

November 2004

Assembly Kicks Off LCWR Jubilee Year Planning Continues for 2005 LCWR Assembly in Anaheim, California

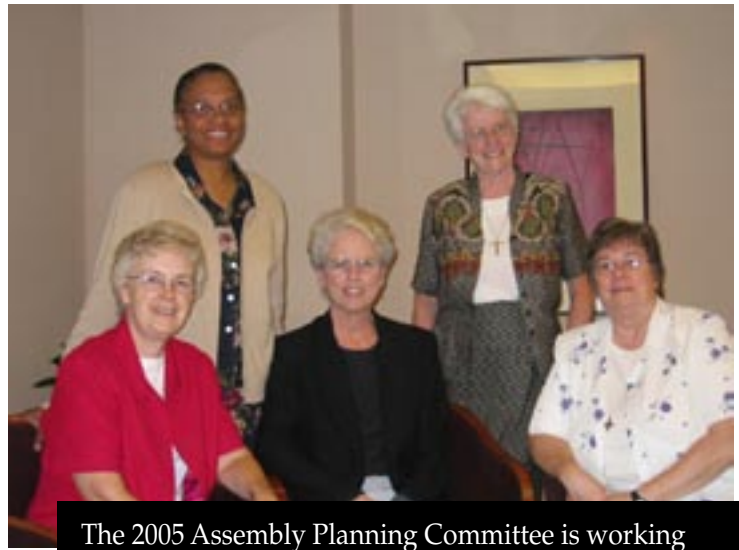
The work of a dynamic group of LCWR members and other women religious resulted in a plan for the 2005 LCWR assembly that promises to be gracious, celebratory, inspirational, and filled with hope for the future of religious life.

The assembly is the official beginning of the LCWR jubilee year and will be an invitation to all members to commemorate the year in a spirit of prayer and contemplation. The planning committee worked to create an experience that they hope will honor the many graces experienced by religious throughout the last 50 years, be inspiring for leaders, incorporate jubilee and sabbath-keeping themes, and celebrate the transformation that has occurred within religious life and continues to unfold today.

The planning committee gathered for a three-day meeting at the assembly site in Anaheim, California in October. Ann Margaret O'Hara, SP, chair of the LCWR Jubilee Planning Committee, participated in the first day of the meeting in order to discuss the vision and hopes for the LCWR jubilee. Based on the work done by the jubilee committee, the planning committee began shaping its vision for the 2005 assembly.

The members of the 2005 Assembly Planning Committee are: Evelyn Eckhardt, DW; Kath-

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The 2005 Assembly Planning Committee is working with the Jubilee Planning Committee to coordinate the commemoration of the LCWR 50th anniversary with the assembly. Working together at the assembly planning committee meeting are: (standing) Addie Lorraine Walker, SSND and Evelyn Eckhardt, DW; (seated) Anne Victory, HM; Ann Margaret O'Hara, SP; and Katherine Gray, CSJ.

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From the LCWR Presidency

Choosing Life -- With All its Challenges and Ambiguities

by Beatrice Eichten, OSF -- LCWR Vice President

Here in Minnesota, we cherish every nice day from May through October, knowing that winter will soon come. This state, which has one of the shorter growing seasons, is one that has very high sales of garden plants and supplies. We make the most of the beautiful days and enjoy the growth and color of plants more because we know they will pass away shortly.

When October comes, the trees change into rich colors of orange and yellow and begin to fall. One can begin to see the outlines of the trees, black against the beautiful colors. Then, by November, the trees are bare, the earth and grounds are brown. It is a time of transition waiting for the snow to come and blanket the earth with white.

November is a month of transition. We hold the memory of what has been and wait in expectant hope. It reminds me of

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the many transitions we each live with in our personal life, our communities, and in our country. It is time when we are invited to remember what is vital and to make choices that open us up to possibility and growth. Personally, I am rebalancing my work responsibilities to provide time and energy for service to LCWR. The rebalancing happens with an awareness of what I need to maintain my health and my personal and spiritual well-being.

I recently read an article in the UISG Bulletin (*How I would like to grow old*, #124, 2004) by Dolores Aliexandrie, rscj. Her reflections on the choices we make spoke to me of a stance for life.

*The call to choose lifeto awaken areas in us that may be numb
and to adopt a position of creativity and not of stagnation....
consists in willingly "choosing" what life,
and through this the Lord, is choosing for us.
We need to exercise the conviction of Jesus
that God is constantly at work in us*



*and that we are not the ones to guide
God's work.....*

I choose life, with all its challenges and blessings, with all its ambiguity and possibility. I choose life with the people with whom I journey and give thanks for them. I choose life within this church and this world even as I anguish about the violence and suffering that confronts me every day. I remind myself that goodness also surrounds me and open my eyes and heart to receive it. When I approach each day with trust in God's goodness and with curious expectancy, I am often amazed at how God is at work in us.

It is during the month of transition, when the world (at least in Minnesota!) is stripped to bare bones, that we celebrate Thanksgiving - interesting! May you celebrate the gifts and challenges of your life and ministry and give thanks!

LCWR Members Extend Service to Boards and Committees

LCWR thanks the following members for their generosity in accepting new appointments to serve religious life and the church:

Legal Resource Center for Religious Board
Sally Hodgdon, CSJ (Region 1)

USCCB National Advisory Council
Shalini D'Souza, SCN (Region 6)
Cecilia Dwyer, OSB (Region 4)

LCWR Assembly Resolutions Committee
Ann Carville, OSF (Region 4)
Marie McKenna, SLW (Region 8)
Mary Jo Nelson, OLVN (Region 7)

LCWR Finance Committee
Maryann Summa, OP (Region 2)

LCWR Global Concerns Committee
Julie Driscoll, SCN (Region 6)
Walter Maher, CCVI (Region 12)

Planning Continues for 2005 LCWR Assembly in Anaheim, California

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erine Gray, CSJ; Sara Michael King, CSJ(liturgist); Ann Luis Lardizabal, CSJ; Anne Victory, HM; Carole Shinnick, SSND; and Addie Lorraine Walker, SSND. Also attending the meeting were: Margaret O'Brien, OSU, who will be facilitating the 2005 and 2006 LCWR assemblies; Madeleva Williams, CSJ, who will be designing the logos for the 2005 and 2006 assemblies; and LCWR staff members Eleanor Granger, OSF; and Annmarie Sanders, IHM.

More detailed information on the assembly will be available in upcoming months.



Participating in the assembly planning committee meeting were: Carole Shinnick, SSND; Evelyn Eckhardt, DW; Katherine Gray, CSJ; Margaret O'Brien, OSU; Anne Victory, HM; Madeleva Williams, CSJ; Anne Luis Lardizabal, CSJ; Addie Lorraine Walker, SSND; Sara Michael King, CSJ; and Annmarie Sanders, IHM.

LCWR Systems Thinking Handbook Available on LCWR Website

A new LCWR resource is now available on the LCWR website. The resource, *An Invitation to Systems Thinking: An Opportunity to Act for Systemic Change*, was developed by the Global

Concerns Committee as a tool for using a systems approach to decision-making about issues both internal and external to the congregation, e.g., governance, mergers, formation, retirement, as well as justice issues.

The publication reflects the developments in the understanding of critical thinking and the complex nature of contemporary reality. As noted in one of the publication's articles by Gertrude Foley, SC, "... systems thinking will prevent us from unconsciously employing the same mental models that are causing the problems that we want to solve."

The material in the publication is divided into two main parts: a general overview of the nature of systems thinking and a practical application of systems thinking to two

sample cases. The resource also includes a worksheet to facilitate practice with this approach, as well as bibliographic material. The resource is available on the LCWR website (www.lcwr.org) under "Publications."

Honored for Work on US Liturgy Renewal

Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ, US provincial of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, has been honored by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions for her contributions to liturgical renewal in the United States.

Kathleen, who has promoted liturgical renewal as a teacher, mentor, advisor, author, editor and presenter, received the Frederick McManus Award during a national meeting of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions in Orlando. She has been a liturgy professor at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago since 1990 and has served as an adviser on the liturgy committee of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and on its subcommittee on the lectionary. She also served 14 years as a member of the advisory board of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, known as ICEL.

Among her published works are "Saying Amen: A Mystagogy of Sacrament," "Finding Voice to Give God Praise: Essays in the Many Languages of Prayer" and "How Firm a Foundation: Voices of the Early Liturgical Movement." (based on information from Catholic News Service)

Jubilee USA Not Daunted by G-7s Failure

Jubilee USA and partner organizations put on a full court press for 100% debt cancellation for impoverished nations before the finance ministers of the G-7 met on October 1, 2004. Because it was the first time the wealthiest nations of the world considered debt cancellation seriously, October 1 was a moment of hope. It was a disappointment that the G-7 failed to take action, committing only to preparing a progress report by the end of the year. While there is stronger agreement than ever on 100% debt cancellation, there are disagreements on how to proceed.

At a rally outside the US Treasury on October 1, Jubilee director Marie Clark Brill pointed out the urgency of debt cancellation, noting that each day the G-7 delays, 8,000 people die due to HIV/AIDS and 30,000 die due to preventable diseases. She decried the fact that some of the world's wealthiest nations and institutions are unable to find money to cancel the debt of the world's poorest nations while the IMF holds more than \$30 billion worth of undervalued and unused gold which could be used to finance debt cancellation.

Jubilee USA staff, despite the setback, state: "The countdown may be over, but our work is not, and our commitment is no less." The challenge to all Jubilee promoters is to roll up sleeves and keep up the pressure for the February 2005 meeting of the G-7 finance ministers.

CHA Affirms Commitment to Health Care Coverage for All

Acknowledging the many challenges to its goal of universal access to quality health care for all by the end of the 100th Congress, the Catholic Health Association recommitted itself to working towards that goal during the September 23 – 24, 2004 board meeting in Chicago. Following a think tank last August convened by CHA, and including representatives from the Center for Healthcare Reform- St. Joseph Health System, Center for Clinical Bioethics -- Georgetown University Medical Center, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, CHA engaged a strategic communications consulting firm, GMMB, to develop a feasibility study which led to the development of a work plan. At the September meeting, board members approved the launching of "Covering the Nation," and committed resources for the first year of the initiative. The board also considered and discussed the results of a

pre-meeting web-based survey of members regarding the key elements of a preferred future and examined a ministry-wide environmental assessment, conducted as part of the strategic planning process for FY 2006 – 2008.

Update on LCWR 2005 Delegations

WFP Mexico Delegation

February 19-26

To date, there are 10 confirmed delegation participants from the following regions: 6, 10, 3, 2, 15, 4, 14, 8, 12. Since the hoped for number was 15 – 20, Witness for Peace is open to additional participants if applications are received within the next month. Applications are received from and returned to the LCWR office: mlucaey@lcwr.org.

LCWR-CMSM SHARE Delegation

November 30 – December 6, 2005

Many LCWR regions considered participation during their spring meetings and will follow-up during the fall meetings. Inquiries about this delegation are made to SHARE, who will keep the LCWR office informed about participation.

LCWR Publications Still Available

LCWR had published earlier two excellent resources for its members. Copies of these publications are still available for purchase.

Leading From Within

A Manual for Nurturing Religious Leadership

Organized in sections based on the three dimensions of leadership (symbolic/meaning-making, relational, structural/organizational), the manual is in a three-ring binder for easy removal and addition of pages, as users find material to expand what is in the book. It may be used both for personal and for team development.

Cost for LCWR members: \$32.50 (1-3 copies),

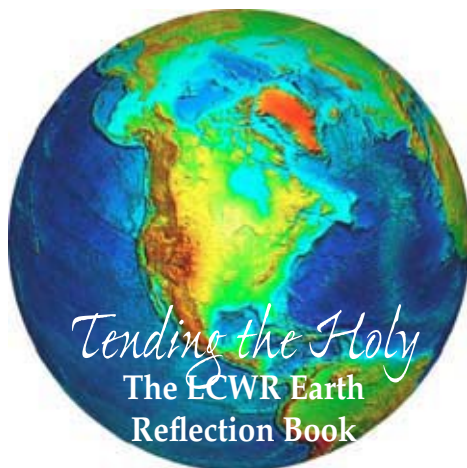
\$25.00 (4 or more) + postage

Canonical Procedures and Documents for Women's Communities: Separation and Other Processes

This manual, prepared by the Legal Resource Center for Religious, is intended to assist leadership when issues of separation from an institute or society arise.

Cost for LCWR members: \$25.00

To order either publication, contact Eva McCrae at 301-588-4955 or emccrae@lcwr.org.



Receiving Electronic Communications from LCWR

Each time that LCWR sends an electronic communication to its members, some of the mail bounces back to the office with indications that there are problems with the mailbox on the receiver's end.

Any member who is not receiving messages from LCWR at least every month, and usually more often, is probably experiencing a problem. The following are items to check that could be causing the problem.

Incorrect e-mail address

The LCWR national office must be notified if there is a change in a member's e-mail address.

Overloaded mailbox

E-mail boxes have limited capacities and must be cleaned out periodically in order to receive new mail. This especially pertains to free e-mail programs such as Yahoo, Juno, and Hotmail, and to congregations that own their own domain. Mailboxes must be cleared out of old, undeleted messages.

Mis-identified "spam"

Some programs automatically block messages perceived to be "spam," or electronic junk mail. E-mail programs using spam filters need to be set so that e-mail coming from LCWR will be accepted.

Opening and Printing Documents

In addition, some members report having trouble opening or printing files that are attached to LCWR World Merge messages. If the files are in PDF format, they can only be read with Adobe Acrobat Reader which can be downloaded for free at www.adobe.com. If there is a problem printing the PDF file, select the option "Print as Image."

Registering for New Leader Workshop

In early October all LCWR members were sent via electronic mail a registration form for the 2005 New Leader Workshop. The workshop is scheduled for March 17-20 at the Passionist Spiritual Center in Riverdale, New York. The workshop is designed for leadership teams who have been in office for less than two years.



For more information, contact Suzanne Delaney, IHM at 301-588-4955 or sdelaney@lcwr.org.

Orders will be taken through November 1 for reprints of *Tending the Holy*, the LCWR Earth reflection book published earlier this year.

Although LCWR will be publishing another daily reflection book based on the theme of creating peace in violent times for use in spring 2005, many people have requested additional copies of the Earth reflection book. An online message was sent to all members and associates with an order form in early October. For more information about ordering, contact Eva McCrae at 301-588-4955 or emccrae@lcwr.org.

Members and associates are asked to pass on the order information to other organizations or individuals who may be interested in ordering copies.

LCWR Call 2004-2009 Soon to Arrive in Mail

Copies of the new LCWR Call for 2004-2009 that was approved at the LCWR assembly in August are in the mail for all members.

The document is a tri-fold version of the call statement printed on heavy paper and strong enough to stand freely on a desk or bookshelf. This is the only time that LCWR will be sending out this printed version of the call. Those leaving office within the next five years are asked to pass on the document to their successors.

National Catholic Development Conference Celebrates Philanthropy

Struck by recent hurricanes, Orlando, Florida, with the assistance of FEMA and other volunteers, recovered from some of the destruction in time to "Celebrate the Magic of Catholic Philanthropy," the theme of the National Catholic Development Conference. NCDC assists organizations in development ministries by providing opportunities for leadership growth and networking through regional meetings and an annual conference for members. Suzanne Delaney, IHM, represented LCWR as a guest at the conference September 16-19.

In addition to the featured speaker, Mary Higgins Clark, the conference offered workshops of various tracks for both experienced and inexperienced members to the ministry of development. Robert Wendover, who specializes in assisting organizations with the intergenerational relations and other management issues, presented a general session about American society's changing generational demographics and their impact on development efforts. "The high energy of presenters and their commitment to excellence in assisting congregations with development efforts in challenging times and the valuable networking among the participants make this conference a very worthwhile experience," said Suzanne.

Former LCWR president Nancy Schreck, OSF, and Elizabeth Brown, CSJ, were recipients of the Good Samaritan Award at the annual awards luncheon. Nancy and Liz were recognized for their outstanding leadership and work with Excel,



LCWR staff member Suzanne Delaney, IHM greets Nancy Schreck, OSF and Elizabeth Brown, CSJ after they received the NCDC Good Samaritan Award.

Inc., a non-profit community service organization that has served the people of Okolona, MS since 1988. Also honored during the conference was Bishop Robert Morneau, auxiliary bishop of Green Bay, Wisconsin, who serves as episcopal advisor to NCDC.

NCDC offers a variety of services to assist congregational leaders in overseeing development efforts in their congregation and working with development directors in a professional and pastoral manner. Some of the benefits and services offered include education and training; seminars and workshops; networking and peer support; resource and audio library and referrals; publications and postal/legislative bulletins. For additional information, contact NCDC at 888.TRY.NCDS (879-6232) or visit the website at www.ncdcusa.org.

Global Concerns Committee Identifies Focus for Upcoming Year

Members of the LCWR Global Concerns Committee, meeting in St. Louis from October 13-15, tapped into the 2004 assembly for energy and initiative. The LCWR Call 2004-2009 was integrated into prayer, then considered from the perspective of justice implications for the work of the committee, with particular attention paid to the last section on commitment. The committee also revisited the challenging words of both Dr. Mary Robinson and Theresa Kane, RSM as well as the LCWR jubilee vision and recommendations.

Out of these conversations, the committee considered ways of promoting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and worked on a resolution for proposal at the 2005 as-

sembly calling for theological reflection on the ways that religious belief systems work both for and against the empowerment of women. Topics for this year's *Resolutions to Action* were also identified: The Earth Charter; The Millennium Development Goals; nonviolence; and water issues, including bottled water. The GCC hopes that these topics will continue to keep before the members the theme and resolutions of the 2004 assembly, while anticipating the 2005 assembly which will launch the LCWR jubilee year.

Finally, the committee celebrated the completion of the systems thinking resource which has been posted on the LCWR website.

GCC members are: Gilmary Bauer, RSM; Mary Brigid Clingman, OP; Julie Driscoll, SCN; Walter Maher, CCVI; Barbara Moore, CSJ; Peggy Nolan, BVM; and Marie Lucey, OSF (staff)

From the LCWR Executive Director

Fidelity in Winter

It's getting harder and harder to stay faithful to my morning walking routine. When I began my little fitness program in May, the mornings were cool and sparkling bright. The birds were singing. The sun was up. The crocuses were blooming. But now it is late October. It's dark until after 7:00 AM. The leaves are slippery underfoot and I know it's just a matter of time before an inevitable spill. So I take extra calcium and drink a yogurt smoothie to build up the old bones. But, I'm already preparing a list of excuses for the coming winter, knowing it will be darker, colder, and definitely more slippery. It is hard to be faithful in the fall. It is even harder to be faithful in the winter.



Carole Shinnick, SSND

Thinking of winter, I begin to think of my dearest friend's mother, Margaret, who turned 99 in August. Until very recently she had been quite active and engaged. She and her

*It is hard to be faithful in the fall.
It is even harder to be faithful in the winter.*

identical twin sister are both graduates of St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn, class of 1927. For years Margaret served as the contact for the alumni news for her class, and she is still listed on the college website in that capacity. (I often wondered how much news there was from the class of '27, but that's another matter.)

Sunday after Sunday, Margaret would do the New York Times crossword puzzle -- in ink. Sometimes she would call me up for a clue -- her way of flattering me to think that I could possibly be in her league. In her eighties she was still driving three days a week from her home in New Jersey to her native Brooklyn to work as a receptionist in a doctor's office -- and to get her hair done. These thrice-weekly round trips meant driving through legendary Manhattan traffic on a regular basis.

One storied moment occurred when, while still living in Brooklyn in the summer of Watergate, a burglar broke into her home in the mid-afternoon. Both were startled to discover the other in the house. Overhearing the TV upstairs, the intruder demanded, "Who's that?" "Senator Sam Irvin," Margaret calmly replied.

But a series of "mini-strokes" has wrought irreparable damage to Margaret. In the past year, the change is enormous. Though still elegant and perfectly attentive to others, she seems further and further away. Lately she speaks of wanting to go home and even has a little paper bag on her night table with comb and hairspray in it for her trip. In her winter, Margaret practices an exquisite form of fidelity. She sits and she listens and she prays -- and she waits.

We have witnesses to winter fidelity all around us, don't we? The wheelchair-bound sisters sitting for hours in our motherhouse chapels. The elderly recover-

*Is there anything more powerful -- or more demanding --
than winter fidelity?*

ing alcoholic taking a cab to her weekly AA meeting. The ancient letter writer, penning a note to a grandnephew with gnarled hands. Is there anything more powerful -- or more demanding -- than winter fidelity?

So I will get up tomorrow morning, put on my sweats, and step into the dark. It's not so hard, really, once I get started. I'm hoping that this simple fidelity to a morning routine will, in the end, ready me for a lovely winter.



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

Editor: Annmarie Sanders, IHM

8808 Cameron Street -- Silver Spring, MD 20910

Phone: 301-588-4955 Fax: 301-587-4575

E-mail: asanders@lcwr.org Website: www.lcwr.org

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat
Winter Park, Florida
January 16-21, 2005

LCWR Delegation to Mexico
February 19-26, 2005

LCWR New Leader Workshop
*Passionist Retreat Center
Riverdale, NY*
March 17-19, 2005

LCWR Assembly
Anaheim, California
August 19 -- 23, 2005

LCWR-CMSM Delegation to El Salvador
November 30 -- December 6, 2005

LCWR Systemic Change Think Tank,
Franciscan Center -- Tampa, Florida
March 5 -- 7, 2006

LCWR New Leader Workshop
*St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois*
March 30 -- April 2, 2006

LCWR Assembly
Atlanta, Georgia
August 18 -- 22, 2006

FROM THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGIOUS LIFE

New Publications

The new CSRL *Facilitators' Reflections* book contains the reflections on the signs of hope, areas of concern and trends in religious congregations today by 41 women and men who facilitate gatherings of religious. The book also provides the facilitators' contact information, experience and training. Copies were mailed to CSRL members during the summer. Additional copies are available.

The center is now in the process of collecting names and e-mail addresses of young religious under 40 for a book called *Young Religious' Reflections*. The e-mail surveys will be sent during November. Anyone who has suggestions of people to be included may contact CSRL. The book will be sent next summer to 2004-2005 members of the center.

Coming Events

Cultural Audit Workshops

January 6-8, 2005
Mercy Center, Burlingame, CA

August 11-13, 2005
Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL

Presenters: Frances Cunningham, OSF and Rudy Vela, SM

Religious Leadership Forum

April 24-26, 2005
Shalom Retreat Center, Dubuque, IA
Presenters: David Couturier, OFM Cap. and
Miriam Ukeritis, CSJ

For further information on any of the above,
contact vpiecuch@visioni.com.

From the National Religious Vocation Conference:

NRVC Convocation 2004

More than 500 vocation directors, major superiors, formators and younger religious attended the NRVC biennial convocation that took place in Chicago from September 9-13. Special thanks to keynote speakers, Mary Maher, SSND, and Timothy Radcliffe, OP, for their profound, insightful treatment of the theme, "Fidelity to Jesus: A Paradigm of Hope." Dr. Kathleen McChesney, executive director of the USCCB Office of Child and Youth Protection, also honestly and sensitively addressed the assembly regarding the issue of sexual abuse. Those who attended the convocation would agree that the spirit of the group was both upbeat and positive.

Anyone interested in ordering tapes, videos, or DVDs of the keynote addresses or workshops may contact Veranda Communications at 800-473-TAPE or visit their website at www.verandatapes.com. The text of the talks will be published in the winter edition of *Horizon*.

NRVC Establishes Two New Standing Committees

The NRVC national board recently established two new standing committees: Education and Religious Priesthood.

The purpose of the Education Standing Committee is to follow-up on the work that NRVC has already done with the NCEA and religious textbook publishers regarding vocation promotion. The intention of the Religious Priesthood Standing Committee is to address the specific needs and challenges facing religious priests in attracting new candidates to their congregations and societies.

Five-Year Strategic Plan

The national board has completed a five-year strategic plan listing several projected trends, challenges, and priorities for vocation directors and the NRVC in the future. The plan outlines a course of action to address these needs. This project involved the consultation of NRVC membership, major superiors, and directors of collaborating organizations. A special thanks to all who participated in this consultation.

Horizon

NRVC is proud to announce that its professional journal, *Horizon*, has been accepted for inclusion into the Catholic Literature and Periodical Index by the Catholic Library Association. Special thanks to editorial board member Ken O'Malley, CP, for his efforts in facilitating the application

process, and to Ms. Carol Schuck-Scheiber who serves as the *Horizon* editor.

Orientation Program for New Vocation Directors

Thirty women and men attended the fall orientation program for new vocation directors held at the Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center in Chicago, from October 27-November 1. In addition to the 43 people who attended the summer orientation program, NRVC welcomed a total of 73 new vocation directors.

New Vocation Resource Catalog

The new Vocation Resource Catalog published by the National Coalition for Church Vocations (NCCV) is now available. Copies can be ordered by calling 773-363-5530 or by visiting their website at www.nccv-vocations.org.

Future Workshop:

Behavioral Assessment I

Rev. Ray Carey

December 10-13, 2004 -- Orange, California

Online registration and further information on future NRVC workshops may be found at www.nrvc.net.

NCNWR Celebrates 10 Years

The National Communicators Network for Women Religious (NCNWR) celebrated its 10th anniversary at its annual conference Sept. 23-26 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. More than 100 communications, leadership, vocations and development personnel for congregations of women religious gathered "to learn and to celebrate."

Founding members Rose Lima Frerick, OSF; Laura Goedken, OP; Mary Luke Jones, OSB; Patricia Knopp, SNDN; Jane Michele McClure, OSB; Dawn Tomaszewski, SP; Therese Vaulet, OSF; Barbara Wade; and Lorraine Wesolowski, OSF, were honored during the 10th anniversary dinner Sept. 25.

NCNWR is a professional association for personnel responsible for communications within religious congregations of women. Its purpose is two-fold: to promote understanding of women religious, enhance their image and advance their mission; and to provide a network of professional support and education for its members. The organization currently has close to 170 members from the United States, Canada, and Europe.

For more information about NCNWR, and to view more photos from the conference, visit www.ncnwr.org.