



August - September 2013

NBC to Air LCWR's Women & Spirit Documentary



NBC-TV has selected LCWR's *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America* documentary for broadcast on its stations across the country.



The film will be part of NBC's "Horizons of the Spirit" series which provides all NBC affiliates with a series of films that they may broadcast locally. *Women & Spirit* may be aired between September 15, 2013 and March 16, 2014.

LCWR members will be asked to help promote the broadcast of the film by contacting their local NBC stations and asking that the program be aired. More information about this project will be forthcoming. The stronger the grassroots efforts are in promoting the documentary, the greater the likelihood of the program being selected by an NBC affiliate.

A brief description of the films in this year's "Horizons of the Spirit" series can be found at: www.interfaithbroadcasting.com/hofs.aspx.



More than 825 LCWR members and associates have registered for the 2013 LCWR assembly. See page 3 for information on preparing for the assembly.

Orbis Publishes Book of LCWR Presidential Addresses

LCWR entered into a contract with Orbis Books to publish a collection of 10 LCWR presidential addresses that explore the challenges of providing spiritual leadership in light of the pressing issues of the day.

Entitled *Spiritual Leadership in Challenging Times: Presidential Addresses of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious*, the book illustrates how LCWR presidents have led from a foundation that has steeped them in the practice of reflection and contemplation. Their addresses demonstrate a leadership that is deeply rooted in God and that strives to connect the soul of an organization with the soul of the world.

Prefacing each address is a brief summary of the key events that significantly impacted the world and the Catholic Church at the time the address was delivered at LCWR's annual assembly. The addresses speak to the challenges these events posed to leaders at that time, as well as to the call to exercise leadership that was pastoral, discerning, and at times, exceptionally courageous.

The authors draw upon insights from theology, the sciences, the arts, and many other disciplines to illuminate their understandings of the leadership their era demanded. Their addresses focus on their experience of leadership as they grappled with the impact of ecological devastation, war, human trafficking, terrorism, injustices leveled against women, and many of the other pressing issues of the post-modern culture. They demonstrate how to help others draw from their own spiritual depths and find hope in troubling times. They model how to be peace-builders and reconcilers. They

(continued on page 3)

From the LCWR Presidency

Opening Ourselves to Conversion

by Pat Farrell, OSF — LCWR Past President

As I write my last presidential letter, my own words from last summer's assembly come back to me, contextualized differently: "They can crush a few flowers but they can't hold back the springtime." So what about that springtime now in 2013? There are some who would call the moment we are experiencing "a Catholic spring." None of us could have imagined a year ago a Pope Francis, bringing fresh air to an ecclesiastical environment gone stale. Church reform movements are proliferating, networking, flourishing. Clearly there is observable movement. Could it be that spring is upon us? Perhaps. There are some signs. But spring comes slowly, by fits and starts. Think March. Think mud and wind and the messy in-



Something similar is true of our hope for a springtime in our church. It has its own rhythm and season, yet we find ourselves eager to tend the growth, to prune away the old to carve out space for the new. Actually, that sounds to me like conversion, and I sense among LCWR members a collective desire for that kind of transformation. By conversion I don't mean an inappropriate and submissive "mea culpa" to accusations which misrepresent who we are and what we are about, but a genuine desire to allow the events confronting us to knead us into bread to be broken and

shared. I don't mean a glossing over of abuses in the church, but a recognition that we can change only our own consciousness and choices, so we focus our energy there. I do see this moment of conversion as a process of becoming more malleable to God's reshaping of us for purposes beyond our current awareness, beyond dualisms and separateness, in readiness for God's in-breaking of newness.

As we gather soon at the LCWR assembly, I have no doubt that we come open to conversion and transformation. Personally, I come with immense gratitude

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between stage of the late-winter, early- spring time of year. Spring is heralded by great turbulence and fluctuating temperatures. It storms its way forward, groaning and labored. But it does come. Always.

It strikes me that for all our desiring and longing for a new season in nature, it is not within our power to make it happen. It comes from a force beyond us, yet utterly familiar to us. The rhythms of the universe are mirrored within us. Something deep in us is attuned to nature's change of season, aware that its pattern is cruciform, reflective of who we are, and revelatory of the divine. What is ours to do is to tune into the seasonal shifts and move with them. I think we do that pretty instinctively, as a matter of fact. We prune trees and plant flowers. We clear out the old growth of a previous season to make room for the new.

I do see this moment of conversion as a process of becoming more malleable to God's reshaping of us for purposes beyond our current awareness, beyond dualisms and separateness, in readiness for God's in-breaking of newness.

for my own transformation through the events and relationships I've experienced in LCWR leadership. I anticipate that when we gather in Orlando we will once again incite one another to faithfulness to the Gospel, in season and out of season.

Consider Donating to the LCWR Scholarship Fund

LCWR is grateful to the congregations who sent scholarship donations for assembly attendance for members. It is not too late to consider sending a donation to the LCWR scholarship fund.

Donations (checks payable to LCWR) may be directed to Grace Hartzog, SC, associate director for business and finance, at 8808 Cameron Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Any congregation that wishes to attend the conference, but needs assistance is asked to contact Grace (ghartzog@lcwr.org) to request a partial scholarship. Partial assistance with registration and/or hotel accommodations is available through the LCWR scholarship fund.

Orbis Publishes Book of LCWR Presidential Addresses

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show how to live and lead with an integrity and humility for which the world at large yearns and hungers.

The book was created to interest not only women religious, but persons who are interested in leadership, and particularly spiritual leadership, as well as those concerned with women's issues, religious life, advocacy, justice, and the Catholic Church.

An LCWR committee worked for the last several months to read all the LCWR presidential addresses delivered since the conference's founding in 1956 and to select those that seemed most appropriate for this book. The committee members were: Helen Maher Garvey, BVM; Sheila Lemieux, CSJP; Mary Novak (LCWR staff); Rita Parks, RSM; Annmarie Sanders, IHM (LCWR staff); and Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA.

The book is scheduled for release in spring 2014. All LCWR assembly participants are encouraged to visit the Orbis Books exhibit booth at the LCWR assembly to learn more about the publication.



LCWR 2013 Assembly Leadership Evolving: Graced, Grounded & Free

Orlando, Florida
August 13 - 16, 2013

To date, more than 825 LCWR members and associates have registered for the 2013 LCWR assembly -- Leadership Evolving: Graced, Grounded & Free. This important assembly will explore how the growing awareness of an evolving universe impacts understandings of religious life and leadership.

As preparation for the assembly, all participants are encouraged to do the following:

- ✓ Read the LCWR 2011-2012 annual report available online at lcwr.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/report2013_0.pdf.
- ✓ Read the Summer 2013 issue of LCWR's *Occasional Papers* entitled "Letting the Land Lie Fallow."
- ✓ Read the information on the candidates for LCWR president and secretary on the private side of the website (www.lcwr.org).
- ✓ Consider ordering CDs or DVDs of the assembly presentations for your further reflection and inform your institute's members about the possibility of ordering them as well. (www.gemtapes.net/Order/LCWR_2013)

All are reminded to check that they have registered for the assembly and made hotel reservations.

People of Faith Invited to Pray and Fast for Immigration Reform

The Interfaith Immigration Coalition is inviting people of faith to commit to 40 days of prayer, fasting, and advocacy for immigration reform. Plans call for the period of intense action to begin the weekend of September 9 as Congress returns to Washington to take up immigration reform. More information will follow.

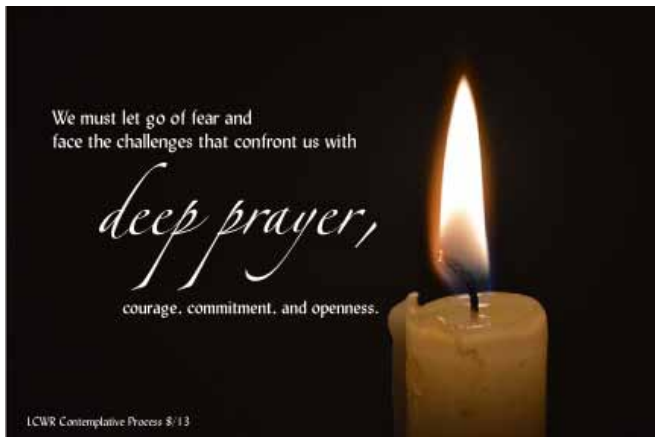
LCWR Members Encouraged to Reflect on Emerging Insights

A new LCWR contemplative insight card is now available for downloading. The August-September 2013 card (pictured below) is available at: lcrw.org/sites/default/files/page/files/aug-sept_2013_0.pdf.

The insights on these cards are drawn from the responses submitted from the 15 LCWR regions after completing the “Behold, I am Doing Something New” contemplative process. Members are using these cards in ways such as the following:

- Placing the card in their own personal prayer space
- Placing the card in the leadership team prayer and/or meeting space
- Forwarding the card to their members and associates and inviting them to pray with the insight
- Including the artwork in their institute’s publications

Additional insights will be offered each month.



LCWR Annotated Bibliography

A new annotation for the book, *The Unbearable Wholeness of Being: God, Evolution, and the Power of Love*, by Ilia Delio, OSF, has been added to the LCWR bibliography of resources on religious life: lcrw.org/sites/default/files/page/files/bibliography6-13.pdf.

CBS Rebroadcasts Segment on LCWR

July 28, 2013 7:01 PM

PRINT TEXT H R

American nuns struggle with Vatican for change

comments 0 Like 27 Tweet 2 +1 0 in Share More +

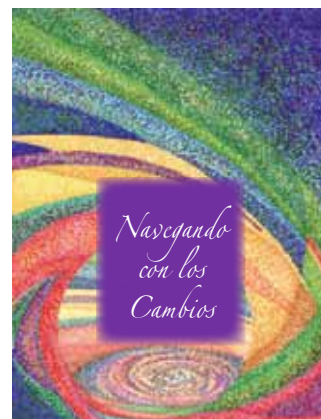


60 Minutes segment on LCWR is available on the CBS website

60 Minutes rebroadcasted its segment on the doctrinal assessment of LCWR by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on July 28. The updated program may be viewed online at www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=50151798n. Also on the CBS site are “web extras” that pertain to the topic.

Navigating the Shifts Now Available in Spanish

Due to the generosity of the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque and one of their members, Reyna Baddillo, the entire contents of the LCWR reflective journal, *Navigating the Shifts*, have been translated into Spanish. The text is available online as a PDF document at: lcrw.org/sites/default/files/page/files/navengan-do_con_los_cambios.pdf.



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 19 - 24, 2014

Redemptorist Renewal Center - Tucson, Arizona

Join with other women religious leaders for a five-day retreat that will provide opportunities to reflect on the blessings and challenges of religious life leadership today.

The days will include input, contemplative space, a variety of ritual experiences and some opportunity for individual and group spiritual direction for those who choose.

Retreat Directors



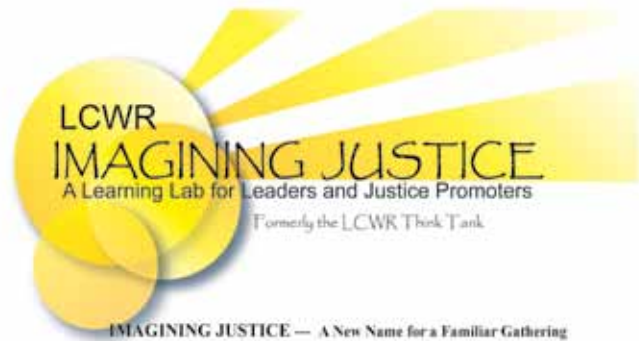
Marie McCarthy, SP



Mary Ann Zollmann, BVM

Space is limited to 25 persons.

More information and registration materials are available at lcsr.org/sites/default/files/calendar/attachments/lfwretreat14.pdf



Imagining Justice: A Learning Lab for Leaders and Justice Promoters

Justice and systemic change work have been integral aspects of congregations of women religious for the past decades.

The commitment to social justice extends to the public arena, the church, and internal congregational policies and structures. How is the future calling for a reimagining of this critical work?

How can women religious engage the work of justice with an evolutionary consciousness?

How does the commitment to contemplation enable imagining new ways for transformation?

Presenter: Nancy Sylvester, IHM
Founder of the

Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue

March 3 - 6, 2014

Bethany Center -- Lutz, Florida

home.catholicweb.com/bethany

Additional information and registration materials are available at: lcsr.org/sites/default/files/calendar/attachments/imaginingjustice2014.pdf

Is Your Leadership Term About to End?

If your leadership term is ending this month, you must submit a change of leadership form found in the LCWR Members Information section (password-protected) of the website at lcsr.org/members/lcsr-membership-information.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Assembly

Orlando, Florida
August 13 — 17, 2013

Leading from Within Retreat

Redemptorist Renewal Center
Tucson, Arizona
January 19 — 24, 2014

Imaging Justice: A Learning Lab for Leaders and Justice Promoters

Bethany Retreat Center
Lutz, Florida
March 3 — 6, 2014

LCWR New Leader Workshop

Conference Center - University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois
March 27 — 30, 2014

LCWR Assembly

Nashville, Tennessee
August 12 — 16, 2014

LCWR Assembly

Houston, Texas
August 11—15, 2015



- Letter to Senators urging support for amendment #1504 to S. 744 co-sponsored by Senators Hirono, Murray, Baldwin, Boxer, Cantwell, Gillibrand, Klobuchar, Landrieu, Leahy, Mikulski, Murkowski, Shaheen, Stabenow and Warren which adds new tier to the proposed merit-based system that is more inclusive of women's contributions. LCWR (6/13)
- Letter from representatives of the faith community, urging Senators to oppose the Corker-Hoeven amendment that fundamentally alters the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act and would have negative implications for border communities and our immigrant brothers and sisters. LCWR (6/24/13)
- Letter from faith-based organizations, urging House members to oppose the provisions of H.R. 2131, the SKILLS Visa Act that would eliminate channels for family members to lawfully immigrate. LCWR (6/26/13)
- Letter from faith-based organizations asking Congress to provide full and robust funding to support implementation of the U.S. strategy to end child marriage authorized in Violence against Women Act in FY2014. LCWR (6/13)
- Statement by Catholic Church-inspired international organizations affirming that the most effective route out of poverty and the ongoing global economic crisis is closely linked to the promotion of decent work and support for adequate social protection. LCWR (7/9/13)
- Faith letter asking the Senate to take steps to immediately begin shifting our nation's spending from the military budget to the needs of those who are struggling to overcome poverty. LCWR (7/9/13)
- Letter authored by the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility to Senators Bennet, Carper, Gillibrand, Hagan, Heitkamp, and Schumer asking them to reconsider their request to Treasury Secretary John Lew requesting a delay in the adoption of proposed rules on the regulation of financial derivatives. LCWR (7/12/13)



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Educational Resources Available on Healthcare Coverage

Millions of uninsured Americans will soon become eligible to sign up for healthcare coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This fall consumers will have a variety of quality, affordable insurance options available around the country through new health insurance marketplaces. Starting in October, eligible people will be able to sign up for insurance benefits that become effective in January 2014.

However, people will not enroll unless they know about it. It will take a broad coalition of industry leaders, faith-based organizations, government, and others to help ensure the many working families, young people, and others who stand to benefit from the Affordable Care Act have the information they need to make the right choice for themselves and their families.

Having worked so hard on behalf of meaningful healthcare reform, women religious can now play a role in educating others about what is coming: state-based health insurance marketplaces, expanded Medicaid, and many other changes that will improve healthcare access and quality.

A number of non-governmental organizations are deeply involved in efforts to educate the public about the opportunities presented by the ACA. Enroll America and its partners, including the Catholic Health Association (CHA), are working to ensure that Americans know about their new coverage opportunities. Enroll America has launched a public awareness campaign, Get Covered America, www.getcoveredamerica.org, to explain how enrollment works and who is eligible. As part of that effort, CHA has produced a video to help inform the community. CHA's new "Ready, Get Set, Enroll" video is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5N1j_StJuE and may be shared on the web, Facebook, Twitter, and in newsletters.

The administration is equally involved in the education around ACA. The Department of Health and Human Services' Partnership Center has added new webinars to its series of informational events for faith and community leaders on the ACA, including, The Health Care Law - Health Insurance Marketplace 101, August 7 at 3:00 PM (EST). More information is available at: content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHHS/bulletins/7e0776.

Immigration Reform Efforts Focus on the House

The United State Congress takes its summer recess August 5-September 9. That means members of the House, who currently control the legislative fate of immigration reform, will be in their districts for town hall meetings, constituent visits, and public events. Proponents of justice for immigrants will need to turn out in force if they hope to have a positive impact on the immigration discussion over the August recess.

Politics in the House is distinctly different from that of the Senate. As former Speaker of the House, Tip O'Neill, famously quipped, "All politics is local." That is absolutely the case in the US House of Representatives. Everything about the design of the House requires its occupants to listen carefully to the wishes of their constituents. Its members are "citizen-politicians" who are required to stand for election every two years. Members of the House represent on average only about 709,760 citizens from their district, while Senators typically represent many millions. Congressional districts have often been purposely drawn to be homogenous. Most are either reliably Republican red or Democratic blue. Very few are purple. Members need to hear disparate voices.

Local opinion matters and the tone and content of conversations about immigration reform during the August recess will have a profound influence on what happens to immigration legislation come September. That makes in-district action by the proponents of immigration reform critical.

The following are some possible actions:

- Plan in-district office visits during the August recess to talk about the need for reform that is consistent with our national values and Catholic Social Teaching.
- Attend town hall meetings; stand up; speak out; and ask hard questions.
- Organize prayer vigils at district offices.
- Promise to pray daily for Members of Congress.
- Urge congregational communicators to develop opinion pieces for placement in local papers.
- Bring back the billboard campaign—"I was a stranger an immigrant . . ."

Summer conversations back home in the district could well dictate the fall debate on the Hill in Washington.

News from the United Nations

Promise of Education for All Remains Unfulfilled

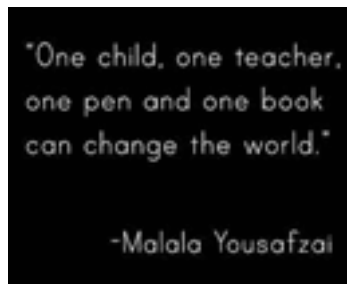


With less than 1,000 days before the end of the current Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the world is entering what UN Special Envoy for Education Gordon Brown describes as the “Final Sprint” to achieve them. Education, which is the foundation of all development sectors, must be elevated to the highest priority by the US and global community in the sprint toward reaching the 2015 MDGs and beyond.

Meeting the education MDGs requires ensuring access to quality education for 61 million young people of primary school age, mostly girls, who are still denied an education. There has been significant progress since 2000 when more than 100 million children were out of school, but many of those who still lack access are the most marginalized, due to geography, disability, gender, ethnic origin, and the impact of violence and conflict. More information about the state of education and the achievement of the education MDGs is available at www.campaignforeducationusa.org/ and www.globalpartnership.org.

Malala Yousafzai Calls for Education for All by 2015

Pakistani school-girl Malala Yousafzai, who was attacked by the Taliban last year because of her outspoken support for girls’ education, celebrated her 16th birthday by presenting a petition to the United Nations calling on world leaders to ensure that all children enjoy their right to education.

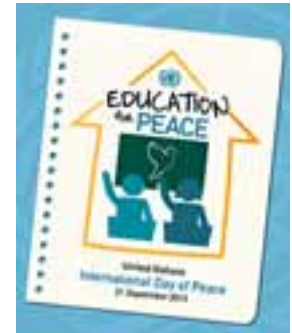


In an impassioned speech Malala told UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and nearly 1,000 students attending an international youth assembly that education was the only way to improve lives. “Let us pick up our books and pens. They are our most powerful weap-

ons. One child, one teacher, one pen, and one book can change the world. Education is the only solution,” said Malala.

Commemorate the International Day of Peace September 21

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on September 21 as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. The day was established in 1981 by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly as an annual day of non-violence and ceasefire to be commemorated through education and public awareness on issues related to peace.



The theme for the day this year is “Education for Peace.” The United Nations will examine the role education can play in fostering global citizenship. In a June 13 statement announcing the theme of the 2013 commemoration Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was clear: “I call on everyone--whether governments, parties to conflicts, religious institutions, community leaders, the media, academics, or civil society groups – to play their part. We must support peace education programs, protect students and teachers from conflict, help rebuild schools destroyed by war, and ensure all girls and boys have access to a quality education that includes learning about resolving and preventing conflicts.

“It is not enough to teach children how to read, write, and count. Education has to cultivate mutual respect for others and the world in which we live, and help people forge more just, inclusive and peaceful societies.”

Additional information and resources are available at: www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/2013

Dignity of Work Program Now Serving Trafficked Persons in Four Locations

Migration and Refugee Services' Dignity of Work program is now receiving referrals for clients in Los Angeles; Venice, FL; New York; and Louisville. With agreements signed in all four cities, USCCB hopes to continue expanding operations throughout the country to better serve survivors of human trafficking with enhanced employment services. The Dignity of Work program aims to provide employment services to 60 survivors of human trafficking this year in an effort to better understand the programmatic needs of clients. This pilot project is part of the Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States and will be evaluated after two years of operation. More information is available at: acfstrongertogether.ideascale.com. Questions or referrals may be sent to: mrsdignityofwork@usccb.org.

NRRO Seeks Assistant Director of Retirement Services

The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) is seeking an assistant director of retirement services. Responsibilities will include outreach to religious institutes with a small number of members and/or a high median age as well as development of educational materials and web-based resources for retirement planning. The job description can be found at www.usccb.org/about/employment/. The position is available immediately but the start date is negotiable. NRRO also is accepting applications for the 2014 planning and implementation process. Significant consultative assistance and funding are available through this program for any religious institute with more than 25 members and an under-funded retirement liability of 40% or greater. For more information see www.usccb.org/about/national-religious-retirement-office/planning-and-implementation-assistance.cfm.