

August-September 2014

## GHR Foundation Awards LCWR and RCRI Grants to Plan for US Religious Life into the Future

LCWR Receives \$1,125,000 Grant

The GHR Foundation awarded the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) grants for a strategic planning effort designed to assure a future for US women's religious life.

With the grants, LCWR and RCRI will assist orders of women religious in this unique moment in history when their demographics include very large numbers of elderly members. The grants will be used by the two organizations to fund cooperative efforts to accompany religious institute leaders through difficult decision-making processes, provide information on the practical aspects of



*Janet Mock, CSJ*



*Sharon Euart, RSM*

planning and preparing for the future, and offer pastoral care to the members of communities that are in the midst of significant change.

Over the past year, LCWR and RCRI have worked with the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) to assess the assistance needed by US women religious institutes in the next several years, particularly

those that are now in their last generation.

"LCWR has a responsibility to support its members in navigating these next years – to downsize in order to

*(continued on page 3)*

## Preparing for the LCWR Assembly



Holy  
Mystery  
Revealed  
in our  
Midst

LCWR encourages all voting members of LCWR who will be attending the LCWR assembly to read all the preparatory materials made available on the LCWR website. The documents and reports can be found with the assembly materials on the members' side of the site.

*From the LCWR Presidency*

## Holy Mystery Revealed in Our Midst

by Florence Deacon, OSF — LCWR Past President

As we explore “Holy Mystery Revealed in Our Midst” at the LCWR assembly in August, my term with the LCWR presidency will draw to a close. I am grateful for having served LCWR at a time when it was brought into a wider conversation with the universal church and society-at-large.

When I review past events I sometimes create a series of images in my imagination, a mental scrapbook. I’d like to share with you a small collage of “snap shots” of experiences of the wider church and society:



- Pat Farrell, OSF speaking from midway up the steps of a museum in California surrounded by hundreds at the opening of the final exhibition of *Women & Spirit*, LCWR’s traveling exhibit viewed by more than one million people.
- Mary Hughes, OP; Pat Farrell; Janet Mock, CSJ; and I sharing an hour of prayerful silence before our visit to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 2012. After the meeting Janet adds a bit of levity to our somber mood when she asks us, “Do you accept resignations?”
- St. Peter’s Basilica in the background as succeeding presidencies sit on the roof of our residence in Rome sharing reactions and insights from our meetings with various offices of the Holy See.
- Apostolic delegate Archbishop Sartain bounding down the stairs of the residence in Rome with a simple smile as he comes to us for an initial courtesy visit.
- Tens of thousands of letters from religious and laity surrounding us as the LCWR board begins to process the CDF’s report of its doctrinal assessment of LCWR.
- Cameramen shooting film of the three presidents as we self-consciously walk to a prayer service being held for LCWR while the assembly gathers in St. Louis to discern its initial response to the doctrinal assessment.
- Egrets and alligators facing off outside during our

board meeting in Florida as I respond to media requests from multiple countries on what women religious would like to see in a new pope.

- Pope Francis at the window of the papal apartments asking for our blessing as we begin “a journey of fraternity, of love, of trust among us,” bishop and people together; riding joyfully around St. Peter’s Square greeting the faithful before his noon audience; sitting on a simple chair as he speaks to the assembly of the International Union of Superiors General.
- Towering snowcapped Alps filling the train windows as I travel from Rome to Innsbruck, Munich; and Frankfurt; sitting room only-- on the floor that is-- even after a hundred more chairs are squeezed into an already filled room in Dublin; the eagerness of many to learn more about American women religious and to reflect on how the spirit of Vatican II flows through the church we all love.
- Experiencing the hopes and griefs of *Gaudium et Spes* as a woman describes her painful but loving relationship with both the church and with a group of Catholic laity whose leader seems to be marginalizing her; as a father can’t reconcile his love of his daughters with church teaching on women’s roles; and others wonder along with Pope Francis if the Spirit of the Second Vatican Council has been embraced or domesticated.
- The expressive faces of Janet Mock; Carol Zinn, SSJ; Sharon Holland, IHM; the LCWR board, and other members as we share faith and conduct ongoing business, including articulating the LCWR Call for 2015-2022.

Through these “snap shots” of “the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ,” (1) Holy Mystery is being revealed in the midst of the concrete realities of US religious life.

1. *Gaudium et Spes*, Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World, 1965

## GHR Foundation Awards Grants to LCWR and RCRI

*(continued from page 1)*

become what religious institutes have been through the centuries: small, liminal groups seeking God, serving the needs of society at the margins, and raising up for the church unaddressed needs," said LCWR executive director Janet Mock, CSJ.

"RCRI, LCWR, and NRRO have studied the trends among institutes of US religious and recognize that a number are now completing their journey as an institute," added RCRI executive director Sharon Euart, RSM. "We also believe that a number of institutes have viability, but are in need of assistance now to plan for a very different future."

With the GHR grants, the two organizations will implement programs specifically targeting institutes in serious need. Currently, there are more than 200 women's religious institutes that have fewer than 100 members and have a median age of 75 or older. Additional institutes will reach this stage in the near future.

GHR awarded LCWR \$1,125,000 over five years to hire a woman religious who will assess the needs of these religious communities and form teams of religious who can accompany the leaders during the discernment and decision-making processes that need to occur in order to avert crises. The teams will also provide pastoral care to institute members as decisions are made and implemented.

RCRI received a grant of \$350,000 to provide practical assistance to leaders with the governance, managerial, and financial decisions facing these religious institutes. RCRI will develop models and resources for use by the institutes, and will train individuals who can assist institutes with the implementation of the resources. RCRI will offer its services through major workshops at the annual RCRI conference, regional workshops, webinars, and online resources.

LCWR and RCRI have created this initiative to strengthen US women's religious life. "The project is designed so that a religious institute can continue to control and govern its own future," explained Sharon. "We also hope women religious will understand that many of the

duties now performed by leaders can be transferred to management, freeing the leaders to attend the mission and ministry of their institutes. We believe that in the future there will be fewer religious institutes, but these will be vibrant with sufficient membership."

"The program will assist religious institutes in planning for and celebrating their legacy and making wise decisions about the care of their members," added Janet. "It also has the potential to release new energy that frees younger religious to focus on mission and carefully discern how religious life may move into the future."

## Applications Being Accepted for LCWR Executive Director Position

LCWR has opened the search for a new executive director of the conference to succeed Janet Mock, CSJ. Janet has decided not to serve another term as LCWR executive director. The conference is deeply indebted to Janet for her extraordinary service to the conference since 2011. She has ably led LCWR with vision, courage, skill, and enormous generosity and will be greatly missed when she completes her service on December 31, 2014.

LCWR members are asked to assist in the search by encouraging persons whom they believe would be especially suited to this role. Candidates must have had experience in elected/appointed congregation leadership, beyond the local level.

The position description and application form are available on the website at: [lcwr.org/media/news/lcwr-search-executive-director](http://lcwr.org/media/news/lcwr-search-executive-director). The application deadline is September 1, 2014. The board hopes to engage an executive director who would begin on January 1, 2015.

Serving on the executive director search committee are: Carol Zinn, SSJ (chair); Esther Anderson, OSF; Pat Cormack, SCSC; Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA; and Mary Ann Zollmann, BVM.



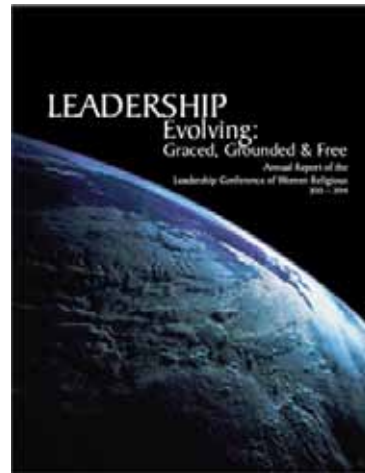
## LCWR Contemplative Insights Now Available as Greeting Cards at the LCWR Assembly

During the LCWR assembly, participants are encouraged to visit the LCWR table to purchase sets of 10 greeting cards. Each card contains an insight that has come from the membership during the LCWR contemplative process. The cards are blank inside and can be used for all occasions -- birthdays, jubilees, anniversaries, and more.

The cards can be purchased at the LCWR assembly for \$10.00 a set. Proceeds will go to the LCWR operating budget. Members are encouraged to plan on purchasing multiple packs as gifts.



Four of the 10 cards that come in a set



## 2013-2014 LCWR Annual Report Available

All LCWR members are encouraged to read the conference's annual report at [lcwr.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/report2014\\_0.pdf](http://lcwr.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/report2014_0.pdf).

## Translations of LCWR Public Statement Available

Due to the generosity of the Sisters of Bon Secours, translations into French and Spanish are now available of LCWR's May 8, 2014 public statement regarding its meeting with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The translations can be found at [lcwr.org/media/lcwr-statement-meeting-cdf-0](http://lcwr.org/media/lcwr-statement-meeting-cdf-0).

## LCWR Members Encouraged to Reflect on Emerging Insights

A new LCWR contemplative insight card is now available for downloading. The August-September 2014 card (pictured to the left) is available at [lcwr.org/resources/leadership-pathways/ behold](http://lcwr.org/resources/leadership-pathways/ behold).

The insights on these cards are drawn from the responses submitted from the 15 LCWR regions after completing the "Behold, I am Doing Something New" contemplative process.



This September LCWR will open the Leadership Pathways' foundational module on "Identity as a Leader" to the membership. The module is entitled "Becoming the Leaders We Hope to Be: The Foundations of Transformational Leadership." This experience will provide members the opportunity to join with others in an online learning group as companions on the journey of leadership and help participants to strengthen the foundational skills and dispositions needed in elected leadership. Group size is limited so members are encouraged to sign up early to ensure a place. A registration form can be found on the LCWR website at [lwr.org/resources/leadership-pathways](http://lwr.org/resources/leadership-pathways).

In addition, LCWR is looking for volunteers who would be willing to participate in a learning lab entitled "Leading in an Evolving Universe." This learning lab will explore the interrelation between the wisdom emerging from new understandings of the universe and the wisdom of the Christian tradition. In particular the learning lab will focus on the implications of this wisdom for how one engages in leadership. Much of the content for the learning lab will be drawn from the works of Ilia Delio, OSF.

All who are interested in participating in a pilot group for "Leading in an Evolving Universe" and are willing to provide feedback to the program director on the content and processes used, are asked to send their name, address, phone number, and e-mail to Carol Glidden at [cglidden@lwr.org](mailto:cglidden@lwr.org). Participation will be limited to the first 30 members who volunteer. Previous volunteers are asked to resubmit the requested information indicating that they are still interested in participating in one of the pilot groups. Volunteers will be accepted until October 1.

## Leading from Within Retreat

# *Leading from a New Place*

**Leading from Within:  
Leading from a New Place  
is a retreat for LCWR members  
and LCWR associates who are serving  
in congregation leadership**



January 11 — 16, 2015

Bethany Retreat Center -- Lutz, Florida

[bethany.catholicweb.com](http://bethany.catholicweb.com)

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 spiritual direction and sharing in small wisdom circles for those who choose.

### Retreat Directors



Marie McCarthy, SP



Mary Ann Zollmann, BVM

Space is limited to 25 persons.  
More information and registration materials will be sent soon to all LCWR members

## Gratitude for Making Assembly Attendance Possible Through Donations to Scholarship Fund

**L**CWR expresses its profound gratitude to the congregations that sent donations to assist members who requested financial support for registration and/or hotel accommodations for the LCWR assembly. Members who received support have noted their deep appreciation and promise their prayers for the donors.

## Catholic Volunteer Network Begins From Service to Sisterhood Initiative

**T**he Catholic Volunteer Network (CVN) began a three-year initiative to explore the connections between service activities and vocations to religious life.

The initiative, entitled “From Service to Sisterhood,” is funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and seeks to strengthen the vitality of women’s religious congregations. The project will try to enrich the vocation ministry efforts of institutes of women religious by helping them initiate or enhance their participation in faith-based volunteer programs.

Over the next three years, CVN will explore various possibilities with the objective of aiding more women to learn about vowed religious life as a possible vocation. Related outcomes include a restored vibrancy to women’s congregations, a greater witness to vowed religious life, and increased ministerial activity on the part of women religious.

CVN held a symposium on July 17 and 18 at the Cenacle Retreat Center in Chicago to bring together persons interested in this effort. LCWR associate director for communications Annmarie Sanders, IHM was among the more than 30 participants who made recommendations for the initiative.

CVN is a national coalition of lay volunteer and mission programs. Its mission is to foster and promote full-time domestic and international service for people of all ages, backgrounds, and skills, with a particular emphasis on young adult Catholics. The organization supports its 203 member programs through recruitment, training, and networking opportunities. Last year, CVN placed more than 20,000 full-time lay volunteers in 48 states and 112 other countries.

In a recent study conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) of alumni of faith-based volunteer programs, 37% of the 5,051 individuals surveyed reported having considered a vocation to religious life or priesthood. Of those, 27% stated that they had “very seriously” considered it, with another 35% indicating that they had “somewhat seriously” considered it. Forty-eight percent of those who have considered it, did so “during (their) volunteer service.”

## Upcoming LCWR Dates

### LCWR Assembly

*Nashville, Tennessee*  
August 12 — 16, 2014

### Leading from Within Retreat

*Bethany Retreat Center*  
*Lutz, Florida*  
January 11 — 16, 2015

### Imagining Justice

*Presentation Center*  
*Los Gatos, California*  
March 2 — 5, 2015

### LCWR New Leader Workshop

*Conference Center - University of St.*  
*Mary of the Lake*  
*Mundelein, Illinois*  
March 19 — 22, 2015

### LCWR Assembly

*Houston, Texas*  
August 11—15, 2015

### LCWR Assembly

*Atlanta, Georgia*  
August 9—13, 2016





## Catholics Respond to Critical Migrant Needs

The July 7-10 National Migration Conference focused on the church's response



to the challenges and hardships refugees, immigrants, migrants, trafficking victims, and other persons on the move face in the United States and throughout the world. Organizers sought to increase public awareness about migration questions and to educate public policy-makers about the critical needs migrants face.

On July 10 more than 350 participants headed to Capitol Hill for meetings with Members of Congress and their staff. They brought with them a lengthy agenda of concerns and a long list of legislative requests including: support for comprehensive immigration reform; sponsorship of HR 4852, the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act; and increased funding for the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

However, the issue that was on the top of everyone's agenda was the humanitarian refugee situation on the US southern border. Tens of thousands of children fleeing violence in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala are seeking protection in the United States.

On July 8 President Obama sent to Congress an emergency appropriation request for \$3.7 billion to address the increase in migration from Central America. The request includes funding for Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement to provide appropriate care for the children and the Department of Homeland Security would receive funds for border patrol agents and additional family detention facilities. The request also includes some additional funds to increase the number of immigration judges and legal representation for the children. Finally, the appropriation would include funding for the Department of State to be used to address the root causes of this refugee crisis.

Advocates are supportive of many, although not all of the President's requests and will be working to see that the funds are used to provide:

- Child-appropriate shelter for children who have fled to the United States;
- Post-release services that follow children placed

- with family members that will ensure their safety;
- Alternatives to detention for families who have recently arrived at the border;
- Legal representation for unaccompanied minors so they can navigate the complexities of the US immigration system;
- Assistance to sending countries for anti-violence and anti-poverty programs, support for at-risk youth, projects that empower women and girls, and humane re-integration programs.

Unfortunately, some members of Congress have indicated that their support for the funding request will be contingent on changes to the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2008 that would permit the expedited removal of unaccompanied children.

Child advocates fear vulnerable children will be forced back to the same dangerous conditions from which they fled without proper screening for asylum or trafficking. Many will end up in the hands of traffickers or the gangs from which they fled. They believe that the best interest of the child should be paramount in addressing this humanitarian crisis and that anything less would be a betrayal of American values and a retreat from America's commitment to put children first and protect them from harm.

### Is Your Leadership Term About to End?

If your leadership term is ending this month, we ask you to submit a change of leadership form found in the LCWR Members Information section (password-protected) of the website at [lcwr.org/members/lcwr-membership-information](http://lcwr.org/members/lcwr-membership-information).



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

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

## Farmer to Farmer Opportunity Available to Women Religious

Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) new Farmer to Farmer Program in East Africa is a five-year US government-funded initiative that allows CRS to send people on all-expenses-paid short-term volunteer assignments to Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. CRS is looking for not only US farmers, but people with skills from across America's food sector including nutrition, accounting, business management, cooperative management, livestock, agriculture and food marketing, greenhouse management, food safety, orchard management, as well as master gardeners and people with many other agricultural skills.

CRS is targeting East African small scale farmer associations that are either women-led or have significant roles for women members. They are also looking for a large number of women volunteers from the United States willing to share their expertise and love of agriculture with people in rural Africa. This program is a great opportunity for Catholics generally and women religious in particular, from across the United States to put their faith into action and work directly with CRS in the field. More information is available on the CRS website, including an online application: [farmertofarmer.crs.org](http://farmertofarmer.crs.org), or by calling Maria Figueroa at: 410-951-7366.



**FAITHS UNITED**  
TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

## Women Under the Gun in the United States

When it comes to gun violence, the most dangerous place for a woman in the developed world is the United States. Women in this country are 11 times more likely to be murdered with a gun than women in any other developed country. Five women are murdered with guns every day in the United States, most often by their intimate partners.

Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-NY) has introduced S.1290, the Protecting Domestic Violence and Stalking Victims

Act, to add stalkers and dating partners convicted of domestic violence to the list of federally prohibited gun purchasers. It is expected to attract broad, bipartisan support, and there will likely be a hearing on the domestic and gun violence related issue later this summer.

## News from the UN

### DPI NGO Conference August 27-29

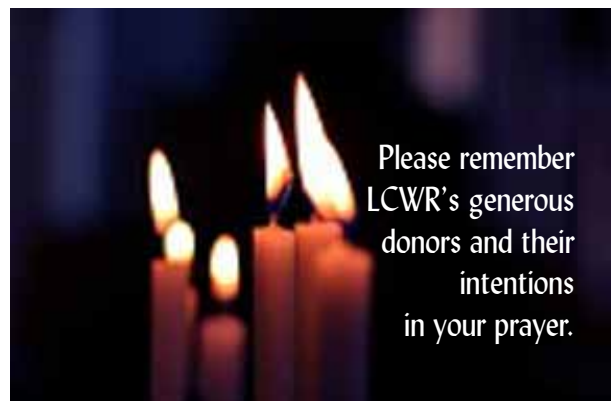
LCWR will be represented at the 65th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, titled "2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda," to be held at United Nations Headquarters August 27 to August 29, 2014.



This civil society event will feature plenary sessions, roundtables, workshops, exhibits, receptions, and a host of occasions for NGO networking. The conference will adopt an outcome declaration that offers a civil society "Action Agenda" for the post-2015 development goals. The 65th DPI/NGO Conference will take place less than a month prior to the September Climate Summit convened by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and the launch of intergovernmental negotiations at the 69th Session of the General Assembly.

### International Peace Day September 21

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed on September 21. It is a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. To mark the 30th anniversary of the General Assembly Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace, the theme of this year's International Day of Peace is the "Right of Peoples to Peace."



Please remember  
LCWR's generous  
donors and their  
intentions  
in your prayer.





by Joan Mumaw, IHM, Development Director-USA

On June 26, 2014, the *Sudan Tribune* reported the following: “South Sudan has been named the world’s ‘most fragile’ state. The report, issued by the United States-based Fund for Peace (FFP), blames chronic instability, fractured leadership, and growing ethnic conflict for South Sudan’s poor ranking.... The top six countries on the index are all in sub-Saharan Africa, with Afghanistan listed seventh most fragile state followed by Yemen, Haiti, and Pakistan.... Annually produced by FFP, the report highlights global political, economic and social pressures experienced by states and is widely considered a critical tool in... identifying pressures pushing a state towards the brink of failure.”

Reading such a report could understandably generate a reaction such as: “There is no way I am going anywhere near there.”

Yet, Solidarity with South Sudan has 32 religious sisters, brothers, and priests, and a couple of lay people, from 20 countries living and working in South Sudan. They have remained when government agencies have left the country. So why are they there? They are responding to a plea from the church to walk with and help build the capacity of the people to serve as nurses, midwives, teachers, farmers, and pastoral workers. With the exception of the Teacher Training College in Malakal, which has been damaged and totally looted, the other ministries of Solidarity continue to prepare their students and others as leaders in their communities and in the country.

We thank you for helping us respond to this plea made to religious around the globe and ask you to continue supporting Solidarity through the sharing of your “widows’ mite” in financial contributions and personnel, especially, at this time, tutors and those with administrative and financial skills. For more information contact Joan Mumaw, IHM at [jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com](mailto:jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com) or visit our display at the LCWR assembly.



- Letter to Senate appropriators indicating concern and urging the Senate Appropriations Committee to support the House’s proposed base funding levels for the State –Foreign Operations (SFOPs) budget for FY 15. LCWR (6/16/14)
- LCWR calls upon people of all denominations in the world community to join the Iraqi Sisters in a moment of prayer on Thursday, June 19 at 6 PM (local time) to pray for an end to the violence and the protection of minority Christians in Iraq. LCWR PR (6/17/14)
- Letter to Jeh Johnson, secretary and Alejandro Mayorkas, deputy secretary of Homeland Security strongly urging an end to plans to open new immigrant family detention centers. LCWR (7/1/14)
- Signed the international civil society statement, “Stockholm Agenda” on migrant and migration-related goals and targets in post-2015 global and national development agendas. LCWR(7/4/14)
- Interfaith letter to the Administration and Congress detailing policy recommendations concerning the humanitarian child-refugee crisis on the US southern border. LCWR (7/11/14)
- Letter urging Congress to pursue an approach that attends to the immediate emergency needs of the children and families at the border while providing adequate resources to address the underlying conditions which are driving them to flee from Central America. Janet Mock, CSJ (7/17/14)
- Letter to the US president from leaders of US organizations that work to support children and families both in the United States and abroad, urging the president to send the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to the US Senate this year. Janet Mock, CSJ (7/26/14)



## Religious Formation Conference 60th Anniversary Celebration

### From Center to Periphery: Relocating the Prophetic Witness of Religious Life

In a series of events, RFC will celebrate its heritage, reflect with expert and engaging presenters and with one another on the implications of the call to mission in the 21st century, and continue lifelong formation as women and men challenged, in Pope Francis' words, "to fly from the nest to the frontiers, to wake the world".

Keynote presenters for these gatherings will be:

Richard Gaillardetz, PhD  
*Joseph Professor of Theology at Boston College*  
From Center to Periphery:  
Relocating the Prophetic Witness of Religious Life

Caroljean Willie, SC, PhD  
*NGO representative at the United Nations  
for the Sisters of Charity Federation*  
"Called to Live on the Margins of Possibility"

Dates and Locations:

September 19-20, 2014  
Felician Franciscan Sisters -- Chicago, IL

September 26-27, 2014  
Providence Health and Services -- Renton (Seattle), WA

October 10-11, 2014  
Atchison Heritage Conference Center -- Atchison, KS

October 17-18, 2014  
Our Lady of the Lake Convent -- San Antonio, TX

More information may be obtained at [www.relforcon.org](http://www.relforcon.org)  
or by calling 202-827-4562