



November 2013

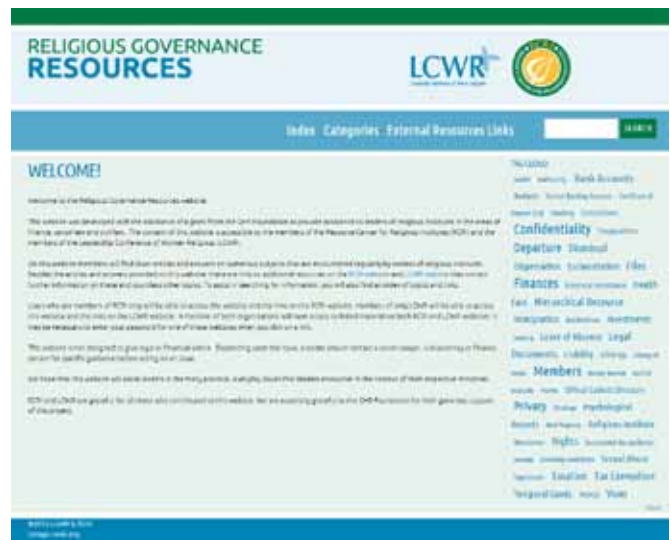
Two New Important Religious Life Resources Available

Religious Governance Resources Website

As part of their commitment to provide resources to religious life leaders, the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) and LCWR have created a new website, Religious Governance Resources (rgresources.org).

Through funding from the GHR Foundation, the two organizations developed the website to provide assistance to leaders of religious institutes in the areas of finance, canon law, and civil law. The content of this website is accessible to the members of both organizations.

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Sisters, a Documentary on Contemporary US Women Religious

LCWR is now hosting the one-hour documentary, *Sisters*, at its full length on the LCWR website (lcwr.org/publications/sisters-documentary). The film examines the lives of five Catholic sisters, revealing both their humanity and their deep spiritual grounding as religious. The documentary is currently being broadcast on selected PBS stations around the country.

The stories of the sisters are told without narration, in the honest and emotionally generous words and actions

of the women themselves. The film addresses questions such as: How did these women come to embrace religious life? How do they experience the presence of God? What happens when they fall in love? What happens when they experience cruelty and death—the loss of a mother, the random and merciless anguish of a child’s cancer? What anchors their faith?

Through the vivid stories of these women’s lives, the film explores the deepest hopes and yearnings of the human spirit — the risks and rewards of a generous heart.

Sisters began with the vision of Carol Rittner, RSM, who deeply felt the need to tell the story of US women religious today. Carol spent three years raising the money and working with the filmmaker. She is the distinguished professor of holocaust and genocide studies and the Dr. Marsha R. Grossman Professor of Holocaust Studies at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

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From the LCWR Presidency

The Eyes of the World are Upon Us

by Florence Deacon, OSF — LCWR Past President

Last month I did an internet search to see how much media interest there was in LCWR's 2013 assembly in Florida. While a Catholic News Service article was reprinted in several diocesan papers, there was much less interest in the secular press than last year. However I noticed that in a group of images of LCWR leadership, some photos were repeated several times. When I clicked on one I was taken to an article on LCWR headlined,

„Ferenc pápa az amerikai női rendek szervezetének felülvizsgálata mellett”

I soon realized each photo was linked to a separate news account or web page, often not in English, and I was treated to a year-end review of LCWR publicity from around the world. Some of the articles were in languages I had never seen before, including the one above and this one:

Đức Giáo hoàng ủng hộ việc cải tổ Hội đồng Lãnh đạo Nữ từ Hoa Kỳ

One article began, “Florence Deacon menginginkan Paus baru ‘memiliki pengalaman hidup dengan orang-orang biasa, seseorang yang memahami kesulitan bagaimana menghidupkan Injil.’” This was written at the time I was being interviewed about our hopes for a new pope, so I had assumed that was the topic. Today I verified it with Google translate, which identified the language as Indonesian and awkwardly rendered it, “Florence Deacon Pope wants new ‘life experience with ordinary people, someone who understands the difficulty of how to turn the Gospel.’”

I was amused at how Bing Translator had errors that were much more than awkward. Bing began translating the Hungarian headline, the first one I quoted above,



Even reporters writing articles in English sometimes had preconceived ideas which shaped how they heard and interpreted what was said.

as “The pope is an American female...” Google Translate gave a much better hint of what that article was about, “Francis Pope under orders of the U.S. women’s organization review.”

Bing identified the second headline I quoted as Vietnamese and translated it to be about Germany, the Royal Family, a nest, Female Digger, etc., with not even the nouns making sense regarding us. Google Translate was a bit closer as they indicated it was about our relationship with the Pope and gave it a positive slant: “Pope in favor of nest Female Leadership Council of the United States.” Both the Hungarian and Vietnamese articles were accounts of our meeting with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Other articles were much easier to identify, for example, “LCWR recebe prêmio por trabalho de justiça social” was a Portuguese article about LCWR receiving the Isaac Hecker Award for social justice.

As I clicked on pictures of our faces, the search engine took me to almost 25 articles from around the world written this year alone. It is clear that the eyes of the world are upon us. Bing Translator and Google Translate sometimes couldn’t agree on the nouns, let alone shadings of emotion or interpretation of the articles, hinting at the larger challenges facing our attempts at honest and open dialogue across cultures. Even reporters writing articles in English sometimes had preconceived ideas which shaped how they heard and interpreted what was said. I was able to access the foreign language articles by clicking on faces. Perhaps the human face is our universal language and relationship-building is the key?

Sisters, a Documentary on Contemporary US Women Religious

(continued from page 1)

The film was produced and directed by three-time Emmy winner and Academy Award (Oscar) nominee Robert Gardner.

Sisters is a resource with countless possibilities for use, including as a vocation and educational tool. It may be viewed on the LCWR website at no cost, but DVDs can be purchased from Gardner Films directly (www.gardnerfilms.com). LCWR members are encouraged to share the links to the LCWR website and Gardner Films widely, and particularly with their vocation, formation, communications, and development personnel, as well as others who would have interest in using the film in their ministries.

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The women religious featured in Sisters: 1. Melissa Camardo, SCL; 2. Monica Gundler, SC; 3. Michelle Leshner, SSJ; 4. Deidre Mullan, RSM; and 5. Karen Schneider, RSM



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Religious Governance Resources Website

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On the website members will find short articles and information on numerous subjects that are encountered regularly by leaders of religious institutes. Besides the information provided on this website, there are links to additional resources on the RCRI and LCWR websites that contain further information on these and many other topics.

Users who are members of LCWR will be able to access this website and the links to the LCWR website. Members of RCRI will be able to access this website and the links to the RCRI website.

A username and password will soon be provided to all LCWR members to access the new site. In order to keep the site private, leaders are asked not to share the access information with others.

This website is not designed to give legal or financial advice. Depending upon the issue, a leader should contact a canon lawyer, civil attorney or finance person for specific guidance before acting on an issue.

RCRI and LCWR selected the topics included on the website after hosting listening sessions where women religious leaders named the financial and legal questions they most frequently encounter. RCRI then engaged a team of experts to address these questions. Their responses form the content of the site.

Many leaders and finance officers attended a RCRI pre-conference workshop on the use of the site, offered by Lynn Jarrell, OSU and Dan Ward, OSB.

LCWR in the News

The recent remarks of and interviews given by Pope Francis have received attention in the media world-wide. Several major media outlets featured the insights of current and past LCWR leaders in their coverage, including the following:

“Hardball with Chris Matthews”

MSNBC TV

September 20, 2013

Featuring Mary Hughes, OP

mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=3b7ee9b5-488b-4c95-8ae5-01e5f6d-e37cd or

www.nbcnews.com/id/3036697/ns/msnbc-hardball_with_chris_matthews/vp/53065547/#53065547

“With his remarks on sexual morality, a surprise pope keeps on surprising”

New York Times

September 20, 2013

Featuring Carol Zinn, SSJ

www.nytimes.com/2013/09/21/world/europe/with-his-remarks-on-sexual-morality-a-surprise-pope-keeps-on-surprising.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

“Chaput offers reassurance after pope’s comments”

Philadelphia Inquirer

September 27, 2013

Featuring Carol Zinn, SSJ

articles.philly.com/2013-09-26/news/42430179_1_pope-francis-chaput-philadelphia-archbishop-charles-j

“Ministering on death row, and feeling a new confidence in Rome”

New York Times

October 1, 2013

Featuring Camille D’Arienzo, RSM and Helen Prejean, CSJ

www.nytimes.com/2013/10/02/nyregion/ministering-on-death-row-and-feeling-a-new-confidence-in-rome.html

“In the Arena”

WOR 710AM - New York’s Talk & News Radio

October 13, 2013

Featuring Mary Hughes, OP

www.wor710.com/pages/onair/in-the-arena.html



Former LCWR president Mary Hughes, OP on MSNBC’s “Hardball with Chris Matthews”



At the WOR radio station: Mary Hughes, OP; Monsignor Kieran Harrington; and Kathryn Jean Lopez

Membership Renewals Due by November 1

LCWR membership renewals for 2014 are due at the LCWR office no later than November 1. The renewal of membership form and the instructions for completing it are available on the LCWR members’ information section of the LCWR website. Renewal of membership will only occur when the office receives a completed renewal form and a check for membership dues.

LCWR is grateful to the congregations who offered financial support for members who need assistance. Contributions toward the LCWR scholarship fund are welcome.

Questions about membership or donations may be addressed to LCWR’s associate director for business and finance, Grace Hartzog, SC – ghartzog@lcwr.org.

Expansion at the LCWR National Office

Director of Development

For a number of years, the LCWR national board, finance and investment committee, and staff have been exploring possible avenues for strengthening LCWR's financial future. Since public interest in LCWR has increased dramatically over the last year and a half, and because donors have expressed a desire to support the conference, the need for an LCWR director of development became evident.

LCWR executive director Janet Mock, CSJ invited Chris Costello, who had been serving LCWR as the executive assistant since 2011, to move into this new position in October. In this role she will assist with grant management, maintain and build LCWR's donor base, and oversee the marketing of LCWR's resources.



Chris Costello

Chris brings a rich background in development work to her position having served as a development associate for Catholic University of America; an associate for the Christ Child Society; and the assistant director of development for Washington Theological Union. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in history from the University of Mary Washington.

Executive Assistant

Replacing Chris as executive assistant is Laura M. Glasgow. A retired United States Air Force chief master sergeant, she has worked as a criminal supervisor for the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court in Upper Marlboro, Maryland; administrative assistant at First Command Financial Planning in Camp Springs, Maryland; administrative assistant at the Maryland Court of Appeals in Annapolis, Maryland; administrative assistant to the vice-president for academic affairs and academic dean



Laura M. Glasgow

at Washington Theological Union, Washington, DC; and most recently executive assistant at the Catholic Biblical Association, Washington, DC.

Laura holds graduate degrees in administrative management/public administration from Bowie State University and in pastoral studies from Washington Theological Union.



LCWR national office in Silver Spring, Maryland

Upcoming LCWR Dates

Leading from Within Retreat

Redemptorist Renewal Center

Tucson, Arizona

January 19 — 24, 2014

Imaging Justice: A Learning Lab for Leaders and Justice Promoters

Bethany Retreat Center

Lutz, Florida

March 3 — 6, 2014

LCWR New Leader Workshop

Conference Center - University of St. Mary of the Lake

Mundelein, Illinois

March 27 — 30, 2014

LCWR Assembly

Nashville, Tennessee

August 12 — 16, 2014

LCWR Assembly

Houston, Texas

August 11—15, 2015

THE Occasional Papers



The Cosmic Story: What's it Have to Do with Religious Life?

New understandings of the cosmic story have clearly captured our attention. But what do these insights have to do with our everyday lives?

The Winter 2014 issue of *Occasional Papers* will explore how the cosmic story impacts:

- how we perceive religious life today and into the future
- how we understand leadership
- our concern for persons on the margins of society
- our call to take prophetic action
- the ways in which we pray
- the primacy of the God-question in religious life

The authors in this issue include women religious who are making the connections between the cosmic story and religious life, and particularly religious life leadership, as well as women religious from other cultures who are integrating the new insights into their lives and work in settings of great poverty and violence.

Although all LCWR members, associates, and subscribers will receive a copy of *Occasional Papers*, many leaders order additional copies for their own members and associates. Orders and payment must be received by **December 16, 2013**. Order forms are available at lcvr.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/oporder-swinter14.pdf.

Register Now for these Upcoming LCWR Events

Only a few spaces are left in both

Leading from Within Retreat

Leading from a New Place

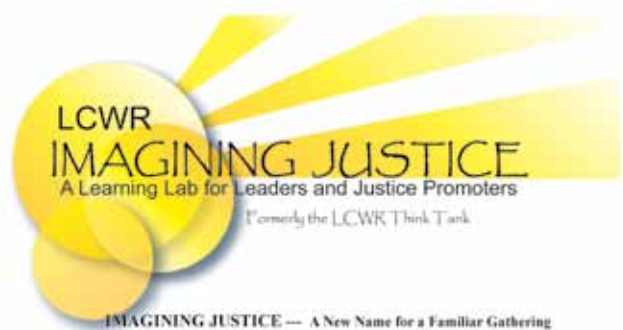
A retreat for LCWR members
and LCWR associates who are serving
in congregation leadership



January 19 - 24, 2014

Redemptorist Renewal Center - Tucson, Arizona

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



Imagining Justice: A Learning Lab for Leaders and Justice Promoters

March 3 - 6, 2014

Bethany Center -- Lutz, Florida

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



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

LCWR Members Encouraged to Reflect on Emerging Insights

A new LCWR contemplative insight card is now available for downloading. The November 2013 card (pictured above) 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.



Update is an official publication of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious published monthly and distributed to members nationally. © 2013 LCWR All rights reserved.

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Is Your Leadership Term About to End?

If your leadership term is ending this month, we ask you to 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.

Consider Giving a Women & Spirit DVD for Christmas

Several congregations are ordering the LCWR *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America* DVD to give as Christmas presents.

Consider purchasing these as gifts for benefactors, associates, boards of sponsored ministries, coworkers, and more.

The DVD provides a comprehensive history of Catholic sisters for just \$19.95. Reduced prices are available for bulk orders. All proceeds benefit LCWR. Order forms are at: lcwr.org/item/org/item/women-spirit-dvd.



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.

10,000 Faith Advocates Hold 40-Day for Immigration Reform

With the government shutdown over and the completion of 40 days of prayer and fasting by more than 10,000 people, faith communities across America are calling on members of Congress to live up to their moral duty to enact just and humane immigration reform.

"Now that the government shutdown has ended, we are buoyed by the fact that there is space for House leadership to bring immigration reform to a vote," said LCWR executive director Janet Mock, CSJ. "Speaker Boehner brought the bipartisan Senate funding bill to a vote to end the government shutdown. We're asking him to take the exact same action on immigration: simply allow a bipartisan vote for a path to citizenship so that 11 million aspiring Americans can become full members of our communities. It's time to end the fear of deportation and to reunite hundreds of thousands of families who have endured years of separation."

The Interfaith Immigration Coalition began the 40-day Fast Action for Immigration Reform on September 9, the day that Congress returned from its August recess. Thousands of people from 46 states prayed, fasted, and advocated throughout September and October to bring spiritual focus to America's unjust and broken immigration system and to stand in solidarity with immigrant communities. Actions included meeting with members of Congress, civil disobedience, and online advocacy. Catholic sisters across the country were one of the most significant mobilizers as they led vigils and prayer events for immigration reform.



In Washington DC, religious leaders gathered in prayer to draw the 40 days to a close and recommit themselves to immigration reform.



Ann Oestreich, IHM; Anne Victory, HM; and Kathleen Coll, SSJ

Catholic Sisters against Human Trafficking Gather for Planning

Sixteen sisters from across the country gathered in Washington, DC for the second meeting of the US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking (USCSAHT), September 17-18. The gathering was an opportunity for the core group to begin to shape the work of the newly launched organization. Discussion included everything from the mission and vision of the organization to membership and relationships with other national anti-trafficking organizations.

USCSAHT invited Mara Vanderslice Kelly, coordinator of the President’s Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, to meet with them to learn more about the implementation of the advisory council’s report and points of intersection with their own work. Hilary Chester, associate director for anti-trafficking, and Ashley Feasley, immigration policy advisor, both of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), spoke with the group about new programs the USCCB has launched.

In addition, participants had the opportunity to hear from members of the group, including Ann Oestreich, IHM; Anne Victory, HM; and Kathleen Coll, SSJ, who attended the White House convening for civil society leaders, Taking Action to Eradicate Modern-Day Slavery. The convening, which included heads of religious denominations, women religious, CEOs of large non-profits, and foundation leaders, along with human trafficking survivors and experts, explored ways they could work together to raise awareness, identify

victims, expand services for survivors, and eliminate slavery in consumer goods and products.

The next day the group stopped by the Polaris Project for a legislative briefing by Brittany Vanderhoof, Polaris’s policy council, before heading to Capitol Hill to visit with members of Congress about the need for effective anti-trafficking legislation.



Anti-trafficking Ad to Run in US Airways Magazine

An anti-trafficking advertisement produced by US Catholic Sisters against Human Trafficking (USCSAHT) will appear in the December issue of US Airways in-flight magazine. Kathleen Coll, SSJ, of Catholic Health East and representative to Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, worked with US Airways to help them develop policies and procedures to respond to the reality of human trafficking in the travel industry. As a result, the company committed to raise public awareness about human trafficking through their advertisements.

USCSAHT decided to coordinate production for the December ad. Margaret Nacke, CSJ contacted Ron Sack of Bailey Lauerman, an Omaha-based ad agency, to see if the firm could help with the design. Their reply was an enthusiastic, “We believe in your cause.” The agency agreed to develop the concept and created the ad pro bono.

Poverty Continues to Grow

The US Census Bureau recently released data revealing that the nation continues to suffer from high poverty rates and increasing inequality. Since 2007, wages for the majority of workers have remained stagnant, while earnings for the top income bracket have soared. Poverty has grown tremendously since 2008, the first full year of the Great Recession. Today there are 6.7 million more people living in poverty, many of them children.

Congress' decisions on budget, appropriations, immigration, and minimum wage could either alleviate or entrench the devastating poverty and inequality that have become the norm in recent years. Unfortunately, the majority in the House of Representatives seems intent on continuing painful cuts in food stamps (SNAP), housing, education, senior meals, and unemployment benefits.

During the next couple of months members of the House and Senate will be attempting to negotiate a budget compromise to avoid another government shut-down as well as going over the next fiscal cliff. There will be demands for cuts and spending increases from members on both sides of the aisle. The decisions they make will impact the lives of real people and say much about the values of this nation.

Resources are available at www.chn.org/topic/2012-census-poverty-data/; www.networklobby.org/issues/economic-justice; www.PovertyUSA.org.

RCRI Offers TRENDS 2013

The new version of TRENDS is an application package that works with Excel 2010 and the Windows 7 platform. It has been developed with the following upgrades:



- An interface program called MY TRENDS where initial demographic and financial information will be entered
- A matrix for entering individual member data prior to uploading to TRENDS
- A scenario/analysis feature to compare alternative assumptions
- A set of instructions for getting started
- Additional funds may be entered into the program: operations, retirement, development and up to 10 other funds may be used.

TRENDS 2013 will be available for purchase for \$650.00 and will be licensed to member institutes of RCRI only. It will not be licensed to vendors.

Instructions to purchase the software will be available on the RCRI web site. Sales and distribution will begin on October 29. Orders may be placed online through the RCRI web site.

Consultants will be available to help communities with the installation, set-up, and scenario analysis of the program.

More information may be obtained by contacting Larry Lundin, SJ at llundin@trcri.org or Sabrina Hidalgo at shidalgo@trcri.org.



Religious Formation Conference Webinar: Contemplating the Gift of the Vowed Life in the 21st Century

Presenter: Mary Lou Mitchell, SSJ
Wednesday December 4, 2013
3:00-4:00 PM EDT

Registration will open mid-November. More details can be obtained at www.relforcon.org/programs/webinars or by calling the RFC office at 202-827-4562

News from the UN

Child Mortality Halved Since 1990

Globally, childhood deaths have been cut in half since 1990, according to a report from UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and the World Bank. While countries in eastern and southern Africa have successfully reduced child deaths by 50 percent or more, those in west and central Africa have not. UNICEF estimates that 6.6 million children younger than five died last year mainly from malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea.



November 25—International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

According to the World Bank, women ages 15 - 44 are more at risk from experiencing rape and domestic violence than from cancer, car accidents, and war. In the words of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, "We must fundamentally challenge the culture of discrimination that allows violence to continue. . . . I call on all governments to make good on their pledges to end all forms of violence against women and girls in all parts of the world, and I urge all people to support this important goal." More information can be found at: www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday/index.shtml.

December 2—International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery focuses attention on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, child labor, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict. Today, 21 million women, men, and children are trapped in slavery all over the world. The International Labor Organization (ILO) has teamed up with prominent artists, athletes, and advocates in its campaign to End Slavery Now. More information is available at www.un.org/en/events/slaveryabolitionday.

Register for Spring Social Ministry Gatherings

The 2014 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering is scheduled for February 2-5, 2014 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington DC. This year's theme is inspired by the words and vision of Pope Francis: "Becoming a Church that is Poor and for the Poor." The program will include John L. Allen Jr., senior correspondent for the *National Catholic Reporter* and James Martin, SJ, editor-at-large for *America* magazine and author of numerous books. More information is available at: www.CatholicSocialMinistryGathering.org.



People of faith from across the country will gather in Washington, March 21-24 for the 12th annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days. This year's gathering will focus on the ways policies promoting violence can be transformed into policies which enable peace. The theme, "Jesus Weeps: Resisting Violence, Building Peace," will allow participants to explore the violence that pervades the culture of the nation and the world. Topics will include drones, gun violence, domestic violence, refugee issues, Pentagon spending, and natural resource conflicts. More information is available at: advocacydays.org/2014-resisting-violence-building-peace.



Immigration Webinars Scheduled for November

With action on immigration reform still expected this fall, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) is teaming up with the US Conference of Catholic Bishops to provide a series of informational webinars in November. The webinars will be offered on the four Fridays of the month, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. ET, and are free to the public. Topics include the church's perspective on immigration, state and local immigration laws, and trends in immigration enforcement. Registration is available at cliniclegal.org/calendar/webinar-series-hot-topics-immigration-advocacy.