

Update

A Publication of the
Leadership Conference of Women Religious

December 2012

Organizations Honor LCWR and US Women Religious

Call To Action

On November 11 Call To Action honored LCWR past president Pat Farrell, OSF with its Leadership Award at its national conference in Louisville, Kentucky.



In accepting the award, Pat called for continuous discernment on what is most essential, noting that we “need to return again and again into the probing thoughtfulness of scripture, of the study of theology, and of genuine conversation with each other. We have work to do. The task of transformation -- and it’s nothing less than that -- is neither quick nor easy. It needs the effort of every morning of every day.”

Central United Methodist Church of Detroit

Detroit’s Central United Methodist Church will honor LCWR president Florence Deacon at its eighth annual peace and justice banquet on December 2. At the same time, the church will honor Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin, the parents of Tray-

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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

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



From the LCWR Presidency

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, God-With-Us

by Carol Zinn, SSJ — LCWR President-Elect

Perhaps it is because Henry Ossawa Tanner comes from Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, in particular) that I am drawn to his art. Perhaps it is because his depiction of religious art is world-renowned. Perhaps it is because he lived at a time when his race and his profession were held against him in this country and he had to find a way to be an “American artist” by going to Paris. Perhaps it is because his journey speaks to the journeys of so many of us -- moving patiently and faithfully from clarity to clarity; paying attention to light as well as shadows; looking for the most poignant moment in which God dwells and then savoring it; noticing our heart-places where God visits and announces a message of new life, birth, invitation; presenting for all the world to see and experience those Incarnational movements that beg a response from us. Or perhaps it is because Tanner’s *Annunciation* captures not only the Advent season but the advents of our lives, all year long.

As we step into this holy season of waiting, watching, hoping, and yearning, this well-known work might provide some Advent reflection for us as we continue to wait, watch, hope, and yearn for the next steps of clarity and direction in our personal, congregational, national, and global lives. We might attend more deeply to the places of light and shadow with a holiness of presence even when the brightness blinds and the darkness darkens. We might respond more deeply to the invitation of birthing anew this life we love and cherish even when the birthing includes



dying. We might accept more deeply the mystery and unknown of our day and time in a stance of contemplative gaze and embrace it, joyfully, even when it is most difficult. We might listen long and lovingly and answer faithfully and fearlessly even when the cost is great, for the sake of the One Who Is.

As we move through these Advent days together, may we move as one body with Mary’s stance as our guide. May our LCWR processes continue to mirror the journey of those who have welcomed the Word-Among-Us and remain committed to birthing Emmanuel again and again, here and now. May we reflect together on the aspects of Tanner’s *Annunciation* knowing that, too, we are looking at Light sent *by* Love and are being asked, individually and together, to respond *to* Love *with* Love.



Denise Levertov offers a profound reflection on the Annunciation in these excerpts from her work of the same name: “... the engendering Spirit did not enter her without consent ... God waited ... she was free to accept or to refuse, choice integral to humanness ... an astounding ministry she was offered ... this was the minute no one speaks of, when she could still refuse ... a breath unbreathed ... Spirit suspended ...

waiting ... consent, courage unparalleled, opened her utterly.” May this Advent season and the Christmas Feast it heralds find us open and free, utterly. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel...God-With-Us!

Organizations Honor LCWR and US Women Religious

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von Martin; and the late Ethel Schwartz, a labor activist and member of the Gray Panthers.

SHARE Foundation

The SHARE Foundation and several Salvadoran communities will present an award to LCWR for the conference's dedication to walking with people in need and to working for social justice in El Salvador and throughout the world. Pat Farrell will receive the award on behalf of women religious.

Herbert Haag Foundation

The Herbert Haag Foundation for Freedom in the Church will award its 2013 prize to LCWR and the 46,000 women religious whom the LCWR members represent. The Haag Foundation notes, "Their struggle for the marginalized and people in difficult circumstances, their presence to the needs of today's world, and their careful reflection of the signs of the times in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, have made them a pillar of the Catholic Church in the United States of America."

The foundation also states that through this award it wishes to "give weight in Europe to the strong voice of these women, giving encouragement to those resigned to silence. If the Church wants to give hope to the coming generations, then it finds expression in the voice of Sr. Pat Farrell when she said at LCWR's national assembly in August 2012: 'We are in a time of crisis and that is a hopeful place to be... Crisis precedes transformation.'

The prize for Freedom in the Church was endowed by Herbert Haag (1915 – 2001), professor of Old Testament at the University of Tübingen in Germany. This prize honors people and institutions that engage themselves in the spirit of the apostle Paul for freedom in the church and in doing so give witness to the world.

Pat Farrell will receive the prize on behalf of LCWR at a celebration on April 14 in Lucerne, Switzerland.

LCWR Executive Committee Members Attend Meetings in DC/Baltimore

The LCWR executive committee met from November 5-7 at Washington Theological Union (WTU). Participating in the meeting were: Florence Deacon, OSF; president; Carol Zinn, SSJ, president-elect; Pat Farrell, OSF, past president; Barbara Blesse, OP, secretary; Sheila Megley, RSM, treasurer; Patricia Rayburn, OSF; and Nancy Schreck, OSF, members-at-large; and Janet Mock, CSJ, executive director.

The meeting agenda included reports from the presidents and executive director, the CDF mandate, review of the budget, development efforts, possible new projects for LCWR, committee appointments, an evaluation of the 2012 LCWR assembly, and discussion of the 2013 assembly. Members of the LCWR staff also joined the committee for discussion of their work.

On November 8, the LCWR and CMSM executive committees held a joint meeting at WTU.

The following day, Florence, Carol, Pat, Barbara, and Janet attended the annual meeting of the Commission on Religious Life and Ministry. The commission is comprised of representatives of LCWR, CMSM, the US Catholic Conference of Bishops, Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, and the National Religious Retirement Office.

Janet represented LCWR on November 10 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 over the previous year.

The presidency and executive director also attended some sessions of the November USCCB meeting as observers on November 12 and 13.



LCWR executive committee and staff meet in Washington, DC.

Space Still Available at LCWR Think Tank XV

Time is running out and space is limited. Congregational leaders and their justice promoters and communicators are invited to participate in the XV LCWR Think Tank for Systemic Change, "Between Religion and Revelation: Faithful Discipleship in Today's Church," February 11- 14, 2013 at the Redemptorist Renewal Center at Picture Rocks in Tucson, Arizona.

The presenter for this year's symposium will be Anthony Gittins, CSSp who has taught theology and cultural anthropology at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago since 1984. Born in Manchester, England and a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, he was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1967. He has lectured, offered workshops, and given retreats in more than 30 countries. In addition, he has extensive experience as a hospital chaplain and for the past 25 years has worked with and among homeless women in Chicago. His work touches the interface between the social sciences and theological disciplines. Registration closes December 15, 2012. Materials are available at: lcwr.org/social-justice/systemic-change-think-tank-2012. Additional information may be obtained from Carol Glidden at 301-588-4955 - cglidden@lcwr.org.

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/women-spirit-dvd



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: lcwr.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 evolutionary leadership in a living church?

Content will include articles and interviews on understanding conscience, contemporary interpretations of the vow of obedience, the skill of collaboration, deepening 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. If you have any questions about an order, please contact Carol Glidden at cglidden@lcwr.org or at 301-588-4955.

Urge States to Expand Eligibility for Medicaid

The re-election of President Obama suggests that the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will proceed. However, the expansion of its Medicaid eligibility provision is sure to provoke resistance and heated debate in some state legislatures.

While the June 28 Supreme Court decision upheld the most controversial sections of the ACA, it simultaneously ruled that the federal government could not require states to expand Medicaid to cover those earning up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level. It will be up to governors and state legislatures to decide if their states will extend health care coverage to low-income workers and their families.

It is doubtful that all state lawmakers and governors will embrace the law. Seven Republican governors have already announced their intention to reject Medicaid expansion and the federal funds that accompany it—including the governors of Florida and Texas with the nation's largest populations of uninsured residents living in poverty. Participating states will receive federal funds to cover the expanded population: 100 percent in 2014, 2015, and 2016; 95 percent in 2017; 94 percent in 2018; 93 percent in 2019; and 90 percent in 2020 and thereafter.

NETWORK, the Catholic social justice lobby, is inviting citizens to take their concerns to their governors and state legislators. They have created a toolkit which includes basics facts about Medicaid, talking points; sample press releases and letters to the editor, and additional resources.

Additional information about the campaign can be found at www.networklobby.org/nuns-bus-medicaid-expansion and a toolkit may be downloaded from www.networklobby.org/files/Medicaid%20Expansion%20Toolkit.pdf. For additional information contact Mary Ellen Lacy, DC at melacy@networklobby.org.

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.

Retreat Directors



Maria Elena Martinez, OSF



Mary Waskowiak, RSM

Registration will close on December 13.

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

Fostering Collaborative Leadership

by Marie McCarthy, SP
LCWR Associate Director of Programs

As I begin my work in this newly created position of associate director of programs for LCWR, I thought it might be of interest to the membership to hear something about how this position came to be and what the hopes are for serving the membership through this position.



For a number of years there has been a desire to find the funding that would allow for a staff person who would pay particular attention to the need expressed by the members for assistance in developing the skills for leading from an emerging future. Spurred, in part, by the words of Joan Chittister, OSB to the LCWR assembly in 2007, the members of LCWR recognized, “that we ourselves are now the new small groups of women leaders who must come from one kind of religious life to begin another kind in a new and different world... We need leadership that will follow the lights within the group to the edge of tomorrow rather than the preservation of yesterday.”

As the conference engaged in a variety of future planning endeavors, the members expressed the desire to review and revise LCWR programs and the Leading from Within Manual so as to better meet emerging needs, use current and emerging technology as means of communication to full advantage, and offer assistance that would strengthen leaders’ capacity to engage in transformative leadership. A group of leaders and resource people was called together early in 2011 to identify overarching frameworks, foundational themes, processes, and structures that would be essential to such a program. As their work progressed, a design group focused on identifying competencies, content, and outcomes for the program.

A grant proposal entitled, “The Collaborative Leadership Program,” was developed. This proposal spoke to the demands that face women religious who accept leadership positions within today’s ecclesial and civil

milieu and “the need to be prepared to give birth to their charism in fresh authentic ways by responding to contemporary needs even as they attend to expressions of religious life that are waning.” The grant proposal was successfully funded and the new program, now titled Leadership Pathways was announced early in 2012. We are now moving into the launching stage of Leadership Pathways, which will involve identifying and training mentors for the program and identifying an initial learning cohort to pilot the first module. In the months ahead I will be in touch with you in a variety of ways to solicit your wisdom and ideas, needs, and willingness to serve as a mentor or as a participant in the initial learning cohort.

While Leadership Pathways will be a major focus of this new position, I also will be attending to the development, implementation, and coordination of all the programs offered to the membership through LCWR. As a staff we are hoping to provide the membership with a coordinated, coherent, and consistent approach to



leadership and to provide the vehicles that will most effectively help to enhance your leadership skills. We also want to assist current leaders in the fostering of leadership skills among newer members who will need to be prepared to assume leadership positions in the future.

As we work toward these goals, we will be networking with the Religious Formation Conference, religious congregations, organizations, and individuals who are already developing programs and resources in this area. Our hope is to bring forth the best of what is available without reduplicating efforts. I will be in touch with all of you through the various structures we already have in place in order to learn more about your dreams, desires, and hopes for programs offered through LCWR. In the meantime, I would welcome any ideas, wisdom, hopes, or suggestions you have as we move forward together in this endeavor. (mmccarthy@lcwr.org)

Reflecting on the Hopes and Fears of LCWR Members



Baskets of fears and hopes from the 2012 LCWR assembly

During the opening ritual of the 2012 LCWR assembly, the participants prayed, “We have been faithful. We have followed the ways of Jesus in the gospel. Mindful of all we’ve been and all we are, we pause now to move into conscious awareness of the One in whom all things are possible, for it is through God, with God, and in God that the unfolding of this critical moment will happen. We entrust all our fears and hopes to the very Source of Love and Life.”

Following that prayer, participants wrote their fears and hopes on papers that were collected and carried in baskets to the stage as part of the ritual. Those fears and hopes are now at the LCWR national office in Silver Spring, Maryland. The members of the LCWR staff have been invited to select one hope and one fear everyday and utilize them as a type of examen or prayer for their workday.

Commemorate International Human Rights Day—December 10

December 10 marks the annual celebration of International Human Rights Day. This year’s theme focuses on inclusion and the right of all to participate in public life. The theme draws directly from articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which speak of the right to freedom of expression and opinion, the right to freedom of assembly and

association, and the right to participate in government, either directly or through freely chosen representatives. Fulfillment of the right to participate is fundamental to the functioning of a democracy and an effective human rights protection system.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted on December 10, 1948 and is widely recognized as the foremost statement of rights, freedoms, and responsibilities. It has served as the foundation for an expanding system of human rights protections that today extend to all including disabled persons, indigenous peoples, and migrant workers.

The Universal Declaration is the most translated document in the world and is available in more than 380 languages and dialects at www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Pages/SearchByLang.aspx. The UDHR is available at www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/.

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



Graves of Maryknoll missionaries in El Salvador

Women Religious to be Honored in El Salvador

Forty-five women religious will travel to El Salvador as part a delegation sponsored by the SHARE Foundation and LCWR. They will participate in events to mark the 32nd anniversary of the martyrdom of four US missionaries who were assassinated by the Salvadoran military for their advocacy on behalf of refugees and the poor. Ceremonies will include a service to honor LCWR for its dedication to advocacy for justice in El Salvador. LCWR Pat Farrell, OSF will receive the award on behalf of all women religious.

The SHARE Foundation will also launch a scholarship program for girls and young women named for the four missionaries.

The delegation will be in El Salvador from November 30 to December 5 and will visit the site of the assassination of the four missionaries to remember them and celebrate their lives. They will also petition Salvadoran President Mauricio Funes and the Salvadoran government to declare the site a national monument.

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.



- LCWR submitted comments to Health and Human Services urging them to revise rules that would prohibit individuals receiving relief through the administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) to qualify for health coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
- Letter from the interfaith community congratulating President Obama on his re-election signed by LCWR president Florence Deacon, OSF.
- Letter from LCWR to the UN General Assembly from civil society organizations urging the GA to develop mechanisms or meaningful participation of civil society in its High Level Dialogue on migration.

NRRO Accepting Applications for Planning Process

The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) currently is accepting applications for its 2013 Planning and Implementation process. Information on the April 16-18 workshop at Bergamo Center in Dayton, OH or the September 24-26 workshop at Bon Secours in Marriottsville, Maryland may be obtained by contacting the NRRO. Information about eligibility requirements and the planning process itself is available at www.usccb.org/about/national-religious-retirement-office/upload/P-and-I-Booklet-2.pdf



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Protect Migrant Children

Violence in three Central American countries is the primary cause of a dramatic upsurge in the number of unaccompanied immigrant children crossing the border into the United States, and until conditions in these countries change substantially, this trend is likely to continue, cautions the Women's Refugee Commission in their recently released report, "Forced From Home: The Lost Boys and Girls of Central America."

In the past year an unprecedented number of unaccompanied alien children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras began migrating to the United States. The Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), the agency tasked with the care of these children, had a record 10,005 unaccompanied children in its care by April 2012.

Children interviewed for the study said that increasingly desperate conditions led them to flee their homes. They cited the growing influence of youth gangs and drug cartels as the primary reason for their leaving. Girls told of rising gender-based violence. Almost all of the children decided to migrate because of longstanding, complex problems in their home countries including crime, corruption, and economic inequality.

The US government is responsible for protecting children who are apprehended alone or without caregivers. Until parents, legal guardians, or other appropriate caregivers are located, these children remain in the custody of ORR. In response to the recent influx, ORR worked around the clock to open several emergency shelters to move children out of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) holding facilities, where they are initially housed after apprehension. While in custody, some children reported being abused physically and verbally and having their few belongings torn up or thrown away.

The report lays out recommendations to remedy these gaps, which have become further aggravated as more unaccompanied children come to the United States, and to protect and bring justice to the children. The report is available at wrc.ms/WuG8IM.

Celebrate International Migrants Day — December 18

Throughout human history, migration has been a courageous expression of people's desire to overcome adversity and to secure a better life for themselves and their families. Globalization and advances in communications and transportation have greatly accelerated migration. The total number of international migrants has increased over the last 10 years from an estimated 150 million in 2000 to 214 million persons today; almost most half of whom are women.

In his 2011 Migrants Day message Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recalled the important contributions migrants make when their rights and human dignity are protected:

When their rights are violated, when they are marginalized and excluded, migrants will be unable to contribute either economically or socially to the societies they have left behind or those they enter. However, when supported by the right policies and human rights protections, migration can be a force for good for individuals as well as for countries of origin, transit, and destination.

On December 18, 1990, the UN General Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Ten years later the assembly declared that December 18 be set aside for member states and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to observe International Migrants Day through the dissemination of information on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, through the sharing of the experiences of migrants, and through the design of actions to ensure the protection of people on the move.

The Commission for Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation of the USG/UISG has prepared a prayer to be used on International Migrants Day. It is available at jpicformation.wikispaces.com/EN_18Dec.

Join Colleagues for Upcoming Justice Events

The Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, “Promoting Human Life and Dignity in the Year of Faith,” is scheduled for February 10-13, 2013 at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. This meeting of Catholic leaders from around the country to learn about the larger picture of Catholic social ministry and current domestic and global challenges related to life, dignity, justice, and peace will offer the opportunity for connections with social ministry colleagues to share best practices, plan for emerging needs, and identify areas for more effective cooperation. The gathering offers spiritual as well professional enrichment, and opportunities to advocate in person for policies that will protect and support people suffering poverty and injustice. Details and registration information are available at www.catholic-socialministrygathering.org.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days, “At God’s Table Food Justice for a Healthy World,” is planned for April 5-8, 2013 at DoubleTree Hotel in Crystal City, VA. 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 Monday’s Lobby Day on Capitol Hill. Participation in EAD 2013 will help build a world in which every person, in present and future generations, has a place “At God’s Table.” All are invited to join the nearly 10,000 Christian advocates who over the past 11 years have made a faithful public witness on Capitol Hill. Registration is available at www.AdvocacyDays.org.



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. The theme of the 2013 commemoration, “We are Strangers No Longer: Our Journey of Hope Continues,” is a reminder of the responsibility to welcome the stranger, help newcomers integrate in ways that are respectful, culturally sensitive, and responsive to social needs 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/.



Transformation of Religious Life: An Action-Oriented Initiative 2013 Workshops

Registration now open

Please click on a link below for program and location information

February 15-17, San Antonio, Texas

March 8-10, Baltimore, Maryland

April 5-7, Renton, Washington

April 26-28, West Hartford, Connecticut

May 3-5, St. Louis, Missouri

Information and registration can also be accessed through the RFC web-site www.relforcon.org or by calling the RFC national office at 301-588-4938.

Plan to Participate in National Migration Week 2013—January 6-12

This year’s observance of National Migration Week commemorates the 10th anniversary of the historic joint pastoral letter of the United States and Mexico