

Update

A Publication of the
Leadership Conference of Women Religious

October 2011

LCWR Welcomes Janet Mock, CSJ as Executive Director

The LCWR national board appointed Janet Mock, CSJ executive director of LCWR. She replaces Jane Burke, SSND who completed her three-year term in this position and is leaving the conference because of serious health challenges. Janet will serve LCWR in this role until a search committee fills the position.



Janet served as executive director of the Religious Formation Conference from 1997 to 2007. A Sister of St. Joseph of Baden, Pennsylvania and a native of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, she served in education, was a formation director in her congregation for 10 years, and served in congregation leadership for 10 years, during which time she was an active member of LCWR. Following congregational leadership, she worked in community outreach at Carlow Hill College, a satellite campus of Carlow University located in Pittsburgh. Her academic preparation includes study in music education at Carlow University and formative spirituality and theology at St. Louis University, St. Louis.

For the past four years, Janet has directed the Institute for Leadership and Catholic Mission at Washington Theological Union (WTU). In June 2011, WTU announced that it will close with its 2013 graduation. All ancillary programs are in the process of terminating immediately. Janet will bring this program to a close as she assumes her ministry at LCWR.

See [page 8](#) for a message from Janet to the members.



LCWR Begins Search for Executive Director

The LCWR national board authorized the formation of a search committee to engage in the work of recruiting and selecting a new executive director.

All LCWR members are asked to encourage persons whom they believe would be suited to this role. Candidates must have had experience in congregational leadership beyond the local level.

The position description and application form are available on the website at: www.lcwr.org/whatsnew/ED.htm

The application deadline is November 4, 2011. The board hopes to engage an executive director in the spring of 2012.

LCWR Mourns Mary Whited, CPPS

LCWR mourns the death of its 2007 president Mary Whited, CPPS who died on August 31 after suffering from cancer.

Mary was the superior general of the Sisters of the Most Precious



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From the LCWR Presidency

The Value of Coming Together

by Pat Farrell, OSF — LCWR President

As summer comes to an end, I'm aware that many of us have experienced significant group events: family reunions, congregational gatherings, the annual LCWR assembly. There is something renewing about coming together. Each event, in its own way, is a snapshot of a moment in time in the life of a group, an experience of who we are now. It's also an occasion to discover who we are becoming. Often we see something of ourselves reflected in the faces of those with whom we connect. We also hear ourselves in a fresh way. What others articulate can resonate with a lived reality or a vague sense of something that we may not yet be able to put into words. To be in the presence of one another, focused on what is important to us, and engaged in honest conversation, enables not only a recognition of what is, but also a glimpse of the "something new" that wants to emerge. Coming together can change us and cause collective shifts that are subtle but



movement in our midst. But that, of course, takes a community. The LCWR national board did spend some time after the assembly in reflection together on what seems to be emerging. We commented on the apparent absence of fear of the future and the lack of any interest in turning back. There seems to be a conscious desire for contemplative leadership that is able to move in freedom beyond polarities and differences, regardless of the cost of reconciliation, surrender, and death in birthing something new. I am grateful for the

continued work of the Contemporary Religious Life Committee in guiding us in a contemplative process of conversation around the critical issues calling for a response from us. Our future continues to unfold.

It was also a great privilege for me to witness the unfolding future of The Association of Hispanic Sisters in the US. I represented LCWR in their second national *encuentro* attended by 110 sisters from 41 congregations from several countries. In an effort to self-organize and give voice to their identity, the sisters designed a process to formulate a statement surfacing from the group, which is posted on the *encuentro* website in both Spanish and English. (See article on page 12) There was great spirit and movement in the group. Religious life and

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consciously or unconsciously.*

real. It can spark little leaps in a direction toward which a group is leaning, consciously or unconsciously.

This last LCWR assembly was such an experience for me. It felt to me like something had shifted in the gathered LCWR membership. I noticed an ease, a relaxed vitality. We're beyond the struggle of dealing directly with the apostolic visitation. Perhaps that made a difference. Maybe it was the energy unleashed by the decidedly contemplative style of prayer, ritual, and music which kept us moving back and forth from attentiveness to both inner and outer movements. As always, the speakers inspired and nourished us. It felt rich and grace-filled.

I have thought a lot about the assembly since then, hoping to capture and name something of the Spirit's

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the church in the US will be revitalized by the new life these women are bringing as they serve, in particular, a vulnerable immigrant community. We embrace them as our sisters.

LCWR Mourns Mary Whited, CPPS

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Blood of O'Fallon from 2004 to 2010, the congregation in which she lived more than 49 years of professed life. She had been an elementary and secondary teacher and a secondary school principal, served in formation for her congregation, and was a member of three leadership teams.

When eulogizing Mary at her September 3 funeral, 2006 LCWR president Mary Dacey, SSJ said in part, "Mary was articulate, but inviting; clear but welcoming of other styles, other philosophies, other cultures. And she was not for giving in or giving up. Reconciliation colored how she saw herself in every gap and broken situation. Many of you know that 'staying at the table' was her mantra.

Mary continued, "Her magnificent presidential address in 2008 captured the essence of the role of leadership for women religious. Using the image of midwife, she challenged us 'to expand our vision, deepen our sensitivities and surface priorities,' and to do it with 'courage, imagination and daring.' And she asked hard questions. She was so good at that. 'How do we encourage our members to hold on to what is needed and let go of what is not essential?' 'Can we risk conversing about our hopes and fears?' 'What will it take to embrace the differences?' She was seized by the question of what new life was waiting to be birthed in us."

Mary also served on the LCWR Contemporary Religious Life Committee from its inception in 2009 to the time of her death.

Members Encouraged to Reflect on the Emerging Insights from the LCWR Contemplative Process

As preparation for the 2011 LCWR fall regional meetings, the LCWR Contemporary Religious Life Committee encourages all LCWR members to spend some time prior to the meeting in reflection and prayer on what they sense is emerging for religious life today. This may include:

- Reflection on notes from the LCWR assembly. (Those not able to attend the assembly may want to watch the DVDs or listen to the CDs of the major presentations which are available at www.gem-tapes.net/Order/LCWR_2011.html.)
- Reflect on some of insights offered by Marcia Allen, CSJ and Marie McCarthy, SP about what is emerging among LCWR members through the "Behold I am Doing Something New" contemplative process. For a summary of their insights, see: www.lcwr.org/what%27snew/2011assemblyreflections.pdf

Prior to the meeting, spend time completing these statements:

- *As I contemplate what has been happening in the world since the LCWR assembly, as well as the movements of my own heart, an emerging question for religious life that I hope will engage our attention as leaders is...*
- *When I think of how our collective grappling with this question as women religious would impact our lives, I see...*

LCWR members and associates are asked to help promote LCWR's *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America* DVD. On the DVD is a 56-minute documentary, narrated by Cokie Roberts, that chronicles the story of women religious in this country from 1727 to the present. Also on the DVD are a film study guide and a digital catalog that contains images of all the artifacts and panels that comprise the *Women & Spirit* traveling exhibit. Some of the videos within the exhibit are included as well.

An order form for the DVD may be downloaded from the LCWR website (www.lcwr.org) or the *Women & Spirit* website (www.womenandspirit.org).

Members are asked to promote the DVD within their own institutes, as well as to churches, schools, bishops, vocation offices, women's groups, libraries, and other groups or locations. All proceeds from the sale of the DVD will help support the mission of LCWR.



Highlights of the 2011 LCWR Assembly

Meeting from August 9 to 12, under the theme “Mystery Unfolding: Religious Life for the World,” approximately 650 LCWR members and associates gathered for the annual LCWR assembly in Garden Grove, California.



Pre-assembly events included bus trips to the *Women & Spirit* exhibit in Los Angeles and the premiere of the *Women & Spirit* documentary.



Auxiliary bishop **Cirilo Flores** welcomed the assembly to the Orange Diocese.

Keynoters challenged the leaders to make courageous choices for the future.

Scripture scholar **Barbara E. Reid, OP:** “What death or deaths are we being asked to undergo as the birthpangs for Holy Mystery’s new creation?”



Mexican theologian **Maricarmen Bracamontes, OSB:** “As one of the most well-educated and powerful groups of women in the world, are you willing ... to use your power as Jesus did, in a creative, life-giving way that nourishes growth into maturity, confronts evil in its many death-dealing forms, heals and reconciles our wounded world?”



In light of the serious issues facing the United States and the increasing political polarization in Washington, LCWR members issued a public statement calling for “a return to civil discourse that promotes the common good, reaches out to others, engages in constructive dialogue, and seeks together the way forward.” The statement was issued as a press release and shared with the House and Senate leadership of both parties as well as with President Obama. LCWR members were encouraged to share the statement with their members of Congress and to consider publishing letters-to-the-editor and op-ed pieces.

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The 2010-11 LCWR presidency (**Pat Farrell, OSF**; **Mary Hughes, OP**; and **Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA**) shared their insights and learnings from their service to LCWR.

Throughout the assembly the participants engaged in a contemplative process in which they listened in silence and conversed with one another on how they might best respond collectively to the needs of the world at this time, and what this may require of those in religious life today.



Nancy Schreck, OSF (left) facilitated the contemplative process which concluded with reflections offered by **Marcia Allen, CSJ** and **Marie McCarthy, SP**.

In her presidential address **Mary Hughes, OP** raised the questions: "What is it that we most need to witness to our very trouble world and church? What would be our greatest gift?"



During the assembly the LCWR members listened to a panel of local immigrant women describe the plight of immigrants in the United States today. The leaders then took action by calling their elected officials asking them to support the DREAM Act and urging reform of US immigration law.

The LCWR assembly unanimously approved a resolution to actively seek to strengthen bonds with sisters throughout the world.



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At the conclusion of the assembly, Pat Farrell of the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, Iowa assumed the office of LCWR president for 2011-2012 after the members voted in Florence Deacon of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in Wisconsin as the president-elect; and Barbara Blesse of the Dominican Sisters of Springfield as conference secretary.



The assembly closed with the conferring of LCWR's highest honor, its Outstanding Leadership Award, on **Carol Keehan, DC**, president and CEO of Catholic Health Association, a long-time advocate for healthcare reform that provides adequate care for the nation's most vulnerable citizens.

Update from the Strategic Operational Plan Committee

The Strategic Operational Plan Committee is grateful for the input generated at the national assembly in August. The committee will be meeting by conference call in October to start working with that feedback and to begin addressing the 2011-2012 committee goals:

1. National. To propose a viable national structure for LCWR that is able to serve its membership going forward.
2. National/Regional. To foster ongoing dialogue between the regions and the national board on issues significant for the whole conference.
3. Regional. To engage the regions in conversation about regional viability and the deeper questions facing their congregations and religious life today.

The committee will meet for two days in January 2012 to continue its work.

Ordering CDs and DVDs of the LCWR Assembly

CDs and DVDs of the major events of the assembly are available for purchase through Gem Tapes at www.gemtapes.net/Order/LCWR_2011.html.

Some CDs and DVDs that were purchased have had to be exchanged because of problems with the audio. If you plan to utilize a CD or DVD that you purchased, it is recommended that you test your copy first to be sure there is no problem with the sound.

Fall Region Meetings

The Strategic Operational Plan Committee has asked that during the fall region meetings each region examine the current and future situation of the region in order to make judgments about its viability.

To assist members in preparing for this conversation the committee has posted some statistical information on the LCWR website in the password-protected member information section at www.lcwr.org/members/sop.html

LCWR National Board Meets in August

The LCWR national board met for one day prior to the opening of the assembly, and for three days after the assembly in Costa Mesa.

At the pre-assembly meeting, in addition to financial and committee reports and other business, the board spent time reflecting on the statements of each LCWR region during the past year as they participated in the conference's contemplative process, and noted the movements within the conference members that may influence the future.

Among the topics included on the agenda of the post-assembly meeting were: evaluation of the assembly, possibilities for connecting on regional levels with women religious from other countries living in the United States, concern for the future of the ministry of corporate responsibility for congregations of religious women and men, report from the gathering of UISG members following the assembly, and other ideas and proposals.

The board elected Nancy Schreck, OSF and Carol Zinn, SSJ to serve as members-at-large to the executive committee. It also affirmed the appointment of Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP and Patricia Rayburn, OSF to the Contemporary Religious Life Committee and Sharon Sullivan, OSU to the Strategic Operational Planning Committee.

Using the experiences of both the assembly and the two meetings, the board engaged in the LCWR contemplative process. The following is the statement that emerged from the board at the process' conclusion:

Our contemplative depths unite and energize us
to fearlessly participate
in the transforming power of dying
and in the Trinitarian dance of
birthing right relationships –
relationships immersed in mutuality –
with one another, within our Church,
and with global communities.

As we participate in God's unfolding mystery,
we will be a leaven, a transforming, freeing presence
for a fearful, fractured world.

Members are encouraged to reflect with all of the statements emerging from the contemplative process at the regional level as well at www.lcwr.org/what%27snew/new.htm



The LCWR national board meets in Costa Mesa



Janet Mock, CSJ; Barbara Blesse, OP; Pat Farrell, OSF; Mary Hughes, OP; and Florence Deacon, OSF at the board meeting



Board members Vivien Linkhauer, SC; Judy Justinger, SSJ; Nancy Schreck, OSF; Eileen Hurley, SCL; and Linda Szocik, SSJ-TOSF

2012 LCWR Think Tank Focuses on Consciousness and Campaigns

The annual LCWR Think Tank is scheduled for March 5-8 at the Bethany Center in Lutz, Florida. Jan Novotka and Simone Campbell, SSS will facilitate the group's consideration of "Consciousness and Campaigns: Spirituality and Politics beyond Dualism." LCWR members and their justice and peace coordinators are most welcome.

Members are asked to consider sharing this information with their justice and peace coordinators.

From the LCWR Executive Director...

In one of his poems, John O'Donohue muses: "The mind of time is hard to read. We can never predict what it will bring." To illustrate that point, I suddenly find myself at LCWR, as surprised as you may be to find me here. Over the past year, LCWR and Washington Theological Union have been working in collaboration, developing, with others, a leadership program for LCWR members. During that time, WTU has entered into a period of prayer, reflection, and discernment and made the decision to draw its mission to a close with the May 2013 graduation. Consequently, no new initiatives beyond the academic programs will start and all ancillary programs will close as current commitments are met. The program in which I have been engaged, The Institute for Leadership and Catholic Mission, will terminate in December 2011.

When this news was made public, Jane Burke, SSND asked if it might be possible for me to increase my work at LCWR. With the approval of Fred Tillotson, OCarm, president of WTU, I had become more engaged with some of the committee work of LCWR and attended the national assembly in Garden Grove, California in August. Jane completed her term as executive director in August and after serious deliberation, the LCWR board asked me to become acting director until a search committee can be put in place and a new executive director named.

This is a bittersweet moment. I admire Jane Burke greatly and have loved working with her. Her vision, her comprehension of issues, her manner, and sense of humor are saving graces in these complex times. Her spirit is indomitable, and her contributions to LCWR, immeasurable. She has built on the admirable leadership of the past and with excellence, has forged new, creative, and relevant initiatives for these challenging times. We women religious are deeply indebted to her.



I am pleased to be working with you at LCWR just at this time. Many people who attended the national

assembly in August said it was one of the best they had experienced. The conference exuded a maturity which I believe is the fruit of contemplation, of lives well-lived, of suffering endured, and, as our reflectors indicated, a certain fearlessness in the face of adversity. We are living the Paschal Mystery and God is doing something new. Together we will perceive it.

It is an honor to join your ranks for these months. It is a privilege to serve with wise and competent presidents and board trustees, the stellar staff of LCWR, and with you, LCWR members, who make it all work. I look forward to being of service to you. It seems fitting to close with an excerpt from another of John Donohue's poems "For a New Beginning," words that call us to embrace the exigencies of our times:

*Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back; learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will be at home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.*

With gratitude,
Janet
Janet Mock, CSJ

LCWR Initiates Listserv for Leaders with Connections to Women Religious Serving in Haiti

During the LCWR assembly a number of leaders who are connected with women religious serving in Haiti met for an informal discussion of the situation in that country and the concerns of sisters ministering there.



The group has now started a listserv in an effort to keep one another informed about events in Haiti, needs of the women religious, and other matters. Any LCWR member who would like to join the listserv is asked to contact LCWR's administrative assistant Carol Glidden at cglidden@lcwr.org or 301-588-4955.

LCWR and Women Religious in the News

Women & Spirit showcases religious sisters American impact

Article by Ann Carey

Today's Catholic

September 18, 2011

www.todaycatholicnews.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf-archives/2011/31Sept18%2C2011.pdf?utm_source=Today%27s+Catholic&utm_campaign=0ed06b8e9f-Weekly_Digital_Today_s_Catholic&utm_medium=email

Women religious: which group points way to the future?

Article by Tom Roberts

National Catholic Reporter

August 23, 2011

ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/women-religious-which-group-points-way-future

Speakers, dialogue sessions at annual LCWR assembly focus on future

Article by Catholic News Service

August 17, 2011

www.catholicnews.com/data/briefs/cns/20110817.htm

LCWR looks to future with 'sturdy strength'

Article by Doris Benavides for Catholic News Service

August 16, 2011

ncronline.org/news/women-religious/lcwr-looks-future-sturdy-strength

Sisters listen and act on confronting institutional domination

Article by Monica Clark

National Catholic Reporter

August 12, 2011

ncronline.org/news/women-religious/sisters-listen-and-act-confronting-institutional-domination

Women religious urged to keep Scriptures close for decisions ahead

Article by Doris Benavides for Catholic News Service

August 11, 2011

www.uscatholic.org/news/2011/08/women-religious-urged-keep-scriptures-close-decisions-ahead

Sisters 'are living in a time of new birth'

Article by Monica Clark

National Catholic Reporter

August 11, 2011

ncronline.org/news/women-religious/sisters-are-living-time-new-birth

Vatican aims to regain trust of U.S. religious women, official says

Article by Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

August 8, 2011

www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1103169.htm

LCWR begins next step in reexamination of religious life

National Catholic Reporter

Article by Monica Clark

August 1, 2011

ncronline.org/news/women-religious/lcwr-begins-next-step-reexamination-religious-life

Marianne Benson Leaves LCWR

With great gratitude LCWR thanks Marianne Benson for her service to the conference as executive assistant. Since beginning at LCWR in June 2006, Marianne has brought professional expertise to her work, as well as a love for the mission of the conference and its members. She will be missed as she and her husband move to Cambridge, Maryland to run Cambridge House, a bed and breakfast establishment. Marianne will complete her work at LCWR on September 30.



LCWR Seeks Executive Assistant

LCWR is searching for an executive assistant to work directly with the executive director, providing critical administrative support. The executive assistant is responsible for general administrative tasks, other office duties, some program coordination, and should be someone who can easily interact with various groups and organizations. This position requires someone with excellent verbal and written communication skills who is organized, efficient, detail-oriented, proficient in various computer programs, and able to safeguard confidential materials and information. Anyone interested in the position is asked to contact LCWR executive director Janet Mock, CSJ at jmock@lcwr.org for a full job description.

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat

A retreat for LCWR members and LCWR associates who are serving in congregation leadership

January 15 - 20, 2012

Redemptorist Renewal Center
Tucson, Arizona

Join with other women religious leaders for a five-day retreat that will provide opportunities to reflect on the blessings and challenges of religious life leadership today. The days will include input, quiet contemplative space, a variety of ritual experiences, and some opportunity for individual and group spiritual direction for those who so choose.

Retreat Directors



Regina Bechtle, SC



María Elena Martínez, OSF

Registration forms can be downloaded from www.lcwr.org/lcwrprogramsresources/LFWretreat12.pdf
Participation will be limited to the first 25 members to submit their form and check.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat

Redemptorist Renewal Center
Tucson, Arizona

January 15 — 20, 2012

Systemic Change Think Tank

Bethany Center
Lutz, Florida

March 5 — 8, 2012

LCWR New Leader Workshop

Conference Center - University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois

March 15 — 18, 2012

LCWR Assembly

St. Louis, Missouri

August 7 — 11, 2012

LCWR New Leader Workshop

Conference Center - University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois

March 21 — 24, 2013

LCWR Assembly

Orlando, Florida

August 13 — 17, 2013

LCWR Assembly

Nashville, Tennessee

August 12 — 16, 2014

Stand Up Campaign Begins in October

The annual Stand Up Against Poverty Campaign is scheduled for October 16-18 this year. The event mobilizes people around the world as together they remind world leaders of the commitments they have made to end poverty and accomplish the Millennium Development Goals. Background, resources, and suggestions for action are available at www.standagain-stpoverty.org.



LCWR Presidency's Statement on the 10th Anniversary of 9/11

At the invitation of the Global Concerns Committee, the presidency of LCWR issued a statement commemorating the tenth anniversary of 9/11. Mindful of the courage of those who lost their lives and of the strength of those they left behind and joined with people of faith and principle the statement indicated that LCWR continues to pray for peace. "May what we have witnessed during the past ten years call us to recognize that which unites us more than that which divides – our common humanity," the statement reads in part. "May we continue to pray for peace throughout the world and be bearers of forgiveness and reconciliation."

Hyatt Hotel Workers Seek Support

Hyatt housekeepers have called for a boycott of 18 Hyatt properties (www.hotelworkersrising.org/hyatt/hyattboycott.php) in cities across the country. Some are asking for a fair process that would allow workers to organize; some have filed health and safety complaints; all are seeking the rights and dignity which are their due.

On August 4, 2011 members of the LCWR staff met with five of the hotel housekeepers who had come to Washington to meet with officials at the Department of Labor. The women shared stories of their own mistreatment and the abuse of their coworkers.

The women asked LCWR to join them in raising awareness about the dangers that housekeepers, most of them women and many of them migrants, face in the work place. They hoped that LCWR members would join the boycott of selected Hyatt Hotels.

The Hyatt Hotel in Garden Grove, CA, site of the 2011 LCWR National Assembly, is not on the boycott list. According to the housekeepers, the Garden Grove Hyatt is neither the best nor the worst of the Hyatt Hotels. When asked if contacting the management of the assembly hotel would be helpful, they told the group that local managers are not the decision makers. The issue of justice for hotel workers has to be carried to Hyatt's corporate offices.

Nominations Begin for 2012 LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award

Members will have the opportunity during the fall regional meetings to suggest nominees to receive the 2012 LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award. In preparation, all members are asked to reflect on the criteria and be ready to propose potential award recipients.

Past awardees are: Mary Luke Tobin, SL; Theresa Kane, RSM; Mary Daniel Turner, SNDdeN; Catherine Pinkerton, CSJ; Joan Chittister, OSB; Helen Maher Garvey, BVM; Sharon Holland, IHM; Margaret Brennan, IHM; and Carol Keehan, DC.

The Award

LCWR established its Outstanding Leadership Award to recognize and honor persons who have significantly contributed to the ministry of leadership and who reflect the LCWR mission.

Nomination

National members of LCWR may nominate a person for consideration for the award.

Criteria for the Award

The person must have significantly contributed to the ministry of leadership in a manner that reflects the mission of LCWR. The nominee(s) evidence:

- Commitment and collaboration in the ministry of leadership
- Faithfulness to gospel values and mission
- Witnessing to creative and innovative leadership in one or more areas
- Making significant contribution, as a leader on the national and/or international level, particularly to women religious congregations in the United States.



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Upcoming Showings

Center for History

South Bend, Indiana -- September 2 - December 31, 2011

The California Museum of History, Women & the Arts

Sacramento, California — January 24 - June 3, 2012

Hispanic Sisters in United States Hold Encuentro

The Association of Hispanic Sisters in the United States had its second national *encuentro* (gathering) August 17-20 at Sacred Heart Retreat House in Alhambra, California. Attending were 110 sisters from 41 congregations, originating from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Spain, India, Ireland, Colombia, Costa Rica, Argentina, and the United States. A few congregational leaders from Mexico were also present.

An organizing committee had been working for two years in preparation for this *encuentro*, gathering input from sisters working in several regions of the United States to formulate a working document for reflection at the gathering. The group reflected on its identity and hopes for working together in service of the US church. A final statement from the group can be found in both Spanish and English at www.misionerasguadalupanas.com/Religiosas_Hispanas2011/DECLARATION-AssociationHispanicReligious-US2011.doc.

Allan Deck, SJ, of the USCCB's Secretariat for Cultural Diversity, accompanied the group, and María Elena Martínez, OSF, facilitated the gathering. The original impetus for the association came from Ana Gabriela Castro, MGSPP, provincial of the Guadalupe Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, and Joan McGlinchey, MSC, vicar for religious of the Archdiocese of Chicago, who planned the first *encuentro* held in Chicago in 2008.

LCWR president Pat Farrell, OSF represented the conference at the event.

Housing Options in South Bend

The Sisters of the Holy Cross are pleased to offer hospitality to women religious who will be visiting the *Women & Spirit* exhibit while it is on display in South Bend, Indiana. A limited number of rooms is available at the congregation's motherhouse at Saint Mary's, Notre Dame, Indiana. A kitchen is available for the use of guests. Guests are most welcome to join the sisters for meals in the convent dining room. The congregation will not charge a fee for hospitality. Donations are gratefully accepted. The following contact information may be used to determine availability and make reservations.

Contact: Joyce Sobieralski
E-mail: joyces@cscsisters.org
Telephone: 574-284-5635



Africa Faith and Justice Network Names New Director

The Africa Faith and Justice Network has appointed as its next executive director Aniedi Okure, OP a member of the Dominican Province of St. Joseph the Worker (Nigeria & Ghana).

From 1995-2001 Fr. Okure served at the United States Catholic Conference/USCCB as the coordinator of the Ethnic Ministries Office for the Pastoral Care of Migrant and Refugees. He coauthored with Dean Hoge *African and Caribbean Catholics in the United States for the USCCB, Washington DC, Secretariat for Cultural Diversity* in 2008 among other publications. He succeeds Rocco Puopolo, s.x., who served in the position since 2006.



Upcoming Programs from the Resource Center for Religious Institutes

National Conference

November 8 - 11, 2011
Hyatt Regency at the Arch
St. Louis, Missouri

The program is tailored to both leadership and finance personnel.

Workshops topics include investments, bankruptcy, hoarding, dealing with family members, mission design and support, government programs, the hiring process, aging with grace, managing conflict, liability, social media, and more.

Major addresses:

The Church in Iraq -- Fr. Frank Kalabat
Advancing Catholic Mission and Identity:
A Catholic Higher Education Perspective
Dr. Michael Galligan-Stierle

Information on cost, full schedule and registration information,
www.trcri.org or 301-589-8143.

RCRI Seminars

Comprehensive Retirement Planning
Explores various elements of retirement planning,
focusing on quality of life in the elder years

November 8, 2011

St. Louis, Missouri

\$275 for first person; \$225 for subsequent attendees
from same religious congregation (includes lunch)

TRENDS for Beginners

Teaches treasurers how to track revenue, expenses, net assets,
demographics, and savings and present it to leadership and
congregation members in an understandable way

November 8, 2011

St. Louis, Missouri

\$150 (includes lunch)

For information and registration, see www.trcri.org
or call 301-589-8143

The Religious Formation Conference Presents Congress 2011

Prophetic Religious Life: If Not Now ... When?



Keynote Speakers:

Barbara E. Reid, OP & Anthony Gittins, CSSp
Chicago Theological Union

Seminar Presenters:

Paula Gonzalez, SC; Sean Sammon, FMS
Mary Pat Garvin, RSM; Lynn Levo, CSJ

November 17-20, 2011

Kansas City Marriott Downtown
Kansas City, Missouri

For information on pre-congress workshops,
congress seminars and registration,

visit www.relforcon.org

or call the RFC office at 301-588-4938

E-mail: pnash@relforcon.org



NRVC Educational Debt and Vocations Project

NRVC extends its thanks to all major superiors who completed the CARA survey on educational debt and vocations and is delighted to report a response rate of more than 50 percent. This project is scheduled to be completed by late fall of this year. The task force for this project will reconvene prior to the release of the study results to discuss the next steps in addressing those key issues that will be identified in the study. NRVC will keep all of its collaborators informed of the progress of this important work.

NRVC Workshops

Leaders may wish to encourage new vocation ministers to participate in one of these upcoming NRVC workshops:

Orientation Program for New Vocation Directors

October 25-29

Marillac Center, Leavenworth, KS

Presenters: Paul Bednarczyk, CSC and Charlene Diorka, SSJ

Registration: www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=937904

Behavioral Assessment I

December 9-11

Marillac Center, Leavenworth, KS

Presenter: Rev. Raymond Carey, PhD)

Registration: www.regonline.com/register/checkin.aspx?MethodId=0&eventsessionId=c3bb6e54a3194ffb839bd5e8cc95ec7&eventID=937974&UseNewSecurity=true

NRVC 2012 Convocation

The next NRVC Convocation will be held from November 1-5, 2012, at the Marriott Hotel at Legacy Town Center in Plano, TX (near Dallas).

The theme of this convocation will be Vocation Ministers as Ambassadors for Christ: a Reconciling Presence. The two keynote speakers will be Archbishop Joseph Tobin, CSsR, secretary of the Vatican Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and Kathryn J. Hermes, FSP, lecturer, author, and retreat and spiritual director.

This convocation will also feature a panel of vocation directors treating the topic of how their religious communities have integrated the NRVC/CARA Study into their vocation programs. Time will also be allotted to present the results and follow-up to our present study on educational debt and vocations.

Congregational leaders are welcomed to participate. More information regarding fees, registration, and pre-convocation and convocation workshop program will be forthcoming.

Is Your Leadership Term About to End?

If your leadership term is ending this month, you must submit a change of leadership form so that the LCWR membership may be properly transferred to the new leaders. This will ensure that there will be no gap in communications from the national office. Please use the change of leadership form found in the LCWR Members Information section (password-protected) of the website at www.lcwr.org/members/index.html.