

April 2007

## LCWR New Leader Workshop

# Exploring the Unique Calls of Leadership in This Age



More than 130 leaders from the US and Canada gathered in Plymouth, Michigan for the 2007 LCWR New Leader Workshop

Emphasizing the sacred mystery that is at the heart of the call to religious life leadership, a team of skilled presenters led more than 130 LCWR leaders through a workshop that provided not only critical information for 21st century leaders, but also a wealth of inspiration and encouragement for the ministry.

Nancy Schreck, OSF, who served as a presenter and facilitator, opened the workshop with a review of the dimensions of leadership defined by an LCWR think tank on leadership development. These included the

symbolic/meaning-making, relational, and organizational/structural facets of leadership. The workshop explored each of these dimensions through a dynamic combination of input, reflection, and discussion.

Each day included an opening contemplative prayer experience, presentations, small group processing,

*(continued on page 3)*

### Inside this issue:

- 4 Plans Proceed on Creation of Catholic Sisters Museum Exhibit
- 6 FADICA and LCWR Hire Coordinator of New Orleans Recovery Efforts
- 7 Systemic Change Think Tank Focuses on System Transformation



Workshop facilitator Nancy Schreck, OSF and LCWR executive director Carole Shinnick, SSND

## *From the LCWR Presidency* **Choosing to Collaborate**

by Mary Dacey, SSJ — LCWR President

In February I had the opportunity and the privilege to participate in two meetings, each associated with LCWR. The first was actually a series of meetings with bishop members of the Commission on Religious Life and Ministry, members of the executive committee of CMSWR, and members of the executive committees and national boards of CMSM and LCWR. The second was a meeting of the members of the LCWR History Committee and Design Island, the professional company that is designing the exhibit.



On the surface, the meetings could not have been more different—one, an examination of and dialogue on current and future issues facing men and women religious;

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And...it was hard work!*

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the other, a lively exchange with artist “imagineers.” In retrospect, they were surprisingly similar.

In each, dedicated, creative, and extraordinary people came together for a common purpose. Hours, days were spent following agendas, making decisions, listening to one another, and listening some more. The collective energy, the commitment, and the willingness to engage differences for the common good were everywhere apparent. It was dialogue and collaboration at their finest — the brainstorming of possibilities and dreams within the context of our current realities and perspectives. And...it was hard work!

I was struck by just how exhausted I was at the end of each day. I was amused by how often I changed my mind after listening to some new insight or point of

view. I was surprised by my reaction at times to surrendering my own ideas and contributions. No wonder the root of collaboration is the word “labor.” And it is a laboring “with”— rooted in the belief that the collective wisdom of the group is far greater than that of any individual. Pope Paul VI described the challenge this way: “We must take care to listen not only to what [people] say, but more especially to what they have it in their hearts to say.” So often we say that we want to get to “the heart of the matter,” but whose heart matters

most? King Abdullah II made this observation when he pleaded for dialogue to end the crisis in the Middle East. “You didn’t speak unless you could improve on silence.” This kind of listening takes time, patience, and all the gifts that we can muster.

When I returned home I could resonate with the Lenten gospel of Peter and the Transfiguration. I had been to the mountain, and I knew what it meant to be in the presence of prophets — real prophets who struggle to live the challenging ministry of leadership each day. What a temptation to build my tent and stay there! But like Peter, I continue to learn that the fruit of real collaboration is not to be grasped but to be shared. When we choose collaboration, when we reverence silence and take the time to listen to what “is in the hearts of

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others to say,” I believe we participate in a dying and rising that is nothing less than paschal mystery. It is a mystery not only for religious communities, but also for our church, our country, and our world.

## Exploring the Unique Calls of Leadership in This Age

*(continued from page 1)*

integration sessions for leadership teams, and a closing contemplative processing experience. Presentations included:



Civil and Canon Law with Christine Rody, SC and Simone Campbell, SSS

Finances with Hertha Longo, CSA



Communications with Mira Mosle, BVM

Personnel issues and Holistic Leadership with Fran Repka, RSM



Spiritual Leadership and Reading the Signs of the Times with Nancy Schreck, OSF

The workshop presenters encouraged the participants to consider utilizing the leadership mentoring program, *Leading from Within: A Mentoring Leadership Manual*. Information on the manual is on the LCWR website at [www.lcwr.org/lcwrprogramsresources/mentoringleadership.htm](http://www.lcwr.org/lcwrprogramsresources/mentoringleadership.htm).

Leaders who have not yet made this workshop may wish to mark their calendars for March 13-16, 2008, when the New Leader Workshop will be offered again at the Retreat Center at St. John's in Plymouth, Michigan.



*The workshop provided many opportunities for participants to process input with others and with members of their own teams*

## CHA Offers Program on Sponsorship Preceding LCWR Assembly

When making travel plans for the LCWR assembly, members may want to keep in mind that the Catholic Health Association will be offering a complimentary program open to all LCWR members on sponsorship. The event will be held August 1 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City (the site of the LCWR assembly) from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Members will receive additional information on this directly from CHA.

**Limited Supply of Extra Copies Available of 2007 LCWR Reflection Book *So Much is in Bud***



Contact Carol Glidden at the LCWR national office for information on ordering: [cglidden@lcwr.org](mailto:cglidden@lcwr.org) or 301-588-4955.

## LCWR and Design Island Outline Plans for the Pioneers, Poets & Prophets: Catholic Sisters in America Museum Exhibit

LCWR and the exhibit creation company, Design Island, hosted a charrette in February at the company's headquarters in Orlando, Florida to continue work on the museum exhibit *Pioneers, Poets & Prophets: Catholic Sisters in America*.

Design Island describes itself as a company that develops "compelling experiences and interactive environments where people gather to explore, play, learn." At the February charrette, representatives of LCWR and the Design Island staff brainstormed on how the story of Catholic women religious can be told in compelling ways and what media will best bring that content alive.

The group based its work on the materials developed by the LCWR History Committee over the past several years, information submitted by many congregations on their available artifacts, as well as ideas generated from another charrette held in October 2005. At that time, LCWR and Design Island met along with several other historians, writers, researchers, curators, and museum personnel to brainstorm possibilities for the exhibit. The Design Island materials prepared since then included sketches of possible floor plans, a timeline of significant contributions to the history of the United States made by Catholic sisters, and preliminary ideas on how to best organize the information and materials.

During the February charrette, the group spent time honing the historical data, as well as creatively brainstorming interactive environments within the exhibit. LCWR and Design Island are working to create a space where visitors not only grasp a better understanding of the contributions of women religious, but also the essence of the vowed life and the driving values of prayer, community, mission, and responsiveness to the signs of the times and the unmet needs of society.

As a result of this charrette, LCWR contacted members in March to request some specific artifacts for the exhibit, which is slated for opening in March 2009.

LCWR provided an update on the fundraising efforts as it works towards

the goal of \$3 million for the costs of constructing the exhibit as well as traveling it to various sites throughout the country. Anyone with ideas of possible donors whom LCWR could approach is asked to contact the development coordinator for the LCWR history project, Honora L. Precourt, at 301-588-4955, ext. 238 or [hprecourt@lcwr.org](mailto:hprecourt@lcwr.org).

Participating in the charrette were: the LCWR History Committee members (Helen Maher Garvey, BVM — chair; Barbara Cervenka, OP; Mary Charlotte Chandler, RSCJ; Mary Dacey, SSJ; Karen Kennelly, CSJ; Constance Phelps, SCL; Annmarie Sanders, IHM; and Carole Shinnick, SSND); Honora Precourt; historian Diane Batts Morrow, PhD; and more than a dozen members of the Design Island staff including designers, researchers, "imagineers," and artists.



*Three illustrators worked throughout the charrette to capture concepts for the exhibit design*

*More than 20 people participated in the charrette at Design Island in Orlando to plan the exhibit on Catholic women religious*

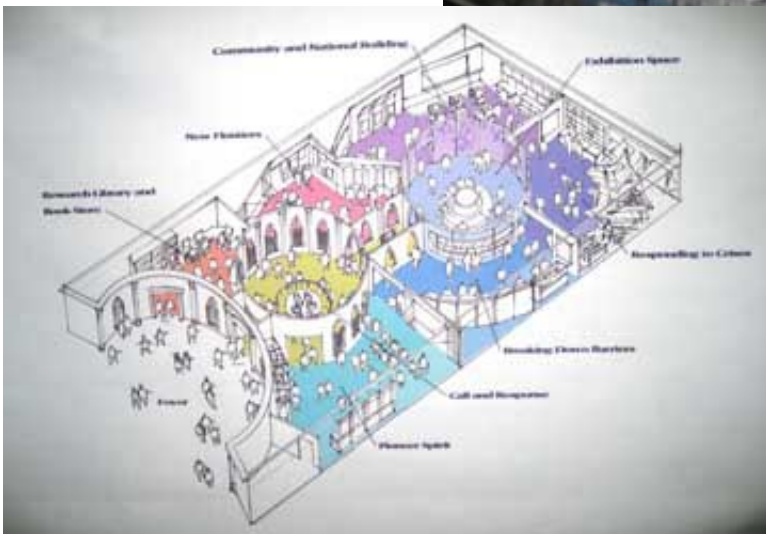


## Materials Prepared for the Pioneers, Poets and Prophets Exhibit



*Timeline showing significant events in US history and the contributions of Catholic women religious*

*Possible floor plan for the exhibit*



## LCWR Joins its Voice in Advocacy

### Rebuilding and Stabilizing Iraq

LCWR was one of 40 NGOs to sign a March 6 letter to members of Congress, calling for specific funds in the Supplemental Appropriations bill to rebuild and stabilize Iraq through effective relief and development.

### Debt and Global Poverty

As president of LCWR, Mary Dacey, SSJ signed a March 16 letter to Representatives Waters, Frank, and Bachus, urging them "to take leadership in addressing the crisis of debt and global poverty by re-introducing the 2007 Jubilee Act."

## FADICA and LCWR Hire Coordinator of New Orleans Recovery Efforts

FADICA (Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities) and LCWR have hired Suzanne Hall, SNDdeN for the position of coordinator of FADICA-LCWR recovery efforts for the women religious of New Orleans. Suzanne comes to this newly-created position with a wealth of experience and expertise. She is a civil lawyer who also holds a doctoral degree in educational leadership, and a masters in psychology. She has headed the Office of Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees at the United States Bishops' Conference as well as the Department of Special Educational Services at the National Catholic Educational Association.



*Suzanne Hall, SNDdeN*

Currently Suzanne serves as vice-president of Sisters Academy of Baltimore, where she has been very successful in securing grants and funding for the school. At the same time, she has offered legal services to women who are economically poor.

Suzanne will begin on a part-time basis and will then move to full-time in the fall. In her new capacity, she will travel to New Orleans to meet with the women religious of the area and begin to assess with them their immediate and ongoing needs. She also will undertake researching potential sources of funding to match the needs identified in the New Orleans area.

This position was created with the input and endorsement of the sisters in New Orleans. An advisory board of FADICA and LCWR members will assist Suzanne as she moves into her ministry.

## LCWR Opens Search for Associate Director for Business and Finance

LCWR is searching for a new associate director for business and finance to replace Eleanor Granger, OSF who will finish her term in August.

This position demands a constellation of skills since the associate director is responsible for overseeing the finances of the national office, coordinating the sites for the assembly and other LCWR programs, and working with her counterpart in CMSM to oversee the operations of the Cameron Street Building. She works closely with the LCWR's executive director and the conference treasurer.

LCWR is seeking a former member of the conference who has a strong financial background to fill this position. The individual also needs to have skills related to human resource management and facilities oversight. She must be able to travel frequently and to relocate to the Washington, DC – Silver Spring area. Most of all, an applicant needs to be a team player, someone who is flexible and who prefers variety of tasks over routine. LCWR hopes to have the new associate director hired by August 1, 2007 in time for the national assembly in Kansas City. Her responsibilities would begin at the post-assembly meeting of the national board, which begins on August 5, 2007. The position is a three-year term renewable once for a total of six years.

LCWR members are asked to contact any qualified persons whom they know and encourage them to apply. The role description for this position is downloadable from the LCWR website ([www.lcwr.org](http://www.lcwr.org)) in the password-protected members' information section. Interested persons should send a letter of application and a resume to Carole Shinnick, SSND at 8808 Cameron Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or electronically to [cshinnick@lcwr.org](mailto:cshinnick@lcwr.org). Additional information can be obtained by calling Carole at the national office (301-588-4955).

## LCWR and CMSM Participate in Interfaith Efforts on Water

Both LCWR and CMSM are active participants in the Interfaith Water Working Group and its subgroup on extractive industries and water.

The subgroup developed a position statement and identified strategies for 2007. One of the subgroup activities will be a mapping of countries where members of the IWWG have people on the ground. The subgroup will ask these people to provide information about the problems with extractive industries in their areas that

*(continued on page 7)*

## Systemic Change Think Tank Focuses on System Transformation

Think Tank IX, an “Uprising of Hope: Transformation for an Emerging Future,” drew 39 participants to Villa del Mar in Santa Cruz, California from February 26-March 1. The group of LCWR members and justice and peace coordinators were kept busy and energized by presenter/facilitator, Linda Haydock, SNJM, executive director of the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center in Seattle, Washington. In each session, Linda led the group in prayer and ritual before providing information and resources for a variety of system transformation processes. Topics included chaos point, conscious evolution, spiral dynamics, and integral theory. An overview of tools and methods for community building and dialogue was followed by some time for practical application.



*Participants at the Systemic Change Think Tank in Santa Cruz*

## Christian Peace Witnesses Call for Changes in Iraq

Approximately 3,000 Christians gathered at the Washington National Cathedral on the evening of March 16 for a Christian Peace Witness (CPW) worship service before walking to the White House to call for peace in Iraq. Several hundred more were not able to attend due to cancelled flights and icy roads in the northeast. As one of the CPW partners, LCWR was represented in the processional and recessional by Marie Lucey, OSF, associate director for social mission.

Following the service a procession of 3,000 women, men, and children walked the 3.4 miles to Lafayette Park. They surrounded the White House while 222 people were arrested for refusing to move from the sidewalk, an act of nonviolent resistance. Many people also took part the next day in a walk from the Lincoln Memorial to the Pentagon to protest the Iraq war as it moved into its 5th year.

In addition to the Washington, DC events, many local protests against the war took place around the country.

## Ecumenical Advocacy Days Focus on Children

Although not an LCWR-sponsored event, the fifth annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days, held in the greater DC area and attended by almost 1,000 people, had increased Catholic participation, including quite a few LCWR congregation members. The event was held March 9-11, with a lobby day on March 12. This year's theme, “. . . and How are the Children?” provided interesting and provocative topics for all the tracks: Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America, Middle East, the US and eco-justice, global security, and jubilee/economic justice.

## LCWR and CMSM Participate in Interfaith Efforts on Water

*(continued from page 6)*

have denied poor people access to safe, affordable, and sustainable water for basic daily use. Extractive industries include mineral, water, and petroleum mining. The other two subgroups are focused on financial institutions and water, and development aid and water. The work of all the groups provides strategies to address US government, financial institutions, or corporations.

*From the LCWR Executive Director*

## What If?

I can remember sitting in an airport having struggled to carry a bag from home and observing that pilots and flight attendants strode through the airport pulling their luggage on wheels – wheels that seemed to be the exclusive property of flying professionals. Why did it take Samsonite and us so long to figure out that wheels could be put on everyone’s luggage? Now it seems so obvious but it actually took years of strained backs before suitcases grew wheels. What were the mental blocks that made it seem normal for the rest of us to have to carry our heavy bags while a few got to pull them along on one of humanity’s oldest inventions?



Carole Shinnick, SSND

not connecting one evident reality with a new and fresh application?

Perhaps these days we need to ask ourselves endless “what if” questions, exercising the discipline of not immediately judging our answers. We might need to wonder if what we are seeing right before our eyes today is the very thing we think is waiting to be revealed tomorrow.

The images that color our speech and provide the scaffolding for our conclusions come from each of our

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*Now as we strain our inner eyes, trying to see through a fog into the next era of religious life, are we limited by our own mental models?*

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unique places in time and space. They serve as metaphors to deepen our understanding and to increase our ability to communicate with other people. But these same images also box in our imaginations limiting us to what we know and making it more difficult for us leap to a new spot that might seem improbable, but is also solid and bright.

Without the photographs of our planet from space, could we ever have pictured our world as the swirling blue-green-white jewel we now know it to be? Chances are that before those NASA pictures became so familiar to us, many of us imagined the earth as a carefully mapped and bounded globe spinning on a metal axle – just like the ones in our classrooms.

Now as we strain our inner eyes, trying to see through a fog into the next era of religious life, are we limited by our own mental models? Is it too hard for us to imagine something new because we are imposing on the future our images of the past? Are we looking at current realities – much as I used to watch the pilots and flight attendants - not making the obvious (and critical) leap,

- What if those called to live religious life will always be only a small minority of people and never very large in numbers?
- What if religious life really belongs at the edges of church and society rather than within the mainstream?
- What if community life of the future is taking shape today – in small living arrangements in ordinary housing in ordinary neighborhoods?
- What if the new expressions of our traditional ministries – small, intense middle schools, mobile rural clinics, neighborhood organizations, ministry to migrants and refugees – what if these and multiple other emerging models - are the ministries of tomorrow.
- What if the vows today mean something quite different than they did in the 18th and 19th centuries? What if we need to rename them?
- What if ...?

Sometimes I think we imagine that our future will look like a shiny new version of the “golden days” of our

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*Perhaps these days we need to ask ourselves endless “what if” questions, exercising the discipline of not immediately judging our answers.*

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past when we were numerous and mainstream and lived in large groups and held status and were crystal clear about our role. But the story of Mary Magdalene in the garden, meeting the resurrected Jesus reminds us that living fully and having a future requires us to let go of past images and to take a good, fresh look at what is already before our eyes.



From the  
**Center for the Study of  
Religious Life**

### **CSRL Publications Available for Half-Price in April**

April is CSRL's half-price sale. It is a good time to order the Cultural Audit; the dialogue books on mission, community, or becoming a religious; reflection books from young religious or facilitators; or the theological reflection book.

For more information on the publications, see CSRL's web page [www.religious-life.org/pubs/index.html](http://www.religious-life.org/pubs/index.html). (For those who have not visited the site lately, be sure to click on refresh/reload.)

Orders may be placed with the National Coalition for Church Vocations (NCCV) at 773-955-5453 or [www.nccv-vocations.org/search.asp?keyword=Center&search=GO](http://www.nccv-vocations.org/search.asp?keyword=Center&search=GO).

### **Using the Cultural Audit Workshop**

For more information on implementing a cultural audit with a congregation, CSRL is offering a "Using the Cultural Audit" workshop from August 16-18, 2007 at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Presenters are Frances Cunningham, OSF and Gary Riebe-Estrella, SVD.

More information can be found at [www.religious-life.org/programs/index.html#CulturalAudit](http://www.religious-life.org/programs/index.html#CulturalAudit). Registration forms are available at [www.religious-life.org/pdfs/CTUWrkshpRegis21507.pdf](http://www.religious-life.org/pdfs/CTUWrkshpRegis21507.pdf).

### **RFC Summer Forum Changes Venue**

**Right Relationships:  
A Reflection on the Vow of Chastity**

has been moved to Holy Trinity Spiritual Center  
Baltimore, Maryland

There is also a slight shift in dates:  
July 13-20, 2007

The program is a segment of the "We Are the Change" Summer Forum series designed for women and men religious who have made first profession since 1965.

### **Upcoming LCWR Dates**

**LCWR Assembly**  
*Kansas City, Missouri*  
August 1 — 5, 2007

**LCWR Leading from Within Retreat**  
*Redemptorist Renewal Center*  
*Tucson, Arizona*  
January 20 — 25, 2008

**LCWR New Leader Workshop**  
*The Retreat Center at St. John's*  
*Plymouth, Michigan*  
March 13 — 16, 2008

**LCWR-CMSM Joint Assembly**  
*Denver, Colorado*  
August 1 — 4, 2008

**LCWR New Leader Workshop**  
*The Retreat Center at St. John's*  
*Plymouth, Michigan*  
March 19 — 22, 2009

**LCWR Assembly**  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*  
August 11 — 15, 2009



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