

December 2013

New Leader Workshop Scheduled for March 2014

From March 27-30, 2014 LCWR will again offer its New Leader Workshop. Leaders who have been in office for fewer than two years or those who have recently returned to leadership after previously serving are urged to consider participating.

LCWR designed this experience to focus on topics that leaders have named as critically important including spiritual leadership, canon and civil law, human development, team-building, care of the elderly, and the impact of the Vatican investigations on religious life leadership today. With an outstanding faculty, participants will explore these topics through processes that involve prayer, input, reflection, and discussion. Past participants note that this workshop is an invaluable resource for education on religious life leadership today and an important opportunity for networking with other leaders. In such challenging times as these, this type of education, formation, and collaboration are essential.

Although any individual leader is welcome to participate in the workshop, LCWR encourages leaders to attend as councils/teams. Various opportunities are provided for councils to work together during the workshop to both process input and plan for their future work.



More than 100 LCWR members participated in the 2013 LCWR New Leader Workshop

More information and a registration form are available on the LCWR website at lcvr.org/calendar/lcwr-new-leader-workshop-0. Since space is limited, interested leaders are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

New Initiative Seeks to Help Immigrant Religious

LCWR is part of a new collaborative initiative seeking to assist immigrant women and men religious here in the United States who often are not aware of their rights, and find themselves living and working in abusive situations.

In October the US Catholic Conference of Bishops' Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations called together an advisory committee to study this matter. LCWR, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, and the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious are represented on this committee, as well as the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc.; Joyce Meyer, PBVM; and others who work directly with immigrant

(continued on page 3)



From the LCWR Presidency
Are We Almost There?

by Sharon Holland, IHM — LCWR President-Elect

Are we almost there?
How many journeys have been punctuated by this question as children become impatient, waiting to see Grandma ... to see gifts ... to go sledding?

We do a lot of waiting. We wait for planes, for appointments, for test results. The elderly wait for the phone to ring, for a visit, for the social security check to come. Immigrants await news of a relative in detention and of laws opening a path to citizenship. People of all classes wait in lines at job fairs, while others wait for news of a college scholarship. Mothers wait for sons and daughters to come home from work or from a date in their high risk neighborhood. Survivors of natural disasters await news of missing family members and convoys with food and water.

As we approach the season of Christian waiting, Advent, what are we waiting for and what are we doing while we wait?

Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem while awaiting a child very nearly due. They traveled for a census and,

*How do we proclaim our belief in Christ
already present in our midst,
when our world is so torn
by violence, injustice, hatred, and war?*

perhaps quite unknowingly, they traveled to fulfil the ancient prophecy about Bethlehem.

The liturgy is filled with the themes of *Maranatha*, Come Lord Jesus! How do we wait for the One who has already come? But Advent is not really about waiting; it is about coming: *Adveniat regnum tuum!* Come, prom-



ised reign of justice and peace. Come, reign characterized by love for the poor and abandoned, the immigrant and the lonely, the sick and wounded and discouraged. How do we proclaim our belief in Christ already present in our midst, when our world is so torn by violence, injustice, hatred, and war? We do not passively wait; we actively nurture the seed sown by that first coming.

We cannot be everywhere, but we are somewhere; we can't do everything, but we can do something. Jesus taught his disciples to pray, and he sent them out to preach, to heal, and to comfort. We pray for the needs of our church and world, and we continue to care for

*We do not passively wait;
we actively nurture the seed sown
by that first coming.*

and visit the sick and to promote affordable, equitable healthcare. We welcome the stranger, and work for just immigration legislation. As we educate and care for children, we promote gun legislation which could further protect their very vulnerable lives. We enter into sincere dialogue, hoping to heal communal and ecclesial relationships.

Are we almost there? Not yet, but the journey is well begun. The seed, sometimes barely perceptible, is silently growing and becomes visible in every act of love, care, justice, and peace.

In a seasonal reflection, written in the grey heaviness of the European war years, Karl Rahner concludes with a sudden burst of hope:

It is Christmas. Light the candles. They have more right to exist than all the darkness!

LCWR Executive Committee Meets in Washington

The LCWR executive committee met at the Washington Retreat House in DC from November 4-6. Attending the meeting were: Carol Zinn, SSJ, president; Sharon Holland, IHM, president-elect; Florence Deacon, OSF, past president; Barbara Blesse, OP, secretary; Pat Eck, CBS, treasurer; Judy Justinger, SSJ; and Joan Marie Steadman, CSC, members-at-large; and Janet Mock, CSJ, executive director.

Among the topics of discussion were the 2014 LCWR assembly, possible collaborative efforts with other organizations serving religious life as well as foundations interested in supporting religious life, reports from the officers and executive director, a review of the 2014 LCWR budget, and the mandate regarding LCWR from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The committee also participated in a focus group for the CARA Study on Ministry to Immigrants, commissioned by LCWR and CMSM.

On November 7, the executive committee of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men joined the LCWR committee for a joint meeting. Included in this agenda were discussions of the February 2014 joint board meeting of the two conferences, the March InterAmerican committee meeting to be hosted by both groups in Baltimore, the April annual trip to visit the Vatican offices in Rome, as well as matters pertaining to the office building jointly owned by LCWR and CMSM.

Carol, Sharon, Florence, Barbara, and Janet attended the annual meeting of the Commission on Religious Life and Ministry held in Baltimore on November 8. They joined representatives of CMSM, the US Catholic Conference of Bishops, and the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious.



On the following day, Janet represented LCWR at a meeting of the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations where she and representatives from various consultative groups reported on their organizations' activities.

On November 11 and 12, Carol, Sharon, Florence, and Janet were observers at the USCCB general assembly in Baltimore.

New Initiative Seeks to Help Immigrant Religious

(continued from page 1)

religious. Their first project will be to conduct a survey to collect data that may help unearth hidden abuses.

In both 2010 and 2011 the LCWR assembly passed resolutions to strengthen the bonds of solidarity of US women religious with Catholic sisters around the world by increasing the members' knowledge and understanding of the struggles of women religious in other countries. To that end, LCWR contracted with Joyce Meyer to network with sisters internationally during 2013 and gain information about ways women religious could work together worldwide.

Many of the religious come from the global south to work in the United States at the invitation of a pastor without the knowledge of the bishop or other diocesan officials. The religious often find themselves without adequate housing or opportunities for enculturation.

In a recent interview with the *National Catholic Reporter*, Joyce Meyer stated that the religious coming from indigenous communities "are especially vulnerable to isolation because their entrance into the country was often informal and those who invited them do not provide resources the sisters need." Consequently, immigrant women religious are left without decent and secure housing, or ministries that provide a stipend covering even minimal living expenses.

LCWR executive committee members at the Washington Retreat House: Joan Marie Steadman, CSC; Judy Justinger, SSJ; Pat Eck, CBS; Janet Mock, CSJ; Carol Zinn, SSJ; Sharon Holland, IHM; Barbara Blesse, OP; and Florence Deacon, OSF

LCWR Reviews its Statutes

As part of LCWR's ongoing work to bring all of its structures and policies into alliance with its realities, the conference has been reviewing its statutes over the course of the last few years. This document had been approved by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL) in 1989.

Because a review of LCWR's statutes was included in the mandate to the bishops appointed as delegates of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, LCWR informed the delegates that a review was already in process. The bishops suggested that a joint review take place at a meeting with one of the bishops and a canon lawyer of the bishops' choice and one of the LCWR presidents and a canon lawyer of LCWR's choosing. On November 11, while the USCCB general assembly in Baltimore was in session, the joint review occurred. Participating were Bishop Thomas John Paprocki; Carol Zinn, SSJ; Sharon Holland, IHM; and Ms. Siobhan Verbeek, a canon lawyer from USCCB. The joint review of the statutes surfaced matters that were already under discussion by LCWR. Some changes were suggested which strengthen and clarify the LCWR statutes and more clearly articulate the practices already in place.

Statutes are ultimately approved by CICLSAL. For an adjustment to statutes, the suggested changes in review by the LCWR presidents must be presented to the LCWR national board. The recommendation of the board is taken to the national assembly for approval.

Archbishop J. Peter Sartain and Archbishop Leonard Blair, as well as Florence Deacon, OSF and Janet Mock, CSJ will review the draft of proposed changes that came from the November 11 session before they are presented to the LCWR national board in February.

Remembering Those Suffering the Effects of Typhoon Haiyan

Typhoon Haiyan has devastated the Philippines and people around the world are responding to the overwhelming need with prayer and contributions. The Catholic community offers a number of avenues for response including:

- Catholic Relief Services: emergencies.crs.org
- Caritas Internationalis: www.caritas.org
- Catholic Medical Mission Board: www.cmmb.org

Presents at CTA Gathering

Call to Action – Michiana sponsored a presentation by LCWR past president Florence Deacon, OSF on October 17 at the University of Notre Dame. In her talk, entitled, "Women of the Gospel, Women of the Church," she spoke about new understandings of church and the ecclesial mission of all Catholics to apply the Gospel in this day and age.



Florence Deacon, OSF at a presentation held at the University of Notre Dame

Interviewed for National Public Radio



NPR's Sylvia Poggioli with Janet Mock, CSJ at the LCWR office in Silver Spring, Maryland

On November 20 Sylvia Poggioli, senior European correspondent for National Public Radio, visited the LCWR national office to interview LCWR president Carol Zinn, SSJ (by phone) and executive director Janet Mock, CSJ. Sylvia, who covers news in Rome and at the Vatican, conducted the interviews as part of a story on Pope Francis that is targeted to air in December.

LCWR Mourns the Death of its Former President Mary Dooley, SSJ

Mary Dooley, SSJ, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, died on November 14 at the Mont Marie Health Care Center in Holyoke, Massachusetts, at age 90. From 1978-79 she was the president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.



She held a bachelor's degree from the College of Our Lady of the Elms, Chicopee, MA and a master's degree from Assumption College, Worcester. She earned a PhD from the Sorbonne, Paris, France and a doctor of divinity degree from Aquinas Institute, Dubuque, Iowa. American International College, Assumption College, Fitchburg State College, and the College of Our Lady of the Elms awarded her honorary doctorates.

Among her ministry experiences, Sister Mary served her community as its president from 1971-79, and the College of Our Lady of the Elms as a faculty member from 1968-71, and as its president from 1979-93. She received numerous honors and awards for her outstanding service and scholarship.

Maxyne Schneider, president of the Sisters of St. Joseph, stated, "While all our congregations no doubt have many fine women and several excellent leaders, only seldom do we find leaders with the exceptional vision and charisma that Mary possessed. She became our congregational president immediately after our special chapter at the height of the renewal that Vatican II called for in religious life. Mary was the woman of courageous and broad vision who was able to give confidence both to the fearful and the eager. For so many of us it was a time of exhilaration even in the midst of sometimes painful congregational steps. For Mary religious life was too filled with potential to be constrained by narrow customs no longer suited to vigorous joy-filled ministry."

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 lcwr.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/oporder-swinter14.pdf.

Register Now for these Upcoming LCWR Events

Only a few spaces are left

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
lcrw.org/sites/default/files/calendar/attachments/lfwretreat14.pdf

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 LCWR Contemporary Religious Life Committee is exploring ways for LCWR members to share with one another leadership practices they find helpful. The committee recommended including in the LCWR newsletter on an ongoing basis practical ideas that members use to exercise their ministry of leadership. These could include practices that members have created to make their leadership work effective, formative, and enjoyable. Examples of such practices might include ways in which:

- A leadership team attends to its own ongoing education
- A leadership team has incorporated contemplative practices into its work
- A team prays and shares faith together
- Leaders have implemented communal discernment on an issue among community members
- A team sets its council meeting agenda that may be creative and particularly helpful
- Leaders have come to know their members following a merger or the establishment of a covenant relationship
- Leaders have conducted visitations of their members

Any team that has discovered a helpful practice is invited to submit a brief description of the practice to the Contemporary Religious Life Committee via LCWR associate director for communications Annmarie Sanders, IHM at asanders@lcrw.org.



LCWR Members Encouraged to Reflect on Emerging Insights

A new LCWR contemplative insight card is now available for downloading. The December 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.

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.



Religious Governance Resources Website

Members of LCWR and the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) are quickly finding that the new Religious Governance Resources website (rgresources.org) provides invaluable assistance with their questions related to finance, canon law, and civil law.

The website contains 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.

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.



Poverty and Hunger Continue to Grow

Today one in every six Americans lives in poverty. The picture is even bleaker for children. One in five children lives in poverty. The federal minimum wage is stuck at \$7.25 an hour, an individual working 40 hours a week while earning minimum wage will only earn \$15,080 a year. That is well below the \$23,550 poverty level income for a family of four.

In the face of growing poverty, in a country where one in seven Americans is “food insecure,” Congress has cut critical anti-hunger programs. All families receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, formerly called “food stamps,” have seen their benefits cut in the last month. The average family-of-four lost \$30-36 in food benefits; that is significant for a family living on the edge. This \$11 billion cut over four years equals nearly 10 million meals each day.

Congress is currently debating whether to allow cuts to nutrition assistance for low-income women and children to continue under sequestration. Already, struggling seniors have had to go without 4 million meals because of cuts to the Meals on Wheels program, and if sequestration continues, another 4 million meals could be cut.

Members of Congress have just a few weeks to reverse the harmful cuts put in place by sequestration and to pass a farm bill that includes robust food programs. Without Congressional action, additional cuts to SNAP and funding cuts for international emergency food aid, poverty-focused foreign assistance, and nutrition assistance for struggling seniors, pregnant women, and low-income children can be expected.



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

Editor: Annmarie Sanders, IHM
8808 Cameron Street — Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: 301-588-4955 Fax: 301-587-4575
E-mail: asanders@lcwr.org Website: www.lcwr.org

House and Senate Budget Conferees Begin Work

As part of the agreement to end the government shutdown, lawmakers appointed members to a budget conference committee chaired by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.). Their task is to work out a budget agreement for FY2014 by December 13.

According to some members, the committee has reached an impasse. Reports are that conference co-chairs remain nearly \$90 billion apart in the amount of total discretionary spending in their respective proposals. Hope that conferees would be able produce an agreement to scale back some of the looming sequestration cuts in exchange for some smaller changes in entitlement spending or closing tax loopholes is fading fast.

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 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.

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.

Immigration Reform Not Dead Yet

Immigration reform legislation is still alive in the House, even if just barely. With few legislative days left before the end of the year and prognosticators on both the left and right declaring prospects for reform this year dead, proponents are still trying to move legislation forward.

Despite the budget crisis that took much of the wind out of the immigration debate and the distractions of the healthcare rollout, House Democrats recently introduced their own comprehensive immigration reform bill, HR 15, Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act. It currently has 189 cosponsors (186 Democrats and, 3 Republicans -- Jeff Denham (R-CA10), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, (R-FL27), David Valadao, (R-CA21)). Proponents of reform hope the bill will put pressure on House leadership to consider immigration legislation before the House takes its holiday recess.

HR 15 draws heavily from S 744 which passed the Senate with bi-partisan support in June and includes provisions of HR 1417, The Border Security Results Act, which received bi-partisan support in the House Homeland Security Committee.

Like the Senate bill, HR 15 includes provisions that would create a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million individuals currently forced into the shadows; clear systemic backlogs that keep families apart; and provide a process for a future flow of immigrants that protects the rights and dignity of all. It also recognizes the special circumstances of DREAMERS and of migrants fleeing persecution and violence.

Unfortunately, like its Senate sister, it could leave many behind including: the siblings and adult children of aspiring Americans, low-income people who are unable to pay required fines, and women and others working in the informal economy who are unable to establish employment documentation. It also fails to take account of those, who while contributing to our communities and paying taxes, will be denied benefits including nutritional assistance and basic healthcare.

That leaves supporters in the House with a comprehensive but imperfect House bill along with a number of smaller piecemeal bills -- some of which are simply horrible -- and time running out.



Before delivering postcards calling the House of Representatives to pass fair and compassionate immigration reform, LCWR associate director for business and finance Grace Hartzog, SC (right) and associate director for social mission Ann Scholz, SSND (not pictured) joined immigrants who were fasting for a prayer service.

Supporters Escalate Advocacy Efforts

While passage of any legislation in this calendar-year seems less and less likely, civil society supporters of immigration reform remain determined.

Faith, immigrant rights, and labor leaders have launched a month-long Fast for Families (fast4families.org). They have pitched a tent on the National Mall and hope that their fast, in the spirit of Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther King Jr., and Mahatma Gandhi, will touch the hearts and the leaders of the House and persuade them to address the moral crisis posed by the current immigration system.

The Interfaith Immigration Coalition flooded members of Congress with daily reminders of their moral obligation to pass immigration reform that includes a reasonable roadmap to citizenship; prioritizes family unity; protects the rights of all; promotes the integration of new Americans; and addresses the poverty and violence that force migrants from their homes. Every day from October 29 through November 22 faith-based communities sent all 435 members of the House letters calling for comprehensive immigration reform. (The LCWR letter is available at: tinyurl.com/ptetrm.)

Volunteers from NETWORK and LCWR delivered more than 11,000 postcards to the 435 member of the House

(continued on page 10)

Immigration Reform Not Dead Yet

(continued from page 9)

on November 13, the feast of Frances Cabrini, patron saint of immigrants. The postcards were written by the thousands who turned out for NETWORK's "Nuns on the Bus" this summer and the 900 LCWR members gathered at their August assembly. All urged their representative to pass fair and compassionate immigration reform. The postcard delivery was complimented by a national call-in day organized by Justice for Immigrants www.justiceforimmigrants.org which yielded 4694 messages to members of Congress.

It does not appear that those who have worked hard for so long are going to give up easily. All over the country DREAMers, immigrants, faith and labor leaders, business associations, and citizens from across the political spectrum are demanding that the House take up immigration reform—now. If they do not succeed during the first session of the 113th Congress, they plan to double their efforts when Congress begins its second session in January.

Pope Francis to Launch Worldwide Movement to End Hunger

On Tuesday, December 10, Pope Francis will launch a worldwide movement to respond to the needs of the poor and vulnerable by praying and acting to end hunger. At noon local time, a global wave of prayer will begin in Tonga and will progress around the world until it reaches American Samoa some 24 hours and 164 countries later.

The prayer kicks off Caritas Internationalis' Campaign "One Human Family, Food for All" to raise awareness and encourage action that addresses US and international hunger. Additional resources for this campaign, which is coordinated by Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services, and Caritas Internationalis, will be available at www.catholiccharitiesusa.org.

Prayer participants are encouraged to sign a pledge at tinyurl.com/o9q57tw.

News from the UN

December 10—International Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day commemorates the date the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaiming its principles as the "common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations." The annual observance is an opportunity to celebrate and advocate for the full enjoyment of all human rights by everyone everywhere. Additional information is available at: www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/.



December 18—International Migrants Day

Throughout human history migration has been a courageous expression of the will to overcome adversity and to live a better life. Globalization has greatly increased the number of people on the move. Recognizing the increasing interest of the international community in the protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, the UN General Assembly proclaimed December 18 the International Migrants Day. More information is available at: www.un.org/en/events/migrantsday/.

December 20—International Human Solidarity Day

Solidarity is identified in the Millennium Declaration as one of the fundamental values of international relations in the 21st century. In the context of globalization and the challenge of growing inequality, the strengthening of international solidarity is indispensable. Additional information can be found at: www.un.org/en/events/humansolidarityday/.

Act Now on Climate Change

A global treaty on climate change can be achieved by 2015 even though negotiations are proceeding slowly, says Christiana Figueres, head of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the secretary-General seems to concur. Speaking at the opening of the UN General Assembly, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon invited leaders to come together in a climate summit in fall 2014 in the hope of stimulating action and enabling world leaders to sign a legally binding deal in 2015. More information is available at www.un.org/climatechange/.

NRVC Celebrates 25 Years

This November NRVC initiated a “Year of Jubilee” celebrating 25 years of service to the church and religious life in vocation ministry. Members and collaborators are invited to share in this celebration by praying a special jubilee prayer which may be downloaded in a high resolution file at: www.nrv.net/248/article/jubilee-prayer-937.



The NRVC Jubilee Committee is preparing several special commemorations throughout the year highlighting this milestone. This yearlong anniversary celebration will conclude at the 2014 NRVC Convocation which will be held at the Chicago Marriott O’Hare Hotel from November 6-9, 2014. Gathering under the theme, “It is good that we are here....rise and have no fear,” participants will hear new voices reflecting on vocation ministry and vowed membership, including Bernhard A. Eckerstorfer, OSB, director of vocations, novice master and formation director for the Kremsmünster Abbey in Austria; Colleen Mary Mallon, OP, faculty member of Aquinas Institute of Theology; and Theresa Rickard, OP, former vocation director and current executive director of Renew International.

New NRVC Website is Launched

With the support of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, NRVC launched its new, state-of-the-art website this month. New features include a front-page carousel of photos, news feed, dual-menu system, quick reference points and other user friendly features. NRVC members and HORIZON subscribers also have access to archived issues of HORIZON through a search format.

NRVC Publishes Moving Forward in Hope Final Document

The final document of the Women Religious Moving Forward in Hope workshops has been published and may be accessed online at: www.nrv.net/240/article/women-moving-forward-in-hope-903.

These workshops brought together the major superiors and vocation directors of 115 women’s religious congregations, 98 of which were LCWR congregations. This is more than one-fourth of the apostolic religious institutes of women in the United States. Because of the success of the first three workshops and the high demand, a fourth workshop was offered in May 2013.

Applications Being Accepted for NRRO Planning and Implementation Process

The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) is currently accepting applications for the 2014 planning and implementation process. Openings are available for the workshop on April 29-May 1 (applications due by Dec. 15) and on September 23-25 (applications due by April 1). Significant consultative assistance and funding are available through this program for any religious institute with more than 25 members and an under-funded retirement liability of 40% or greater. Nearly \$14 million has been distributed through this program since 2009. More information and an application form are available at: www.usccb.org/about/national-religious-retirement-office/planning-and-implementation-assistance.cfm.

Position Available at NRRO Office

The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) is seeking an assistant director of retirement services. Responsibilities will include outreach to communities with a small number of members and/or a high median age and a low level of retirement funding. The assistant director also will 1) develop educational materials (workshops, DVDs, webinars, print and web-based resources) on retirement planning and elder care delivery, and 2) develop and regularly update a clearinghouse of retirement-related resources.

The candidate should have a minimum of five years of experience in working with the senior religious. A master’s degree in gerontology, nursing home administration or a related field is preferred. Strong communication and pastoral skills are a must. The candidate must be proficient in Microsoft Office programs and willing to travel. The job description can be found at www.usccb.org/about/employment/. The position is available immediately but the start date is negotiable.



- Letter to House Leadership in opposition to the SAFE Act to strengthen and fortify immigration enforcement. (10/7/13)
- Letter from the faith community urging Congress to place shared democratic values above short-term political expediency, exercise the courage to fund our nation's government, raise the debt limit without preconditions, and get back to work on a faithful budget that serves the common good. LCWR (10/14/13)
- Letter to House members about HR 15, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013 commending parts of the legislation and registering disappointment that some of the proposed changes will undermine family unity. LCWR (10/24/13)
- Letter to members of the budget conference committee urging them to protect life-saving humanitarian assistance and poverty-focused development programs and to replace sequestration with a balanced deficit-reduction plan. LCWR (10/29/13)
- LCWR letter to members of the House urging support for comprehensive immigration reform which includes a reasonable roadmap to citizenship; prioritizes family unity; protects the rights of all; promotes the integration of new Americans; and addresses the poverty and violence that force migrants from their homes. Janet Mock, CSJ (10/30/13)
- Letter to members of Congress expressing support for international humanitarian and poverty-focused development assistance programs. LCWR (11/11/13)
- Letter urging Farm Bill conferees to oppose cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in conference negotiations and to protect and support SNAP in any Farm Bill Conference Report. LCWR (11/6/13)
- Letter to members of Congress urging them to co-sponsor the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act of 2013. LCWR (11/12/13)
- Letter to Budget Conference Committee from the faith community asking them to protect international poverty-focused development assistance programs from drastic cuts and urging the conference to find a solution to sequester that does not compromise the effectiveness of poverty-focused programs. LCWR (11/11/13)