

October 2013

LCWR Assembly Explores 'Leadership Evolving: Graced, Grounded & Free'

More than 820 members and associates participated in the August 13-16 LCWR assembly in Orlando, where they discussed the call to women religious in the light of some of the most critical issues facing the global community.



insights into God and the universe in light of scientific understandings of the evolutionary process.

CDF Doctrinal Assessment

Three executive sessions were held during the course of the assembly where LCWR members discussed the doc-

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The assembly opened with a prayer ritual created by the assembly liturgist Mary Ann Mulzet, SSJ, which included a welcome from LCWR Region 5 chair Greta Jupiter, SSF and Monsignor John Geil, vicar general of the Orlando diocese. At the opening, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, apostolic nuncio to the United States, and Archbishop J. Peter Sartain, the apostolic delegate for the doctrinal assessment of LCWR, offered remarks to the assembly. The conference invited Archbishop Sartain to the assembly so that he could meet the members, experience an assembly firsthand, and speak to and hear from the LCWR members about the doctrinal assessment findings and plan for reform.



Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò

Theologian Ilia Delio, OSF addressed the assembly on August 14, speaking on



Ilia Delio, OSF



Hilton Foundation Awards \$500,000 Grant to LCWR for Leadership Program

In early September, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation awarded the Leadership Conference of Women Religious a grant of \$500,000 over a period of three years to develop the Leadership Pathways Program. The purpose of this new program is to assist the members of the LCWR to strengthen and deepen their leadership capacities as transformational leaders as they enter a new age of religious life. The Leadership Pathways Program aligns with the Hilton Foundation's strategic initiative, which seeks to develop leadership skills among women religious in the Global North.

In the midst of the dramatically shifting realities that leaders of women's religious communities face today, a new model of leadership has been evolving among the membership. This new form of leadership is contempla-

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From the LCWR Presidency

A Call to Live the Paschal Mystery

by Carol Zinn, SSJ — LCWR President

As I sit to write this reflection on September 16, I am aware that it is one month since our gathering at the LCWR assembly in Orlando, FL. The theme of the assembly, “Leadership Evolving: Graced, Grounded & Free” remains with me and continues to deepen as so many world events unfold in the days since our meeting. What will be the outcome of the international community’s efforts in relation to the horrendous violence in Syria? Where will the 40-day Fast for Comprehensive and Compassionate Immigration Reform touch into the hearts of our congressional representatives? What will emerge from the initial gathering of the church governance commission appointed by Pope Francis? Truly, what is needed today, in all sectors of our world is leadership that is graced, grounded and free!

Ilia Delio, OSF, in her keynote address, said that decisions made today will shape the future direction of evolution. She said, “The choices we make in love and for love co-create our future. When we see ourselves as part of a larger whole, we act on behalf of the whole of which we are a part. A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the whole biotic community. It is wrong when it does otherwise.”

In her presidential address, Florence Deacon, OSF, spoke about what it means to be a faithful woman of the church in relationship with church leaders. Florence offered, “our situation reflects larger questions and concerns such as the ongoing implementation of the second Vatican Council; the ecclesial roles of women religious and the laity, especially women; understandings of authority, faithful dissent, and obedience; and the need for spaces where honest, probing questions about faith and belief can be raised and discussed.”

I find in these excerpts a deep call to live fully the Paschal Mystery that is core to our faith and our way of life. The rhythm of daily dying to self and rising

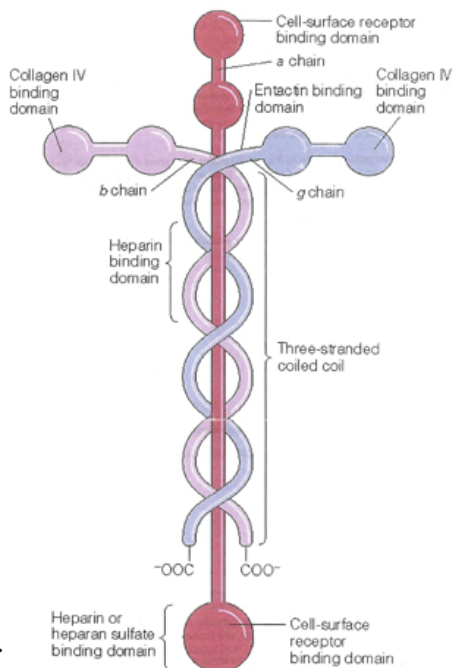


to newness of life in Christ’s vision of wholeness, decision-making out of love and for love, the rightness of words and deeds as they preserve the whole community, the understanding that there are large questions and concerns looming everywhere — this daily rhythm demands a commitment to and engagement of the Paschal Mystery.

Perhaps we sometimes feel less than “up to the task” when we step into the ministry of elected leadership on any given day! As much as our faith life reminds us that the Paschal Mystery IS our daily

life, trying to embrace the dying/ rising rhythm can overwhelm us.

I recently came across this image of the Laminin Protein. It is a most unique protein in its function and shape. Without Laminin our overall body structures cannot hold together. It is very flexible in its ability to connect various kinds of molecules and keep them connected. Its unique shape allows it to function like no other protein in our bodies. I offer its shape as a way of reflecting on the Paschal Mystery functioning in our lives the way Laminin functions in our bodies: making connections, creating wholeness, offering leadership that is graced, grounded and free for the life of the world.



LCWR Assembly

(continued from page 1)

trinal assessment. At the first session, the LCWR officers shared their impressions of the meetings that had taken place during the year with Archbishop Sartain, as well as his two assistants, Bishop Leonard Blair and Bishop Thomas John Paprocki. LCWR invited Archbishop Sartain to address the assembly during the second session and then to listen to the members' response to his remarks. At a third session the members gave direction to the LCWR officers for next steps in working with the three bishop delegates. All sessions were conducted in a process of contemplative discernment where time was provided for prayer, silence, and respectful listening.



Archbishop J. Peter Sartain

Presidential Address

In her address to the assembly, LCWR president Florence Deacon, OSF presented reflections on being a faithful woman of the church and of the Gospel today. She highlighted "new understandings of church, inherent tensions that sometimes accompany the various gifts of the Spirit, and the role of all Catholics to further their ecclesial mission as they discern together how to apply the Gospel in this day and age." She concluded her address with this observation on LCWR's work with the doctrinal assessment: "Many of the people we have met in various countries this year have expressed appreciation for LCWR's commitment to conduct our conversations with the bishops from a stance of deep prayer that values mutual respect, careful listening, and open and honest dialogue to increase understanding between church leaders and women religious. Indeed, some have called it a third way. Perhaps we, by what we do and how we do it, may model a way forward for society at-large that



Florence Deacon, OSF

embodies authentic non-violence and becomes a vehicle of grace for the ongoing renewal of the church in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council."

Actions for Justice

Eli Garcia and Jose Luis Marantes, members of the Hope Community Center, Apopka, Florida; Evelyn

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The LCWR presidency (Carol Zinn, SSJ; Pat Farrell, OSF; and Florence Deacon, OSF) and executive director Janet Mock, CSJ respond to the members about the CDF doctrinal assessment of LCWR.



Archbishops Sartain and Viganò at the Eucharistic liturgy on August 15 where the women religious renewed their vows

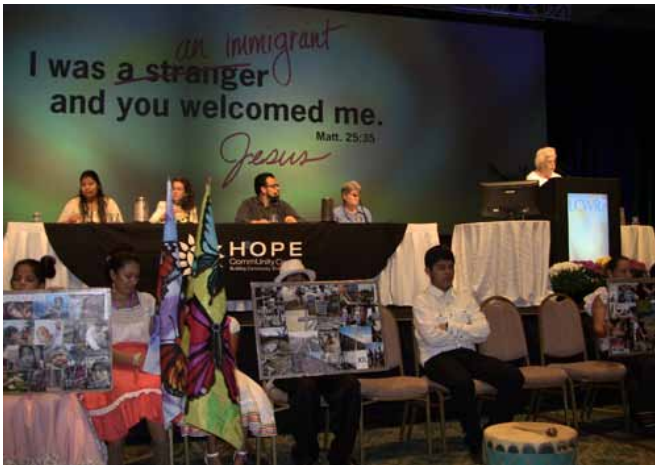


Some of the more than 820 LCWR members and associates pick up registration materials for the assembly.

LCWR Assembly

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Rivera of United We Dream; and Ann Scholz, SSND, LCWR's associate director for social mission, shared their insights on a panel addressing the need for and work toward reform of the US immigration system. As an action step following the presentation, more than 800 assembly participants signed postcards imploring their representatives to pass comprehensive immigration reform.



During the closing Eucharistic liturgy attendees gave \$7,048 in a collection taken for the HopeCommUnity Center. The money will be used to help further the center's work with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

The assembly also adopted a resolution that calls for nonviolence and seeks to persuade local, state, and federal officials to enact laws that will: require universal background checks for all gun purchases; restrict civilian access to assault weapons and high capacity magazines; and make gun trafficking a federal crime. The resolution further calls for laws that will improve access to mental health care and other services for those in need and fund programs that make available educational materials on the effects of violence and provide opportunities for youth and young adults to end gang violence.

Outstanding Leadership Award

During the assembly, LCWR bestowed the 2013 Outstanding Leadership Award on its past president Pat Farrell, OSF. In her acceptance speech, she noted the challenge of finding a way through very polarized landscapes. One suggestion she offered was: "to really



Carol Zinn, SSJ; Florence Deacon, OSF; and Sharon Holland, IHM present the 2013 LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award to Pat Farrell, OSF (second from left)

see another person and to really allow ourselves to be seen." She noted, "To see someone requires the simple gift of attention and that in itself is an affirmation. To allow ourselves to be seen is equally as challenging. Expressing what we really think and feel, with transparency and vulnerability, is for the brave of heart.... All of a sudden the world is looking to us. In response, we keep calling ourselves and one another to truthfulness and integrity, to a thoughtful sorting out of what that looks like concretely. I believe we're being invited to give voice to the perspective of our years of mystical and prophetic living. It's not the only perspective, but it is ours, and it is the gift we bring to the church and the world."

Election of Officers

At the conclusion of the assembly, Carol Zinn, a member of the leadership team of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, assumed the office of LCWR president for 2013-2014. The body voted in Sharon Holland, vice-president of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Monroe, Michigan, as the LCWR president-elect, as well as Barbara Blesse of the Dominican Sisters of Springfield as conference secretary for a third year.



August 12 LCWR national board meeting

LCWR National Board Meets Prior to and After the Assembly

The LCWR national board met prior to the assembly for a full-day meeting on August 12. The board welcomed seven new members: Ellen Dauwer, SC (Region 3); Greta Jupiter, SSF (Region 5); Pat Cormack, SCSC (Region 9); Jan Renz, ASC (Region 10); Lourdes Leal, CDP (Region 12); Stephanie Still, PBVM (Region 14); and Pat Eck, CBS (treasurer).

Among the topics on the pre-assembly meeting agenda were: financial reports of both LCWR and the office building owned jointly by LCWR and CMSM, reports of the LCWR executive director and associate directors, plans for LCWR development work, and outreach to women religious in other parts of the world.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the board honored its outgoing members who were present: Pat Farrell, OSF (past president); Linda Szocik, SSJ-TOSF (Region 9); Nancy Schreck, OSF (Region 10); Miriam Mitchell, SHSp (Region 12); Patricia Rayburn, OSF (Region 14); and Sheila Megley, RSM (treasurer).

On August 17, the board and staff met at the assembly site with Archbishop Sartain for a two-hour debriefing session, which was summarized in a statement released by LCWR to the public:

The session with Archbishop Sartain allowed a profound and honest sharing of views. Due to time limitations during the assembly, Archbishop Sartain had little opportunity to answer the members' questions. Clearly, however, he had been listening intently and heard the concerns voiced by the members, and their desire for more information. The extraordinarily rich and deeply reverent conversation during the board meeting gave us a greater understanding of Archbishop Sartain,

and we believe he now also better understands us. Although we remain uncertain as to how our work with the bishop delegates will proceed, we maintain hope that continued conversations of this depth will lead to a resolution of this situation that maintains the integrity of LCWR and is healthy for the whole church.

Following the session with Archbishop Sartain, the board traveled to San Pedro Retreat Center in Winter Park, Florida where it met for three days. Among items included in the agenda of this meeting were: evaluation of the 2013 LCWR assembly and initial planning for the 2014 assembly, discussion of the CDF mandate, reports from the 15 LCWR regions, initial conversation on long-range planning for LCWR, and participation in the LCWR contemplative process.

LCWR has engaged the service of facilitator Marisa Guerin to work with the national board at its February meeting to begin a process of long-range planning for LCWR. A committee of board members and staff will work with Marisa in December to create a process for the board meeting. The hope of the board is to have ideas ready for discussion at the 2014 spring regional meetings so that a five-year plan can be affirmed at the 2014 assembly.



LCWR officers at the post-assembly board meeting: Barbara Blesse, OP; Sharon Holland, IHM; Florence Deacon, OSF; Carol Zinn, SSJ; and Janet Mock, CSJ

Pre-Assembly Workshop Seeks to Assist Members to Embrace a New Critical Juncture

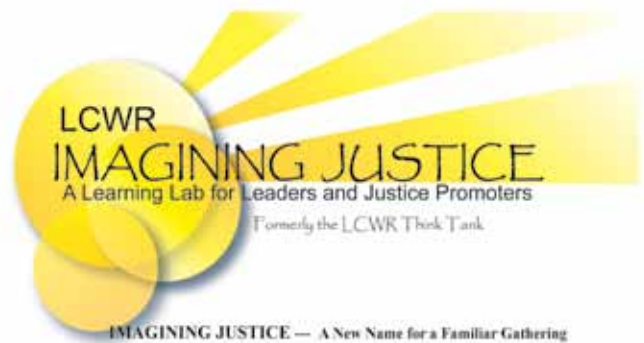
Approximately 150 LCWR members attended a pre-assembly workshop offered by LCWR, the Resource Center for Religious Institutes, and the National Religious Retirement Office. The purpose of the workshop was to:

- Increase awareness of the urgency of planning for the future
- Familiarize participants of the services available through the three presenting organizations
- Review a variety of approaches for planning for the future including the covenanting concept
- Suggest some “next best steps” for moving forward.

The workshop was filmed and CD or DVD copies may be purchased. Texts of some of the presentations are available as well on the LCWR website. (Information is below.)



Carole Shinnick, SSND facilitates session with workshop panelists Marian Durkin, CSA; Margaret Hickey, ND; and Rose Mary Dowling, FSM.



Imagining Justice: A Learning Lab for Leaders and Justice Promoters

Justice and systemic change work have been integral aspects of congregations of women religious for the past decades.

The commitment to social justice extends to the public arena, the church, and internal congregational policies and structures. How is the future calling for a reimagining of this critical work?

How can women religious engage the work of justice with an evolutionary consciousness?

How does the commitment to contemplation enable imagining new ways for transformation?

Presenter: Nancy Sylvester, IHM

Founder of the
Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue

**March 3 - 6, 2014
Bethany Center -- Lutz, Florida**

home.catholicweb.com/bethany

Additional information and registration materials are available at:
lcwr.org/sites/default/files/calendar/attachments/imaginingjustice2014.pdf

LCWR Assembly Resources Online

Overview of Assembly Video

animoto.com/play/6rU03pbUPywZEgKXlyIoRw

Due to the generosity of the Sisters of Bon Secours, the text for this video was translated into Spanish and French

Spanish: animoto.com/play/T8H51EZNCsMCcntnmXVi8g

French: animoto.com/play/xaU1JkUbRRYneeRWXQ0EIA

Available at: lcwr.org/calendar/lcwr-assembly-2013

- Press Release on the Assembly
- Presidential Address of Florence Deacon, OSF
- Outstanding Leadership Award Acceptance Speech by Pat Farrell, OSF
- Assembly Resolution
- List of Exhibitors' Contact Information
- Pre-Assembly Workshop: Embracing a New Critical Juncture
 - Presentation by Helen Maher Garvey, BVM
 - Remarks, Slides, and Reflection Materials by Janice Bader, CPPS, Executive Director of the National Religious Retirement Office

Order CDs and DVDs of the Assembly and Pre-Assembly Workshop

www.gemtapes.net/Order/LCWR_2013.html

Leading from Within Retreat

Leading from a New Place

**Leading from Within:
Leading from a New Place
is a retreat for LCWR members
and LCWR associates who are serving
in congregation leadership**



**January 19 - 24, 2014
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, contemplative space, a variety of ritual experiences and some opportunity for individual and group spiritual direction for those who choose.

Retreat Directors



Marie McCarthy, SP



Mary Ann Zollmann, BVM

Space is limited to 25 persons.

More information and registration materials are available at lcwr.org/sites/default/files/calendar/attachments/lfwretreat14.pdf

Hilton Foundation Awards Grant

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tively grounded, thoroughly collaborative, creative and discerning, and rooted in an ability to engage in courageous conversations that address the risks and benefits of current and new forms of religious life.

The design of Leadership Pathways is multi-faceted, and includes a series of innovative online learning labs, exposure to scholarly lectures, and small group reflection sessions led by qualified mentors. This unique approach to shaping today's leaders will aid in the process of forming transformational leaders, and will equip women religious with the skills to serve as models of contemplatively grounded, anticipatory leadership. These skills will better inform leaders' sensibilities in terms of identifying the unique needs of congregations, and has the potential to benefit the wider church and society.

The goals and objectives of the Leadership Pathways Program fit well with the strategic initiative of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation that aims at sustaining and broadening the impact of the work of Catholic sisters. Conrad N. Hilton counted sisters among his teachers, friends, and partners in serving those who are most disadvantaged. He drew inspiration from their commitment to alleviate human suffering and in his will ensured continued support for sisters. In February 2013, the Hilton Foundation launched a new strategic initiative to broaden and deepen the impact of sisters by strengthening the congregations to which they belong. To accomplish this, the Hilton Foundation identified three capacities essential to the ongoing vitality of congregations: membership, leadership, and resources. The foundation has begun the implementation of this strategic initiative, which is global in scope, with an emphasis on Africa and the United States.

The generous grant from the Hilton Foundation to LCWR creates a strong partnership which will allow LCWR to fully implement its vision of an on-going leadership development process for all its members. Plans are currently underway to launch several aspects of this program in the winter and spring of the coming year.

Additional information about Leadership Pathways is available on the LCWR web site. Additional information about the Hilton Foundation and its commitments is available at: hiltonfoundation.org.

NBC Airs LCWR's Women & Spirit Documentary

NBC-TV has begun airing LCWR's *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America* documentary on stations across the country.



Through the efforts of LCWR members and associates, communicators, and others who have joined the campaign to promote the documentary, at the time of this printing, 16 stations had committed to airing the film. Stations have until March 16, 2014 to broadcast the documentary as part of NBC's "Horizons of the Spirit" series.

LCWR members are asked to help promote the broadcast of the film by doing the following:

1. Find the local NBC station using the online NBC Directory at www.nbc.com/local-stations, or local phone directory.
2. Use the resources on www.womenandspirit.org/media-bulletins.html to compose an e-mail or phone message asking NBC to air the film.
3. Encourage associates, ministry partners, friends and family to also send messages. Available on the site is a short item that could be used in parish bulletins, Catholic newsletters, or websites. There is also a trailer and other information about the film at www.womenandspirit.org. The more contacts made to a station, the better the chances that the film will be aired.
4. Consider encouraging local businesses to offer to advertise during the program if it is aired locally. This too will increase the likelihood of a local NBC station airing the program.
5. If a station indicates it will schedule a broadcast, members should notify LCWR by sending an e-mail message to womenandspiritfilm@verizon.net.



A listing of scheduled broadcasts is available at www.womenandspirit.org/scheduled-broadcasts.html.

LCWR Members Encouraged to Reflect on Emerging Insights

A new LCWR contemplative insight card is now available for downloading. The October 2013 card (pictured below) is available at: lcwr.org/resources/leadership-pathways/behold

The insights on these cards are drawn from the responses submitted from the 15 LCWR regions after completing the "Behold, I am Doing Something New" contemplative process. Members are using these cards in ways such as the following:

- Placing the card in their own personal prayer space
- Placing the card in the leadership team prayer and/or meeting space
- Forwarding the card to their members and associates and inviting them to pray with the insight
- Including the graphic in their institute's publications

Additional insights will be offered each month.



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The LCWR Resource Sharing Forum

LCWR reminds its members and associates of its LCWR Resource Sharing Forum. The forum is a listserv that is open only to LCWR members and associates that provides a means for communicating with one another online with a question or to share information.

What is being discussed on the LCWR Forum?

Members have posed questions on a wide variety of issues including the following:

- Policies on credit card use
- Recommendations for a chapter facilitator
- Guidelines for use of social media
- Articles on leadership discernment
- Input on the use palliative care

So that all forum members are not receiving the answers to these questions, persons who wish to respond to a question are asked to send their response directly to the individual making the request for information.

What are the benefits of participating?

Members can easily ask other members for help any time they have a question or are looking for information, resources, speakers, facilitators, translators, policies, or good ideas. Members report that they have received very helpful information on questions they have asked.

Members can also participate in polls initiated by the national office, asking for input on LCWR issues. Forum participants can also access the archives of past messages.

What is needed to make the forum successful?

The participation of as many members and associates as possible! The more LCWR members who are a part of the list, the more effective this service will be.

How do I sign up for the LCWR Forum?

Information on signing up for the LCWR Forum is available on the LCWR website in the “Members” section, which is password-protected. Any member or associate who does not have the username and password to access this part of the site may obtain this information from Carol Glidden at cglidden@lcwr.org. Carol can also guide members through the process of signing up for the forum.

LCWR Calls for End to Violence in Syria

On September 6 the LCWR leadership issued a statement condemning the use of chemical weapons and the indiscriminate killing of civilians in Syria and rejected the false choice between military action and doing nothing offered by Washington.

In its statement, the conference called on Congress and the President to work with the international community at the United Nations to: stop the flow of arms to all sides and seek an immediate ceasefire; provide humanitarian assistance to the millions of Syrians displaced by the fighting; pursue a just political settlement; and bring to justice those responsible for violations of international law and crimes against humanity. Read the entire statement at lcwr.org/media/lcwr-statement-us-action-syria.

The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change Celebrates the Feast of St. Francis

This year’s October 4 celebration of the feast of St. Francis will highlight the Pontifical Academy of Science’s Working Group (PAS) statement, “Fate of Mountain Glaciers in the Anthropocene.” In their declaration, the PAS calls on all people and nations to recognize the serious and potentially irreversible impacts of global warming caused by the anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, and by changes in forests, wetlands, grasslands, and other land uses.

“Melting Ice, Mending Creation: a Catholic Approach to Climate Change,” a downloadable education kit and discussion guide exploring the dramatic evidence of climate change as well as Catholic teaching on climate change is available at: catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/feast-of-st-francis-2013. Other materials include a press release, a flyer, a link to register participation and receive updates, and editable bulletin inserts.

Information on the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor is available at: catholicclimatecovenant.org/the-st-francis-pledge/.

Faith Communities Launch 40 Days of Fasting for Congressional Action on Immigration Reform

As Congress returns from its August recess, faith communities across the country are increasing pressure on House members to pass compassionate immigration reform. On September 9, the Interfaith Immigration Coalition launched 40 days of prayer, fasting, and advocacy to ignite a “compassion surge” and encourage House members to act. Key leaders in the faith movement were joined by Rep. Raul M. Grijalva (AZ-3) for the teleconference launch.

Rep. Grijalva highlighted the importance of this action, “These next 40 days of prayer, reflection, advocacy, and fasting are going to be very, very critical in moving this Congress of ours, and moving the conscience of this nation.”

LCWR president Carol Zinn, SSJ stated during the teleconference, “As people of faith, we know that the power of prayer and fasting, together, allows us to create a space for God to transform our minds and hearts and free our wills so that we can reach to others in love as God desires us to do. As women religious, we trust that the power of God’s life and love can, in fact, move mountains of division, oppression, injustice, and fear to movements of unity, respect, equality, and freedom.”

Al Samuels, a former US marine originally from Jamaica, who was detained for five months and separated from his US citizen wife and three children told how he led a religious fast within his block at the detention facility that helped to ameliorate racial and ethnic tensions. He said, “I believe that the differences that we overcame in detention are no different than that of our American society, or the divisions in American politics. I am living proof that when people of faith come together – and pray and fast in solidarity – that circumstances can change even when the odds are against you.”

They were joined on the call by Rabbi David Saperstein, president and counsel of the Religious Action Center; Rev. Richard Graham, bishop of the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and Simone Campbell, SSS, executive director of NETWORK.

More than 6,500 people of faith from 45 states are already committed to pray, fast, and advocate during these 40 days of action, and the numbers are growing. Fast Action follows overwhelming action from the faith community over the August recess with 65 actions, 70 congressional meetings, and more than 150 media hits.

Additional information: fastaction.us. Full audio of the teleconference: dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/44794321/FASTACTION%20090913.mp3.

Upcoming LCWR Dates



Is Your Leadership Term About to End?

If your leadership term is ending this month, you must submit a change of leadership form found in the LCWR Members Information section (password-protected) of the website at lcwr.org/members/lcwr-membership-information.

Cuts to SNAP Threaten Human Rights and Human Lives

Access to adequate food and nutrition is a basic human right. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) offers nutrition assistance to millions of low-income individuals and families across this country and plays a vital role in supplementing the work of under-resourced charities, food banks, and other food providers who struggle to meet the needs of communities in the face of high unemployment and homelessness.

In July the House leadership made the unprecedented decision to remove SNAP from the Farm Bill which traditionally has been crafted to marry the need agricultural communities with those of hungry families.

The House is now considering a variety of options including Rep. Eric Cantor's Nutrition Reform and Work Opportunity Act which would cut SNAP by about \$40 billion over 10 years. If Rep. Cantor's bill becomes law, those cuts would have serious and harmful impacts on the most vulnerable seniors, children, and unemployed, in the country.

Rep. Cantor's proposal would eliminate food assistance for 4 to 6 million low-income people. Those who would be impacted by the cuts include: 2-4 million unemployed, childless adults and 1.8 million low-income working families and low-income seniors. More than 200,000 children would lose free school meals and millions of other very low-income, unemployed parents who cannot find work, and their children, would likely go hungry.

The scandal of hunger and poverty, faced by those who are underemployed and unemployed, cries for a response. As Pope Francis stated during his trip to Brazil for World Youth Day 2013, "I would like to make an appeal to those in possession of greater resources, to public authorities and to all people of good will who are working for social justice: never tire of working for a more just world, marked by greater solidarity! No one can remain insensitive to the inequalities that persist in the world!"

More information about the budget is available at www.faithfulbudget.org.

Stand Together for Dignity and Respect: October 5

On October 5 diverse communities from immigrant, faith, labor, and civil rights groups will come together in support of comprehensive immigration reform. Thousands will join in marches and rallies in more than 40 cities across the nation to call on Congress to pass commonsense immigration reform that prioritizes family unity and provides a pathway to earned citizenship in 2013.

Events will culminate on October 8 in Washington, DC when tens of thousands gather on the National Mall to celebrate Camino Americano: the Concert for Immigrant Dignity and Respect before marching to the US Capitol to deliver a message to the House of Representatives: "Get Immigration Reform Done and Get it Done Now—for our families, for our communities, for our country." Details are available at: octoberimmigration.org.

Share Stories of Efforts to Confront Global Poverty

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services are looking for stories about those leading efforts to confront poverty to feature on their Catholics Confront Global Poverty (CCGP) website. Stories must be 300 words or less and should feature Catholics working internationally on issues such as hunger and nutrition, conflict and peace, just use of natural resources, education, anti-poverty programming, etc. Examples and information on submitting a story are available at: www.confrontglobalpoverty.org/our-faith-global-poverty/witness-of-the-church/.



LCWR is on Facebook: www.facebook.com/lcwr.org



- Letter to President Obama asking him to direct his administration's full diplomatic energies toward an inclusive, negotiated, political solution that provides a foundation for an inclusive society in Syria and protects the rights of all its citizens. Florence Deacon, OSF (8/1/13)
- Letter to Congressman Jim Cooper (D-TN) in support of technical corrections to the Immigration and Nationality Act that would improve the functioning of the religious worker visa program. LCWR (8/1/13)
- Letter to Members of Congress urging humane immigration reform that includes a realistic path to citizenship and treats all immigrants with dignity including the opportunity to pay their fair share for affordable health care, attain economic stability, and have access to nutrition assistance. LCWR (8/15/13)
- Letter to House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee chairs and ranking members urging additional funding for the Trafficking Victims Assistance Program of the Office of Refugee Resettlement/Department of Health and Human Services in fiscal year 2014. LCWR (8/15/13)
- Letter to Emilio Alvarez Icaza, executive secretary, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, expressing support for a petition requesting a hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights regarding the situation of migrants subject to family separation and mandatory deportation by the US Immigration System. LCWR (8/19/13)
- Letter to members of the House expressing concern about provisions in the Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement (SAFE Act HR 2278) that would criminalize aiding a migrant or refugee who lacks immigration status, expand the use of mandatory and indefinite immigration detention, encourage state and local law enforcement officials' participation in immigration enforcement, and decrease protections and immigration relief for certain migrant groups. LCWR (8/21/13)
- Letter to Congress urging support for the Protect Family Values at the Border Act, which creates protections for US citizens and others held in US Customs and Border Protection custody and ensures families are not needlessly separated and placed at increased risk of harm. LCWR (8/28/13)
- Letter to President Obama asking him to the needs and concerns of those living in poverty in the U.S. and in the global south as he identifies candidates to serve as the Chair of the US Federal Reserve System. LCWR (9/2/13)
- Co-Sponsored US campaign to mark September 21, 2013, the International Day of Peace, with prayer. LCWR (9/3/13)
- Interfaith letter to Congress urging members to vote against any authorization for the use of military force in Syria. Carol Zinn, SSJ (9/6/13)
- Endorsed the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2013. LCWR (9/6/13)
- Issued LCWR statement condemning the use of chemical weapons, indiscriminate killing of civilians, and all violations of international law and calling for a negotiated end to the violence in Syria. LCWR (9/6/13)
- Letter from faith leaders to members of the House of Representatives urging them to vote no on legislation that would cut funding for SNAP. LCWR (9/9/13)
- Letter to the Department of Homeland Security and the New Orleans Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Field Office urging them to take significant steps to exercise prosecutorial discretion in the detention and deportation of parents and legal guardians of children. LCWR (9/10/13)
- Letter to Senators urging them to support the Senate's fiscal year 2014 overall funding level for the International Affairs Budget in order to protect its humanitarian assistance and poverty-focused development accounts. LCWR (9/11/13)
- Letter to members of the House expressing deep concern about the House's proposed funding levels for the fiscal year 2014 International Affairs Budget for humanitarian assistance and poverty-focused development accounts. LCWR (9/11/13)



The LCWR board and staff thank all who so generously volunteered their time and skills during the LCWR assembly. Their assistance was invaluable.

News from the United Nations

October 11—International Day of the Girl

In 2011 the United Nations General Assembly declared October 11 the International Day of the Girl Child to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world. This year's observance will focus on innovating for girls' education.



The fulfillment of girls' right to education is first and foremost a moral imperative. There is also overwhelming evidence that girls' education, especially at the secondary level, is a powerful transformative force for societies and girls themselves. It is the one consistent positive determinant of practically every desired development outcome including reductions in mortality, poverty, and inequality. While there has been significant progress in improving girls' access to education over the last two decades, the transformative potential for girls and societies promised through girls' education is yet to be realized.

Recognizing the need for fresh and creative perspectives to propel girls' education forward, the 2013 International Day of the Girl Child will address the importance of new technology, but also innovation in partnerships, policies, resource utilization, community mobilization, and most of all, the engagement of young people themselves. More information is available at www.un.org/en/events/girlchild/ and dayofthegirlsummit.org/2013-summit/.

UNICEF Launches a New Initiative on Violence

Calling on the international community to speak out against violence, UNICEF's End Violence Against Children initiative seeks to build on growing popular outrage following attacks against children, including the 2012 shooting of then 14-year-old Malala Yousafzai in Pakistan, the fatal shooting of 26 students and teachers in Newtown, and gang rapes in India and South Africa.

Unfortunately, many more children are subjected to violence that goes unseen or unreported and communities are too often silent in the face of these hidden horrors.

UNICEF's executive director, Anthony Lake, said, "In every country, in every culture, there is violence against children. Whenever and wherever children are harmed, our outrage and anger must be seen and heard."

A special website and a social media campaign will outline ways for children, parents, and communities to take action against the violence and support the victims. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), some 150 million girls and 73 million boys under 18 years experienced sexual violence and exploitation, and an estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked every year, according to a 2005 report by the International Labor Organization (ILO). More information is available at: www.unicef.org/endviolence/.

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