



Fall 2007

## A Newsletter on the Museum Exhibit of Catholic Sisters in America

Sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious

### Pioneers, Poets & Prophets

**L**CWR is mounting this national traveling exhibit to tell the largely untold story of the Catholic Sisters' contributions to the United States.

The purpose of this exhibit is to demonstrate how Catholic Sisters helped shape the nation and how the nation shaped them.

Without the pioneering struggles, poetic spirit, and prophetic vision of Catholic Sisters, many Americans would not have had the opportunity to pursue and realize their American Dream.

### Financial Goal

**W**ith a total project budget set at \$3.2 million, the LCWR History Committee is proud to announce that more than half of that total was raised by August 2007. The first million-dollar benchmark was reached in January 2007. The History Committee reported \$2.0 million in total donations, pledges and grants was raised by July 2007. The History Committee has received donations and pledges from health systems, hospitals, foundations, associations, religious congregations, private companies, and non-profits with gifts ranging from \$1,000 to \$500,000. Many individuals have also made generous donations to the project.

The Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters awarded the LCWR History Committee a \$1,000,000 challenge grant in October 2006. The first \$250,000 was matched in May 2007 and the History Committee is confident they will raise the remainder very soon.

### Message from LCWR History Committee Chair:

Helen Maher Garvey, BVM

Dear Friends,

**O**n September 29, 2004, five Catholic sisters gathered at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in St. Louis, Missouri to explore the possibility of an exhibit. The dream of this group, the adventure they sought, was a presentation which would describe the contributions of Catholic sisters to the history and culture of the United States since the Ursuline sisters disembarked in New Orleans in 1727.



Because of your generosity, this dream is fast becoming a reality. With this first edition of the Catholic Sisters in America Newsletter, we continue to communicate with you who have helped us so much. The purpose of this publication is to inform you of the progress of this project Pioneers, Poets & Prophets: Catholic Sisters in America and to thank you for participating in this great adventure.

*Helen M. Garvey, BVM*



## Project Update

L CWR has engaged the services of Design Island of Orlando, Florida to oversee the design and execution for *Pioneers, Poets & Prophets*. The company comes highly recommended in the field of exhibit design.

In February 2007, the History Committee met with archivists, historians, artists, graphic designers, and producers at Design Island to discuss the overall look and feel of the exhibit as well as to design the layout, flow, and other aspects of the exhibit space. All agreed this should be a unique, dynamic, interactive, inspirational, and educational exhibit.

In April 2007, members from the History Committee exhibited at the NCEA (National Catholic Educational Association) Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. More than 8,000 people attended the convention, many of whom were very interested in the *Pioneers, Poets & Prophets* exhibit. Several visitors exclaimed "it's about time" when they stopped by the LCWR booth and learned about the upcoming museum exhibit.

The History Committee is working with Lord Cultural Resources (LCR) to secure venues for the traveling museum exhibit. LCR has contacts with major museums across the country.

## You Can Help

The History Committee requests your continued support in any or all of the following ways:

- Spread the news about this unique exhibit
- Forward this e-newsletter and/or our brochure(s) to your friends and colleagues as a way to invite them to join in supporting *Pioneers, Poets & Prophets*
- Contact Development Coordinator, Honora Precourt, for more information

## Contact Us

If you have any questions or suggestions, or if you would like additional copies of our brochure, please contact Honora Precourt, Development Coordinator at [hprecourt@lcur.org](mailto:hprecourt@lcur.org) or (301) 588-4955 (extension 238). Visit [www.lcur.org](http://www.lcur.org) for updates about *Pioneers, Poets & Prophets: Catholic Sisters in America*.



## Donor Feedback

The following quotes exemplify the spirit of the donors as they express their gratitude, commitment, excitement and support:

From a "Patron" (\$250,000 donation)

"I join the Board of Stewardship Trustees in commending you on this wonderful project honoring the religious congregations and all of their ministries. We are honored to have been asked to share in this project through a financial donation. It is because of the ministries of our twelve participating congregations that we are able to make this donation."

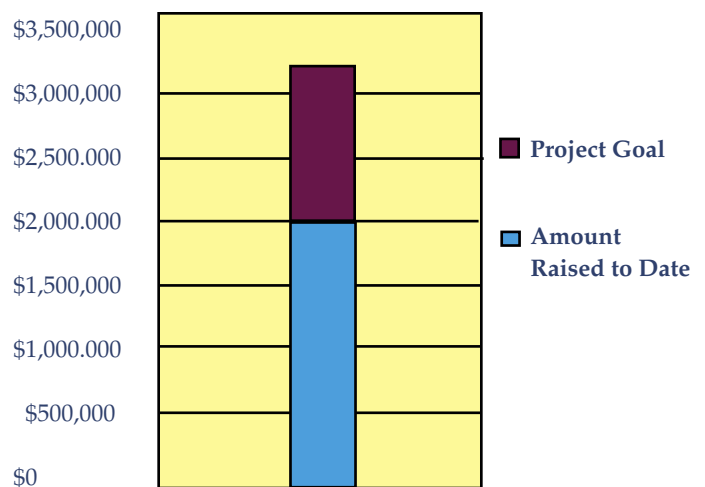
From a "Partner" (\$100,000 donation)

"We have been privileged to work with many of LCWR's member congregations over the past 50 years. We are pleased to be a part of this important and exciting project."

From a "Companion" (\$15,000 donation)

"It's exciting and an inspiration to know Catholic Sisters will have this opportunity to reveal the untold history and remarkable impact of Sisters through their actions, achievements, and spiritual lives. God's Speed!"

Project Goal: \$3,240,000  
Amount Raised to Date:  
\$2,000,000



The \$2.0 million raised to date includes the first \$250,000 of the \$1,000,000 challenge grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters