

## Initial Planning Begins for the 2006 LCWR Assembly and Jubilee Commemoration

The 2006 LCWR assembly promises to be an important gathering for members as they collectively look at the challenges of the future and the call that these challenges present to religious life -- all through the lens of jubilee.

Initial work on this event began when the planning committee met at the Ignatius Retreat Center in Atlanta, Georgia from October 17-20. The committee carefully reviewed the LCWR Call, the vision for the LCWR jubilee year, and the evaluations of the 2005 assembly, as well as reflected on some of the most challenging questions facing leaders in religious life today. Based on their collective prayer, reflection and discussion, the committee outlined an assembly that focuses on religious life leadership in light of the future, commemorates the rich heritage of LCWR, and connects to the history of the people of Atlanta whose work for justice and human rights has significantly shaped life in the United States.

More information on the assembly will be forthcoming as plans are finalized. In the meantime, all LCWR members and associates are encouraged to mark their calendars for the 2006 assembly (August 18-22) -- an event not to be missed.



Gathered for the 2006 LCWR Assembly Planning Committee meeting were: (back row) Angeline Magro, OP; Carole Shinnick, OP; Anne Myers, SSJ; Margaret O'Brien, OSU (facilitator); Mary Katherine Hamm, SC; Liz Scully, OP (environment); (middle row) Catherine Luxner, IHM (liturgist); Kathryn Cliatt, OP (environment); Eleanor Granger, OSF (staff); (front row) Annmarie Sanders, IHM (staff); Carol Reeb, SSND

## LCWR Coordinates Efforts to Assist Women Religious Affected by Recent Hurricanes

In the past several weeks many LCWR members have contacted the LCWR national office wishing to offer help to congregations seriously impacted by the recent hurricanes. In response to these offers, the national office is now coordinating an effort to network the congregations that need assistance with those who are willing to help. Information is now on the password-protected area of the LCWR website (*LCWR Members Information section*) that lists the congregations

(continued on page 3)

### Inside this issue:

- 3 LCWR Offers Redesigned  
New Leadership Workshop
- 4 Updates on Catholic Campaign for  
Immigration Reform
- 5 25th Anniversary of Martyrdom of US  
Churchwomen Remembered

*From the LCWR Presidency*

## Obedient from the Heart

by Beatrice Eichten, OSF  
LCWR President

*"...you have become obedient  
from the heart..." -- Romans 6: 18*

**A**s I read this phrase, I heard an invitation to listen deeply to myself so as to learn obedience from my heart. I realized that, after a series of major presentations, my inner well of creativity was pretty empty. And the question arose – What do I/we do when our well is empty? How can I/we be obedient to our call to leadership from the heart, even in times of emptiness?



The risk is to deny our emptiness and move into being obedient from the head. We use will power to “do”

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leadership out of duty and obligation. This pushes us toward wanting to be right and in control, to focusing on rules and policies and how others “should” be, to distancing us from ourselves, and therefore from our sisters. We move into exercising our ministry of leadership from a stance of “having to” rather than “choosing to.” Ultimately, this kind of leadership is about us rather than about being with and for others in the journey towards God.

When we recognize our emptiness, we are responsible to refresh and renew ourselves, each in our own way, so as to be more able to lead from a heart place of fullness, where our relationships with God and others blend together and complement each other.

But leadership ministry can’t be put on hold until we get to a place of fullness. We are called to minister with

“obedience from the heart,” even in our emptiness. To do this, we need to be willing to look within, to be vulnerable, to know ourselves as both gifted and limited, and to be compassionate with ourselves. This doesn’t mean moving into an unhealthy display of neediness or whining and feeling sorry for ourselves. We need to learn obedience from the heart, our heart, so that we can be present to the heart of the other. Being willing to share vulnerability or to be compassionately present at a death or in a community

meeting gives witness to the importance of living and ministering from the heart. If we can’t admit and learn from our vulnerability, how can we expect our members to acknowledge and explore their own vulnerability for the deeper meaning of God-with-us? If we reject our vulnerability, we too easily settle into a sweet “niceness” that denies the reality of our human condition, a stance that offers false hope and shallow love to our troubled world and church.

Our members called us to the ministry of leadership, and we chose to accept that call. We exercise our ministry trusting the gift of who we are and trusting those who are in relationship with us. The challenge is to keep choosing to minister from within, with an “obedi-

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ence from the heart,” an obedience of love that opens us to experience God at work among us in emptiness and in fullness.

## LCWR Coordinates Efforts to Assist Women Religious Affected by Recent Hurricanes

(continued from page 1)

needing assistance, describes some of their circumstances and notes what specific help they are requesting.

Already congregations have begun offering their financial resources and personnel to these congregations. Members are encouraged to periodically check this section of the website to see what is needed and check if there may be a request to which they wish to respond.

## LRCR Provides Information on FEMA

The Legal Resource Center for Religious (LRCR) has received several questions from religious communities interested in obtaining FEMA benefits for their members. In response, LRCR has posted information for religious institutes seeking to access FEMA benefits both for members and for facilities located in the Katrina and Rita disaster areas. This information may be accessed on the LRCR website at [www.LRCR.org/mission/new.htm#FEMA](http://www.LRCR.org/mission/new.htm#FEMA). (Or go to [LRCR.org](http://LRCR.org) and click "mission", click "New on this Site" and click "FEMA resources.")

The site gives information on application for benefits for individual members and application for benefits for private non-profits. The site will be updated as further information becomes available.

## USCCB President Thanks LCWR for Assembly Statement

In a letter dated October 17, 2005, USCCB president Bishop William Skylstad thanked LCWR for the public statement issued at its 2005 assembly opposing the war in Iraq and proliferation of nuclear weapons, a copy of which he received. In a spirit of collaboration, Bishop Skylstad enclosed the August 2, 2005 USCCB public letter that addresses the proliferation of nuclear weapons and a background piece that outlines the conference's concerns about the war in Iraq.



## Redesigned New Leader Workshop Provides Valuable Information for Women Religious Today

LCWR will again be offering the New Leader Workshop. This annual event, tailored for women religious in congregational leadership, has been redesigned for the coming year.

As always, it will feature an outstanding faculty and stimulating presentations. Participants will have multiple opportunities to consider ways of employing their new insights once they return home. The weekend program will draw its major themes from the LCWR document, *The Dimensions of Leadership*, and will incorporate prayer and ritual throughout.

The workshop will be held in Mundelein, Illinois from March 30 - April 2, 2006. More information on the content of the workshop, the faculty, facilities and schedule is available on the registration form which can be downloaded from the LCWR website at <http://www.lcwr.org/lcwrprogramsresources/newleaderworkshop.htm>. Registration is due by **December 16**.

## Former LCWR President Receives Good Newsmaker Award

Camille D'Arienzo, RSM, 1998 LCWR president, received a 2005 Good Newsmaker of the Year Award given by *The New York Christian Times* and the New York Clergy and Business Coalition.



This award has been given annually since 1992 to corporate leaders, outstanding clergy, black entrepreneurs, and community trailblazers who daily impact the New York community.

Camille received the award at a reception at the Hilton New York on October 21.

## NCCHCM Shifts Focus

A significant portion of the September 27, 2005 meeting of the National Coalition on Catholic Health Care Ministry was devoted to consideration of a proposal for restructuring that had grown out of discussion about the purpose and function of the coalition during the spring 2005 meeting. The outcome was a consensus that the coalition provides a welcome forum for education and dialog about issues important to the health care ministry and should move forward with this focus. In the afternoon session, tax exemption issues in the ministry were addressed.

The coalition grew out of the concern of major superiors of religious congregations sponsoring health care ministries, who, in 1984, initiated a national dialog to address concerns about changes in church and society which were impacting the ministry. In 1986, these religious sponsors, the NCCB and CHA began a collaborative project to articulate a future vision for the ministry, and in 1988 published their work in a booklet titled *Catholic Health Care Ministry: A New Vision for the New Century*. The commission also called for the formation of a national coalition of organizations to implement the strategies. The coalition, comprised of representatives of Catholic Health Science Centers, Catholic Charities USA, CHA, LCWR, CMSM, and the United States Catholic Conference began its work in 1989.

In 1995, the coalition produced a binder of practical resources: *Catholic Health Ministry in Transition: A Handbook for Responsible Leadership*, and also co-sponsored the New Covenant initiative to strengthen Catholic health ministry through commitments to specific strategies at the regional and national levels. In 1997, coalition members were consulted in the bishops' development of their statement, *The Pastoral Role of the Diocesan Bishop in Health Care Ministry*.

In the past few years, the coalition has focused on a theology and forms of sponsorship, while continuing to dialog about emerging health care issues, ethical issues in particular. In 2004, a revision of *Catholic Health Ministry in Transition* was completed and distributed widely. In 2005, New Covenant broadened its scope and constituency beyond health care and became independent of the coalition.

The coalition will now place greater emphasis on education and dialog about current and emerging key

issues facing the health care ministry, with free expression of ideas, the substance of which the representative members will convey to their respective organizations. Currently, the participating organizations are the USCCB, CHA, LCWR, CCUSA, and CMSWR. LCWR will be represented by four (formerly five) members (formerly sponsors) and one staff person. Current representatives are: Jacqueline Motzel, FSM; Kit Gray, CSJ; Eleanor Martin, SCN; Joan Winkler, OSF; and Marie Lucey, OSF, LCWR staff.

## Updates on the Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform

At the October 18 meeting of the Core Group of The Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform, staff reported that 47 dioceses have appointed point persons or a task force responsible for bringing the campaign to the parish level. The promotion effort will now move from national to local forums, with the hope that more dioceses will become involved.

The Interfaith Statement Supporting Comprehensive Immigration Reform was released to the press on October 18 with signatures of 38 national religious organizations, including LCWR, and 69 local religious organizations. (A copy can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/mrs.>) Advocacy efforts with congressional representatives were strongly encouraged, because the House is working on a bill that is enforcement based, not comprehensive as called for by religious leaders in their statement.

Copies of an educational video, "Dying to Live," produced by Notre Dame University, were made available. This very moving and informative video focuses on who the people are moving northward from Mexico to the United States, why they undertake such a hazardous journey, and what their experiences are like. Notre Dame is also developing a study guide to accompany this video, while working on a second video describing the life and contributions of immigrants who make it into the United States, including the role of churches.

## Think Tank Registrations Due

Registrations for the LCWR Think Tank to be held February 12-14, 2006 in Tampa, Florida, are due in to the LCWR office by  
**December 1, 2005.**

## 25th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of the Four Churchwomen Remembered in North American and El Salvador

For many years, members of LCWR congregations have gathered at the gates of Fort Benning to protest practices of the SOA/WHINSEC. This year will be no exception. On Friday, November 18, Pax Christi will host an event at 7:00 PM at the Howard Johnson hotel on Veterans Parkway, to honor the 25th anniversary of the martyrdom of four US churchwomen in El Salvador. A panel of women religious will speak to how women religious continue to live out the prophetic tradition, and a token of appreciation will be presented to LCWR as the representative body of US women religious who work daily for justice and peace.

Sisters participating in the LCWR/SHARE delegation to El Salvador, November 30 - December 6, are reminded that travel arrangements and remainder of fees should be sent to SHARE. A number of members responded quickly to the request for signatures to a letter to the House International Relations Committee urging quick passage of House Resolution 458 to honor the lives and work of the four North American women martyrs of El Salvador as the 25th anniversary of their murders is commemorated. Maryknoll Global Concerns Office is grateful for this response.

## Upcoming LCWR Dates

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

**LCWR Leading from Within Retreat**  
*Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center*  
*Sierra Madre, California*  
January 15 -- 20, 2006

**LCWR Systemic Change Think Tank,**  
*Franciscan Center -- Tampa, Florida*  
February 12 -- 14, 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

**LCWR Assembly**  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*  
August 2 -- 6, 2007

## Religious Formation Conference Congress

Crowne Plaza Riverwalk Hotel -- San Antonio, Texas  
December 1-4, 2005

Opportunities for continuing theological education about religious life as religious today are

### “Running to Catch Up with the Spirit: Espiritu de Esperanza”

- Is formation in your portfolio as a leader? Get an overview of formation today at the pre-congress orientation program, November 30 - December 1 with Maryann Seton Lopiccolo, SC and Don Bisson, FMS.
- Want to understand justice with the heart as well as with the mind? RFC and MACC are offering a pre-congress border experience from November 28 - 30.
- Want an updating on the theology of religious life? Experience plenary sessions with Marie Chin, RSM; Tony Gittins; CSSp; and Don Goergen, OP; as well as four other seminar speakers..

More information is available at [www.relforcon.org/Congress 2005](http://www.relforcon.org/Congress2005) or from the RFC National Office -- 301-588-4938.

*From the LCWR Executive Director*

## Birds of the Air, Lilies of the Field

*Can any of you, however much you worry,  
add one single cubit to your span of life?*

-- Matthew 6:27

**W**e live in a culture of worry. Each day we are showered with bad news – storm alerts – breaking news – warning labels – medical advisories. Try to escape by watching a TV show and the bad news crawls across the bottom of the screen. News media warn us of the probability of identity theft, avian flu, radon poisoning, computer hackers, and innocent-looking appliances that give off deadly rays.

Advertisements encourage us all to worry because it is a way to scare us into buying. Ads plant little seeds of worry about bad breath, perspiration stains, static cling, acid reflux disease, termites, ring around the collar, and little creatures called dermatophytes that might be living under our toenails. (I'm not making this up!)

Parents worry that their yet-to-be-born child might not get into the best pre-school program, that their pre-

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school child might not have the right Suzuki teacher, and that their 5th grader's teeth definitely need braces. They worry about attending soccer meets, getting to PTA conferences, putting nutritious food on the table, and spending quality time with their kids -- all while working each day in demanding professional settings.

Leaders worry that they may be doing too much managing and not enough visioning. They worry about rising costs and falling income. They worry about acres of property, piles of bills, and too few hours in a day. They worry about the new novice who looks lonely, the older sister who needs to surrender her car keys and the middle-aged sister who is caring for an ill parent.



*Carole Shinnick, SSND*

I worry about the traffic in the morning, the next national assembly, and my long overdue oil change. I worry about the "light turbulence" cheerfully announced by the pilot that will soon send my stomach into the overhead luggage compartment. I worry each month about a subject for this column, and right now, I'm worried about how to wrap this one up.

Worry comes with being human. The birds of the air and the lilies of the field don't worry because they can't. It's our ability to imagine, to visualize, and

to plan for a yet-to-happen future that disposes us to worry.

Some degree of worry is helpful because it alerts us to situations we need to anticipate. But worry can become

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*I invite you to savor being alive --  
to relish being able to  
smile and breathe and love.*

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a constant state. It can paralyze our sense of adventure, our willingness to try new things (just as regrets steal the gift of memory). And in a world of 24 hour news cycles, punctuated with commercials aimed at making us uneasy about static cling and populated toenails, no wonder worry can seem somewhat normal.

The Chinese have a proverb: *That the birds of worry and care fly about your head, this you cannot change. But that they build nests in your hair, this you can prevent.* I struggle to keep those birds from setting up housekeeping in my hair. But struggle I must. When I find myself fretting over something that has not happened yet, I try to come back to the only thing that is real -- the present moment.

So, just for this one, unrepeatable space in time, I invite you to savor being alive -- to relish being able to smile and breathe and love. In the end, it's all we really have. And, don't worry -- it's enough.

## Annual Gathering of the National Catholic Development Conference



“Steamin’ Towards Success” was the theme of the 37th Annual Conference and Exposition of the National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC). Hurricane Katrina’s devastation thwarted the plans for the conference scheduled in New Orleans which was then relocated to St. Louis, MO. Suzanne Delaney, IHM, represented LCWR as a guest at the conference, held October 2-5.

NCDC’s mission is to assist organizations in development growth and networking through regional meetings and an annual conference for members.

Kay Sprinkel Grace, founder and principal of Transforming Philanthropy and a well-known writer and thinker in the field of philanthropy, was the keynote speaker. Ms. Grace inspired the conference with her passion for development and fundraising and encouraged NCDC members to articulate clearly their mission, vision and values to their various publics to excel in fundraising.

A variety of exhibitors, round table discussions and workshops ranging from planned giving, strategic planning and trends in e-marketing were offered. One of the workshop sessions, led by Madeline Franze, SSJ and Keith Zekind, featured the recent publication “Stewardship for Mission: Where Development and Finance Meet.” Both NCDC and the National Association for Treasurers of Religious Institutes (NATRI) collaborated in designing this resource to assist finance officers and development directors of congregations. This very practical resource may be obtained through NATRI at [www.natri.org](http://www.natri.org) or through NCDC at [www.ncdcusa.org](http://www.ncdcusa.org). The CD-Rom is \$10; the printed manual, \$20.

Throughout the conference, attendees were mindful in prayer of NCDC members affected by devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina. During the opening Eu-

charist, participants had an opportunity to contribute financially to those suffering from the aftermath of this catastrophic event in New Orleans.

NCDC offers a variety of highly professional services to assist congregational leaders in overseeing development efforts and in working with development directors in a pastoral and competent manner. Member benefits include education and training; seminars and workshops; networking and peer support; resource and audio library and referrals; publications and postal/legislative bulletins. For further information about NCDC visit the website at [www.ncdcusa.org](http://www.ncdcusa.org) or call 888.TRY. NCDC (879-6232).

## LRCR Seeks New Associate Director in Civil Law

The Legal Resource Center for Religious, in Silver Spring, Maryland, is seeking an attorney for the position of associate director in civil law.

LRCR, a Catholic non-profit organization, provides research, advice, consultations, publications, and educational programs on both civil and canon law issues to religious leaders and treasurers. Duties include providing legal assistance to institutes, overseeing publications and legal projects. The position requires a licensed attorney, a religious or a person with experience working with religious institutes.

Submit letters of application and resume to: Executive Director, LRCR, 8812 Cameron St., Silver Spring, MD 20910. See [www.lrcr.org](http://www.lrcr.org) for more information on LRCR.



*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](mailto:asanders@lcwr.org) Website: [www.lcwr.org](http://www.lcwr.org)

FROM THE  
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF  
RELIGIOUS LIFE

**Interdisciplinary Forum:  
The Individual and the Common Good**

The Center for the Study of Religious Life is beginning a series of Interdisciplinary Forums to allow reflection and discussion among participants and scholars from different disciplines about topics, interests or concerns in religious life today.

The first Interdisciplinary Forum on "The Individual and the Common Good" will be held March 5-8, 2006 at King's House Retreat and Renewal Center, Belleville, Illinois (St. Louis area), a ministry of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Those serving in leadership positions within religious institutes or societies of apostolic life are invited to attend as participants. Case studies exhibiting the tensions between the good of the individual and the good of the group will focus the reflections of the participants and the panel members. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the cases in small groups.

Drawn from various academic disciplines, the panel for the first forum will include:

**Jean Bartunek, RSCJ**

*Robert A. and Evelyn J. Ferris Chair and professor of organization studies at Boston College, Jean holds a PhD in social and organizational psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago.*

**Raymond Dlugos, OSA**

*Ray serves as chief executive officer of Southdown Institute in Aurora, Ontario. He holds a PhD in counseling psychology from the University at Albany, State University of New York.*

**Paul Hennessy, CFC**

*A past president of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, Paul currently serves as president and professor of theology of the Edmund Rice School for Pastoral Ministry in Venice, Florida. He holds a PhD in systematic theology from The Catholic University of America.*

**Mary Johnson, SNDdeN**

*Mary serves as professor of sociology and religious studies, and chair of the department of sociology of Emmanuel College, Boston. She holds a PhD in sociology from the University of Massachusetts.*

**Karen Kennelly, CSJ**

*Karen is a member of the congregational leadership team of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. She holds a doctorate in history from the University of California, Berkeley, and is the co-founder of the Conference on the History of Women Religious.*

**Upcoming Interdisciplinary Forums on  
"The Individual and the Common Good"**

**September 24-27, 2006**

Bishop Malloy Retreat House, Jamaica, NY  
(New York City area)

**April 15-18, 2007**

El Retiro San Iñigo Retreat House, Los Altos, CA  
(San Francisco Bay area)

King's House can be reached by St. Louis MetroLink.

Information and a registration form are available at [www.religious-life.org](http://www.religious-life.org). For further information, contact Virginia Piecuch at [vpiecuch@visioni.com](mailto:vpiecuch@visioni.com).