



LEADERSHIP

Evolving: Graced, Grounded & Free

Annual Report of the
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
2013 -- 2014

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LCWR Associate Director for Communications

The LCWR Presidency

Throughout this past year, the “Francis Effect” touched the minds and hearts of all peoples around the globe. With simple words, humble actions, and loving embraces, Pope Francis welcomed everyone to the heart of God as did Jesus in his own culture and history. LCWR members joined the rest of the world in witnessing the transformation generated by one, single, faithful follower of Christ, our brother religious, Francis.

In the spirit of Francis and in fidelity to its mission, LCWR served its members through publications that deepened the inherent connections between the foundations of our faith and the exploration of conscious evolution; through programs that strengthened the members’ capacity to lead religious institutes in these changing and challenging times; and through processes that supported the necessary and sustaining rhythm between contemplation and action.

In this past year we moved from “Leadership Evolving: Graced, Grounded and Free,” through times marked by deep prayer, reflection, and discernment, to moments filled with grace, clarity, and courage. We arrive at this point in time, grateful for the many ways that “Holy Mystery Revealed in Our Midst” invites us to live more fully and love more freely. May we continue to rejoice in the vocation that is ours, for the life of the world.

Carol Zinn, SSJ
LCWR President

Sharon Holland, IHM
LCWR President-Elect

Florence Deacon, OSF
LCWR Past President



Florence Deacon, OSF; Sharon Holland, IHM; and Carol Zinn, SSJ

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Executive Director

An annual report – how does one put into words what this year has held or what learnings have emerged from living daily life at LCWR nationally? I simply find myself filled with gratitude.

- Leadership Pathways has been launched and a significant number of members (three cohorts instead of our expected one pilot group) are engaged and happy learning together;
- Programs are constantly being renewed as members affirm what is working and suggest ways we can improve;
- Our publications are nourishing members and members' members and their friends in an ever expanding circle of people who hunger and thirst for God and meaning . . .
- . . . and justice. Public action, private meetings, and consistent letter writing are slowly moving issues like human trafficking, economic poverty, and the need for national, effective, and compassionate immigration laws forward through national discourse and hopefully legislation to protect the rights of those made vulnerable in society;
- Fiscally, LCWR is doing alright because of the superb stewardship of those who oversee our finances, despite shifting demographics;
- Through the building of good relationships in the world of the media, correspondents and reporters are willing to wait until we are ready to say what we want to say;
- Our technological skills are growing steadily and though you and we experience the growing pains of doing things in new ways, we ARE learning new ways of doing things.
- We are working closely with Joan Mumaw, IHM, US director of development for the Solidarity with South Sudan Project, who now has office space in our building and has quickly become an integral part of LCWR's daily life. Joan's presence continues to help us set our sights on the larger world.

All of this happens, of course, because the eight women with whom I am privileged to work each day are sterling. They can go toe to toe with you, our members, in your own generous commitment to excellence in leadership and administration. This



combination of engaged members and staff who love what they do creates, hopefully, the organization we want and one in which we can take pride.

None of this would be possible without the governance of the organization. It is something of a miracle that despite the almost 30 percent turnover on the national board each year, we have consistently been blessed with extraordinary members willing to serve as regional chairs and members of the LCWR board. At the assembly, we will address long-range planning for the organization. This work is the fruit of careful study of the organization over six years and is both visionary and practical in its proposal. We must do what we must in the present in order to be free for the future God is presenting to us.

The presidency – amazing women, brilliant women, generous women, courageous women, humble women. Sometimes when we are working together on a statement or thinking through an agenda, or talking about an approach, I pause and am astounded that they give themselves so fully to the work of LCWR when they have quite demanding “day jobs.” I never take for granted their generous engagement and am always aware and grateful for the leadership teams back home who do the extra things so that they can lead LCWR so effectively. We think of a three-person presidency and it is - but it also consists of three congregations who generously provide one of their own for the common good.

To all, I say: *Thank you!*

Janet Mock, CSJ
Executive Director

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Assembly 2013

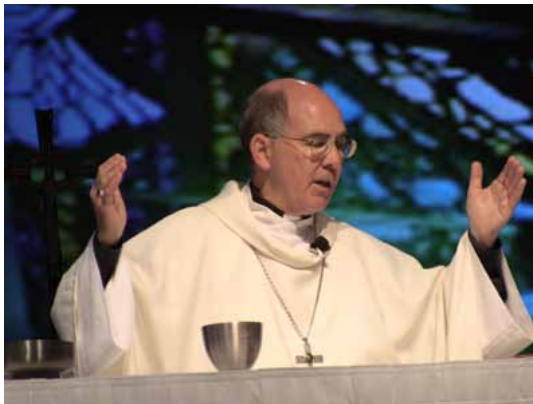
Leadership Evolving: Graced, Grounded & Free



More than 820 LCWR members and associates attended the 2013 assembly in Orlando, Florida in August



Theologian Ilia Delio, OSF delivered the keynote address entitled "Religious Life on the Edge of the Universe"



Members discussed the doctrinal assessment of LCWR by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at executive sessions. The CDF delegate appointed to oversee the reform of LCWR, Archbishop J Peter Sartain, attended the assembly, addressed the members, and presided at some of the Eucharistic liturgies



2013 LCWR president Florence Deacon, OSF delivered an address on being faithful women of the church and of the Gospel

The 2013 LCWR Assembly



Local Florida residents joined the assembly and formed a panel that addressed the need for and work toward reform of the US immigration system. The assembly participants signed postcards imploring their representatives to pass comprehensive immigration reform and took up a collection for HopeCommUnity Center's work with deferred action for childhood arrivals.

Election of Officers

During the assembly, the members elected **Sharon Holland, IHM** to the presidency and re-elected for a third term **Barbara Blesse, OP** as secretary

Pre-Assembly Workshop

Approximately 150 members attended a workshop prior to the assembly presented by LCWR, the Resource Center for Religious Institutes, and the National Religious Retirement Office. The workshop addressed the importance of planning for the future and explained services offered by the three organizations.



LCWR honored its 2012 president Pat Farrell, OSF with the 2013 LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award. Shown here at the award ceremony are: Carol Zinn, SSJ; Pat; Florence Deacon, OSF; and Sharon Holland, IHM



Leadership Development

The conference is dedicated to providing resources for leadership development in a variety of ways to meet the needs of its members.



Leadership Pathways

Shortly after returning from the annual assembly, LCWR received word from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation that it was awarding LCWR \$500,000 over a three year period in order to support the development and implementation of Leadership Pathways. An initial request for volunteers to pilot portions of the program was greeted with so much enthusiasm that a waiting list had to be started.

In November a total of 33 members assigned to one of four groups began piloting "Becoming the Leaders We Hope to Be," the initial module on Identity as a Leader. One group had to withdraw due to the demands of chapter preparation. All the other groups are continuing through the units at varying paces. This portion of the program will open to the whole membership in fall 2014.

In addition, at spring regional meetings all the members participated in a member-wide contemplative conversation aimed at deepening our communal engagement around the big questions facing women religious today and increasing our collective capacity to lead creatively from an emerging future. Feedback from these conversations will be used to seed the next conversation.

Plans are also underway to pilot a learning lab on emerging consciousness and leadership and to develop and pilot a foundational module on Mission-Grounded Leadership.

Leading From Within Retreat

In January of this year, 29 LCWR members gathered at the Redemptorist Renewal Center outside Tucson for the Leading From Within Retreat. The retreat, which was staffed by Mary Ann Zollmann, BVM; Marie McCarthy, SP; and Annmarie Sanders, IHM, provided input, suggestions for reflection, communal prayer and ritual, unstructured time for prayer and reflection, and the opportunity for small group sharing for those who wished. Many expressed appreciation for the opportunity to share at such depth with other leaders and all were especially grateful for the warmth and beauty of the Sonoran desert in the midst of the very harsh winter.





Imagining Justice

In early March, 43 justice promoters, communicators, and elected leaders participated in the Imagining Justice Event (formerly the Systemic Think Tank) at Bethany Center in Lutz, Florida. The focus for the gathering was “Transformational Change Through Evolutionary Eyes.” Nancy Sylvester, IHM facilitated the group, both providing input and ably leading the group in the sharing of wisdom and insights and in periods of communal contemplation. Participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to consider the various aspects of the ministry of justice in a wider and deeper context and for having time and space during the event to reflect on and integrate the experience.



Leadership Collaborative

L CWR continues its work with the Collaborative Leadership Development Program, an effort designed to provide education and support in a spiritual and communal context for the future leaders of congregations of women religious, including their co-members and associates. With a goal of providing participants with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to assume leadership positions in community and ministry, the program fosters self-growth and spiritual development through in-person sessions, webinars, study, mentoring, and coaching. The program instills such skills as conflict-resolution, strategic planning, systems thinking, dialogue, and feedback.

New Leader Workshop

The workshop for new leaders was held once again at the end of March in Mundelein, Illinois. Seventy-three leaders participated in this event. The workshop covered a wide range of topics that fill the daily lives of leaders. Some of the topics included were canon and civil law, working effectively as a team, leading in a time of change and transition, and retirement planning. The entire workshop was framed by consideration of the spiritual dimensions of leadership and assisting congregations to read and respond to the signs of the time. Throughout the workshop times were provided for leadership teams to meet together to apply the material being presented to specific situations the team was encountering. Prayer and ritual framed the entire time together and included an experience of the contemplative process in which LCWR has been engaged in recent years.



Helpful Leadership Practices

L CWR members have been sharing with one another via the conference newsletter practical ideas that members can use to exercise their ministry of leadership. These have included practices that members have created to make their leadership work effective, formative, and fun.



Resources for Leadership

LCWR provides a number of services and resources designed to keep its members aware of conference news and significant events that call for their response and action.

In addition to its electronic messaging system LCWR uses its website, Facebook page, and a monthly newsletter to keep members informed of conference and religious life matters.

Publications

LCWR also publishes a bi-annual journal, *Occasional Papers*, and an annual reflection journal. For the first time, LCWR expanded its marketing efforts and advertised the 2014 reflection journal, *Praying in These Emerging Times*, in print and online editions of *America* and the *National Catholic Reporter*, and made copies of the publication available to sell in retreat and motherhouse bookstores and gift shops.

Website

LCWR moved forward with a new development phase of its website designed to facilitate easier registration for LCWR events, as well as more payment options for registration and purchase of LCWR materials.

Translations

Due to the generosity of several LCWR congregations, some of LCWR's publications and statements were translated into Spanish and French. These included: the text for videos of the 2013 LCWR assembly; the 2013 LCWR reflection book, *Navigating the Shifts*; and several articles from *Occasional Papers*. All translated resources are placed on the LCWR website and advertised in the LCWR newsletter so that other members can make the translations available to their own sisters.



Electronic Messaging System



Website



Facebook



Update -- Newsletter



Praying in These Emerging Times



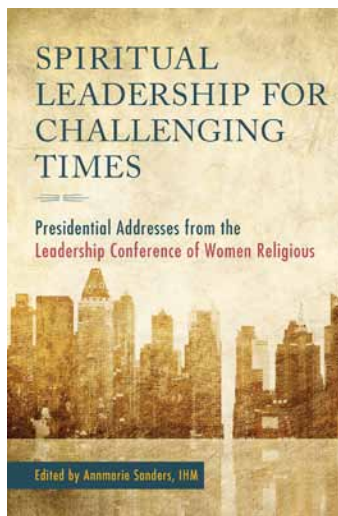
Occasional Papers



Spiritual Leadership

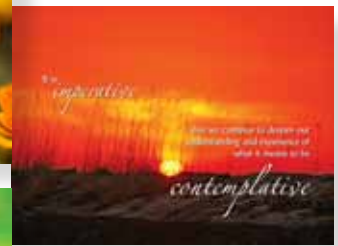
LCWR entered into a contract with Orbis Books to publish *Spiritual Leadership for Challenging Times*, a collection of 10 LCWR presidential addresses that explore the challenges of providing contemplatively-grounded leadership in light of the pressing issues of the day. The book is in its second printing, and is available as an e-book.

In June 2014, Solidarity with Sisters, in collaboration with the Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies held a conference at Catholic University of America in Washington, DC to unpack the themes contained in the book and their application for persons exercising leadership in a variety of settings. The conference was attended by approximately 150 people.



Religious Governance Resources Website

The Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) and LCWR created a new website to assist the members of both organizations with questions related to finance and canon and civil law. This new resource contains short articles and information on numerous subjects that are encountered regularly by leaders of religious institutes. Additional materials will be added on an ongoing basis.



Four of the 10 cards that come in a set

Contemplative Insights

Each month LCWR provided a downloadable card for members to use for their reflection and prayer. Each card contains a quote taken from the input of the members as they have engaged in the “Behold, I am Doing Something New” contemplative process at the end of meetings of the regions, national board, and committees.

These cards may be purchased as greeting cards in sets of 10.

Contemporary Religious Life Committee

Members of the Contemporary Religious Life Committee met throughout the year both in-person and by conference call to work on a number of efforts including planning the LCWR assembly, facilitating the LCWR “Behold I Am Doing Something New” contemplative process, and reviewing and giving input on other major projects of the conference.



Committee members: (standing) Marie McCarthy, SP (staff); Ana Lydia Sonora Matos, CDP; Catherine Bertrand, SSND (facilitator); Annmarie Sanders, IHM (staff); (seated) Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP; Eileen Hurley, SCL; Janet Mock, CSJ (executive director) and Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ

Communicating with the Public

Media

With increased public interest in LCWR and Catholic sisters, the media frequently turned to the conference for statements about its own affairs, as well as commentary on other church-related stories. Coverage included:

- A rebroadcast by *60 Minutes* of its segment on the doctrinal assessment of LCWR by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.
- An appearance on MSNBC's *Hardball with Chris Matthews*
- Interviews for numerous radio stations, newspapers, and magazines including: *National Public Radio*, *Time Magazine*, *BBC Radio*, *The Atlantic*, *Huffington Post*, *The Guardian*, *Chicago Tribune*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Women's eNews*, and others.



Bob Simon interviews Pat Farrell, OSF for the 60 Minutes segment that was selected for rebroadcast as one of its stories of high interest



BBC Radio reporter interviews Janet Mock, CSJ

We, the members of the
Leadership Conference of Women Religious,
believe that God's call
is written in the

signs of our time.

- LCWR Call 2010-2015



Sylvia Poggioli, senior European correspondent for National Public Radio, interviews Janet Mock, CSJ

Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America

NBC-TV selected LCWR's *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America* documentary for broadcast on its stations throughout the country. The film was chosen as an installment of NBC's "Horizons of the Spirit," series, presented by the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission (IBC), a broad coalition of Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox Christians, Jewish and Muslim organizations — in partnership with the ABC, CBS, and NBC television networks. More than 30 NBC stations in 18 states aired the film, which is above average for an IBC film on NBC.

The nationwide CatholicTV Network, operated out of the Archdiocese of Boston, as well as Salt + Light Television network of Canada paid license fees for unlimited broadcast rights of the film for three years. The documentary also has been broadcast by NET (New Evangelization Television) of the Diocese of Brooklyn, and the Diocese of Raleigh on a local TV station. Broadcasts are pending with several more diocesan broadcast outlets.

Development

"We found a host of hospitable companions, standing in solidarity, who seek safe places to express their faith in all its complexity in these very complex times."

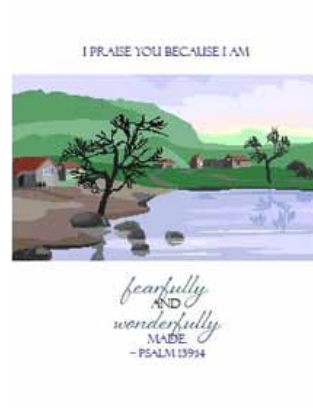
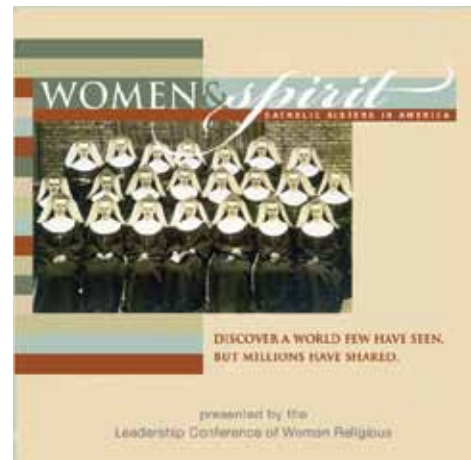
-- Janet Mock, CSJ

LCWR Annual Report for 2012-2013

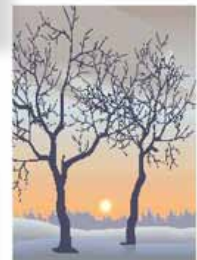
LCWR's increased visibility over the past two years has provided the conference with new opportunities for networking and partnerships with laity. In 2013, 2185 existing and prospective donors received a post-LCWR assembly, Thanksgiving, and end-of-the-year solicitation. Recurring and repeat gifts represent 23 percent of total donor income. In addition, LCWR received four grant awards to support Leadership Pathways, international initiatives, and coalitions working against human trafficking

LCWR is committed to praying for its donors. Both the website giving page and the donor remittance envelope include the opportunity for donors to share their special intentions with the conference. The executive director and associate directors work together to respond to each prayer request individually. The option was added for LCWR donors to designate their gift in honor/memory or celebration of loved ones.

LCWR continues to cultivate new income streams in a manner that reflects the integrity and spirit of the LCWR mission.



Cards sent to those honored or celebrated through donations



DEATH IS NOT EXTINGUISHING THE LIGHT. IT IS PUTTING OUT THE LAMP BECAUSE

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you, not as the world gives, give I to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
— John 14:27



Cards sent to donors who wish to have a special intention remembered in prayer

Social Mission Efforts

Priorities and Public Witness

LCWR's social mission efforts focus on immigration reform, human trafficking, economic justice, and violence prevention. Since August 2013 LCWR has authored or signed 49 letters and five statements outlining its position on these issues. All flow from LCWR's commitment to the intrinsic value of all life, the dignity of each person, solidarity with those in need, and a commitment to the common good.

Assembly Resolutions

At its 2013 assembly, LCWR members called the conference to work toward a world where reverence for all finds expression in an approach to life free from violence and called on elected officials to enact laws that would require universal background checks for all gun purchases; restrict civilian access to assault weapons and high capacity magazines; make gun trafficking a federal crime; and improve access to mental health care and other services for those in need.

Resolutions to Action

The Global Concerns Committee continued its publication of *Resolutions to Action* to encourage theological reflection, social analysis, and action on justice issues. Recent editions included: Immigration Reform: Life and Death on the Border (Summer 2013) by JoAnn Showalter, SP; Climate Change: No Denying It (Fall 2013) by Sharon Zayac, OP; Ending Gun Violence: Saving Children's Lives (Spring 2014) by Arlene Flaherty, OP and Kathleen Phelan, OP.



Actions for Justice

LCWR was represented at a September White House convening for civil society leaders of the anti-trafficking movement. In addition, former LCWR president, Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA, was able to secure an invitation to the Vatican symposium, Trafficking in Human Beings: Modern Slavery, organized by the Pontifical Academies of Sciences and Social Sciences in November.

This past fall, LCWR and CMSM took the lead in organizing the interfaith Fast Action for immigration reform. LCWR president Carol Zinn, SSJ spoke at the press conference kick-off and executive director Janet Mock, CSJ was quoted extensively in the press release which marked its conclusion. More than 10,000 people from across the country joined the effort.

Associate director Ann Scholz, SSND authored the lead article in the March-April edition of the Catholic Health Association's journal *Health Progress*, which featured articles on welcoming immigrants.

continued on page 14



LCWR participates in the interfaith Fast Action for immigration reform

Actions for Justice

(continued from page 13)

Women religious around the country participated in the second annual Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath. LCWR is a founding member of Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, a coalition of 50 national denominations and faith-based organizations.

In November, LCWR was represented at a gathering of Catholic leaders concerned about threats to the work of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), Catholic Relief Services, and others involved in social ministries. Participants discussed ways to encourage bishops to strengthen the church's social justice ministries.

LCWR took Pope Francis' Joy of the Gospel to Capitol Hill in March. In briefings held for both Senate and House staffs. Thomas Reese, SJ; Simone Campbell, SSS; Eli McCarthy; and Ann Scholz, SSND unpacked the words and actions of Pope Francis and explored their application to US economic and foreign policy.



*Thomas Reese, SJ and Ann Scholz, SSND
at Capitol Hill briefing*

LCWR/CMSM Justice and Peace

The Justice and Peace Committee of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) joined LCWR Global Concerns Committee for their joint meeting May 20. Together, committee members reviewed the CARA report, Ministry for Immigrant Justice.

External Partners

The associate director for social mission serves on a number of USCCB staff committees including: the Justice for Immigrants Core Group; the Catholic Climate Covenant; the Catholic Organizations Coalition against Trafficking; and the Core Group of US Catholic Sisters against Human Trafficking (USCSAHT). She also serves on the boards of the Catholic Health Association and NETWORK.

LCWR continues to be active with interfaith community initiatives including: the Heads of Faith-Based Washington Offices and Interfaith Immigration Coalition Steering Committee.

Initiative to Help Immigrant Religious

LCWR served as part of a collaborative initiative seeking to assist immigrant women and men religious who often are not aware of their rights, and are living and working in abusive situations. The initiative to update the guidelines of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Guidelines for Receiving Pastoral Ministers in the United States* was organized by the USCCB Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations in collaboration with the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., and others working directly with immigrant religious.

Inspired by the
radical call of the Gospel,
led by God's Spirit and companioned by one another,
we embrace our time as holy,
our leadership as gift,
and our challenges as blessings.
- LCWR Call 2010-2015

Collaborating to Support Religious Life

LCWR partners with many other organizations working to support religious life – nationally and globally. These efforts include collaboration on joint projects, as well as attendance at the organizations' conferences, workshops, and meetings including those of the USCCB's Commission on Religious Life and Ministry, Conference of Major Superiors of Men, Religious Formation Conference, National Religious Vocation Conference, Communicators for Women Religious, the National Religious Retirement Office, and the Resource Center for Religious Institutes.

InterAmerican Meeting

LCWR and CMSM hosted this year's meeting of the InterAmerican Committee, the annual gathering of the presidents and executive directors of the Canadian Religious Conference, the Confederation of Latin American Religious, and LCWR, and CMSM. Although representatives from Latin America were unable to attend, the other three conferences met at Bon Secours Spirituality Center in Marriottsville, Maryland from March 31 to April 4. In addition to sharing updates of each conference, the group met with representatives of several organizations working to address global social needs. The time together also included visits to several sites of interest in Baltimore and Washington, DC, as well as a reception in honor of the guests at the LCWR-CMSM office building.

Canadian Religious Conference

Carol Zinn, SSJ and Janet Mock, CSJ represented LCWR in Montreal at the 30th general assembly of the Canadian Religious Conference. Attended by approximately 300 members, the theme of the meeting was Beyond Frontiers, a Call to Transformation, and focused on the intercultural issues faced by religious communities today. The conference also celebrated its 60th anniversary at the gathering.

*Carol Zinn, SSJ and Janet Mock, CSJ
among those celebrating the
60th anniversary of the
Canadian Religious Conference*



InterAmerican Committee with staff of Catholic Relief Services



InterAmerican Committee with justice and peace promoters





Fostering Dialogue within the Church

Throughout this year, LCWR officers and the members have engaged in serious study and reflection on its response to the mandate of reform issued to the conference by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) in April 2012.

The officers remained in communication with Archbishop J. Peter Sartain, the apostolic delegate appointed by CDF to oversee the reform of LCWR, and met with him and his assistants, Archbishop Leonard Blair and Bishop Thomas John Paprocki.

In his role as apostolic delegate, Archbishop Sartain attended the 2013 LCWR assembly and spent time with the LCWR national board debriefing the experience.

In early May, LCWR president Carol Zinn, SSJ; president-elect Sharon Holland, IHM; past president Florence Deacon, OSF; and executive director Janet Mock, CSJ spent more than a week in Rome meeting with representatives of various Vatican offices, including the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life and with CDF.

Archbishop Sartain joined the LCWR officers at the meeting with CDF prefect Cardinal Gerhard Müller, and other members of the CDF staff. Following the meeting, which focused on the doctrinal assessment of LCWR, Archbishop Müller's opening remarks were made available on the CDF website. Later Archbishop Sartain released a statement about the meeting. Since LCWR was being asked by the media to offer a perspective on the encounter as well, the officers issued a public statement. Media worldwide have reported on both Cardinal Müller's remarks and the LCWR commentary.

Others visited by the LCWR officers while in Rome (sometimes with the officers from the Conference of Major Superiors of Men) included:

- The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace
- The Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Immigrants
- The Pontifical Council for Social Communications
- The US Ambassador to the Vatican
- The leadership of the International Union of Superiors General
- The leaders of religious institutes with members in the United States

LCWR Statutes

For the last few years, LCWR has been reviewing its statutes to be sure that its structures and policies are in alliance with its realities. Because a review of LCWR's statutes is part of the mandate given to the bishops appointed as delegates of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, LCWR has been working with the bishops on a joint review. A draft of the revised statutes will be presented to the LCWR assembly in August for approval before the document is submitted to the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life for final approval.

[LCWR] seeks to promote
a developing understanding and living
of religious life by

*fostering dialogue and
collaboration*

among religious congregations within the
Catholic Church and in the larger society

-- LCWR Statutes

Governance of LCWR

LCWR National Board

The LCWR national board met in August at the San Pedro Retreat Center in Winter Park, in February at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson, and in May by conference call. The executive committee met in November and in May at the Washington Retreat House in Washington, DC.



The LCWR national board and staff meet in Tucson, Arizona in February

Strategic Planning

In addition to conducting its ordinary business, the board engaged in a process at its February meeting to set a direction and consider major initiatives for the conference for the next seven years. The board worked first to name the context in which LCWR and its member congregations find themselves and define the challenges US women religious will face in the next few years. The board then crafted a plan and possible initiatives for the conference. The LCWR members reviewed at the spring regional meetings and provided feedback. The executive committee of the board affirmed at its May meeting a new draft that incorporates the members' input and suggestions. This new draft will be presented to the members before the August assembly. At the assembly, the members can choose to affirm the plan or send it back for further modification.



Members of the board and staff met in December for preliminary work on the LCWR strategic plan



LCWR and CMSM officers at a joint meeting of the boards of both conferences to discuss the supports needed as religious institutes move into the future



Members of the 2013-2014 LCWR executive committee: Joan Marie Steadman, CSC and Judy Justinger, SSJ (at-large members); Pat Eck, CBS (treasurer); Janet Mock, CSJ (executive director); Carol Zinn, SSJ (president); Sharon Holland, IHM (president-elect); Barbara Blesse, OP (secretary); and Florence Deacon, OSF (past president)

Stewardship of the Financial Resources

During 2013, the LCWR Finance and Audit Committee and the office staff have continued to work diligently to ensure the careful stewardship of LCWR's resources. To date the decrease in membership is slowing; however the decrease since 2008 is 11.6%. The decrease from 2012 to 2013 was 3.6% and is relatively flat from 2013 – 2014. The same trend is true for units. Overall the decrease is 9.3% since 2008, 1.5% from 2012-2013, and is relatively flat for 2014.

Auditor's Report

Linton, Shafer, Warfield and Garrett, PA completed an audit of LCWR's financial statements and issued an unqualified opinion, noting that they present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of LCWR, the changes in net assets, and cash flows in accordance with accounting principles as of December 31, 2013 and 2012.

Investments

The LCWR Finance and Audit Committee met with Eileen O'Connell, representative of Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS), to review investment performance and the Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) Guidelines. In 2013, there was a significant increase in unrealized gains (75%) over unrealized gains in 2012. In 2013, the total LCWR investments increased by 15.7 % over 2012.

Audited Revenues

There was an increase (6%) in the total revenues in 2013 over 2012. This increase was mainly a result of the increased unrealized gains, increased attendance at the annual assembly, and the continued donations to LCWR. Membership dues accounted for 22% of all gross revenues in 2013 and in 2012.

Audited Expenses

Expenses in 2013 increased by 1.2 % (\$18,293) over 2012 expenses. The largest increases were in the assembly (\$99,003), leadership development (\$69,425) and special projects (\$53,143). The largest decrease was in the LCWR History Project, which is coming to a close in 2014. LCWR continues to receive orders for DVDs of the *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America* documentary and proceeds from its sale contribute to LCWR revenue.

Net Assets

2013 LCWR net assets increased by 14.3% over 2012 net assets. This is primarily from investment gains and the building fund increase.

Budget 2013 to Actual 2013

Budget targets for expenses and revenues were carefully monitored. Revenues were 23% above budget (with market gains and building fund increase excluded). Expenses were 13% over budget resulting in a positive operating variance of \$129,514. Some of the differences in actual vs. budgeted include results of changes in accounting procedures recommended by the auditors.

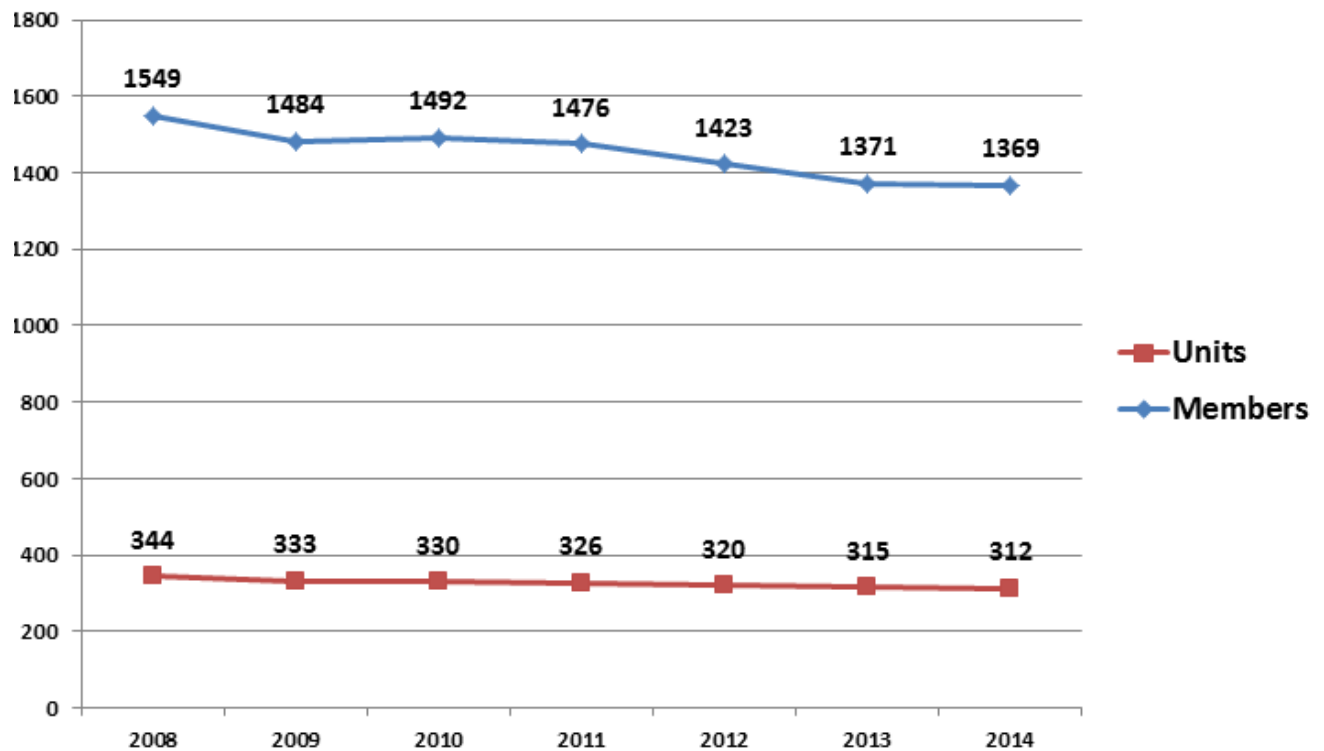
LCWR Building

The Cameron Street building, jointly owned by LCWR and CMSM, includes offices for their own staffs as well as for the Religious Formation Conference (January through August 2013) and the Resource Center for Religious Institutes. The income from rents covered 2013 expenses and provided necessary capital improvements. As of December 2013, LCWR had approximately \$650,930 net investments after depreciation in the Cameron Street Building.



Finance and Audit Committee: (standing) Julia Lanigan, GNSH; Grace Hartzog, SC (staff); Helen Ingles, IHM; Janet Mock, CSJ (executive director); Leora Linnenkugel, OLVM; Karin Dufault, SP; Bobbi Besley (RCRI staff); (seated) Judith Frikker, RSM and Pat Eck, CBS (treasurer)

2008-2014 LCWR Membership

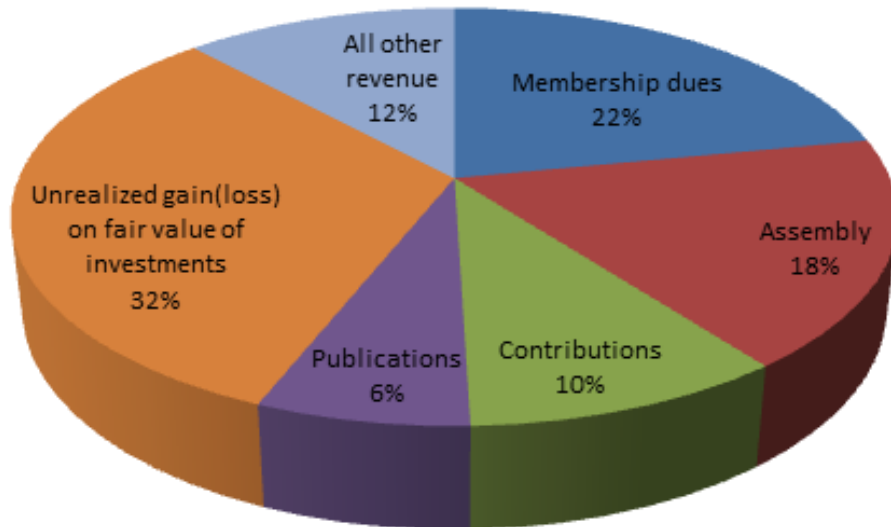


Our foremothers and founders
stepped into the chaos and the unknown of their day,
trusting in God's good guidance and great providence.

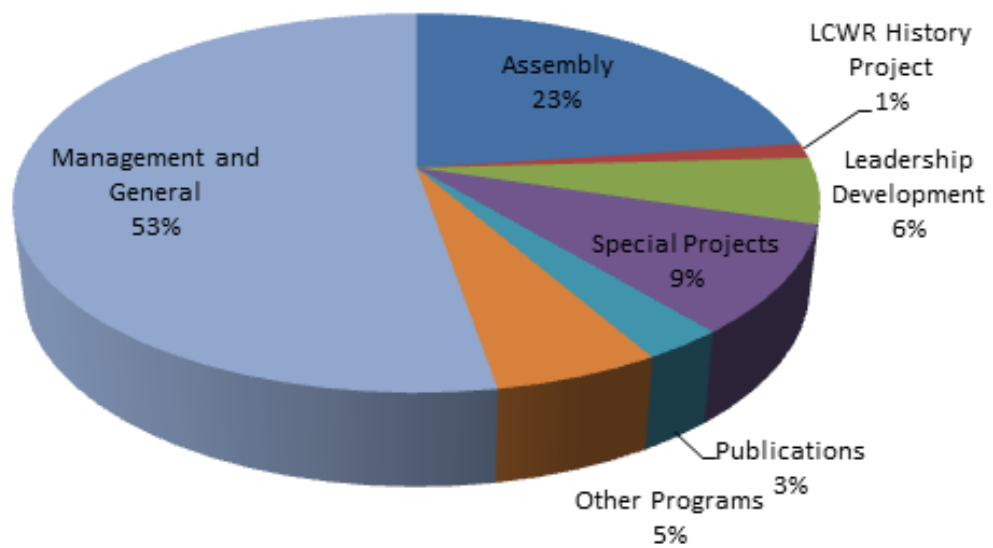
In our time,
we are called to do the same.

-- LCWR Call 2010-2015

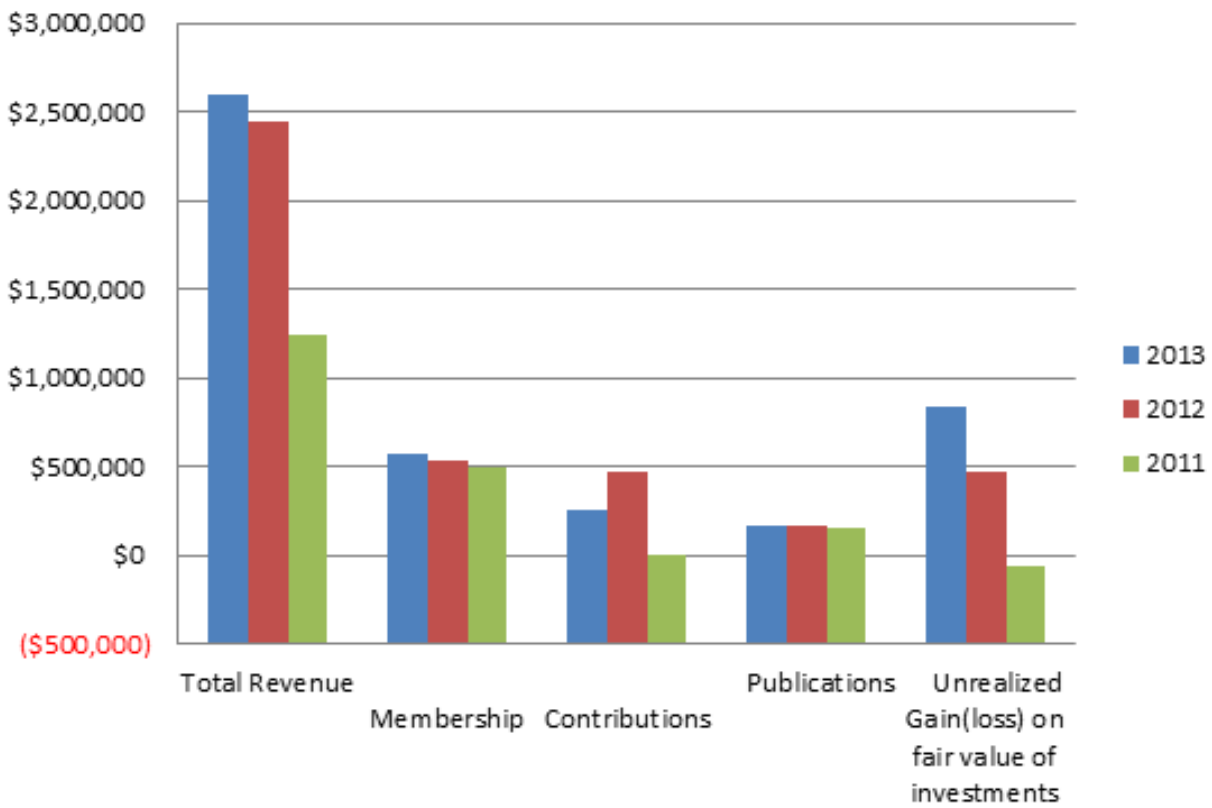
2013 LCWR Revenues



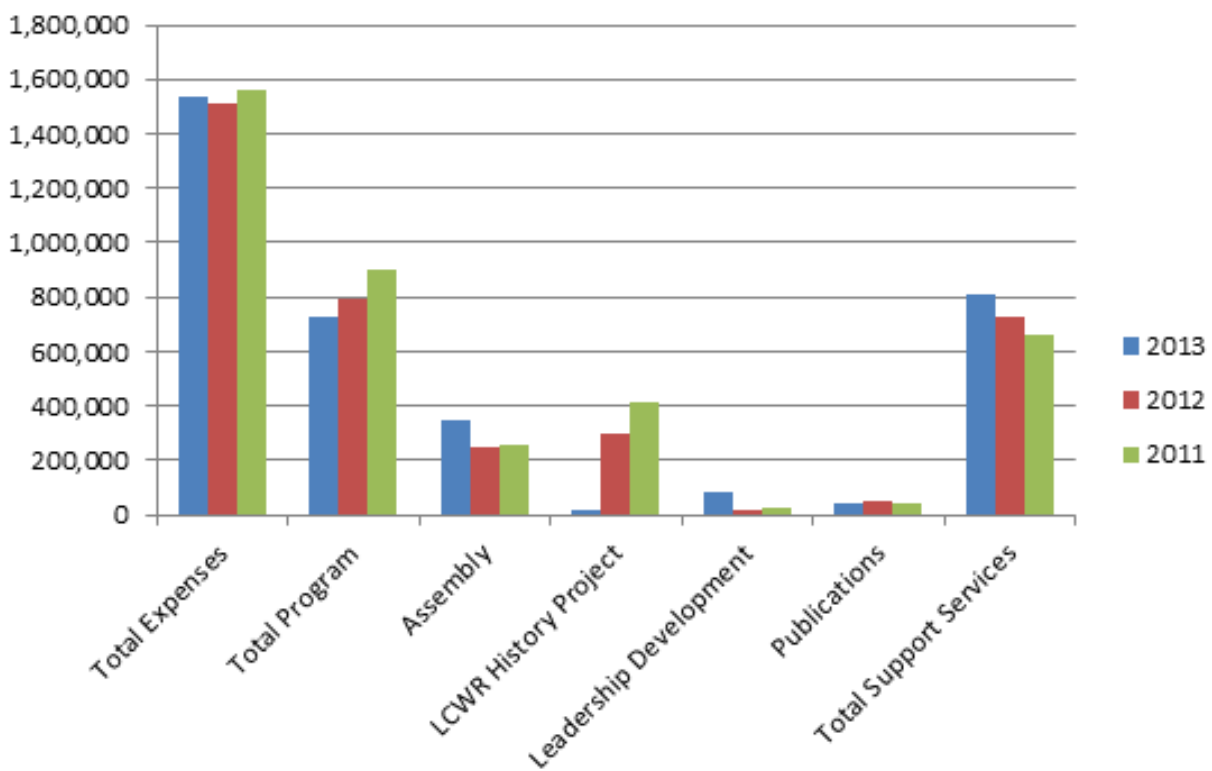
2013 LCWR Expenses



LCWR Revenue Trends



LCWR Expense Trends



The LCWR Regions

LCWR members meet at least twice a year on the local level in the 15 regions throughout the country. In the following pages, the regions respond to the question: How has your region experienced leadership as evolving, graced, grounded and free during this last year?



Region 1

At our fall annual meeting members surfaced needs and challenges the communities had. “Planning for the future” and “covenanting” were two major challenges that were expressed. At our spring meeting we brought in Daniel Ward, OSB to address those needs. We discovered that several communities were already deeply involved in this kind of planning. We also witnessed strong leadership evolving as these communities addressed their challenges.

What we learned is that there are resources available for these leaders through collaborative efforts of LCWR, the Resource Center for Religious Institutes, and the National Religious Retirement Office, and that religious communities within Region 1 were also collaborating with one another. When it seemed as if the challenges were insurmountable, alternatives would be found. With deep faith, these community leaders continue to believe that God will provide and guide them forward and that others will help.

This year Region 1 has experienced “leadership as evolving, graced, grounded and free.”

With
the deep faith
these community leaders
continue to believe that
God will provide
and guide them forward
and that others will help.

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire,
Rhode Island, Vermont:
Chair: Kathleen Turley, RSM

Region 2

Our spring meeting was greatly appreciated as we had the wonderful opportunity to view our leadership as women called to foster the reign of God through the ministry of justice, peace, and integrity of creation. Ann Scholz, SSND was invited to engage the members of Region 2 in information sharing, conversation, and challenges in our role of leaders. Many of the congregations' justice promoters were also in attendance. Ann spoke of her involvement as LCWR's associate director for social mission which includes research, advocacy, education, and action. Her mandate comes from the LCWR Call 2010-2015. She posed questions which focused our conversations.

- How might we be more effective if we worked together?
- What is the role of leadership?
- Does Region 2 have an issue that brings us together?

Our joint sessions with the justice promoters affirmed that we are all responsible to build the kingdom and that while we have different roles, justice belongs to all of us.

Our justice promoters will work together uniting our voices in an area particular to our region.

The time together, as it always is, was graced with the presence of one another and, this year, grounded in a reaffirmation of our role in promoting the reign of God wherever we are.



New York
Chair: Judy Justinger, SSJ

Region 3

Whenever we gather as a region there is rich sharing of wisdom, commonalities, and challenges. In our fall gathering Katherine Feely, SND led us in the Transformation of Religious Life process of the Religious Formation Conference. Marie McCarthy, SP joined us as well to introduce the Leadership Pathways program. This process has been a grace for us, keeping us grounded as congregations, as a region, and as an organization.

In the spring Mary Johnson, SNDdeN challenged us with the changing demographics of the American Catholic church and of religious life, particularly recent entrants. Each of our speakers has opened us to new ideas and perspectives in religious life and the church that move us beyond our individual congregations. Our time together is supportive and the freedom to speak is a grace. We are enriched as well by the evolution into a more contemplative gathering.

In addition to receiving input, our region has responded to important issues in our society, particularly human trafficking at the Superbowl. We move forward in freedom with our choice of speakers and events, open to the advances in science and society, and deeply grounded in Jesus, aware of our identity born of our collective experience as women religious.



New Jersey, Pennsylvania (east)
Chair: Ellen Dauwer, SC

Region 4

We have chosen “graced” speakers who assisted us to experience these evolving times as an opportunity of grace and deepening awareness of our own groundedness in our call as ecclesial women.

The choice of LCWR to use contemplative processes in response to the doctrinal assessment has created a deep bond among us, and gifted us with great freedom to be led by the Spirit’s movement among us. The fruits of living out of our contemplative stance and moving toward action have been:

- Presentations by Carole Shinnick, SSND and Ilia Delio, OSF (opened meeting to sisters in the area) have built integration between national and regional LCWR meetings.
- Decision to develop press releases stating our stand against violence, human trafficking, and gun control, and action by some congregations to share releases in their publications. Congregations worked to model nonviolent ways to bring communities together around the issue of fracking.
- Lobbying for immigration reform from a contemplative space while preparing, advocating, and debriefing.

- Tangible resonance within and among ourselves by doing the work of leadership in a contemplative manner. Processes that help us to vision and move forward from places of new life and the realization that the outcome is not in our hands.



Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania (west),
South Carolina, Virginia, District of Columbia, West Virginia
Chair: Rose Marie Jasinski, CBS

Region 5

At our fall meeting, we reflected on the LCWR assembly presentation of Ilia Delio, OSF and expressed that we have been stretched to a new consciousness, and opened to her idea of connectedness.

We were led in a discussion by Ann Lacour, MSC on a presentation given by Mary Pat Garvin, RSM at the UISG plenary in Rome on “Graced Companionship: A Metaphor For Religious Leadership Today.” We resonated with the thought of “taking on the mind and heart of Jesus in leading our congregations as graced companions. Offering vision, energy, challenge, courage and the power of encouragement.” Two congregational leaders shared with the group that their communities have formed a “covenant relationship” with each other. One community will be a graced companion through the other community’s completion.

We also discussed the article from *Occasional Papers*, “Living and Leading with Active Hope” by Joanna Macy, concluding that rushing narrows our vision, and seeing God coming to us from the future gives us confidence that God has already been where we are going. The contemplative process has become an integral part of our decision-making and this frees us to discern God’s Spirit.

Grounded in our commitment to promote justice, at our spring meeting, we were informed about the group, US Catholic Sisters

Against Human Trafficking and their “Underground Railroad” project. We decided to donate \$250 to the project. We also renewed our commitment to the community of Lake Providence, Louisiana which is known as “the poorest place in America.” We are looking into the possibility of holding our 2015 spring meeting there.



Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi,
Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
Chair: Greta Jupiter, SSF

Region 6

Region 6 encountered the evolving nature of leadership in faith as we used electronic technologies to enjoy and reflect with the insights of Ilia Delio, OSF in “Religious Life on the Edge of the Universe” and to benefit from the wisdom of Donna Markham, OP as we explored the realities of our congregations that are aging and experiencing greater incidences of various pathologies among their memberships. We found ourselves both grounded and graced in the realization and appreciation of our many and varied gifts and in the recognition of our geographic realities.

The realization and appreciation of our own gifts have enriched our twice-yearly gatherings. We used modified and prayerfully reflective open space methodologies to generate conversations and actions among us that followed the lead of our shared core wisdoms. As we have found effective in the past, the Region 6 congregations in the urban centers continue to collaborate on efforts – from education to public prayer and action – in response to the assembly resolutions, while the similar efforts of the outlying congregations are strengthened through association. All these endeavors have encouraged us to be free to unite in support of stances and take actions to transform societal understanding of the imperatives of renewable energies.



Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee
Chair: Sharon Sullivan, OSU

Region 7

The gift and grace of coming together as a region is an experience of leadership as graced, evolving, and free as we:

- recognized the Spirit’s movement within us, among us and around us.
- acted on our commitment to LCWR and participated in its unfolding.
- shared our gifts in the region and with LCWR as a whole.
- celebrated who we are - who we are becoming.

Our commitment to engage in the contemplative process called us to:

- listen more deeply.
- live with the tensions which are part of current realities.
- embrace a different way of decision making.

We are still learning how to integrate the contemplative processes more fully into the fabric of our meetings. A contemplative stance reaches beyond designated moments of reflection.

Awareness that our members/congregations are dealing with different realities called us to:

- deepen our openness to these evolving realities.
- strengthen our effort to consider these realities within the context of the broader universe story.

Graced by the presence of Lynn M. Levo, CSJ, her presentation on Being Evolutionaries and Coping with Change, Transition, and Grief drew us into reflection and sharing that fostered a spirit of hope and solidarity.



Indiana, Michigan
Chair: Joan Steadman, CSC

Region 8

Leadership in Region 8 continues to be graced with Project IRENE (Illinois Religious Engaging in Nonviolent Endeavors), which is an initiative of the region whose purpose is to impact systems change for women and children in Illinois. Executive director Rose Mary Meyer, BVM and coordinators from each congregation keep sisters in Illinois aware of the ever-changing issues on immigration, human trafficking, victim advocacy, and economic justice. During the spring meeting, regional members went to the state capitol to ask their representatives to support legislation that would advance justice for the most vulnerable. Throughout the year numerous leaders and congregations within the region shared financial support and participated in the planning and attendance of the Illinois Women Religious Against Trafficking Workshop. Two congregations are engaged in a collaborative effort to put on an Earth Day Fair.

Presentations on social media and immigration plus sharing best practices in leadership have broadened our world views thus helping us appreciate the complexities of this ministry. All of these efforts are grounded in the shared prayer, contemplative space, ongoing learning, dialogue, and personal sharing we experience as we meet twice a year as a region. We enjoy being with one another and are grateful for the blessing of our shared call to the service of the Gospel.

Region 9

At our fall meeting NRRO executive director Janice Bader, CPPS spoke to us on “Embracing New Critical Junctures.” She helped us look at the future of our congregations in the areas of completion and collaboration. We had some meaningful discussions and appointed a committee to create a future planning survey that each congregation completed. Members could then see what other congregations were recognizing as needs and priorities and explore ways to collaborate and work together.

We have continued to deepen in the contemplative process on a regional level and found it has helped to ground us and keep us open to the Spirit’s transformative energy. This approach is rooted in many of our congregational spiritualities. Used as a daily practice, it slows us down as we give deeper consideration to all we do as women religious in the church today.

The highlight of this year was at our spring meeting, when we invited each congregation’s communicators and legislative networkers to join us in exploring the topic of human trafficking. We decided on some practical actions that we could work on together to help educate and alleviate human trafficking in the state of Wisconsin.



Illinois
Chair: Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP



Wisconsin
Chair: Pat Cormack, SCSC

Region 10

Meeting as a region and in smaller area groups helps us to be grounded in reality, sharing our experience and learning from one another. Each time we gather together, the bonds among our congregations strengthen. We learn to name our various realities and not run from them, which helps us grow in involvement and the ability to move on to the next steps with our congregations. This in turn, we believe, contributes to the conscious evolution of religious life in the future. As speaker Sharon Zayac, OP stated at our spring 2014 meeting, “We are not human beings; we are humans becoming.” We continue to evolve in our contemplation together and we trust one another’s responses as we reflect and share. We experience great freedom in sharing among members. There is a strong sense of collaboration, respect, and contemplative attitude among the leaders.

Working toward resolution of pressing ecological and social justice issues remains a major focus for Region 10. Collaborative programs to combat human trafficking and domestic violence are high priorities for us as is working toward immigration reform and providing just wages for workers. A major issue being addressed in the St. Louis area is that of nuclear waste buried in a landfill in the midst of the city.



Iowa, Missouri (east), Nebraska
Chair: Jan Renz, ACS

Region 11

Ways in which the members of LCWR Region 11 have experienced leadership as evolving, graced, grounded, and free:

- By sharing prayer together at our regional meetings;
- By sharing prayer and contemplation together as leadership teams;
- By reflecting together on the scriptures and on Pope Francis’ Joy of the Gospel;
- By networking with one another as leaders of a variety of congregations—sharing our joys and challenges;
- Through our sharing of the contemplative process we are learning:
 - To lead at the pace of the Holy Spirit;
 - To broaden the circle of our listening;
 - To give ourselves permission to be in process—just as Jesus evolved in his life, so we are evolving;
 - That leadership is less about what we do than who we are;
 - That our ministry of leadership needs to assist our members to bond at a deeper level through faith-sharing;
 - That we must assist the members of our congregations to face reality while at the same time being bearers of hope;
 - That one of the challenges we face is the development of future leadership;
 - That where we are right now is the work of the Spirit—a Spirit-filled reality.



Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming
Chair: Penny Bingham, OSB

Region 12

With faithful, consistent, collaborative participation from each and all congregations, aware of the Holy Spirit's work and within a contemplative space, the region has continued to reach out to the people on the margins especially to address violence and injustice, immigration, human trafficking, and the environment. Our mutual trust in and with one another allows for a deeper level of sharing, without competition, dealing with concerns and issues. Our dialogue in the region is supportive and promotes our spiritual growth. The region continues to financially support border projects.

At the spring meeting in Houston, our group visited Angela House started by an Adrian Dominican, Maureen O'Connell, who shared about her work to successfully transition women into society after incarceration. The residents gave their testimonies. The group also visited Casa Juan Diego where one resident shared her story of her tortuous immigration journey from El Salvador through Mexico and Texas. These testimonies elicited greater compassion and resolve to inform others on these issues.

At the fall meeting in San Antonio, our speaker Addie Lorraine Walker, SSND presented on the "Gospel Call to Non Violence," challenging us as a region to question, reflect, and express our "withing" being compassionately present to the other.



Arizona, Arkansas, New Mexico, Texas
Chair: Lourdes Leal, CDP

Region 13

The members of Region 13 have experienced leadership as evolving, graced, grounded and free in the following ways.

Each community is in the courageous process of discerning its evolving future, a future that will be vastly different from either the present or the past, but with a commitment that mirrors the strength of those other times. Engaging in a contemplative approach, currently we search for ways to maintain our integrity, encourage the hierarchy to become more inclusive regarding women, as well as the LGBT community, and proactively use the Year of Consecrated Life to proclaim religious life as it is lived today, in all of its diversity.



Colorado, Kansas, Missouri (west), Oklahoma
Chair: Eileen Hurley, SCL

Region 14

Mary Hopkins, OP spoke at our fall region meeting about grief and its effects among our members and for us as leaders.

Amy Hereford, CSJ spoke at our spring meeting on futureing and possibilities for the future.

In the north, six congregations have collaborated to create a review board for sexual abuse cases.

The traveling exhibition, *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in California*, continues.

We regularly gather which gives us connectivity, support, and in-service twice a year, plus the support we give one another in other times and places.



California, Guam, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah
Chair: Stephanie Still, PBVM

Region 15

Through a concerted effort of Region 15, there was a unique experience of leadership in collaborating with Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center (IPJC) in sponsoring the women's convocation in Seattle in 2013. A request from the archbishop to include a pro-life speaker on the agenda brought LCWR members and IPJC board members together to creatively consider this. We wanted to respond and find a solution that honored all. After much communication, we agreed to a dialogue between one of the archbishop's choices and a sister theologian with a more feminist approach, with a dialogue centered on reflections on Pope John Paul's encyclical on women. While this session had mixed reviews, we all experienced our decision-making process as inclusive, creative, and freeing.

Region 15 offered a workshop, "Developing Board Skills," with attendees representing three religious communities and colleagues. The presenters, Dr. Thom Fowler, University of Portland; Dan Malea, board chair of the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon (SSMO); Adele Marie Altenhofen, SSMO; and Charlene

Herinckx, SSMO; spoke respectively about an overall summary of boards, financial oversight, legal and ethical integrity and accountability, and programs and services of boards. This was a helpful session which promotes leadership to minister to those in need.



Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington
Chair: Judith Desmarais, SP

Collaborating for the *Mission of Religious Life*

LCWR works closely with other organizations serving women and men religious in the United States.

LCWR invited each organization to describe the significant events and initiatives
it has undertaken since summer 2012.

Conference of Major Superiors of Men

John Pavlik, OFM Cap
Executive Director

Your brothers in CMSM rejoice with you in the unique moment presented to the Catholic community in faith as we prepare to observe a year dedicated to highlighting the role of consecrated life and the contributions of societies of apostolic life to evangelizing, healing, reconciling, and cooperating with the community of faith. A Jesuit pope who spotlights Francis of Assisi and openly practices values inherent to the evangelical counsels offers religious a view through a window open to see how the good we profess might attract others to God.



Within the last 12 months, CMSM has worked with a consulting agency on a strategic plan for the next six years; that plan will be presented to the membership at the August 2014 national assembly. In the same period, the executive committee has traveled to Rome twice for visits at the Vatican dicasteries, having had the privilege to greet Pope Francis briefly in October and to meet at length with him in a private audience in early May 2014. Our Brothers' Think Tank has continued to meet and to seek ways of spotlighting that vocation; the Year of Consecrated Life offers us a special opportunity to focus on the manifestations of charisms. CMSM has also worked diligently to name and plan observances of the year, including setting up a special website devoted to consecrated life and societies of apostolic life among men. The conference also cooperated with the USCCB in an invitation to assist with a revision of the Charter for the Protection of Young People; multiple meetings thus far seem to be leading to some sort of a joint statement of commitment on the part of men and women religious with the bishops, rather than to a revised charter incorporating all. Additional energy within the conference has been devoted to seeking the ways and means to communicate more effectively via electronic media.

May all our actions at this moment affirm unity with Christ, with the community of faith he founded and upholds, and with one another.

Resource Center for Religious Institutes

Donna Sauer Miller, JD, JCL
Associate Director

RCRI had a very busy and productive year during the second half of 2013 and the first months of 2014. Last October we introduced the new version of TRENDS at our national conference in Anaheim, and the reception by our members has been overwhelmingly positive. We are following up that endeavor with a

related project. In conjunction with the National Religious Retirement Office, we are collaborating to update the Mercer Mortality Tables for women and men religious so that they more accurately represent the longer life expectancies usually experienced by members of religious institutes. The Covenant Project continues to be a helpful legacy planning tool that is adding more and more information and resources to assist member institutes of both RCRI and LCWR.



Our Religious Resources Governance website has been up and running since early October, and it already is an invaluable, user-friendly source of information for members of RCRI and LCWR. We continue to host monthly webinars and produce written publications on topics of interest to leadership and finance personnel. As always, we welcome suggestions and ideas from our members. Finally, with regard to staff, Larry Lundin, SJ, completed his first year as director of finance and administration. Then in April 2014 RCRI said farewell after 14 years to Dan Ward, OSB and welcomed Sharon Euart, RSM as our new executive director.

Collaborating for the *Mission of Religious Life*

Religious Formation Conference

Violet Grennan, MFIC
Executive Director

2013 was, indeed, a very full year! RFC saw the successful completion of a ground-breaking three-year series of programming titled: Transformation of Religious Life in North America: An

Action-Oriented Initiative. Participants included general membership, formation personnel, and elected leadership. Findings from a CARA study, commissioned by RFC national office, confirmed the inestimable value of this series to religious congregations at this critical time in the history of religious life, our church, and world.

Additional successful programming included the conference's ForMission, Life Commitment, and Orientation to Formation programs, and Congress 2013 titled Rooted in the Mission of Jesus: Reaching Out to the Margins. During the congress we launched the 60th anniversary celebration of the Religious Formation Conference. A series of nationwide programs was designed to celebrate this momentous occasion in 2014.

Implementation of a strategic operational plan, made possible with the assistance of foundation funding, enabled RFC to hire an additional staff person, move to a new national office location in Washington, DC, and update our technology for the sake of advancing RFC's mission and services to our members. Resulting from these program and capacity-building initiatives is a revitalized national profile of RFC.

Adding to the joy and fullness of 2013 was news of the election of Pope Francis, the first pope from the Americas and from the Global South and the first Jesuit. His challenge and invitation to live the Gospel joyfully resonates strongly with our invitation as disciples called and sent to proclaim the Gospel in today's world and church. RFC's mission and vision provide the context for our members and partners in mission to embrace this challenge.



National Religious Vocation Conference

Paul Bednarczyk, CSC
Executive Director

This year NRVC celebrates 25 years of vocation ministry to the church and religious institutes.



During this jubilee year, NRVC was privileged to sponsor four workshops titled Women Religious Moving Forward in Hope, which gathered the major superiors and vocation directors from 115 congregations representative of the two leadership conferences. This is well over one quarter of women's apostolic institutes in the United States. Participants heard Mary Johnson, SNDdeN present the results of recent studies on demographics of Catholic women and the church in the United States and, in response, participants suggested strategies for new membership. In addition, the NRVC Keys to the Future process continues to be implemented in religious congregations as well. Both of these programs were underwritten by the GHR Foundation and the final documents are now posted on the NRVC website.

With the assistance of a \$2.55 million grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, NRVC is now in the process of establishing the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations. This fund will eventually award grants to religious institutes so they may welcome candidates with educational debt. The first grants will be issued during the Year of Consecrated Life in commemoration of our 25 years.



National Religious Retirement Office

Janice Bader, CPPS
Executive Director

The year 2013 brought some especially good news to the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO). The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Catholic Sisters Initiative awarded NRRO \$2.5 million. This grant will be paid over three years and will be used for three purposes: 1) to evaluate NRRO's Planning and Implementation process, 2) to provide educational programming and resources to help religious communities navigate the complexities of property planning and management, and 3) to provide direct funding to religious institutes. This grant will allow NRRO to enhance its outreach to religious institutes, and for this we are deeply grateful.

NRRO remains concerned about the rising median age of religious institutes. Of the institutes that submitted data to NRRO in 2013, seven percent reported a median age of 80 or higher. In 2014, this increased to 13% of reporting institutes. Because of the longer life expectancy of women, it is not surprising that most of these are institutes of women religious. Eighty percent are members of LCWR. This has serious implications for the future availability of persons to serve in leadership. NRRO encourages institutes to be proactive in planning and will continue to collaborate with LCWR to raise awareness.



Solidarity with South Sudan

Joan Mumaw, IHM
Development Director for the United States

Solidarity with South Sudan (Solidarity) is an initiative of religious congregations of women and men and members of the UISG and USG in response to a plea from the bishops of South Sudan for assistance in rebuilding the education, health-care, and pastoral sectors of society in that war-torn region of the world. It takes its inspiration from the Congress on Consecrated Life – Passion for Christ, Passion for Humanity, held in Rome in 2005. The congress invited religious to search for “a new paradigm -- born of compassion for the scarred and downtrodden of the earth -- around new priorities, new models of organization and open and flexible collaboration between men and women of goodwill.”

The first team began working in South Sudan in 2008. Currently, there are 33 sisters, brothers, and priests (including seven US religious) from 19 congregations and 20 countries forming communities in collaboration with lay volunteers at five sites in the country. The majority are women religious. Two teacher-training colleges have been built and the Catholic Health Training Center rehabilitated. Pastoral teams are being trained and assisted with workshops on peace and reconciliation.

LCWR invited Solidarity to have an office in Silver Spring as it seeks to establish itself as a not-for-profit in the United States. Solidarity USA is committed to raising awareness of the needs of the people of South Sudan and the work of Solidarity, and to seek partners in support of this global initiative. LCWR sees this partnership as consonant with its own goals articulated at its assemblies in 2010 and 2011:

- LCWR will actively seek to strengthen bonds with women religious throughout the world. (2010)
- As we continue to listen attentively to the experiences of women religious throughout the world and to share their stories, the members of the LCWR will identify ways to strengthen our mutual support in living out the Gospel mission. (2011)

Generous Service to the Leadership Conference

LCWR thanks all who have contributed their time and talent to the conference through service on its national board and committees and as liaisons to other organizations.

National Board

Officers

Carol Zinn, SSJ* -- President
Sharon Holland, IHM* -- President-Elect
Florence Deacon, OSF* -- Past President
Barbara Blesse, OP* -- Secretary
Pat Eck, CBS* -- Treasurer

Regional Chairpersons

Kathleen Hurley, RSM -- Region 1
Judy Justinger, SSJ* -- Region 2
Ellen Dauwer, SC -- Region 3
Rose Marie Jasinski, CBS -- Region 4
Greta Jupiter, SSF -- Region 5
Sharon Sullivan, OSU -- Region 6
Joan Marie Steadman, CSC* -- Region 7
Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP -- Region 8
Pat Cormack, SCSC -- Region 9
Jan Renz, ACS -- Region 10
Penny Bingham, OSB -- Region 11
Lourdes Leal, CDP -- Region 12
Eileen Hurley, SCL -- Region 13
Stephanie Still, PBVM -- Region 14
Judy Desmarais, SP -- Region 15

Executive Director

Janet Mock, CSJ*

*Members of the Executive Committee

Committees

Advisory Committee for Leadership Pathways

Cathy Bertrand, SSND
Ellen Dauwer, SC
Barbara Hagedorn, SC
Alba Letelier, SP
Marie McCarthy, SP, (LCWR staff)
Mary Pellegrino, CSJ
Sharlet Ann Wagner, CSC

Assembly Resolutions Committee

Catherine Darcy, RSM (Chair)
Janet Folkl, CDP
Patricia Reid, OSF
Ann Scholz, SSND (LCWR Staff)

Contemporary Religious Life Committee

Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ
Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP
Eileen Hurley, SCL
Ana Lydia Sonera Matos, CDP
Marie McCarthy, SP (LCWR Staff)
Janet Mock, CSJ (Chair)
Annmarie Sanders, IHM (LCWR Staff)
Catherine Bertrand, SSND (Facilitator)

Finance and Audit Committee

Karin Dufault, SP
Pat Eck, CBS (Treasurer)
Judith Frikker, RSM
Helen Ingles, IHM
Julia Lanigan, GHSH
Leora Linnenkugel, OLVM
Grace Hartzog, SC (LCWR Staff)

Global Concerns Committee

Maureen Foltz, CCV (Chair)
Eileen Gannon, OP
Marilyn Geiger, OSF
Lourdes Leal, CDP
Kathleen Phelan, OP
Jo Ann Showalter, SP
Ann Scholz, SSND (LCWR Staff)

Nominations and Elections Committee

Ellen Dauwer, SC
Gemma Doll, OP
Margaret Perron, RJM (Chair)
Mary Rathert, OP
Anne Shepard, OSB
Laura Glasgow (LCWR Staff)

Occasional Papers Advisory Board

Eileen Campbell, RSM
Nancy Conway, CSJ
Lynn Jarrell, OSU
Nancy Schreck, OSF
Mary Ann Zollmann, BVM
Annmarie Sanders, IHM (LCWR Staff)

Outstanding Leadership Award Committee

Teresa Donohue, CSJP
Teri Hadro, BVM
Jeannie Masterson, CSJ
Margaret Sullivan, CSJ
Grace Hartzog, SC (LCWR Staff)



Liaisons to Other Organizations

Catholic Health Association Board

Ann Scholz, SSND (LCWR Staff)

Commission on Religious Life and Ministry

Barbara Blesse, OP

Florence Deacon, OSF

Sharon Holland, IHM

Janet Mock, CSJ

Carol Zinn, SSJ

Communicators for Women Religious

Annmarie Sanders, IHM (LCWR Staff)

National Religious Retirement Office Grant Review Board

Maryanne Fitzgerald, SC

Janet Mock, CSJ (LCWR executive director)

NETWORK Board

Ann Scholz, SSND (LCWR Staff)

Resource Center for Religious Institutes

Janet Mock, CSJ (LCWR executive director)

USCCB Accounting Practices Committee

Geraldine Hoyler, CSC

Maureen Geary, OP

USCCB Committee on Consecrated Life and Vocations

Janet Mock, CSJ (LCWR executive director)

USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development

Janet Mock, CSJ (LCWR executive director)

USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace

Janet Mock, CSJ (LCWR executive director)

USCCB National Advisory Council

Theresa Sandok, OSM

Rita Cammack, OSF

The purpose of the conference
shall be to promote a developing understanding and living of religious life by ...
developing models for initiating and strengthening relationships
with groups concerned with the needs of society,
thereby maximizing the potential of the conference for effecting change.
-- LCWR Mission Statement

LCWR National Office Staff



Janet Mock, CSJ
Executive Director



Grace Hartzog, SC
Associate Director for
Business and Finance



Chris Costello
Director of
Development



Marie McCarthy, SP
Associate Director of
Programs



Laura Glasgow
Executive Assistant



Annmarie Sanders, IHM
Associate Director
for Communications



Carol Glidden
Administrative Assistant
& Membership Coordinator



Ann Scholz, SSND
Associate Director for
Social Mission



Christabel Lartey
Receptionist