community: Members lend their gifts and talents in myriad ways, assume responsibility for the vitality of gatherings, lead prayer, facilitate portions of meetings, share experiences in leadership, are accountable to follow up on decisions made as a region and enjoy one another's company.

Non-violently: Preparation for the 2012 LCWR assembly was done with great care, respect, and integrity. We continue to share the desire for dialogue as the future of LCWR unfolds.

By living in joyful hope: Communal reflection on material prepared by RCRI and NRRO has drawn us into a stance of solidarity with one another even though our congregational realities may be different.

The content of our meetings has been integrated with our lived experience – stretching us and giving us lenses for reflection on and response to situations in our church and the global community. We are confident in God's creative future for the charism of religious life.





Region 8 members have navigated the shifts with an ever-growing awareness of God's presence in and among us. We might best reflect on our efforts this past year utilizing the focuses provided us by Pat Farrell in her presidential address. *Contemplation* has been at the center of our gatherings as we have engaged in momentary silence, collective study, and the contemplative process. This has led to profound sharing of our thoughts and feelings related to the doctrinal assessment. Our *prophetic voice* has been heard during the annual meeting with Cardinal Francis George and the Illinois bishops as we spoke of our work and engaged in discussions related to our lives as women religious. It is also articulated through our representation on the Illinois Catholic Conference Board.

Our *solidarity with the marginalized* is most unfailingly expressed through Project IRENE under the direction of Rose Mary Meyer, BVM, as she advocates on our behalf for legislation to benefit women and children in Illinois. This solidarity is extended beyond our borders by our financial support of SHARE El Salvador and our sponsorship of Monica Mabel Balbuena, SSPS who participated in a delegation to El Salvador. Our value to live *nonviolently* is

articulated in our proposed resolution on non-violence to the 2013 national assembly and by providing seed money to the Illinois Women Religious Against Human Trafficking who are planning a state-wide conference for March 2014. We continue to form and sustain a strong sense of *community* each time we gather together. Such solidarity strengthens us to live in *joyful hope* believing the Spirit is alive and at work in us.

Region 8 members have navigated the shifts with an ever-growing awareness of *God's presence* in and among us.



At our fall meeting, Region 9 members attempted to navigate the shifts occurring in the church and LCWR by exploring what it means to be ecclesial women in our times. Through presentations by Mary Waskowiak, RSM, reflection, and sharing we explored what it means to be a part of the church and to be faithful to the call of being a prophetic voice that brings hope to all those around us.

We have created an ad hoc committee to help us continue working to abolish human trafficking, a form of modern-day slavery. We discussed how we can collaborate with our communication directors to educate ourselves and the public and move forward together in action.

We have also heard the gospel call to welcome the stranger and treat all with respect and dignity. To deepen our un-

derstanding and inform our advocacy for immigration reform, we invited Bishop Gerald Kicanas to speak at our spring gathering on immigration reform and give a presentation one evening to the public with live and delayed broadcasting

for those unable to attend. We pledged to pursue comprehensive immigration reform by promoting just and humane immigration policies at the national, state, and local levels.





Region 10 is navigating the shifts by our commitment to develop skills needed as leaders and by reaching beyond ourselves to initiate collaborative programs in response to pressing issues of immigration and trafficking. The Iowa members of Region 10 assisted the broader Catholic population in navigating these shifts by sponsoring a four-session lecture series addressing the impact of Vatican II in honor of its 50th anniversary.

Our leadership skill development was enhanced by a fall 2012 day of learning led by Andra Medea, author of *Conflict Unraveled*. Andra assisted the group in understanding the dynamics of conflict, approaches to spiritual questioning and obedience, the role of fear in conflict, and ways of dealing with change.

In the spring meeting Helen Garvey BVM; Mary Ellen Gevelinger OP; and Maureen McDonnell OP led us in a process of reflection on Vatican II and its impact on religious life. Each of them shared their stories of experiences with the church as well as the growth, gifts, blessings, and challenges of these intervening years.

Efforts to build relationships of solidarity and shared friendship have been enhanced this year by two progressive meals. At the fall meeting, held in Omaha, Nebraska regional members did so among the communities located there, and in the spring did the same in Dubuque, Iowa.



The members of Region 11 have attempted to navigate the shifts occurring in our church, world, and in religious life through the following activities:

- Received input at the spring 2013 meeting on the strategic planning process of two congregations in our region;
- Proposed a resolution on Commitment to Life for consideration at the 2013 assembly;
- Reached out in support to Fr. Roy Bourgeois (Franciscans of Rochester and Little Falls, Minnesota);
- Shared the executive summary of the meeting of the LCWR leadership and board with Archbishop Sartain with the bishops of our region;
- Sponsored Carol Virnig, OSF for the “SHARE El Salvador” pilgrimage and received her report of the experience;

- Participated in the “Moving Forward in Hope” vocation conference and activities (several congregations from the region);
- Received a report on the LCWR “Systemic Change Think Tank XV” by Bea Eichten, OSF;
- Carried out a variety of public awareness and advocacy activities relative

- to the issues of immigration and human trafficking (several member congregations);
- Listened for the direction of the Holy Spirit in the contemplative process and in group *lectio divina* incorporated into our prayer at our regional meetings.

Listened for the direction of the

Holy Spirit

in the contemplative process

12

During the past year, the members of Region 12 have made efforts to remain focused on the mission of religious life and LCWR, and the persistent call of the Gospel to be a prophetic voice for people who are poor and living on the margins of society.

We have continued to participate in the deeply prayerful contemplative process initiated by LCWR, to enable our members to be a contemplative presence for our religious institutes, for the church and most especially for the myriad of people suffering in our world. The process has enabled us to be more contemplative in our personal lives, and helped us to bring that quiet contemplative presence to all we meet.

We have partnered with many organizations, including LCWR, SRIC (Socially Responsible Investment Coalition) and our own religious institutes, working together to bring about comprehensive immigration reform, to eradicate human trafficking from our society, and to address other urgent issues of injustice.

We have invited professionals to help us better understand the issues; shared what each of our institutes is doing to address poverty and injustice, and spent time brainstorming, how together, we as a region can navigate the shifts that are taking place in the world, the church, LCWR and our religious institutes.



13

We perceived life as a mystery to be lived in the midst of today's challenges. We acknowledged our need to enter into the relationality of all life. We heard the call of Planet Earth to make its house a house of prayer rather than a den of thieves. (Mark 12:17) We expressed our impulse to respond with compassion, integrity and justice as gospel women.



We acknowledged our need to enter into

the relationality of all life.

14

Through our interactions with one another, especially during regional gatherings, the members of Region 14 have strengthened relationships, collaborated on addressing a variety of issues, and grown in understanding the shifts in the church and religious life through the presenters at the national assembly and regional meetings. Highlights of our collaboration have been efforts to end human trafficking, immigration reform, support for “Nuns on the Bus,” and solidarity with and mentoring of communities coming from other countries. Ongoing collaboration regarding health-care for members, ways to participate in state and federal health management programs as well as advocate for those without healthcare from within those programs, and the formation of a joint sex abuse review board for communities

in northern California are ways members are navigating the shifts in both the world and religious life. We experience ourselves in partnership with one another and with other religious and civic groups. Collaboration (rather than isolation) is our choice moving into the future.

During our fall gathering Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA clarified many of the canonical points of the CDF mandate and challenged us to be attentive to its real implications from a canon law perspective. Springtime

brought Sandra Schneiders, IHM reviewing the history of religious life and challenging us to be creative and open to new ways of welcoming new members. Choosing to live from a contemplative stance has been strengthened through the contemplative process, which we engage in not only at regional meetings but many of us in our community gatherings. Region 14 members support all LCWR members, the presidency and executive director in our moving together into an unknown future from a contemplative stance.



15

As communities of nonviolence and joyful hope in our presence with others we act collaboratively:

- First Sunday of the month, Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center (IPJC) silent vigils for awareness of and be in solidarity with victims of human trafficking.
- Tacoma Dominicans and Franciscan Sisters of Philadelphia have been engaged in a city-wide coalition for human trafficking for awareness, education, and advocacy, as well as an outreach to immigrants at the Tacoma Detention Center.
- Benedictines Sisters of Mt. Angel, Oregon, rehabbed a 25-year old farmworker shelter with public and private sources; Casa Adele, blessed in April 2013, has 10 self-contained apartments for rental to farmworker families.

- Many region members attended the April IPJC Women’s Convocation; its theme, “Grace on the Margins” was experienced by 1600 participants, presenting challenges, authenticity, and deep personal stories from three main presenters and workshops. A stage production, “Grace on the Margins,” was musical, creative, and touched deeply on a variety of justice issues.

IPJC’s program of Women’s Justice Circles was given the 2012 Sister Margaret Cafferty Development of People Award by the US Conference of Bishops, in recognition of justice for women grassroots organizing that takes place in 42 cities in Washington, Oregon, Peru, and El Salvador with partnerships, networks, and/or circle sites with 55 Catholic parishes. IPJC is a collaboration of seven sponsoring and nine affiliated religious communities, in or with members in the Northwest.



Collaborating for the *Mission of Religious Life*

LCWR works closely with other organizations serving women and men religious in the United States.

LCWR invited each organization to describe how, since 2012,
it has navigated the shifts occurring in the world, the church, and religious life.

Conference of Major Superiors of Men

John Pavlik, OFM Cap
Executive Director

For the last 50 years women and men in consecrated life have responded to directives concerning renewal and reform initiated at, in, and through the Second Vatican Council. Few on the eve of that Council could have accurately predicted the depth of the renewal and reform invited, even mandated. In good faith and with astounding generosity, religious men and women have sought to maintain dual components of authentic continuity with our storied and graced past and of the novel, the new which intends to speak more directly and powerfully to persons disenfranchised or drifting from the salvation which Christ presents.



The Conference of Major Superiors of Men observes the good efforts of our sisters in consecrated life and watches with anticipation as the LCWR focuses anew on the essentials of continuity and of newness for the sake of the saving mission of Christ in his church and in this latest generation. God will surely bless your good work.



Religious Formation Conference

Violet Grennan, MFIC
Executive Director

The Religious Formation Conference (RFC) continued to address challenges and invitations members identified in RFC's ongoing series of national programs titled "Transformation of Religious Life in North America: An Action-Oriented Initiative."

Keenly aware of shifts in the world, the church, and religious life, women and men acknowledged that religious life today is in uncharted waters marked by unprecedented currents of change. Through input, dialogue, and reflection, workshop participants became more aware of persistent calls for contemplation, communal discernment, and collaboration across congregations.

The gift of being with others who shared this life commitment and who desired a deeper way of living the most essential elements of gospel-based life struck remarkable chords. Participants discovered they were not alone in their quest for the God who calls all to vibrant life. They left the gatherings more energized and intent on casting off into the deep for the sake of service in our church and world.



Resource Center for Religious Institutes

Donna Sauer Miller, JD, JCL
Associate Director

The Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) has attempted to navigate the shifts occurring in religious life in various ways since the merger of NATRI and LRCR. In February we welcomed Brother Larry Lundin, SJ, to our staff as director of finance and administration. Brother Larry fills a void that has existed since RCRI began in that we now have a staff member with first-hand experience in the business office of a religious institute. The covenant relationship project is a helpful legacy planning tool that we introduced last fall. This year we have partnered with LCWR to produce a web-based project for leadership that will debut later this summer. Similarly, we will debut the new version of TRENDS at our national conference in Anaheim in October. Through our conferences, webinars, consultations, and other services RCRI continues to navigate the shifts in religious life.

Collaborating for the *Mission of Religious Life*



National Religious Vocation Conference

Paul Bednarczyk, CSC
Executive Director

Recognizing the changing landscape of religious life and vocation ministry, NRVC is currently conducting an organizational feasibility study so that we may better serve our constituents, especially in the areas of education, resources, communications and media, and addressing the impact of college debt on vocations. In our Women Religious Moving Forward in Hope workshops, we hosted major superiors and vocation directors of 120 religious institutes who learned about the shifting demographics in the US church and their influence on future membership in women's congregations. We provided a complimentary Keys to the Future DVD to all LCWR leaders, and this spring, NRVC initiated a new CARA study on the integration of multicultural candidates into US religious institutes. A productive year, indeed!



National Religious Retirement Office

Janice Bader, CPPS
Executive Director

To measure the status of retirement need among US religious, in 2012 the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) engaged Mercer Consulting to conduct an actuarial study. Based on data submitted to NRRO in 2011, the study showed that there has been improvement since the 2004 actuarial report. The cost of care has not increased as rapidly as projected and, retirement savings (in the aggregate) have grown. As a result, the under-funded liability is now \$4.7 billion. Though smaller, this shortfall still represents a significant challenge.

While fund distribution is a critical element of the services provided by NRRO, the consultative, educational, and planning assistance offered help to leverage the funds. The NRRO Planning and Implementation process remains available to institutes that have less than 40% of their

projected funding need. NRRO encourages all eligible institutes to avail themselves of this opportunity. In addition, NRRO offers other workshops, newsletters, and webinars to assist all religious, regardless of their level of funding.

Elder care delivery and property management are among the leading retirement-related concerns. In an effort to assist, NRRO and Avila Institute are developing a self-assessment manual for care delivery. NRRO also is gleaning from religious institutes best practices in property planning. Additional resources and programming on both of these topics will be available in the coming months.



Generous Service to the Leadership Conference

LCWR thanks all who have contributed their time and talent to the conference through service on its national board and committees and as liaisons to other organizations.

National Board

Officers

Florence Deacon, OSF* -- President
Carol Zinn, SSJ* -- President-Elect
Pat Farrell, OSF* -- Past President
Barbara Blesse, OP* -- Secretary
Sheila Megley, RSM* -- Treasurer

Regional Chairpersons

Kathleen Hurley, RSM -- Region 1
Judy Justinger, SSJ -- Region 2
M. Lee Farrell, GNSH -- Region 3
Rose Marie Jasinski, -- Region 4
Beth Fitzpatrick, OCarm -- Region 5
Sharon Sullivan, OSU -- Region 6
Joan Marie Steadman, CSC -- Region 7
Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP -- Region 8
Linda Szocik, SSJ-TOSF -- Region 9
Nancy Schreck, OSF* -- Region 10
Penny Bingham, OSB -- Region 11
Miriam Mitchell, SHSp -- Region 12
Eileen Hurley, SCL -- Region 13
Patricia Rayburn, OSF* -- Region 14
Judy Desmarais, SP -- Region 15

Executive Director

Janet Mock, CSJ*

*Members of the Executive Committee

Committees

Advisory Group for Leadership Pathways

Cathy Bertrand, SSND
Ellen Dauwer, SC
Barbara Hagedorn, SC
Alba Letelier, SP
Marie McCarthy, SP, (LCWR staff)
Mary Pellegrino, CSJ
Sharlet Ann Wagner, CSC

Assembly Resolutions Committee

Catherine Darcy, RSM (Chair)
Janet Folkl, CDP
Patricia Reid, OSF
Ann Scholz, SSND (LCWR Staff)

Contemporary Religious Life Committee

Janet Mock, CSJ (Chair)
Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP
Patricia Rayburn, OSF
Susan Schorsten, HM
Rosemary Smith, SC
Marie McCarthy, SP (LCWR Staff)
Annmarie Sanders, IHM (LCWR Staff)
Catherine Bertrand, SSND (Facilitator)

Finance and Audit Committee

Pat Cormack, SCSC
Karin Dufault, SP
Pat Eck, CBS
Nora Hahn, PHJC
Helen Ingles, IHM
Sheila Megley, RSM (Treasurer)
Grace Hartzog, SC (LCWR Staff)

Global Concerns Committee

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Maureen Foltz, CCV
Eileen Gannon, OP
Lourdes Leal, CDP
Dorothy Pagosa, SSJ-TOSF (Chair)
Jo Ann Showalter, SP
Ann Scholz, SSND (LCWR Staff)

Nominations and Elections Committee

Ellen Dauwer, SC
Gemma Doll, OP
Margaret Perron, RJM (Chair)
Mary Rathert, OP
Anne Shepard, OSB
Chris Costello (LCWR Staff)

Occasional Papers Advisory Board

Eileen Campbell, RSM
Nancy Conway, CSJ
Lynn Jarrell, OSU
Nancy Schreck, OSF
Mary Ann Zollmann, BVM
Annmarie Sanders, IHM (LCWR Staff)

Outstanding Leadership Award Committee

Teresa Donohue, CSJP
Teri Hadro, BVM
Feliciana Mejia, CCVI
Margaret Sullivan, CSJ
Grace Hartzog, SC (LCWR Staff)

Strategic Operational Plan Committee

Janet Mock, CSJ (Chair)
Pat Cormack, SCSC
Kathleen Durkin, CSJ
Beatrice Hernandez, OSF
Patricia McDermott, RSM
Theresa Sandok, OSM
Sharon Sullivan, OSU
Grace Hartzog, SC (LCWR Staff)
Ann Scholz, SSND (LCWR Staff)
Janet Roesener, CSJ (Facilitator)

Liaisons to Other Organizations

Catholic Health Association Board
Ann Scholz, SSND (LCWR Staff)

Commission on Religious Life and Ministry
Barbara Blesse, OP
Florence Deacon, OSF
Janet Mock, CSJ
Pat Farrell, OSF
Carol Zinn, SSJ

National Communicators Network for Women Religious
Annmarie Sanders, IHM (LCWR Staff)

National Religious Retirement Office Grant Review Board
Maryanne Fitzgerald, SC

NETWORK Board
Ann Scholz, SSND (LCWR Staff)

Resource Center for Religious Institutes
Janet Mock, CSJ

USCCB Accounting Practices Committee
Geraldine Hoyler, CSC
Maureen Geary, OP

USCCB Committee on Consecrated Life and Vocations
Janet Mock, CSJ

USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development
Janet Mock, CSJ

USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace
Janet Mock, CSJ

USCCB National Advisory Council
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