Update

LCWR

The Newsletter of the
Leadership Conference of Women Religious

November 2021

LCWR Welcomes Members to its New Leaders Workshop

March 31 – April 3, 2022
Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet
St. Louis, Missouri

The New Leaders Workshop features outstanding resource persons, presentations, and case studies that reflect some of the challenges faced by leaders in religious life today. Participants are supported in interacting with one another and the resource persons, integrating learnings into their congregation realities, and discussing and planning as teams. More information is on the LCWR website.

Cost of participation is $300 per person. This includes meals and the program itself. Participants will need to cover hotel room and travel costs independently. Registration will open in January 2022. Fees for participation and making hotel arrangements will be managed by NIX, similar to the LCWR assembly.

Leadership teams interested in participating are asked to email Bianca Louis or call 301-588-4955 ext. 232 by **November 1, 2021**. It is suggested that one person from the team call about the expected number of attendees. While this is not yet the actual registration, anticipating the number of participants for this workshop will allow LCWR to better move forward with the planning process.



LCWR Expands its Member Services

Carol, Zinn, SSJ – LCWR Executive Director

To say that there is a lot going on in our world, country, and church these days would be an understatement. And to say that there is lot going on in the LCWR world would also be an understatement. At the same time, there is remarkable energy, engagement, and enthusiasm about the myriad offerings and services LCWR offers its members and their members. And there are very significant, critical topics, challenges, and opportunities around every corner as we move through these unprecedented times in religious life within LCWR communities.

A few upcoming virtual opportunities of importance for members to engage between now and December 2021 include: the LCWR fall region meetings, Indian board school webinars, LCWR's Discerning Our Emerging Future conversations, LCWR's God's Transgender People webinar, synod listening sessions Rivers of Hope/*Rios de Esperanza* virtual pilgrimages, and the *Laudato Si'* action platform.

To help members keep track of all the LCWR offerings, a page will be dedicated on the member side of the LCWR website with a list of all programs as well as registration information. These dates will be included in each issue of *Update* as well. (*see pages 6 and 7*)

The only means of communication the national office uses for members is through Constant Contact messaging. Aware that members receive many emails, LCWR is trying to assess how to best provide important information for LCWR activities and to lessen the impact of many emails. Any suggestions that would improve communications between the national office and members are welcomed.

From the LCWR Presidency

Hope: A Time to Every Purpose, Under Heaven

Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP — LCWR President-Elect



When I looked out my bedroom window one recent morning, I was surprised to see the leaves remained so green. Usually by this time, the hues have changed from multiple greens to a palette of red, yellow, brown, and orange. By now, I thought all our conferences, meetings, social engagements, and celebrations would be in-person allowing greetings to be warmed by the touch of a handshake or an embrace long-awaited. By now, I trusted that our awareness of Earth's critical need for healing would have resulted in unparalleled global action to address climate change and the pandemic. By now, I prayed that the systemic sides of polarized perspectives would have crumbled some, moving our nation and church into places of mutual listening and reconciliation. By now, I hoped that all I waited for would greet me in this morning light. Just then, the lyrics from a song by Peter Seeger came to mind: "To everything (turn, turn, turn), there is a season (turn, turn, turn), and a time to every purpose, under heaven."



During the past week, I participated in a wonderful virtual meeting with the elected leadership of the Dominican Sisters Conference. The theme of the gathering was *"Hope Happens."* In one of the breakout groups, a sister commented on her reaction to this theme. She said that hope just does not *happen,* but it comes from trust born of promises kept and hard work accompanied by God's grace. As we look at the many issues which are yet to be resolved, how can we not open our eyes to the good that has been done and celebrate those persons who live hope daily as a verb? Such persons are among us as we reflect upon 65 years since the inception of LCWR when a few leaders, trusting in the movement of the Spirit, rolled up their bell sleeves and got the ball rolling. By grace and hard work, we remain on the move.

The national board and office ministers met following the assembly and many regions have had their fall gatherings. We continue to discern together our emerging future, exploring *what ifs*, and are trying various ways to address the needs of our time. We continue to believe the Spirit is calling women to consecrated religious life and strive to welcome diversity as gift. We continue to deepen our awareness of white privilege and work to eradicate racism in our congregations and church. We have begun to engage the *Laudato Si'* platform recognizing our collective efforts are paramount to meeting such global needs. We will speak of our lives, and those with whom we minister within the sacred space of the synod. And as we are about these many things, we will take time to reflect on the current LCWR Call and ask, "Who have we been, who are we now, and who are we called to be?"

Let us listen to the Spirit who faithfully guides us to our purpose as the seasons continue to change. This makes hope happen!

Expressions of Thanks to Women Religious Volunteering at the Border

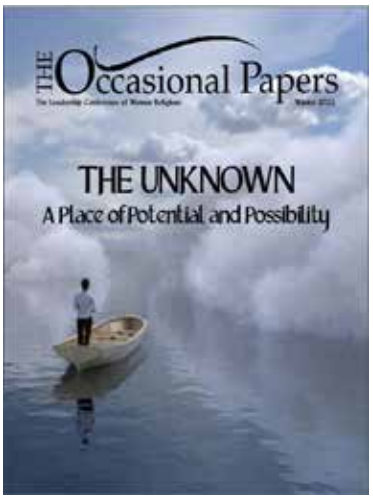
Donna Markham, OP, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, recently shared with LCWR a note she received from the director of Catholic Charities in Laredo, Texas, noting that she has heard similar sentiments from many other local directors about the women religious who volunteered at the US southern border this summer. An excerpt from the message is below:

> "Well, last week we saw our last volunteers (more are scheduling for next month) for a while.
> I want to express my sincere thanks for the initiative taken by CCUSA to share our story about the need of volunteers to help us serve the migrants coming through. And wonderful groups of religious women answered the call. They filled a large gap, during a pandemic and volunteered to help the hundreds and thousands of people that migrated to the border from all over the world and after being apprehended and released by border patrol landed at our humanitarian respite shelter.
>
> I can truly say they were God-sent and had it not been for them I don't know what we would have done, because our community was still very concerned about contracting COVID, which I don't blame them.
>
> There is no doubt the presence of the many religious women and associates made an impressive difference to the many migrants that came through our shelter. Consistently, the volunteers made sure everyone left with a smile and with hope. Those two things removed fear as they traveled to their final destination."



Levi Mier Clancy on Unsplash

Order Winter 2022 *Occasional Papers*



Orders are now being taken for the Winter 2022 edition of LCWR's *Occasional Papers*, "The Unknown: A Place of Potential and Possibility." This issue attempts to provide inspiration and hope as we live in this period where virtually everything feels uncertain and unknown. How might we live and lead non-anxiously at a time when so much of what we might have once assumed would be unchanging is slowly disappearing and while what is ahead is beyond our knowing?

While living into the unknown can be extremely challenging — especially for those tasked with leadership -- this edition of *Occasional Papers* addresses this reality from a stance of possibility and potential. Can we think of dwelling in the unknown as an opportunity to develop greater wisdom? Can being in the unknown be an experience of freedom that takes us out of our normal ways of perceiving and leads us to new ways? Can not-knowing lead us to paths we may never have chosen to explore when we thought we had answers?

Among the highlights of this issue is an interview with teacher and writer **Rabbi Ariel Burger**, reflections from leaders who have delved into the realm of the unknown with their religious communities, and insights from several young, culturally-diverse women religious.

Leaders often order additional copies for their associates, staffs, boards, and others. Orders for this issue may be placed online here. Discounts are available for orders of 100 or more copies. Orders must be placed by **December 15, 2021** and copies will be mailed in January 2022. Subscriptions are also available and make great gifts for others at only $15/year. Questions about placing an order should be directed to Bianca Louis at blouis@lcwr.org.



The following virtual opportunities are offered for LCWR members as part of the Discerning Our Emerging Future Initiative. Registration is required for each event. Members can access more information and the registration links on the password-protected side of the LCWR website.

Moving Toward the Emergent Future: Possibilities and Challenges for the 'Sandwich Generation'

November 4: 10:00 – 11:30 AM ET or
November 15: 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

Adults who are both parenting children (of whatever age) and caring for their parents are often called the "sandwich generation." Religious life has its own "sandwich generation" of leaders who are responsible for some members who are younger than they and even more members who are older than they (whether in age or spirit). These leaders face their own unique challenges as they may be perceived by younger/newer/bolder members who want change as moving too slowly or cautiously, and by older/cautious members who are not ready for change as moving too quickly or peremptorily. They may be pressed by some to acknowledge a movement to completion and by others to invest financial and personnel resources in new ministries or new approaches to vocation outreach.

LCWR is offering an opportunity for leaders who identify with the challenges of feeling responsible for some members who are younger than they and even more members who are older than they (whether in age or spirit) while being in between these generations to gather virtually. Within a 90-minute session participants will hear from two LCWR members (**Maureen Geary, OP** and **Tere Maya, CCVI**) who have been serving as "sandwich generation leaders" for several years about both the opportunities and the challenges they face as they try to bring their communities into a new future in these complex times. Their presentation will be followed by small group conversations and a facilitated conversation of the whole group.

Living Religious Life in the Next Phase of the Journey -- Phase 1

November 8: 12:00 - 1:30 PM ET or
November 30: 12:00 - 1:30 PM ET

Mary Jo Nelson, OLVM will share the context of living the mission of religious life while in the process of becoming a new community that goes beyond known structures, ministries, governance, etc. For the last five years, Mary Jo has, with her team, been facilitating a community-wide process that has prepared her community to live religious life in the next phase of their journey. As they have attended to creating new and simplified structures and processes with new partners, they have also attended to the meaning of their life as women religious in new circumstances and realities, which includes a direction for this new time in their life. This 90-minute session will include prayer, a presentation, breakout groups, and a gathering of insights and questions from the participants. Participation will be limited to 150 people. Mary Jo's presentation will be recorded and available on the LCWR website.

Resourcing One Another for the Journey -- Phase 2

December 10: 12:00 - 1:30 PM ET or
December 13: 12:00 - 1:30 PM ET

The questions and learnings that surface in the phase one gathering will be addressed in the phase two gathering by leaders who have already taken concrete steps to prepare their religious institutes for the future. These leaders are available as resources of experience and are willing to share the wisdom they have garnered from making this journey. Participation will be limited to 150 people. **Participants will need to watch the recorded presentation prior to joining this Zoom conversation if they did not participate in the November session.**

Questions about these offerings may be directed to LCWR associate director Anne Munley, IHM.



Preparing for the Synod

Information will be coming soon about listening sessions to be held during January so that LCWR members can provide feedback to the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL) prior to the next synod of bishops. The synod preparatory documents are on the LCWR website.

LCWR Sexuality Webinars

God's Transgender People

As part of its continuing effort to provide education on an evolving understanding of sexuality, LCWR will present a series of three webinars throughout 2021-2022. The first two will be on "God's Transgender People.

Webinar 1: Tuesday, December 7
2:00—3:30 PM (ET)

The first webinar will feature Luisa Derouen, OP who works with transgender persons and two transgender individuals Jamison Green, PhD and Stephanie Battaglino who will share their stories of self-actualization.

Webinar 2: January 13, 2022
1:00—2:30 PM (ET)

The second webinar will include a reflection and conversation session, facilitated by Lynn Levo, CSJ.

Both webinars will include Spanish translation and are available to LCWR members only. More information can be found here. Registration will take place closer to December.

Rivers of Hope/Rios de Esperanza

One-Week Program for Religious in Ministry
November 15 Application Deadline

Leaders are reminded that **November 15** is the deadline for their members to apply for a one-week program co-sponsored by LCWR for religious who accompany people in ministry who live with trauma and fear. A generous grant will cover the costs for 40 men and women religious to spend time reflecting on how to minister with hope and strength as well as learn ways in which they may assist others to cope with the challenges they face. Additional information is available here.

May 15 -- 20, 2022
Bon Secours Conference and Retreat Center
Marriottsville, Maryland

Rivers of Hope/Rios de Esperanza Pilgrimages

Members are also asked to promote participation in the **Rivers of Hope/Rios de Esperanza Pilgrimages**, a series of four virtual visits to hear from those ministering with people impacted by some of society's most difficult situations. Presenters will share how they find hope and strength and opportunities will be provided for prayer and small group conversations. More information is available here.

Virtual pilgrimage dates:
December 7, January 11, February 8, and March 21
(7:00 -- 8:30 PM ET)

Upcoming LCWR Dates

The following is a list of LCWR programs.
Titles in blue are links that will take the reader to the LCWR website for more information.
Information on other programs can be found on the members' section of the LCWR website.

Moving Toward the Emergent Future: Possibilities and Challenges for the 'Sandwich Generation'
November 4
10:00 – 11:30 AM ET
Registration required

Living Religious Life in the Next Phase of the Journey
November 8
12:00 – 1:30 PM
Registration required

Moving Toward the Emergent Future: Possibilities and Challenges for the 'Sandwich Generation'
November 15
2:00 – 3:30 PM ET
Registration required

Living Religious Life in the Next Phase of the Journey
November 30
12:00 – 1:30 PM ET
Registration required

God 's Transgender People - Session 1
December 7
2:00—3:30 PM (ET)
Registration required

Rivers of Hope/Rios de Esperanza Virtual Pilgrimage
Rio Grande River: Immigration
December 7
7:00 – 8:00 PM ET
Registration required

Resourcing One Another for the Journey
December 10
12:00 – 1:30 PM ET
Registration required

Resourcing One Another for the Journey
December 13
12:00 – 1:30 PM ET
Registration required

Rivers of Hope/Rios de Esperanza Virtual Pilgrimage
Mississippi River: Climate Change
January 11
7:00 – 8:00 PM ET
Registration required

God 's Transgender People - Session 2
January 13
1:00—2:30 PM ET
Registration required

Leading from Within Retreat
Redemptorist Renewal Center | Tucson, Arizona
January 16 - 21, 2022
Registration is closed. Waiting list is available.

Rivers of Hope/Rios de Esperanza Virtual Pilgrimage
Missouri River: Human Trafficking
February 8
7:00 – 8:00 PM ET
Registration required

Rivers of Hope/Rios de Esperanza Virtual Pilgrimage
Hudson River: Economy, Education, and Racism
March 21
7:00 – 8:00 PM ET
Registration required

LCWR New Leaders Workshop
Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet
St. Louis, Missouri
March 31 - April 3, 2022
Registration required but not open yet

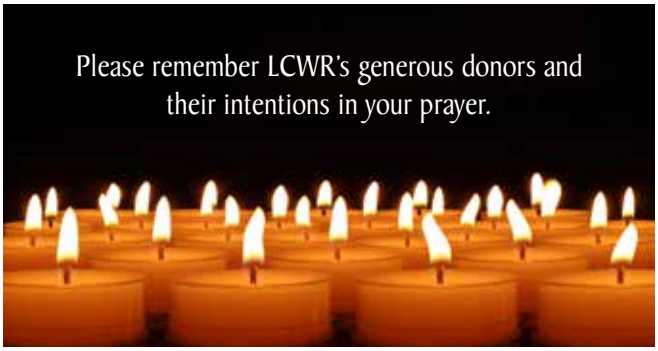
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Upcoming LCWR Dates

Imagining Justice
Bon Secours Retreat & Conference Center
Marriottsville, Maryland
April 25 - 28, 2022
Registration required

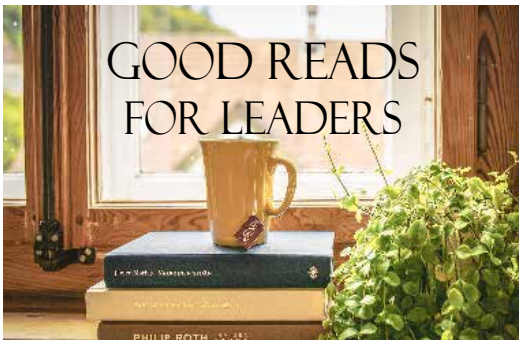
LCWR Assembly
St. Louis, Missouri
August 9 - 12, 2022

Leading from Within Retreat
San Pedro Center
Winter Park, Florida
January 15 - 20, 2023
Registration required but not open yet



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The Process of Forgiveness

by William A. Meninger, OCSO

Recommended by Maria Fest, CDP

We are living in truly unique times in the history of our own congregations and in the world itself. Our entire globe is going through a massive transition much of which we are responsible for creating. Dealing with a pandemic, the great divide between our two major political parties and the devastation of our land due to fires and floods has not only affected us personally but also has wreaked havoc, in some cases, on our relationships with family and friends.

In this classic book on forgiveness, William Meninger, OCSO explores the process of forgiveness from a spiritual perspective, presenting the "why," "what," and "how" in the process of forgiving. Only then does he present the five stages of forgiveness indicating that the process of forgiveness is a spiritual one and that God companions us on this journey starting with claiming the hurt in stage one to arriving at wholeness in stage five. Working through these stages does not make us admit or deny what caused our woundedness. Stage five does not demand an apology from someone who wounded us (or me). It is about letting go and not allowing the wound to identify who I am. We come to the realization that forgiveness does not demand an admission of guilt or an apology from another person. Rather forgiveness allows us to move on with our lives and even connect with those with whom we differ. It allows us to live in a world of our own making. Meninger concludes with several meditations using scripture to help us to understand and experience forgiveness.

LCWR Designated Fund for Emergent Religious Life Awards Five Grants



At the 2020 assembly, LCWR announced the establishment of the Designated Fund for Emergent Religious Life. The fund's purpose is to support the dreams, hopes, creativity, and vision of women religious who have 25-40 years of living their religious vocation ahead of them. The hope is to provide necessary resources for women religious under the age of 55 who are interested in collaboration across congregations, cultures, and charisms as they look to the present and future of religious life. LCWR initiated this fund with $1 million dollars from the sale of the former LCWR-CMSM office building. Since the launch of this fund, LCWR congregations have made contributions to support this endeavor.

The first round of grant applications was received in September. Ten grant applications represented a diversity of thought about how emergent religious life might be supported and furthered. The LCWR Designated Fund Committee approved five grant applications providing women religious opportunities to gather within their own charism family, across charism, to work with professional planning consultants towards a viable future, and to create ways to strengthen their present efforts to build sustainable networks of relationship and support. The $137,200 total amount of grant awards represents 7.5% of funds available.

Women religious under the age of 55 are encouraged to consider applying to this fund. The deadline for the next cycle of applications is September 1, 2022. Further information about the purpose of the fund, criteria, and grant application cycle can be found here. Any questions about grant applications may be directed to LCWR executive director Carol Zinn, SSJ.

Catholic Organizations Call on President Biden to End Title 42



Ahead of the World Day for Migrants and Refugees, 164 Catholic organizations sent a letter to President Biden demanding he end the misuse of Title 42. First invoked by the Trump administration and affirmatively continued by the Biden administration, Title 42 has been used to expel an unknown number of asylum seekers at the US-Mexico border, putting them in harm's way and denying them the opportunity to seek life-saving protection.

After a federal district court ordered the Biden administration to stop using Title 42 to expel migrant families with children, the Biden administration doubled down on its support for this unjust policy by immediately appealing the decision. President Biden can and must take action to stop the misuse of the policy.

The letter calls on President Biden to act on Pope Francis' message to the world for the September 26, 107th World Day for Migrants and Refugees to make "no distinction between natives and foreigners, between residents and guests, since it is a matter of a treasure we hold in common, from whose care and benefits no one should be excluded."

The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) and NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice led the letter. Signatories included Jesuit Refugee Service-USA, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, National Black Sisters' Conference, LCWR, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, US Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Pax Christi USA, Kino Border Initiative, Hope Border Institute, and many more.

LCWR Endorses Bipartisan Bill to Seek Healing for Native Children and Their Communities



Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and the co-chairs of the Congressional Native American Caucus, Congresswoman Sharice Davids (D-KS), and Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK), reintroduced The Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act, legislation that seeks healing for stolen Native children and their communities. The bill would establish a formal commission to investigate, document, and acknowledge past injustices of the federal government's Indian boarding school policies. This includes attempts to terminate Native cultures, religions, and languages; assimilation practices; and human rights violations. The commission would also develop recommendations for Congress to aid in healing of the historical and intergenerational trauma passed down in Native families and communities and provide a forum for victims to speak about personal experiences tied to these human rights violations.

A broad coalition of tribal nations, tribal organizations, educators, human rights groups, and faith-based organizations, including LCWR, have endorsed the bill. Executive director Carol Zinn, SSJ welcomed the introduction of the legislation saying:

> "It is long past time we examined the genocidal policies and human rights abuses that sought to erase the rich cultures and languages of Indigenous peoples, to steal their land and their lives. We acknowledge our own complicity as members of a Church deeply implicated in the origin and perpetuation of our nation's perduring sin against native peoples. The complicity began with the 15th century Papal Bulls that sanctioned violence against the original inhabitants of this land and resulted in the genocide of up to 20 million Indigenous in the Americas. It continued with the participation in the Indian Boarding School system by Catholic bishops, priests, and religious women and men. It persisted through our tacit or explicit engagement in other injurious personal and government-supported practices. We see its pattern to this day as we take part in our national reckoning with racism. We believe that profound truth-telling, repentance, and reconciling reparations work are imperative as we work to build God's beloved community."

This legislation would build on work that Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland began this summer to conduct an initial investigation of the Indian boarding school policies and their consequences, marking the start of the federal government's reckoning with this painful legacy.

LCWR Announces 40-Day Prayer Campaign for the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform



LCWR is helping to lead the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development's 40-Day Prayer Campaign. The campaign supports the seven sectors joining the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform with a dedicated day of prayer for each, connecting each sector with a *Laudato Si'* goal. The full set of prayers is available here.

The prayer campaign which began on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis, will conclude on November 14, the World Day of Prayer for the Poor and the launch of the next phase in the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. On that date, *Laudato Si'* planning guides and related resource materials will be published on the website, and members of the universal church will be invited to make a firm commitment to creating their own *Laudato Si'* plans.

LCWR has been an integrally important co-leader of efforts to build the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. Serving as a member of the International Religious Orders Work Group and co-facilitator for US religious, LCWR has assisted in shaping both the model and the content of the platform.

Some resources are already available on the website to help religious to continue discerning their commitment to creating a *Laudato Si'* plan.

UN Summit on Climate Change to Meet in Glasgow October 31-November 12

The Conference of the Parties (COP) who are signatories of the 1994 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will meet in Glasgow to try to unite the whole world to tackle the climate crisis. At COP26 countries will announce their latest plans to meet the goals of the Paris agreement to address climate change.

In the lead-up to the meeting, people of faith are joining their voices to those of the most vulnerable to call on the world's leaders to commit to dramatic reduction of greenhouse gases. The *Laudato Si'* movement's petition, Healthy Planet, Healthy People, urges leaders participating in COP26 to increase their commitments to cutting greenhouse gas emissions, stop all new fossil fuel infrastructure, and redirect subsidies toward responsible renewable energy and farming practices. The Catholic Climate Covenant has letters for individual and institutional signatures urging President Biden and members of Congress to demonstrate global leadership to address the sources and threats of climate change.

LCWR sent letters to President Biden and Special Presidential Envoy for Climate Kerry in solidarity with the religious conference of Brazil urging US representatives to COP26 to listen to the demands of the Indigenous peoples of the Amazon to protect this precious resource.

In the immediate lead up to COP26, Faiths 4 Climate sponsored actions to send the message: "destroying the planet is against our faith." On October 17 and 18, communities across the world took part in public prayer actions calling on leaders and institutions to be bold in their action for climate justice. On October 18 LCWR joined faith leaders at the Department of State to share the statement issued by Pope Francis and faith leaders in preparation for COP26 and to pray for the US delegates to be bold in their commitments in Glasgow.

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



SIGN-ONs & Letters

LCWR exercised its voice in the public square through the following actions:

- Letter to members of Congress asking for support to help local communities in the United States be fully ready to welcome Afghan refugees and help them integrate and thrive. LCWR (9/14/21)
- Letter to Congress to urge them to hold firm on $3.5 trillion dollars of investment in the Build Back Better Act for vulnerable families and communities. LCWR (9/16/21)
- Letter to President Biden ahead of the 107th World Day for Migrants and Refugees on September 26, 2021, and in the light of his faith, urging him to end the use of Title 42 immediately. LCWR (9/20/21)
- Letter to Senate Majority Leader in support of the Freedom to Vote Act (S. 2747) which will protect access to the ballot, end partisan gerrymandering, counter dangerous election subversion efforts, and help to eliminate the undue influence of dark money in elections. LCWR (9/21/21).
- Letter to the Honorable Frank Pallone Jr., chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce thanking him for including funding to support global vaccine manufacturing in the Build Back Better Act. LCWR (9/21/21)
- Letter to President Biden and members of his administration to express shock and dismay at the administration's decision to resume deportation flights to Haiti without regard for the human consequences, or concern for the multiple compounding political and environmental crises impacting the Haitian people. LCWR (9/21/21)
- Letter from Catholic leaders to G20 governments asking them to take strong actions to move away from fossil fuels at the COP26 global climate talks in November 2021. Carol Zinn, SSJ (10/1/21)
- Endorsement of the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act. LCWR (9/29/21)

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LCWR SIGN-ONs & Letters

(continued from page 10)

- Quote acknowledging complicity in attempts to erase the language and culture of Indigenous peoples. Carol Zinn, SSJ (9/29/21).
- Letter in support of amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that requires the Government Accounting Office, in consultation with the President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, the Administrator of USAID, and the US Ambassador to the United Nations (UN) to submit a report to Congress on humanitarian impacts of US sanctions. LCWR (10/4/21)
- Letter to Secretaries Mayorkas and Blinken requesting an immediate 18-month designation of Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) or Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Afghanistan as well as recommending the ongoing use of these protections to safeguard human life. LCWR (10/5/21)
- Letter to Congress urging the United States to end all assistance to the Philippine military and the Philippine National Police, to pass the Philippine Human Rights Act, and to hold hearings to assess the impact of continued support for the Duterte Administration on the people of the Philippines. LCWR (10/5/21)
- Letter to the Biden Administration asking for transparency and accountability from the Departments of Homeland Security and State concerning the backlog of humanitarian parole applications from Afghans. LCWR (10/8/21)
- Letters to President Biden and Special Presidential Envoy for Climate Kerry in solidarity with the religious conference of Brazil urging US Representatives to COP 26 to listen to the demands of the Indigenous People of the Amazon to protect this precious resource. Carol Zinn, SSJ (10/11/21)
- Co-sponsor Faithful Democracy's Season of Prayer and Fasting Campaign. LCWR (10//11/21)
- Quote for Faithful Democracy statement urging the Senate to protect every person's right to vote. Ann Scholz, SSND (10/21)
- Quote for Interfaith Immigration Coalition press release calling on the administration and Congress to keep their promise to include citizenship for immigrants in the Build Back Better Act. Ann Scholz, SSND (10/12/21)
- Co-sponsored Faiths 4 Climate Justice Vigil at the Department of State and delivery of interfaith statement to John Kerry Special Presidential Envoy for Climate. LCWR (10/18/21)

Update from NRRO

Annual Collection

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection, coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), will be held **December 11-12** in most US parishes. All institutes are asked to collaborate in raising awareness of this vital appeal. The NRRO provides many resources to assist these efforts, including a social media tool kit with prepared text and downloadable images.

NRRO Position Opening

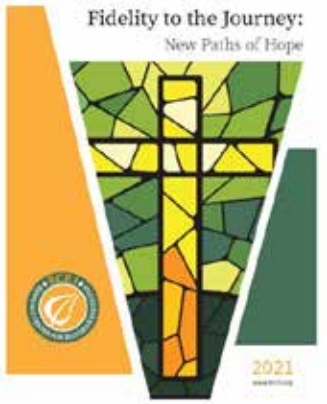
The NRRO seeks an education and outreach manager who will work collaboratively with other staff to promote NRRO programs, aid religious institutes in planning for the future, and liaison with other entities that support religious institutes. Information and a job description are available here.

Webinar

November 9 the NRRO and the Avila Institute of Gerontology will offer a new webinar: ***Remembering, Celebrating, Believing: Viability and Vibrancy in the Wake of the Pandemic.*** Two congregational leaders will share how COVID-19 has impacted their members and how their institutes are learning both to live in the present and to trust in the future God has planned. To learn more, a flyer is available here with information to register online here. Participation in this 60-minute webinar is free for members of religious institutes.



New RCRI Resource



The Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) published *Fidelity to the Journey: New Paths of Hope* in August 2021. A complimentary copy was sent to the superiors/presidents of all religious institutes, including monasteries, vicars/delegates for religious, and diocesan bishops in the United States. Any institute who did not receive a copy or wishes a few additional copies at no cost may contact Sabrina Hidalgo.

News from the UN



November 20—Universal Children's Day was established to promote awareness of children and children's welfare worldwide. On November 20, 1959 the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. On November 20, 1989 the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

November 25—International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women reminds the people of the world that violence against women and girls is a human rights violation, public pandemic, and serious obstacle to sustainable development. Violence against women and girls imposes large-scale costs on families, communities, and economies. The world cannot afford it. Women and girls cannot abide it and they should not have to.



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Friends in Solidarity is pleased to share an invitation to a conversation with John Grisham, the novelist and author of *Sooley*, a fictional tale about a South Sudanese basketball player. The book quite accurately describes the situation in South Sudan, a situation that shows little improvement. We are hoping to broaden our base of supporters through this webinar, November 10 at 8:00 PM ET. Please share this with your lay colleagues and community members. Registration is available at Sooley: A Conversation with John Grisham.

Solidarity has good news to share despite the pandemic. The Catholic Health Training Institute graduated 41 registered nurses and midwives at the end of June, and the Solidarity Teacher Training College awarded national certificates in primary education to 20 pre-service graduates and 44 in-service graduates. A photographic report of the STTC pre-service graduation may be found here.

Originating from Rome, the annual Solidarity with South Sudan assembly will be held virtually on December 2, 2021. For an invitation and details, please email info@solidarityssudan.org.

As a form of accountability, our loyal supporters, a copy of our brief FiS annual report 2020 can be accessed here. A copy of the audit and f990 are available from the office. We are grateful to all who have supported Solidarity through Friends in Solidarity, its US partner.