

FADICA and LCWR Initiate Recovery Action for the Sisters of New Orleans

LCWR continues to be committed to assisting the women religious of New Orleans in their recovery from the devastating hurricanes of 2005, particularly Hurricane Katrina.

Following their visit to New Orleans in October, LCWR president Mary Dacey, SSJ and LCWR executive director Carole Shinnick, SSND began a conversation with Frank Butler of FADICA (Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities) about ways to provide long-term assistance to the sisters in New Orleans. Together, LCWR and FADICA drafted a proposal for the creation of the position of grant-writer whose primary focus would be on the needs of the New Orleans sisters. LCWR presented the draft to the congregations in New Orleans who offered some feedback and who wholeheartedly endorsed the project.

Initially this position will be a six-month commitment, with the possibilities of extension. The grant-writer office will be located within the offices of the Sisters of Charity Ministry Foundation in Cincinnati. The work includes travel and ongoing communication with the sisters in New Orleans regarding the financial needs of

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The financial needs of the women religious of New Orleans and their ministries remain serious.

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LCWR Offers Testimony at Department of Energy Hearing on Complex 2030

As a member of the National Religious Partnership on the Nuclear Weapons Danger (NRPN), LCWR joined 22 other national religious organizations in signing a Public Comments document submitted to the Department of Energy addressing the intent of the Ener-

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From the LCWR Presidency

Undeterred by Brief Uncertainties

by Mary Dacey, SSJ — LCWR President

One of my favorite poets, Jessica Powers, writes, “I am waiting for a green shoot to come out of my stump some morning in this unusual springtime — December’s leaf and blossom, winter’s bird... Now and again though is the message blurred by brief uncertainties.”

I was drawn to this quotation by two recent experiences, the first a visit with my family, the second a meeting at St. Joseph Villa, a healthcare facility for our retired and infirm sisters.

There is nothing, well almost nothing, that I do not love about my two-year old nephew. A surprise to my brother and sister-in-law, this child is a delight to us all. Watching him grow is nothing less than witnessing a



define retirement on a daily basis. I had expected that our active sisters would be the only attendees, but when the meeting began I saw that, despite the late hour, the Villa residents comprised more than half the group. Some came with walkers, some in wheelchairs, others with the help of a staff member or friend. They all came in faith. As part of the meeting they were asked to share their responses to a reflection question about when they felt most alive as a Sister of Saint Joseph. Their stories were compelling and inspiring not despite, but because of, the disappointments, pain, and suffering that were integral to their lived experience. Long before the meeting concluded I realized, as I have so often, what a rich heritage we possess in these faithful and faith-filled women.

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miracle in progress. During a recent visit I was struck by his boundless determination to push the limits of his space, by the utter simplicity of his daily routine of eating, sleeping, and playing, and by his uncanny ability to know that he is loved beyond measure. I was fascinated as he learned new words and made connections about things that we as adults take for granted. He is like the green shoot in Powers’ poem, but there is no uncertainty there. Eventually, his fearlessness, his determination, and his absolute security will be challenged, diminished, or even lost, but for now his life flowers in limitless possibilities.

My other experience was an evening meeting, a theological reflection that is part of our strategic planning process. The site of the meeting was our Villa, a veritable powerhouse of prayer, where our older sisters re-

In retrospect, I was struck by the similarities between these opposite ends of experience. Both my nephew and these sisters share a simple, daily routine and a palpable determination to live every moment. And though both know how deeply they are loved, my nephew’s response is still untested. In contrast these sisters know, from the perspective of wisdom, experience, and even “brief uncertainties,” an incarnational love that has borne fruit in their own lives and in the life of our congregation. As we make our way toward an unknown future in the midst of brief uncertainties, I am grateful

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for the clear direction of their example and Powers’ words: “Yet who am I to minimize the worth of what a stump is likely to bring forth?”

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the congregations and their ministries, and researching and applying for grants and other funding.

A complete job description is available on the LCWR website at www.lcwr.org/what%27snew/neworleans.htm

LCWR Listserve Provides Forum for Raising Questions and Sharing Information

The LCWR Resource Sharing Forum now has 101 participants. Any LCWR member or associate is invited to register as a participant at any time. Information for registering can be found in the LCWR Members Information section of the LCWR website (www.lcwr.org).

Forum participants have access to archived messages through the Yahoo Groups website. Archived message topics include:

- Chapter Steering Committees
- Chapter Facilitators
- Data Base Programs
- Congregation Infirmaries and Sisters' Family Members
- Safety Plan Models
- Guidelines for Older Drivers
- Self-Directed Ministries
- Translators

The content of these messages can be found by those who have registered for the LCWR Forum by going to "Messages" at groups.yahoo.com.

LCWR National Assembly

Hyatt Regency Crown Center

Kansas City, Missouri

August 1 - 5, 2007

(travel day is August 5)



Marie Lucey, OSF delivers testimony at the Department of Energy hearing in Washington, DC

LCWR Offers Testimony at Department of Energy Hearing on Complex 2030

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gy Department's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for "Complex 2030," a new nuclear weapons complex. The Bush Administration's proposal for this complex, to be completed by 2030 with a price tag of \$150 billion, if approved by Congress would increase nuclear weapons manufacturing capabilities to Cold War levels, and is strongly opposed by NRPN and many other organizations.

The last of the required public hearings on Complex 2030 took place in Washington, DC on December 14, where most signers of the Public Comments document and many other groups presented brief testimonies in opposition to the DOE's proposal. Marie Lucey, OSF, as associate director of LCWR, participated in the hearing on behalf of LCWR. Copies of both the Public Comments signed by religious organizations and Marie's testimony were sent to region chairs for dissemination to region members. Members were encouraged to sign on to the document and/or send their own comments to Theodore Wyka, Complex 2030 PEIS Document Manager at the DOE before January 17, 2007: Complex2030@nnsa.doe.gov. Information about Complex 2030 can be found in the Public Comments document and by visiting: www.faithfulsecurity.org while Marie Lucey's testimony is on the LCWR website at: www.lcwr.org/lcwr-socialjustice/issues.htm.

More Than 200 Sisters Cry '¡Presente!' at SOA Watch 2006

Once again, thousands of people gathered at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia, to call for the closure of the SOA/WHINSEC. The crowd was estimated at nearly 16,000 by local police and close to 22,000 by organizers.

Once again, on Saturday the diverse crowd listened to moving messages, joined in song, participated in workshops, and visited the tables of a variety of organizations, while 1500 young people participated in the Jesuit teach-in and others attended workshops. Once again, on Sunday, after prayers and the commitment to non-violence, there was the solemn procession with crosses and responses of "Presente" ringing in the autumn air over and over as the murdered and disappeared of Latin America were remembered by name.

Once again, the presence of Catholic sisters was evident. Once again, people went through the fence, 13 this year, in acts of nonviolent civil disobedience. Notable changes were the number of young people, which now appears to account for at least half the crowd, and the encouraging note that 2007 just may be the year that Congress passes legislation to close the school, since last year the bill lost by only 16 votes, and a friendlier Congress is anticipated.



Scenes from the 2006 gathering to close the SOA/WHINSEC



CHA Board Addresses Corporate Campaigns

During their November 30-December 1 meeting, the Catholic Health Association board members participated in a labor relations dialogue jump-started by a lawyer from the firm Jones Day, who has recently represented several Catholic health systems that were subjects of corporate campaigns. The board engaged in conversation about how Catholic health-care employers respond to unionization and corporate campaigns, being faithful to Catholic social teachings while dealing with the practical realities of a corporate campaign. Also, the board approved CHA's advocacy agenda for 2007-2008: accessible and affordable health care for all; sustaining health care programs and providers; ethical integrity and social justice; and strengthening nonprofit healthcare.

LCWR Joins Faith-Based Water Working Group

At the invitation of Church World Service, approximately 25 faith-based groups are meeting to consider issues to be addressed. During their first two meetings, members listened to overviews on four areas — water and financial institutions, trade issues and water, water and development aid, and water as a human right — and were given actions for advocacy work. Members will organize themselves into subcommittees on these issue areas to develop an advocacy strategy for 2007. LCWR has joined the group because of the high interest of members in environmental issues and, most particularly, in water issues.

Justice Organizations Focus on Iraq

Christian Peace Witness Planned for March 16

A large number of Christian groups, primarily Protestant but including Pax Christi USA, Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns, and LCWR, have participated in weekly phone conferences to plan a major Christian Peace Witness for Iraq. The event will take place in Washington, DC on March 16, 2007 beginning with a worship service at the National Cathedral, followed by a candlelight procession to the White House and an all-night vigil. The Peace Witness appeal will be: end the US occupation; support the troops and their families; rebuild Iraq; and say no to torture. Sponsoring organizations will encourage their members around the country to prepare for the witness through prayer, fasting, forming study groups, participating in local peace witness events, and lighting candles in home and church windows. An explanation of why this is a specifically Christian witness will be on the website, which is currently under construction: www.christian-peacewitness.org.

NGO Meeting on Iraq

On December 12, approximately 28 NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations), including LCWR, met at the NETWORK office in Washington, DC to discuss the crisis in Iraq and to assess the recommendations made by the Iraq Study Group. Many of the organizations were service groups who shared their experiences within Iraq, and who expressed caution about calling for a quick withdrawal of US troops and for involving Syria and Iran in regional talks without an international monitor. All groups agreed that in the 110th Congress a primary need is for development aid for reconstruction of Iraq by Iraqis, not by US or other outside contractors. Most NGOs saw the study group report as a step in the right direction, but still leaving many concerns unresolved.

2007 Sabbath Year Opens with Jubilee Sunday

In the fall, the executive committee of LCWR endorsed the 2007 Sabbath Year planned by Jubilee USA "to raise a prophetic call for debt cancellation and economic justice." Jubilee/Sabbath Sunday will be celebrated on January 21, 2007 by many faith communities. Information and worship resources can be found on Jubilee's website: www.jubileeusa.org.

LCWR Hires History Project Development Coordinator

Honora Precourt began work on November 27 as the development coordinator of the LCWR History Project.



Honora has a strong business background that includes marketing high quality retail stores, consumer packaged goods, licensed properties, and financial and advertising services. She earned an MBA from New York University and a BS from Fairfield University in Connecticut.

She and her husband, Ron, have a son in first grade and a daughter in fourth grade.

NATRI Board Hires Interim Director

The NATRI board is pleased to announce that Barbara Matteson, OP has been named the NATRI interim executive director, effective January 1, 2007.

Barbara brings a rich background to this position. She was the founding president of NATRI and a consultant for NATRI, NRRO, and the Collaborative Viability Project. She has ministered in both leadership and treasurer positions. Most recently, she served as director of finance for the Houston Dominican Sisters from 1995—2006.

A former elementary school administrator, Barbara holds a master's degree in business administration and a master's degree in education administration. She has shared her many talents through service on numerous boards, task forces, and committees.

From the LCWR Executive Director
What's in YOUR Pocket?

Every once in awhile I wonder how I survived childhood and have lived as long as I have. So much about my life as a child was undiagnosed and undetected that I'm surprised I'm still standing. Only now have some things that were "quirks" or "little oddities" come to light and been given a name. No doubt, I should have had special tutoring or medication or in-depth play therapy – or all of the above.

Reader beware! You may not want to go any further if you are over 40 because there is a strong possibility that you, too, may discover an awful truth about your own unscientific upbringing.

Take germs for instance. I must have been a veritable incubator for the little critters. For one thing, there were no antibacterial soaps, no Clorox pre-moistened counter wipes, no Purell. With the other children in the neighborhood, we regularly engaged in such horrific activities as holding funerals for the dead cats and pigeons we found in the vacant lots. We shared ice cream cones and lollipops. ("Ya wanna lick?") We cultivated worm farms in the backyard to be used as bait when we "fished" with string in the sewers. And if my mother saw dirt on my face when we were out, she would – are you ready for this – SPIT on a tissue to wipe it off.

I went to a Catholic grade school where there were three of each grade – each class had somewhere between 60 and 70 students. Our reading groups were larger than most middle schools are today. Worse yet, the groups were given names that even our little minds knew had all the earmarks of a hierarchical system. I mean, which reading group would you want to be in – the Bluebirds or the Sparrows? Or how about being in a group of children in music class known as the Mocking Birds? They were the ones who were told to move their lips but make no sounds when the other kids were singing. Didn't anyone know that all this avian labeling would send us into therapy for years?

And, I am sure that if I had been born 40 years later I would have been diagnosed as dyslexic. I regularly reverse things. I always say "right" when I mean "left," so don't ask me for directions. I reverse numerals in



Carole Shinnick, SSND

checks and telephone numbers so I talk to lots of people I never intended to call. And when it comes to spelling, I have four words for you: "Thank God for Spellcheck!"

I probably should have been on Ritalin, too, for Attention Deficit Disorder. I usually begin the day with a list of things to do. I embark on the first item with clarity and determination. On the way to accomplishing it, I stop for coffee in the

lunchroom. There I am distracted by a story on the front page of *The Washington Post* lying on the table. While reading it, someone asks me if the Internet is down. I go to check on that and by the time I return to my office I haven't a clue what I started off doing. Let's look at that to-do list again.

Because I am so easily distracted, I have post-it notes all over my bathroom mirror at home and my computer monitor at work. I also carry small objects in my pocket, chosen in the morning to remind me of my preferred ways of interacting with others during the course of the day. For example, sometimes I carry a little heart-shaped medallion that has "encourage" printed on it. When I put my hand in my pocket, it reminds me to be more affirming than critical of others – and sometimes even of myself. Some days I carry a quarter to remind me to be aware of the incredible worth each person brings to the events and tasks of an ordinary day. On mornings when I feel grouchy or short-tempered, I might put a paper-clip in my pocket to remind myself to "keep it together." Or I might put in a couple of feathers that escaped from my pillow to remind me to "lighten up." The possibilities are endless and limited only by how many small things I can find around the house.

We are all survivors, aren't we – of germy childhoods, ill-named reading groups, undiagnosed maladies, and familial dysfunctions. Each day we bump into our own humanity, giving us lots of raw material for making those enthusiastic, though fragile, New Year's resolutions. And so, my recommendation to you today is — put a feather in your pocket and have a Happy New Year.

NRVC Offers New Workshop for Women Religious

Sexual Issues of Women: Implications for New Membership

All LCWR members received a brochure in the mail regarding this new workshop conducted by Lynn Levo, CSJ, PhD. This workshop will benefit all religious vocation directors, formators, leadership personnel, and any others entrusted with the assessment of female candidates to religious life.

WHEN?

February 26-27, 2007

WHERE?

Oblate Renewal Center in San Antonio, Texas

Given within the context of being human and sexual, this workshop will explore the issues frequently encountered by vocation and formation personnel in the women they accompany who are discerning a celibate commitment in community.

This workshop will include discussion of the many topics related to sexual issues addressed in assessment. These will include: understanding relationships; healthy sexual expression; boundaries; issues related to physical, emotional or sexual abuse; sexual history; sexual orientations; relating to and sharing with formators and community members; as well as community living considerations for new members and current members. Other topics of interest to participants will be addressed as time permits.

Register on-line at www.nrvc.net or call the NRVC office at 773-363-5454.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat

*Franciscan Center
Tampa, Florida*
January 14 — 19, 2007

LCWR Systemic Change Think Tank

*Villa Maria del Mar
Santa Cruz, California*
February 26 — March 1, 2007

LCWR New Leader Workshop

*The Retreat Center at St. John's
Plymouth, Michigan*
March 15 — 18, 2007

LCWR Assembly

Kansas City, Missouri
August 1 — 5, 2007

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat

*Redemptorist Renewal Center
Tucson, Arizona*
January 20 — 25, 2008

LCWR-CMSM Joint Assembly

Denver, Colorado
August 1 — 4, 2008

LCWR Assembly

New Orleans, Louisiana
August 11 — 15, 2009



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

April 15-17, 2007

An "Interdisciplinary Leadership Forum" will be held at El Retiro Jesuit Retreat House, Los Altos, California on "The Individual and the Common Good." Case studies will be used to ground discussion among participants and panel members. Issues to be touched on will include: religious who find it difficult to find the "right" ministry; the tension between family and community needs; and the use of patrimony. The forum begins at 5 PM on Sunday, with registration at 3 PM and ends at 5 PM on Tuesday.

Panel members:

- Joanne Doi, MM (interdisciplinary studies, theology)
- Anthony Gittins, CSSp (social anthropology, mission theology)
- Doris Gottemoeller, RSM (theology, health care)
- Lynn Jarrell, OSU (canon law)
- Mary Ellen Moore, SH (psychology)

The forum is designed for leadership teams and those in discernment for leadership. To register see: www.religious-life.org/pdfs/CA%20Registration111706.pdf.

Comments from other forum participants:

"The need for dialogue around the big issues is so crucial. We need to begin the 'difficult conversations.'" -- Belleville, IL, March 2006

"The interchange is so valuable and as a leader one can recognize that many situations are universal, not necessarily particular to one's own congregation." -- Jamaica, NY, September 2006

August 16-18, 2007

The "Using the Cultural Audit Workshop" will be held at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, Illinois. Based on CSRL's Cultural Audit tool, the workshop assists religious congregations in becoming more aware of their internal culture and the influences of the U.S. dominant culture on their life and mission. The workshop is held Thursday through Saturday from 9 AM to 4 PM.

Presenters:

- Frances Cunningham, OSF, Director, Office for World Mission, Archdiocese of Milwaukee
- Gary Riebe-Estrella, SVD, Academic Dean and Associate Professor of Practical Theology and Hispanic Ministry, Catholic Theological Union

The workshop is designed for those with the responsibility for implementing the Cultural Audit or those who will give priority for its use in the institute. Registration forms will be available soon on www.religious-life.org/programs/cu_workshop.html.

Comment from a previous workshop participant:

"It gave me some useful tools to begin to put into practice some intercultural reflection and to animate our province... I loved the illustrations, examples and stories which fleshed out the theories." -- Jacksonville, FL, February, 2006

LRCR 2007 Annual Legal Seminar

Flowing Waters:

Channeling Energy Through Turbulent Waters

Adams Mark Hotel — St. Louis, Missouri
March 8-11, 2007

REGISTER NOW

Highlights of the 2007 Legal Seminar:

Two Pre-Assembly Workshops

Civil & Canon Law 101: Concepts & Procedures

Civil & Canon Law 301: Procedures for Administration

Keynote Addresses:

"Immigration: The State of the Issue"

Donald Kerwin, JD

Executive Director, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.

"Strategies for Passing on the Charism"

Melanie Morey, EdD & John Piderit, SJ, PhD

14 Breakout Sessions on Emerging Topics

Subscriber Registration Fee	\$450
Each Workshop Fee	\$225
Adams Mark Hotel	\$100
	plus tax/Guest Room

The Legal Seminar registration brochure is available on the LRCR website (www.lrcr.org). Updates will appear as planning continues.

The Religious Formation Conference Seeks Executive Director

The Religious Formation Conference, which promotes lifelong transformation of members of religious congregations, seeks a visionary executive director. Requires experiential knowledge of religious life, administrative and relational skills, and enthusiasm for working with dynamic national board to develop programs and services that will help members guide religious life into the future. Position effective January 1, 2008. For more information: www.relforcon.org

NRVC Seeks an Associate Director

The National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) is seeking an associate director. Responsibilities include coordinating and supervising the planning, implementation, and follow-up of workshops, programs, and the biennial convention; overseeing the production of NRVC resources; and assisting the executive director in other administrative duties. Requirements include an MA in administration and/or related field; organizational, planning, budgeting, computer, and writing skills; interpersonal and collaborative skills; knowledge of contemporary Catholic church and consecrated life. Experience in vocation ministry is preferred. This position is an excellent opportunity to serve the church in vocation ministry on a national level.

Applicants may send a letter of interest, résumé and references to Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, NRVC, 5420 S. Cornell Avenue #105, Chicago, IL 60615.

Christmas blessings from all at the LCWR national office staff



(Back) Marie Lucey, OSF; Marianne Benson; Eleanor Granger, OSF; Carole Shinnick, SSND; Carol Glidden. (Front) Honora Precourt; Alberta Yeboah; Carol Crowder; Annmarie Sanders, IHM