

Update

A Publication of the
Leadership Conference of Women Religious

January 2013



Pat Farrell, OSF speaking on December 2 at the site where the four US churchwomen were martyred in El Salvador

SHARE Foundation / LCWR Delegation to El Salvador Honors Women Religious

This year's commemoration of the 32nd anniversary of the four church women killed in El Salvador was celebrated jointly by LCWR and the SHARE Foundation with a delegation of more than 60 US participants. SHARE had proposed honoring not only the four martyrs but also LCWR, in a gesture of solidarity with women religious. SHARE chose this solidarity delegation to highlight its promotion of scholarships for Salvadoran women, some of whom met with and inspired the group with their life stories of suffering and service. LCWR past president Pat Farrell, OSF accompanied the delegation, representing LCWR, with a number of other current and former LCWR members in attendance.

The group traveled by bus, tracing in silence the route the four martyrs took from the airport to the site where they were killed. There they celebrated Eucharist with the Maryknoll family in El Salvador, members of the Cleveland team, other US missionaries, and many Salva-

LCWR Launches Two Initiatives

LCWR has contracted with Joyce Meyer, PBVM to begin two initiatives for the organization. Joyce will begin January 1 as a grant writer and a resource person to explore ways that LCWR can be in relationship with communities of sisters beyond the United States. The LCWR national board approved the engagement in this part-time contract as a response to the conference's resolution to develop an increased global perspective as well as further collaboration with women religious in other parts of the world.



Joyce, a native of Minnesota, served as a teacher in Zambia and as executive secretary for the Zambia Association of Sisterhoods. She was in general leadership for her congregation in South Dakota for 12 years, eight as president. She later served for more than 12 years as executive director of the Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters in Los Angeles. She is currently serving as a consultant to foundations and other organizations who work with sisters in the developing world and engages in direct service to sisters in the United States and the developing world. She is a member of the boards of directors of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and Medicines for Humanity.

LCWR looks forward to this new endeavor and welcomes Joyce as a valuable partner. Joyce will continue to work from her office in Encino, California.

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From the LCWR Presidency

'Blessed are the Peacemakers'

Message of Pope Benedict XVI for the World Day of Peace

by Florence Deacon, OSF — LCWR President

For more than 45 years the pope has issued a message calling for world peace at the beginning of each New Year, traditionally released on December 8. However, this year Pope Benedict's message was delayed until December 14, the day America was consumed with grief over the murder of 20 innocent first graders and six adults in Newtown, Connecticut. Seen through the eyes of this tragedy, Benedict's open paragraph takes on poignant meaning:

"Fifty years after the beginning of the Second Vatican Council... it is heartening to realize that Christians, as the People of God in fellowship with him and sojourning among mankind, are committed within history to sharing humanity's joys and hopes, grief and anguish, as they proclaim the salvation of Christ and promote peace for all." (1)

During this time when grief and anguish are colliding with humanity's joys and hopes, Christ's birth into human history reminds us that "peace is both a messianic gift and the fruit of human effort," and "presupposes a humanism open to transcendence." (2) Two thousand years after the birth of the Prince of Peace, we Christians are still trying to figure out how to promote peace for all.

Rather than being a utopian dream, Pope Benedict asserts that peace is possible if we gaze deep within the hearts of those created in the image of God, "called to grow and contribute to building a new world." (3) He calls on various institutions, including religious communities, to help create a culture of peace, explaining that "Today's world, especially the world of politics, needs to be sustained by fresh thinking and a new cultural synthesis..." (6)

He stresses the need to promote a pedagogy of peace, which requires the growth of a pedagogy of pardon. What might that look like? The pope cautions, "This



is a slow process, for it presupposes a spiritual evolution, and education in lofty values, a new vision of human history." (7)

Pope Benedict suggests that acts of peace help create interest in and cultivate peace. This resonates with a facebook campaign created in response to the recent shooting in Connecticut. People are encouraged to commit themselves to engage in 27 acts of generosity, one for each of the first grade children and the adults who were killed. This

simple action reflects Benedict's pedagogy of pardon in which evil is overcome by good.

Using concrete examples, Pope Benedict observes that our current ways of organizing our social, economic and political relationships aren't creating a peaceful world, and a creative new approach is needed. With

"This is a slow process, for it presupposes a spiritual evolution, and education in lofty values, a new vision of human history." -- Pope Benedict XVI

stirring language he calls for "ethics of peace," "a humanism open to transcendence," "the building of a new world," "fresh thinking and a new cultural synthesis," "a spiritual evolution" and "a new vision of human history." How might we contribute to this new cultural synthesis, this spiritual evolution, this new vision of human history?

Writing these phrases, I was reminded of Barbara Marx Hubbard's presentation at last year's LCWR assembly, "The very crises we are facing on a global scale require us to exercise a higher level of ethical, shared commitment and social synergy to realize positive change."

Perhaps Pope Benedict and Barbara Marx Hubbard would have a lot to share over a cup of coffee as they, too, discussed how creating a new world is possible.

SHARE Foundation / LCWR Delegation to El Salvador Honors Women Religious

(continued from page 1)

dorans. Another day the delegation visited the graves in a cemetery in Chalatenango of Maryknoll sisters Maura Clark, Ita Ford, and Carla Piette, a companion of Ita who drowned in a flash flood.

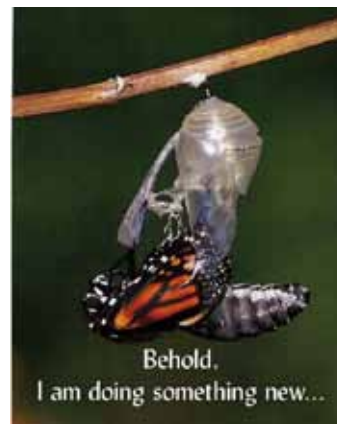


The experience of solidarity on this trip was multifaceted, including an exchange with families of the disappeared, the Pro-historic Memory Committee, and other human rights groups, women's organizations, repopulated refugees in rural communities, and women religious in El Salvador. Solidarity with women religious and LCWR in particular found expression in a panel at the Jesuit University of Central America with theologian Jon Sobrino and Pat Farrell talking about response to conflict with church hierarchy. Responder, Noemi, a Salvadoran religious, spoke passionately of her own experience during and after the war, including the martyrdom of a community member, Silvia Arriola.

Pat spoke of two experiences that were particularly moving for her: "I felt so privileged to speak on behalf of LCWR at the ceremony held by the Salvadoran government's Ministry of Foreign Relations honoring our four US martyrs and other women religious who have accompanied the Salvadoran people. It was an event that neither the four church women nor any of us could have ever imagined and was, indeed, a fitting tribute.

"The SHARE Foundation presented LCWR with an award at the tomb of Archbishop Oscar Romero. To be in that sacred place in representation of women religious filled me with a renewed certainty that we stand in the grace and strength of Romero and other martyrs as we move into the future, discerning what is ours to do."

Recommended Reading Added to LCWR Annotated Bibliography



A new suggested reading for all LCWR members has been added to the LCWR annotated bibliography at lcrw.org/sites/default/files/page/files/bibliography12-12_0.pdf.

The addition is the presentation of the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams who responded to an invitation from Pope Benedict XVI to address the 13th ordinary general assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith. The archbishop framed his remarks within the wisdom, vision, and theology of the Second Vatican Council.



Members of a Salvadoran community sign a banner welcoming the delegation

New Leader Workshop

Presented by the
Leadership Conference of Women Religious

March 21 - 24, 2013
University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois

Space is limited

Registration forms are due by **January 14, 2013**

Forms are available at

[lcsr.org/sites/default/files/calendar/attachments/
nlwregistration2013.pdf](http://lcsr.org/sites/default/files/calendar/attachments/nlwregistration2013.pdf)

The program features an outstanding faculty and presentations
that are tailored to the particular challenges of
religious life leadership today

Nancy Schreck, OSF

Dimensions of Spiritual Leadership

Simone Campbell, SSS and Lynn Jarrell, OSU

Leaders and Canon and Civil Law

Lynn M. Levo, CSJ

*Survival Guide for Leading in a Time of Change and Transition
Working Together in Teams*

Janet Mock, CSJ

The Doctrinal Assessment of LCWR and its Impact on US Religious Life

Janice Bader, CPPS

NRRO Resources for Leaders



THE Occasional Papers



Order Additional Copies of the Winter 2013 Occasional Papers

An order form for the Winter 2013 issue of
LCWR's *Occasional Papers* is available on the
LCWR website at: [lcsr.org/sites/default/files/
publications/files/oporderswinter13.pdf](http://lcsr.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/oporderswinter13.pdf).

Orders are due by **December 20**.

This issue will provide materials for further reflection
on many of the significant events and movements in
the lives of US women religious in recent years. These
include the emphasis on intentional contemplation,
greater awareness of the universe story, the apostolic
visitation, the doctrinal assessment of LCWR, and
all the dynamics that go with these events. How are
women religious sensing a new consciousness of the
significance of religious life in these times? How are
religious sensing a shift in their own self-definition as
religious and their understanding of what religious life
can potentially be? The issue will also provide a means
for reflecting on the church's "Year of Faith" and the
commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Second
Vatican Council. How is the fidelity of religious to the
call of Vatican II fidelity to the invitation to evolution-
ary leadership in a living church?

Content will include articles and interviews on under-
standing conscience, contemporary interpretations of
the vow of obedience, the skill of collaboration, deep-
ening relationships with the laity, exploring the new
texture of religious life, and leading in polarized times.

Although all members, associates, and subscribers will
receive their own copy of this issue, many leaders order
additional copies for their members. Questions about
orders should be directed to Carol Glidden at [cglid-
den@lcsr.org](mailto:cglid-
den@lcsr.org) or at 301-588-4955.

Religious Women Attend Immigration Conference in Atlanta

More than 200 Catholic ministers gathered in Atlanta from December 3 to 5 to discuss the challenges and opportunities for immigration policy reform at both the national and state levels in the next year. Most agreed that the outcome of the November election and the changing tone in the country bode well for action on immigration reform in the 113th Congress.

Keynoters and participants alike were optimistic about the chances for permanent relief for DREAMers and their families as well as comprehensive legislation to fix the country's broken immigration system. It seems clear that the Catholic community will push for policy that includes a roadmap to citizenship for the 11 million aspiring citizens already living in the United States, prioritizes family unity, protects the rights of all workers, ensures that immigrants and refugees have access to services, facilitates integration, restores due process and reforms detention, and addresses the root causes of migration.

Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Atlanta set the tone and context for the gathering in his key note address. "As bishops and as a church, we do not seek immigration reform based on some political calculus of how many votes can be garnered by one political party or the other," he said. "We seek justice for all migrating peoples because they are our brothers and sisters and are made in God's image."

The conference sponsored by USCCB's office on Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) also provided the opportunity for members of the Catholic community to share their experience and expertise. More than 45 women religious caucused on the second day of the conference. They came from every part of the country to discuss their ministry with and on behalf of immigrants. Some are working with detainees; others are serving increasingly diverse populations in parishes, schools, and hospitals; still others are walking with immigrants and refugees as they navigate the complexities of various federal systems. Organizers of the caucus hope the connections made in Atlanta will lead to new opportunities for religious to share resources and collaborate in efforts to serve the immigrant community

Leadership:

Mystery Unfolding



Leadership: Mystery Unfolding
is a retreat for LCWR members
and LCWR associates who are serving
in congregation leadership

January 20 - 25, 2013

Holy Spirit Retreat Center in Encino, California

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.

A few spaces are still available.

More information and registration materials are found at:
lcwr.org/resources/leadership-retreat-2013

and effect immigration reform. Anyone interested in joining the LCWR Immigration Google Group or who is seeking additional information may contact Ann Scholz, SSND, ascholz@lcwr.org.



Observe the National Human Trafficking Awareness Day with Prayer

The United States Congress has designated January 11 Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Human trafficking, both for labor and sex, is among the largest and fastest-growing criminal enterprises in the world. Labor trafficking dominates much of the world economy, and accounts for upwards of two-thirds of the estimated 27 million people enslaved today. Sex trafficking, the more common form in the United States, depends on the willingness of men to pay for sex, and all too often from minors. The average age at which a girl is forced into prostitution in the United States is 11-13; the most vulnerable are those most at risk.

Trafficking exists in every state in the nation, in every major city and, in many cases, even in smaller communities. In the last ten 10 years, efforts to eliminate or reduce trafficking have intensified on both a federal and state level yet trafficking continues.

A coalition of faith-based groups and churches is organizing special noontime prayers on January 11 to be announced by the ringing of church bells. Evening rallies have been planned and there will be webcasts of prayer gatherings in several major cities, including Washington DC, Orlando, Miami, Dallas, Kansas City, and Las Vegas. Every member of Congress will be invited to the rally in DC.

Organizers hope to end trafficking and support survivors as well as raise awareness about the scourge of this modern day slavery. The group is asking clergy and congregations in every community in the nation to join together in this nation-wide prayer initiative.

Information about scheduled events, new events, and resources including prayer guides are available at www.weekendofprayer.net

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat

*Holy Spirit Retreat Center
Encino, California*

January 20 — 25, 2013

LCWR Think Tank Symposium

*Redemptorists' Renewal Center
Tucson, AZ*

February 11-14, 2013

LCWR New Leader Workshop

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

March 21 — 24, 2013

LCWR Assembly

Orlando, Florida

August 13 — 17, 2013

LCWR Assembly

Nashville, Tennessee

August 12 — 16, 2014

LCWR Assembly

Houston, Texas

August 11—15, 2015



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Religious Women Act to End Human Trafficking

The Bakhita Initiative, under the direction of Margaret Nacke, CSJ and with the support of women religious across the country, has recently launched its website. Created to show the extensive work of US congregations of women religious against trafficking, the website provides a visual database of contacts that can network and help to unify efforts of US congregations. A secure website mapping congregational efforts, it contains a wealth of information and resources -- bakhitainitiative.com.

Congregations in Region VII continue to push hotels in Indiana to sign the ECPAT Code of Conduct. The Inn at St. Mary's is the latest hotelier to sign the code. Sisters in the Terre Haute area have been working with officers of Drury Inn to educate them about human trafficking and to encourage them to sign the code.

Celebrate Poverty Awareness Month in January

January is Poverty Awareness Month. People around the country will engage in prayer, reflection, learning, and action to address the root causes of poverty in the United States. A one-page calendar offers suggestions for learning and action on US poverty for each day during the month: www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/povertyusa/upload/poverty-awareness-month-calendar.pdf.

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.

USCCB Launches the Amistad Movement

The Anti-Trafficking Program of USCCB will launch a new awareness campaign in immigrant communities around the nation. The first phase of the campaign will target Haitians in South Florida, pockets of indigenous Maya communities around the country, and new Hispanic migrants in the Gulf States.

The USCCB staff will train individuals in these communities to conduct outreach to their peers, and provide them with resources including language-specific marketing materials. The campaign will focus on awareness raising, education, and coalition building among communities most vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking — in particular recent immigrants engaged in industries that are poorly regulated such as agriculture, in-home care, and hospitality. The staff is seeking to identify individuals who may want to be certified as *The Amistad Movement* trainers. Those interested should contact Lauren Rymer at lymer@usccb.org.

Plan to Participate in National Migration Week January 6-12

The 2013 observance of National Migration Week, will commemorate the 10th anniversary of the historic joint pastoral letter of the United States and Mexico bishops conferences, "Strangers No Longer" www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/immigration/strangers-no-longer-together-on-the-journey-of-hope.cfm.

This year's theme, "We are Strangers No Longer: Our Journey of Hope Continues," reminds Catholics of their responsibility to welcome the stranger and help newcomers integrate in ways that are respectful, culturally sensitive, and responsive; and of the obligation to advocate for comprehensive and compassionate immigration reform. Planning resources are available at: www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/.

Faith Leaders Urge Protection of Programs that Help the Most Vulnerable

Senior religious officials from 16 states joined the heads of some of the nation's most prominent Christian, Jewish, and Muslim organizations on November 29 to tell the Obama Administration and Congress, "Don't push the poor and most vulnerable off the 'fiscal cliff.'"

In meetings with congressional leaders and budget negotiators, the religious leaders reminded lawmakers that the deficit is the result of inadequate revenue, unnecessary pentagon spending, and a recession that has pushed people into poverty. They warned that significant cuts in any budget deal to vital humanitarian and poverty-focused assistance programs such as International Development, Disaster Assistance and Food Aid programs, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, low-income housing assistance, Head Start, and other initiatives, could result in increased poverty. In addition, the religious leaders asked legislators not to make cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security that place an additional burden on vulnerable Americans and those living in poverty.

As Deborah Troillett, RSM, of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas leadership team, explained: "We don't have a budget crisis in this country. There's plenty of money. We have a values crisis, a priorities crisis. If Congress cuts back on even the tiny portion—less than 1% of our budget—that we give for humanitarian and poverty programs, this would be a terrible message to give. We as religious, call on our country's leaders to not push the most marginalized peoples off the 'fiscal cliff,' but rather to uphold the values that are at the heart of our national strength: compassion, fairness, and treating every life on this precious earth of ours with dignity and reverence."

Members of the faith community organized the meetings as part of a multi-denominational and interreligious effort to "speak the truth" about the deficit and to ensure congressional leaders do not preserve tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans while pushing more people into poverty.

The faith community is working through a number of national campaigns, including the Faithful Budget Cam-

paign (faithfulbudget.org), Nuns on the Bus (nunsonthebus.org), African American Voices for Africa (bread.org/hunger/global/voices-for-africa), and the Circle of Protection (circleofprotection.us/index1.html), to lift-up the nation's moral obligation to protect the poor and vulnerable, and to ask Congress and the Administration to follow the religious imperative to promote the general welfare of all individuals in the United States and around the world.

Upcoming Events

The 2013 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, *Promoting Human Life and Dignity in the Year of Faith*, will bring together national Catholic organizations to explore common challenges and policies that affect human life and dignity. Social justice ministers will gather February 10-13, 2013 at the Washington DC Marriott Wardman Park. The last date to register online is Wednesday, February 6, 2013. Details and registration information are available at www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/catholic-social-ministry-gathering.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days is scheduled for April 5-8, 2013. Approximately 1,000 Christian advocates will attend the 11th annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days to seek Food Justice for a Healthy World! In a world that produces enough food for everyone, EAD will explore the injustices in global food systems that leave one billion people hungry, create food price shocks that destabilize communities everywhere, and undermine God's creation. Speakers will offer a faith-based vision for fair and humane food policies and practices, along with grassroots advocacy training, all culminating with a lobbying effort on April 8 on Capitol Hill. Early registration continues through March 15 at advocacydays.org/2013-at-gods-table/registration.



NRVC Receives Grant to Implement Objectives of National Vocation Plan

NRVC has been awarded a \$180,000 grant by an anonymous foundation to implement two objectives from its National Vocation Plan, a product of the 2010 Moving Forward in Hope vocation symposium. The grant will fund the following two projects:

Men Religious Moving Forward in Hope

NRVC will convene in fall 2013 two workshops for religious brothers and priests for the purpose of studying contemporary research pertinent to religious vocations for men and the opportunities and challenges they present for vocation promotion. Emphasis will be given on what men religious need to do together in order to ensure the vitality and viability of religious priesthood and brotherhood in the future. These workshops will be similar in format to those currently sponsored by NRVC for women religious.

Study on the Integration of Multicultural and Multiethnic Candidates into US Religious Institutes

According to the 2009 NRVC/CARA Study, 94 percent of finally professed religious are white Caucasian, compared to only 59 percent of newer entrants. In collaboration with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), NRVC will initiate research in the spring of 2013 to study all women's and men's religious institutes for the purpose of:

- identifying best practices for incorporation and integration of multi-cultural and multi-ethnic candidates into religious life, and
- informing what future materials and resources are needed to assist institutes in accomplishing this integration effectively.

NRVC is currently putting together two planning groups to accomplish each of the above tasks.

Women Religious Moving Forward in Hope

The first gathering of Women Religious Moving Forward in Hope was held at the Felician Motherhouse in Chicago, Illinois, from November 26-28. Members of leadership and vocation ministers from 32 diverse women's congregations heard presentations from Mary Johnson, SNDdeN, on the generational, ethnic, and cultural demographics of Catholic women in the church today and their implications for new membership in religious life. With this input, facilitators Gloria Marie Jones, OP and Kieran Foley, FSE, guided the group through a process of dialogue, contemplation, and prayer on how leadership can work together with their vocation ministers in promoting vowed membership in their congregations. A final document summarizing these deliberations will be published for wide distribution in spring 2014.

NRVC is grateful to the GHR Foundation for underwriting this unique initiative. While the grant was written to accommodate 75 religious congregations, due to the overwhelming desire to participate, NRVC accepted all 97 applying communities. The next two gatherings are scheduled for January 7-9, in Burlingame, California, and March 5-7 in Latham, New York. At the conclusion of this program, approximately one-quarter of women's apostolic institutes will have participated in this program.



Participants take part in evening prayer on November 26, in Chicago, at the first of three "Moving Forward in Hope" gatherings for women

2012 NRVC Convocation

Despite the disruptions caused by Hurricane Sandy, more than 300 participants gathered under the theme, Vocation Ministers as Ambassadors of Christ: A Reconciling Presence, for the 2012 NRVC Convocation from November 1-5 at the Marriott Hotel in Plano, Texas. The keynote speakers included Archbishop Joseph Tobin, CSsR, newly installed archbishop of Indianapolis and former secretary to the Congregation for Consecrated life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and Kathryn J. Hermes, FSP, acclaimed author, retreat director, and media specialist. In addition to presentations on the NRVC Study on Educational Debt and the recent USCCB Study on Vocations and Unmarried Catholics, a panel of vocation directors presented how they implemented some of the best practices for vocation promotion found in the 2009 NRVC/CARA Study. All of the keynote presentations will be published in the Winter 2013 edition of *Horizon*.

Center of Concern Seeking Development Director

The Center of Concern is seeking an experienced director of development who will be responsible for all aspects of development and donor outreach, including direct mail appeals, major donor relations, foundation grants, planned giving, and memberships. He/she will work closely with the center president, chief operating officer, program staff, and board. More information is available at www.coc.org/coc/job-opening-director-development-center-concern. Applications are to be submitted to resumes@coc.org. Deadline: January 31, 2013.