

# Being the Presence of Love: The Power of Transformation

2017 - 2018 Annual Report  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious



Annual Report of the  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
*2017 – 2018*



3	A LETTER FROM THE LCWR PRESIDENCY
4	A LETTER FROM THE LCWR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
5	THE YEAR IN REVIEW
15	THE LCWR REGIONS
23	LCWR FINANCES
28	LCWR COLLABORATORS
31	LCWR NATIONAL BOARD AND COMMITTEES
33	LCWR NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF



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# Fidelity to the Call of Transformation

The 2017 LCWR assembly encouraged our conference to continue exploring the emerging narrative of communion. We could not have imagined then, the different ways communion would be required. The hurricane season would devastate Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. Fires would ravage California. As we prepare for our upcoming gathering, we watch in disbelief as the volcanic activity in Hawaii bursts out lava. And the list of natural calamities is endless if we turn to the rest of the world.

The forceful signs of nature would have been enough to assure us of the desperate need for communion around us; but, the spiraling of the epidemic of violence held even more potent signs. We watched in horror as the stories of Las Vegas, Southerland Springs, Parkland, and Santa Fe, Texas unraveled. Then we saw our young people and children raise their voices -- shouting "enough!" -- all over the country. We have witnessed the powerful call those voices bring to us. All of them calling us to communion.

Our members have been there in the midst of the clamor of suffering in every one of those places -- responding to natural disasters, attending to victims, walking besides the teens that were marching to end violence. We have witnessed first-hand how broad and compelling this call has become. We must witness to communion. Meanwhile, our conference continued its journey of transformation hoping to be ready to respond to the rapid changes and needs around us. We took the first steps to transform our governance when the national board was elected at large by members and began serving the conference. Transitions of our staff team have been taking place, especially as we now welcome Carol Zinn, SSJ as executive director, and prepare for the big move out of the Cameron Street building. The movement around and within the conference is real, challenging, and awesome!

We will gather in August filled with the promise of communion, because we have already experienced it. We will gather in hope because we have been faithful to the call of transformation. And we will gather in thanksgiving for all the possibilities emerging before us.

Thank you for all you do as leaders.

**Teresa Maya, CCVI** -- LCWR President

**Sharlet Wagner, CSC** -- LCWR President-Elect

**Mary Pellegrino, CSJ** -- LCWR Past President



*Mary Pellegrino, CSJ; Teresa Maya, CCVI;  
and Sharlet Wagner, CSC*

We will gather in thanksgiving for all  
*the possibilities*  
emerging before us.

## White-Water Rafting at LCWR

Sometimes life slips along like a shy little brook, hardly calling attention to its twists and turns. At other times it takes off like a white-water ride, plunging along – swirling past rocks, crashing frothy waters, headed for heaven knows where. The past year at LCWR has been a bit of a white-water ride. We at the national office are like passengers packed into a small inflatable raft – clutching the gunnels, securing our life jackets, wondering if anyone remembered a map.

Transitions came in waves this year – not neatly and sequentially, but in overlapping swells. In eight months, there have been three LCWR executive directors. Joan Marie Steadman, CSC completed her term in December 2017. I stepped in for six months from January to June. And now, happily, Carol Zinn, SSJ will begin as the 15th LCWR executive director on July 1.

The LCWR national board implemented a major change in its governance structure when it moved from a board of officers and 15 regional representatives to a board with nine members directly elected by the conference. Next, a newly established Governance Committee will look at additional structural changes to accommodate LCWR's changing membership and needs. With the spring regional meetings of 2018, the board initiated a comprehensive assessment of LCWR programs, services, and publications. Once all the data has been collected, the conference will then embark on an integrated process to review the data, discern implications for LCWR's future, and undertake long-range comprehensive planning for the conference.

A significant change of LCWR's traditional setting occurred on May 1, 2018 when the building LCWR and the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) have owned together for almost 40 years was sold to a neighboring company. By mid-autumn of 2018, LCWR will relocate to new office space in collaboration with the Resource Center for Religious Institutes and Solidarity with Friends of South Sudan. CMSM's plans for relocation are still unfolding. The two conferences will continue to collaborate, perhaps more intentionally, although they will no longer occupy the same space.

So, hang on to those life jackets and keep the paddles handy. Our white-water rafting days are far from over. Nevertheless, the experience – though sometimes unsettling - is exhilarating. The opportunities are spectacular and the companions, incomparable.

**Carole Shinnick, SSND**  
*LCWR Interim Executive Director*



*Transitions*

came in waves this year –  
not neatly and sequentially, but in overlapping swells.

## From the LCWR Call 2015 – 2022

### Embracing Critical Change

### LCWR tends the evolution of religious life

The LCWR Call commits the conference to accompanying congregations in their transitional stages, creating spaces for deep conversations on the essential values of religious life, honoring its increasingly diverse membership, and attending the internal organizational changes necessitated with shifting demographics.

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## Transitional Services

This past year at LCWR continued to be filled with requests for assistance in looking at possibilities for a future even as congregations become smaller. Such requests come from LCWR members, CMSWR members, monasteries, provinces of international congregations, as well as from small groups that do not hold membership in any conference. While some of these requests are initial inquiries, there are interesting things being accomplished by congregations that are making viable plans. Whatever the intention that prompted such movement, it is resulting in deeper communion.

A recent issue of the *National Catholic Reporter* highlighted the collaborative efforts behind the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative and the collaboration underway in Missouri. One involves 10 communities and the other three. Each initiative calls for member congregations to share resources and services. Each frees some of its members from internal ministry, allowing them to engage in ministries to the wider church and world. Their conversations and sharing of information have drawn them into deeper communion.

Some charism families are looking at how they might do something akin to these models. Monastic communities as well as apostolic communities are inviting their members as well as their leaders to imagine such possibilities. Similar conversations are occurring in cities once populated with many motherhouses but now with only a few. While no one is looking to give up charism identity, there is a growing awareness that more can be accomplished together. Such conversations are deepening communion.

Some communities looking at the completion of their mission are connecting with lay partners. In at least two instances the partnership will involve the local Catholic health system. In these specific instances the sisters will be able to remain in place even as they begin to share some of that space with the people of God. Such initiatives are very much mission-driven and are leading to deeper communion.

Still other communities are entering into covenant relationships with communities of their choice. They are no longer able to provide their own leadership and look forward to a new-found freedom to be totally about the mission. One of these communities has devised a plan for several small committees to guide the new pontifical commissary. They are relishing the deeper communion this sacred agreement will bring.

Provinces of international communities, regardless of the location of the generalate, are seeking ways to change their status as a province and yet have voice in the larger congregation. One province is in a three-year time of experimentation with such an adaptation. The relationship with the generalate is strong and the members of this post-province report feeling totally free to be about their charism and the deepening of their relationships with one another. They are deepening in communion.

The last success story that will fit into this report is that of the Poor Clare Sisters, a monastic community that moved in February into a newly renovated wing of the Franciscan Sisters of Rochester, Minnesota. A beautiful letter was sent to their family and friends. The letter spoke of the challenges of packing and downsizing and letting go, but also spoke of the “warm welcome of the Franciscan Sisters, our longtime friends.” At the end of the letter was a personal note. “Maybe our story will be an encouragement to others.” This is still another story of deepening communion.

While some of these requests are initial inquiries, there are interesting things being accomplished by congregations that are making viable plans. Whatever the intention that prompted such movement, it is resulting in *deeper communion.*

## Creating Spaces for Deep Conversations

### Emerging Questions

Part of the mandate of the LCWR Contemporary Religious Life Committee is to “assist the conference to actively read the signs of the times from a gospel perspective, assume an anticipatory role in understanding the implications for religious life, and bring the emerging questions, issues, and trends to the attention of the members.” In response to this mandate, the committee began publishing in the LCWR newsletter some of the emerging questions it is hearing from the members as well as those coming from the committee’s own study in a variety of disciplines impacting religious life leadership today. The hope is that these questions will provoke further reflection by and conversation among LCWR members pertaining to religious life, leadership, and the signs of the times.

### Ongoing Deepening Groups

In mid-November in response to the expressed desire of a number of members, LCWR invited people to consider forming virtual or in-person deepening groups to engage in ongoing communal contemplative dialogue focused on the essence and meaning of religious life. Eleven groups, varying in size from 4 to 7 members formed at this time. As of April, eight of the 11 groups have begun meeting regularly and report that they are having a positive experience.

## Translation of Resources

Through the generosity of its members, LCWR provides translations into other languages of many of the LCWR assembly addresses, as well as some of the articles in *Occasional Papers*. Members who translate LCWR materials into other languages are asked to consider sharing them with the conference so others may benefit from the translations. While the majority of the translations are from English to Spanish, some are available as well in French, Portuguese, and Korean.

## Organizational Changes

### Governance Changes

Following the vote at the 2017 LCWR assembly to move forward with a restructuring of the national board, the conference elected during the fall nine members to serve on the board. They join the LCWR presidency, secretary, treasurer, and executive director in forming the board. The new board met for the first time in February at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson, Arizona. In this time of shifting demographics and complex concerns for women religious, and ever-increasing needs in the mission they serve, it is hoped that this new board structure will allow for more nimble responses to the matters and initiatives that come before the board.

At its first meeting, the board put particular emphasis on assuring that close connections are established and strengthened with the regions and the members-at-large. To this end, the



*Members of the new LCWR national board and LCWR staff meet in February in Tucson, Arizona.*

board initiated a new communications structure where three members of the board serve as liaisons to the 15 regions – with one board liaison relating to five regional chairs. The liaison will be the primary board contact for the five regions; she and the five regional chairs will connect via videoconferencing after each LCWR board meeting and at other times, as needed. At its second meeting, held in May at Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center in Marriotsville, Maryland, the board completed further work on clarifying the responsibilities for the board members and assigning specific liaison roles.

## LCWR Needs Assessment Process

At their spring region meetings, LCWR members began work on a two-part process that highlights the services and resources provided by LCWR that actively support the ministry of religious life leadership as well as identifies desires and hopes for the conference as religious life evolves. At the region meetings, through a process of appreciative inquiry, members considered four questions: 1) What learnings/insights have significantly impacted your service of leadership? 2) What key LCWR experiences, services, or resources are most valuable for your ministry of elected leadership? 3) What questions, if explored by LCWR, could make a difference in how we create the future of the conference? 4) What are your concrete wishes for the future of LCWR?

The second part of this process will involve an online survey rating LCWR's current services by the members.

## Sale of Office Building

On May 1, LCWR and CMSM signed the paperwork to sell the office building that the organizations co-owned for 36 years at 8808 Cameron Street, Silver Spring, Maryland. As the needs of the two conferences have changed, they decided to accept an offer from a neighboring business to purchase the property. LCWR and CMSM will remain in the building through the summer and then will move to different nearby locations.



*The jointly-owned LCWR-CMSM office building has been surrounded by major construction projects*

- What learnings/insights have significantly impacted your service of leadership?
- What key LCWR experiences, services, or resources are most valuable for your ministry of elected leadership?
- What questions, if explored by LCWR, could make a difference in how we create the future of the conference?
- What are your concrete wishes for the future of LCWR?

*Embracing Critical Change*

## From the LCWR Call 2015 – 2022

# Providing Skills and Resources for Contemplative and Anticipatory Leadership

LCWR accompanies leaders in initial and ongoing development as they navigate critical issues in the world, the church, and their religious institutes

The LCWR Call commits the conference to providing programs and resources for the ministry of leadership and partners with organizations that strengthen women religious nationally and internationally

## Programs and Resources for Leadership

### LCWR Assembly Explores the Call to Embody Love for the Sake of the World

**A**lmost 780 participants attended the 2017 LCWR assembly in Orlando, Florida from August 8-11, where they explored the theme, “Being the Presence of Love: The Power of Transformation.” Participants engaged the relevance of this theme with presenters Dr. Christopher Pramuk and Jan Richardson; LCWR president Mary Pellegrino, CSJ; and a panel of younger LCWR members: Yesenia Fernandez, MGSps; Virginia Herbers, ASCJ; Alba Letelier, SP; and Ann Jackson, PBVM.

Participants practiced contemplative dialogue in small groups following the two keynote presentations asking the questions: What is required of us as leaders having heard these addresses? What matters most for the future of our communities, religious life, and the world we serve? Throughout the assembly participants were also invited to commit to spending time each



day in personal and communal contemplation that placed them in deeper communion with the world, especially the places of great suffering and pain.

An outcome of the dialogue and prayer of the participants was the decision to issue a public statement about the escalating tensions between the governments of the United States and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

The participants were given the opportunity to offer a response from their table group to the following questions:

- How does who we are and what we are experiencing as LCWR leaders, propel us forward to be the presence of love?
- What could this invite from us as we consider individual and corporate responses?

The following themes emerged:

- Use LCWR’s moral voice to be the presence of love in the public square and on the margins/peripheries of society.
- Build bridges and explore avenues of collaboration with other organizations of women religious; conferences of religious, those serving religious and others
- Enter into reflection and dialogue on a new narrative of communion
- Read the signs of the times in light of the new narrative
- Explore ways to be inclusive while respecting the role and





purpose of LCWR

- Create circles of contemplation and contemplative dialogue that are inclusive

During the assembly, LCWR bestowed the 2017 Outstanding Leadership Award on Constance FitzGerald, a Carmelite nun and contemplative theologian from Baltimore, Maryland.

At the conclusion of the assembly, Teresa Maya, CCVI assumed the office of LCWR president for 2017-2018. The conference also voted in Sharlet Ann Wagner, CSC as its president-elect.



## Leadership Pathways

Leadership Pathways, the LCWR online program designed to assist members in strengthening their capacities as transformational leaders, assists LCWR members and other women religious. Two new learning groups formed to explore Becoming the Leaders We Hope to Be: The Foundations of Transformational Leadership. One group is exploring The Foundations of Mission-Grounded Leadership, and another group is exploring Leading in an Evolving Universe. In addition, LCWR provided a modified version of Becoming the Leaders We Hope to Be for congregation members serving in a variety of leadership positions other than elected leadership. Six groups of five women each are engaged in this process.



## Leading from Within Retreat

In January of this year 35 women participated in the Leading From Within Retreat offered at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson, Arizona. The retreat experience, which was facilitated by Janet Mock, CSJ; Marie McCarthy, SP; and Annmarie Sanders, IHM, invited the participants to spend time accessing their own inner wisdom and depths and their deep desires, exploring the path of transformation, and saying “yes” to the activity of God in their lives. Retreatants returned home renewed and refreshed by the experience as well as strengthened for the journey ahead.

## Imagining Justice

In March LCWR returned to the Redemptorist Renewal Center for the biennial Imagining Justice event. The theme this year was “Unleashing the Energies of Love.” Fifty-Five women and men who are either serving in elected leadership or minister as justice promoters for an LCWR member congregation participated in the event with Gail Worcelo, SGM, serving as guide and facilitator. The days included input, small and large group sharing, and energy work aimed at assisting participants to free up their own vital energies and unleash those energies of love into the universe. One of the highlights of the time together was the experience of joining with people across the globe for 17 minutes of silent contemplative prayer on March 14, consciously sending the healing energies of love to all affected by the shootings in Parkland, Florida and into the wider universe.



## New Leaders Workshop

In April the annual New Leaders Workshop was held at the Conference Center at St. Mary of the Lake University in Mundelein, Illinois. Eighty-two members from 24 different congregations attended. The workshop was facilitated by four resource persons, Nancy Schreck, OSF; Lynn M. Levo, CSJ; Sharon Euart, RSM; and Stephanie Still, PBVM; along with four staff members from the national office.

The workshop focused on both the practical challenges of leadership and staying mission-grounded and hoped-filled. It incorporated contemplative structures and processes as well as significant opportunities for participant interaction with resource personnel and with one another. Engagement in the workshop was both lively and profound. Throughout the days together participants were invited to reflect on the gift that religious life has to offer to the world at this particular time in history.



## Communications Vehicles

LCWR provides several publications that are utilized by its members, other women and men religious, and the wider public throughout the United States and in other countries. These include:

- a monthly newsletter, *Update*
- a quarterly theological reflection on global concerns, *Resolutions to Action*
- a biannual journal, *Occasional Papers*
- a yearly reflection journal

In addition, LCWR communicates with its members through an online messaging system, provides a listserv for its members to communicate with one another (LCWR Resource Sharing Forum), maintains a Facebook presence and holds two Twitter accounts, and has a website with numerous resources for its members and the public.

## Book on Leadership in Situations of Conflict and Polarization

LCWR published a new book, *However Long the Night: Making Meaning in a Time of Crisis*, that is available through Amazon in both print and Kindle editions. The book chronicles what the organization learned as it went through the six-year doctrinal investigation by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF).



The authors -- the LCWR presidents and staff involved in the crisis (Marcia Allen, CSJ; Florence Deacon, OSF; Pat Farrell, OSF; Sharon Holland, IHM; Mary Hughes, OP; Janet Mock, CSJ; Annmarie Sanders, IHM; Joan Marie Steadman, CSC; Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA; and Carol Zinn, SSJ) -- not only explain how they led a large and complex organization through this difficult period, but with great transparency show how their own spiritual grounding helped them

make this journey. Through the sharing of their own stories, these leaders describe methods, processes, and practices that are readily translatable for use by other individuals, communities, and organizations as they weather a crisis.

The book explores how these women handled the decisions that confront any of us when faced with conflict. How to build relationships that cross divides? How to embody humility, while staying true to one's mission, and operating with integrity? How to manage anger and respond with strategies that create peace? How to find truth in complex situations?

## LCWR in the News

Among the media outlets reporting on LCWR and its impact on the world include the following:

- *Global Sisters Report* – a conversation with LCWR president Teresa Maya, CCVI and LCWR executive director Joan Marie Steadman, CSC, as well as UISG executive secretary Pat Murray, IBVM on various topics related to the global sisterhood
- *Global Sisters Report* – articles on efforts being made by LCWR and US women religious to address racism within themselves and their congregations.
- *US Catholic* magazine – a feature on LCWR president Teresa Maya, CCVI
- *Houston Chronicle* – article on the work across the United

States among Christian leaders, including LCWR, advocating for immigrants

- "The 74" – an article on the women who transformed US educational systems, including Catholic sisters
- *Global Sisters Report*, *State of Belief* radio, *National Catholic Reporter* – an article, radio program, and podcast on the new LCWR book, *However Long the Night: Making Meaning in a Time of Crisis*
- *Crux* and Catholic News Service -- report on Georgetown University panel on polarization and the participation of Teresa Maya, CCVI

## Collaborating to Strengthen the Mission of Religious Life

### USCCB Meetings

In addition to participation in a number of committees of the US Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB), LCWR attended several other USCCB meetings and special events. The LCWR presidency and executive director participated in the annual meeting of the Commission on Religious Life and Ministry, currently chaired by Cardinal Joseph Tobin. Among the commission's tasks is the establishment of guidelines and criteria for the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO). Meaningful dialogue on the National Convocation for Catholic Leaders, V Encuentro, the upcoming synod on youth, religious institutes coming to completion, and *Mutuae Relationes* marked this gathering. The executive director also participated in a meeting of the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, which is also chaired by Cardinal Tobin. This committee assists bishops in promoting, supporting, and educating about the needs and concerns for the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life. The presidency and executive director were also observers at the November 2017 USCCB general assembly.

### USCCB Convocation of Catholic Leaders

A delegation of 28 LCWR officers, members, and staff were among the more than 3100 invited participants at the USCCB's "Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America," an event designed to help dioceses, parishes, and organizations implement and live out key principles of *Evangelii Gaudium*.

The USCCB invited LCWR executive director Joan Marie Steadman, CSC to serve on a panel at the event on consecrated life within the church.

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW



*Marie Bernadette Thompson, OP, council coordinator, Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) and Joan Marie Steadman, CSC at the USCCB convocation*

At the conclusion of the gathering, the LCWR delegation affirmed the USCCB for its efforts to foster zeal for the mission of the church, increase understanding of the diverse needs of the people it serves, and find ways to create spaces for honest conversation among the participants on a wide array of concerns. The LCWR participants also noted their gratitude for the opportunity to meet many committed Catholics who are living the gospel message with vibrancy as they attempt to meet the many needs before them on local and national levels.

### Annual Visit to Rome



Integral Human Development and the Vatican secretary of state. In addition, they attended a meeting with about 30 sisters from communities with members in the United States to update them on LCWR activities and plans.

Each year, the LCWR presidents and executive director, along with their counterparts from the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, head for Rome to visit to a variety of Vatican offices. Some of the appointments are made jointly with CMSM and others by LCWR alone. This year's visit took place in April. The LCWR delegation met this year with representatives from the Congregation of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Congregation of Bishops, the Congregation for



*LCWR meets with the staff of CICALSAL in Rome*

### International Collaboration

The LCWR national office often welcomes visitors from other organizations with similar interests and mission.

Among the visitors this past year was the apostolic nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Christophe Pierre. His visit with the LCWR staff included opportunities for LCWR to speak about the conference's activities and projects.



*LCWR staff with the apostolic nuncio Archbishop Christophe Pierre*

For several years, LCWR has annually welcomed delegations from Pastoral Innovation in Austria, an organization that supports the exploration of creative ideas for strengthening the Catholic Church. Each year, Pastoral Innovation brings Catholic leaders from Europe to the United States to visit vibrant parishes and to meet with various organizations that promote creative ideas in leadership. This year's delegation visited the LCWR offices in November and spent several hours discussing with LCWR staff members concepts related to leadership, working with young people, spirituality, and other topics of mutual interest and concern.

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## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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*Austrian delegation of church leaders with LCWR staff*

In December the LCWR office welcomed members of the Association of Religious of Uganda (ARU) who came for a conversation about how both conferences serve religious and to share about its new project, Catholic Care for Children in Uganda (CCCU). The visitors were accompanied by representatives of the GHR Foundation which is helping to support the CCCU project.



*Representatives from the Ugandan religious conference and the GHR Foundation meet with the LCWR staff*

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## InterAmerican Committee

A meeting of the InterAmerican Committee, which is comprised of the president and executive director from the Confederation of Latin American Religious (CLAR), the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC), the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), and LCWR took place in February in Tucson, Arizona. This year the committee was joined by representatives of the Conference of Major Superiors of Religious in Mexico (CIRM). In addition to discussing how these organizations may continue to collaborate, the committee traveled to the US-Mexican border wall at Sasabe, Arizona where they prayed for all migrants, and particularly the Dreamers. They also heard from a leader of Tucson Samaritans, a group that takes food and water into the desert along migrant trails and provides medical aid when needed.



*The InterAmerican Committee at the US-Mexican border wall at Sasabe, Arizona*

## From the LCWR Call 2015 – 2022

# Standing for Social Justice in Response to the Needs of the Time

The LCWR Call commits the conference to claim our moral imperative as Gospel women and use our collective voice, resources, and power by partnering with others to establish economic justice, abolish modern-day slavery, ensure immigrant rights, promote nonviolence, and protect Earth and its biosphere.

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### Educating for Justice

The associate director for social mission (ADSM) regularly writes on justice issues for LCWR's *Update* newsletter. She also publishes the monthly, *News and Notes* from the Social Mission Office, to share information, resources, and opportunities with those involved in ministry for justice.

The Global Concerns Committee published four *Resolutions to Action* in 2017-18 examining the reality of migration from the varying perspectives of Honduras and the United States, the impact of the military budget on social programs, the nexus of mass incarceration and racism, and the true meaning of national security.

### Organizing for Justice

The social mission office also seeks to help members and their JPIC promoters take common action on justice concerns before the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of federal government. The ADSM manages three affinity groups and a comprehensive database which can be used to organize and mobilize constituents.

### Acting for Justice

LCWR used its collective voice to highlight priority concerns in 10 public statements and 17 press releases; two interviews; seven amicus briefs; three Congressional hearings; and scores of joint letters to the Trump administration and Congress.

The ADSM took leadership in partnering with:

- Catholic organizations to gather 100 Dreamers and their supporters on Capitol Hill to pray for Congress and a just solution for Dreamers;
- Catholic Climate Covenant to encourage Catholic organizations to endorse the Catholic Climate Declaration;
- Global Catholic Climate Movement to collect signatures of women religious on the Laudato Si pledge.
- Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) to publish prayer resources for Advent, Lent, and Pentecost;
- LCWR Global Concerns Committee to publish stories highlighting the work of women religious ministering for nonviolence and just peace;
- National Catholic organizations to stage a day of action at

the Capitol with Dreamers which brought together more than 200 people to pray and risk arrest;

- NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice to collect 1000 letters from women religious to Speaker Paul Ryan urging him to craft a faithful budget and to gather the signatures of 7150 sisters in support of Medicaid and the right of all to quality, affordable health care;
- US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking to arrange an anti-trafficking prayer vigil outside the White House.

### Working with Partners

The ADSM serves on the core group of a number of USCCB staff committees including: Justice for Immigrants; Catholic Climate Covenant; Coalition of Catholic Organizations against Trafficking. The ADSM also sits on the steering committees of the Justice Conference of Women Religious and the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative and on the boards of NETWORK and U.S. Catholic Sisters against Human Trafficking. In addition, she serves on the Coalition of DC-based Catholic Organizations and is the LCWR liaison to the Catholic Health Association and the UN Department of Public Information.



# Life in the LCWR Regions

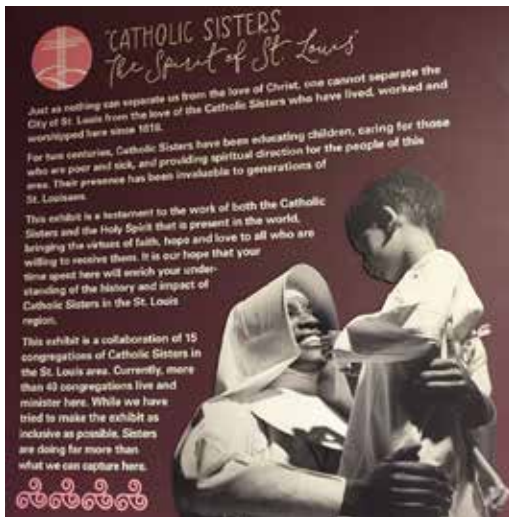
## *Region 1*

The LCWR regions are asked to reflect on their year by responding to either or both questions below that are based on the 2017 LCWR assembly theme: "Being the Presence of Love: The Power Transformation."

- How have the programs, speakers, actions, meetings of your region helped its members be the presence of love – for their communities, the region, the world they serve?
- How has your region experienced transformation this past year?



Region 8



Region 10

We are honored and humbled by the invitation to live the presence of Love. Our semi-annual meetings are rich in fellowship, discernment, action, and prayer. Aside from business, outstanding last fall was the new leadership model for LCWR; and this Spring, outstanding were in-depth justice presentations by Ann Scholz, SSND, the presence of 12 congregational justice promoters, and affirmation of the 2018 assembly resolution.

Some communities have been making specific efforts to address the issue of racism in religious communities:

- Sponsored a day on racism in religious life, inviting other Region 1 members;
- Sponsored a talk on racism from a theological perspective and through a cultural lens;
- Hosting an anti-oppression series by a local human-rights agency, inviting other sisters;
- Acting with an inter-faith network advocating against racism and xenophobia, inviting other sisters;
- Two members of Pax Christi will present a workshop: "Building the Beloved Community: Racism and Beyond."

Additionally, some Region 1 sisters have experienced this year living with persons of a culture other than their own.

Region 1 members continue to support our two specific commitments in Region 1: Wisdom's Way, with 32 women receiving grants for educational assistance in 2017; and participation in the LCWR/CSMS program to create or preserve affordable housing in our region. Our communities continue to pass through transitions, witnessing God's faithfulness. At the fall Region 1 meeting our executive committee transitioned out. A number of leaders are ending their mandates this year. Prayers, blessings, and spirited fellowship lift us wonderfully on the way.

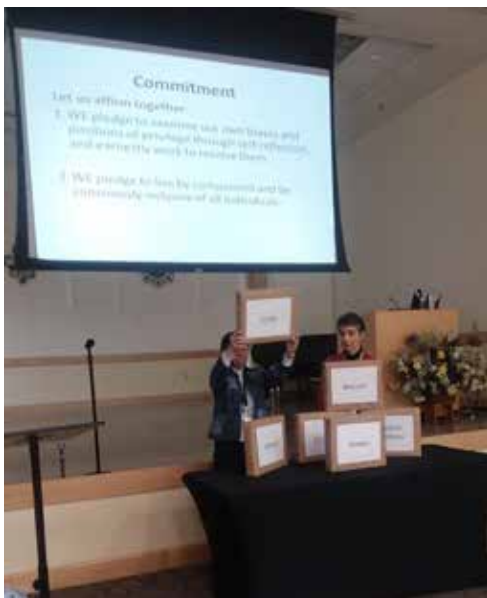


## Region 2

**W**e members of Region 2, have experienced transformation this past year most especially by examining the root causes of injustice, particularly racism.

In October 2017, Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN and Anne-Louise Nadeau, SNDdeN of Pax Christi USA led us in an exercise involving an interactive Wall of History. The Wall of History was already marked with significant events in US history and each was invited to place the founding or when the congregation settled in the US on the time line. This visual placement highlighted how we, as Americans, have been taught history and how racism was intertwined in that history. Patricia and Anne-Louise challenged us to move from traditional values of either/or thinking to values of inclusivity and justice. We challenged ourselves to action that we agreed to report on at our spring meeting.

When we met in April 2018, Michael Marie Jordan, FSSJ led us in a prayer service: The Many Faces of Jesus. Within the context of the prayer, we reflected on stereotypes of biological and cultural racial differences. We also shared with one another the actions taken since the fall meeting. The spring meeting also included a presentation by Constance Phelps, SCL on Differences, Diversity, Monoculture, and Intercultural Issues. Constance closed the day with a creative, thought-provoking reconciliation service demonstrating various ways of being receptive or closed in our thinking, words, and action.



## Region 3

**T**he call to be the presence of love is challenging and transformative. Our experience in Region 3 this year has given us opportunities and resources to live more deeply into this call.

We have been blessed with speakers who have called us to be open and vulnerable, and to own and address the experience of our lives together as women religious. At our fall gathering, Marie McCarthy, SP led us through a contemplative experience of grieving, not only in our own lives but communally and globally. Dr. Shannen Dee Williams opened our eyes at our spring meeting to the racism present in our history, and challenged us to reach out to women of color called to be religious today. We continue to deepen our ways of relating with one another. We have grown in our appreciation and experience of the contemplative dialogue process. Several congregations have embraced this process and found it to be transformative in nurturing a culture of reverence for one another.

Coming together can itself be transformative. Our gatherings provide a chance to step away from the busy-ness of leadership, share ideas, lean into the questions, find support, and dwell together in the presence of love.





## Region 4

Region 4 responded to the call by deepening our awareness and understanding of the need for transformation and by taking concrete action. In October 2017 Dr. Shannen Dee Williams shared more detailed accounts of the experiences of women of color with and in congregations, moving hearts and minds to be willing to address this difficult aspect of our past and, all too often, present.

In April 2018 Edwina Gately challenged our view of ourselves, the church and God, inviting us to be open both to personal transformation and to becoming agents of transformation in the world around us. She encouraged all to recognize the power we have to be church at the most fundamental level by being welcoming and hospitable to the poor and marginalized.

We took these concrete actions: We opened the speaker presentations at our meetings to congregations outside our regional leadership as a way to share this information more widely. One of our members attended the USCCB Convocation of Catholic Leaders in July 2017 in Orlando. We financially supported work in Puerto Rico following the devastating hurricane, and contributed to efforts to address the global water crisis through a donation to Water with Blessings.

We were inspired to pursue our shared call to be the presence of Jesus and God's love in the world with renewed energy.



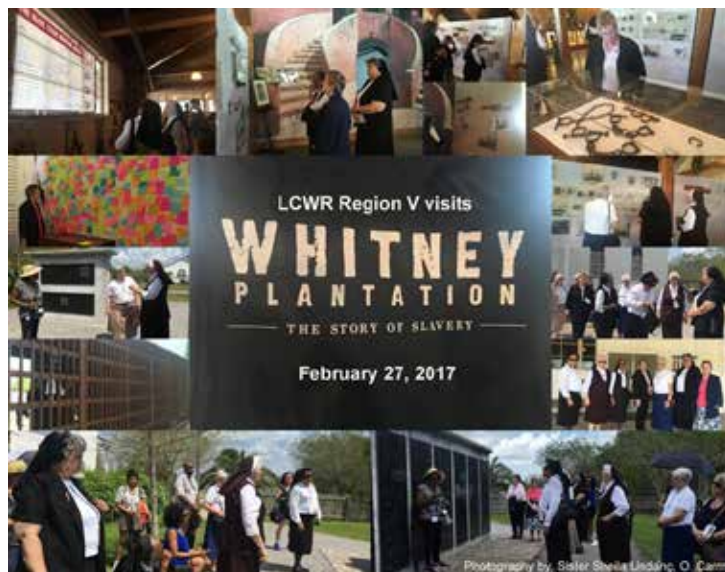
## Region 5

A new member was to be introduced at our fall meeting; however, the urgent warnings of an approaching hurricane caused us to have a telephone conference.

We were fortunate to get our previously scheduled guest speaker, Dr. Nicholas Mitchell from the Jesuit Social Research Institute, to make his presentation at our spring meeting. Dr. Mitchell discussed with us how racism impacts the criminal justice system and immigration. He spoke emphatically on the need for constant and unrelenting advocacy, both individually and collectively, if sustained changes are to be made. His presentation cited many changes made and many more that still need to continue to be addressed and readdressed.

Our second presentation was on human trafficking presented by Theresa Jacobson from the Louisiana Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Beth Salcedo from Free Indeed Home (a safe house for rescued females from sex trafficking). They described the signs of adolescent sex trafficking as well as the therapeutic elements necessary to assist in healing those victimized. Mrs. Salcedo was asked what specifically did the rescue home need, and immediately a member of Region 5 promised to supply forthwith what was needed. Region 5 is making a monetary donation as well.

A member gave each person a copy of her community's statement on nonviolence and just peace, and another will regularly email each member, her community's quarterly environment newsletter.



## Region 6

Members of Region 6 appreciate and believe in the power of transformation that comes from being the Presence of Love in our very troubled country and world.

The fall meeting's agenda included breaking into groups to share information and discuss ways to challenge the US government's actions and inactions around justice issues. Members told of various forms of collaborative action around immigrants facing deportation and their families and searched together for signs of hope.

Feelings of frustration with the number of justice issues demanding weekly, even daily, response became evident in discussion. Various ways to respond quickly and effectively as leadership and corporately as religious congregations were shared. Appreciation of information and support from the national LCWR office was expressed.

Questions surfaced around corporate responsibility. During the spring meeting, Josie Chrosniak, HM, coordinator of Region 6 Coalition for Responsible Investment, gave clear and concise information about membership, actions taken, various ways to be involved in changing corporate policy, and the services available to member congregations.

Members of congregations in Region 6 continue to be visible at rallies and protests giving public witness to their conviction that the Presence of Love brings transformation.

Time for contemplative dialogue and personal support always enhance meeting time.



## Region 7

During our March meeting we reflected on the journey of this past year and how our members have been helped to live our commitment to be the presence of love to one another, to our communities, our region, and the world we serve. We recalled the presentation by Attracta Kelly, OP on immigration and our multiple efforts to support DACA through various initiatives, including contact with state senators and representatives, educational programs like "Know your Rights," and participation in marches in support of immigrants threatened with deportation. We noted how the presentation by Dorothy Pagosa, SSF-TOSF on civil discourse will be helpful in dealing with people of differing views. We celebrated our collaborative efforts to address the issue of water quality. We recognized the work of our members to confront the issue of gun violence and joined together with other local organizations in solidarity and support of the victims of gun violence.

We also recognized that our region has experienced transformation as we have deepened our stance of solidarity with congregations facing difficult issues and smaller communities facing closure. A number of our congregations have also experienced changes in their leadership which also impacts our membership and the networking and friendships which have been created, and that we are being invited to move forward trusting in the new moment and horizons before us.

*We claim our prophetic role and  
inherent responsibility in the church by  
grounding all we are and all we do in  
a contemplative stance  
-- LCWR Call 2015 - 2022*

## Region 8

*“Consider what God and humanity are asking for today”*

-- Mary Pellegrino, CSJ

Each region gathering provides a sacred space for deepening and support to bless and strengthen one another in our call to leadership in these unfolding and enfolding times as we respond to what God and humanity are asking.

Using the presidential address of Mary Pellegrino, CSJ, Region 8 gathered to explore “language” for the emerging narrative of religious life. With great creativity, each group illustrated through word, song, or poetry some elements emerging as transformative for - being the Presence of Love. Emerging narrative elements named were: collaborative, in communion, compassionate presence, transforming loss, doing something new, energized for the needs of humanity.

Project IRENE (Illinois Religious Engaging in Nonviolent Endeavors), an initiative of Region 8 and Bethany House (a collaborative initiative among members and others in the Chicago area concerning the need for a safe place for unaccompanied female minors --18-21 -- who no longer qualify for detention centers and are at risk of deportation) are both expressions of this emerging narrative. They invite mutual transformation for those for whom we advocate as well as for our congregational members and associates being a presence of Love in an increasingly violent and vulnerable world.



## Region 9

We helped our members be the presence of love by inviting Dr. Fran Kaplan to speak to us on racism, which opened our eyes on how to be helpful to others in a loving way that does not disempower them. We provided support for the Benedict Center’s Sisters Program South, a Milwaukee-based ministry that offers hospitality and counseling to women involved in the sex trade. Visiting this ministry during our spring 2018 regional meeting was personally transforming for our members.

As a response to the current political climate, we organized a state-wide effort to be a contemplative presence and invited others to join us in contemplative prayer circles and other settings that allowed the presence of love to be expressed spiritually. We collaborated with other groups in nonviolent marches that expressed the presence of love in solidarity with other justice-oriented people. We experienced transformation through our newly established Wisconsin Religious Collaborative, which is having a transformative effect not just on religious in Wisconsin but in the nation as well.

Our spring 2018 speaker, Lynn Levo, CSJ, called us to personal transformation as we live out the ministry of leadership. All of our congregations are in process of change. We are not engaging in negativity or resistance to our current reality, but are embracing this change in the spirit of the paschal mystery.



## Region 10

Members of Region 10 continue to focus on education and activism related to issues of racism, immigration, human trafficking, and ecology. Congregations held gatherings on these issues throughout the year in each state within Region 10 engaging both the civic community as well as congregational members to raise awareness and encourage change.

At regional meetings, members focused on topics of transformation, both in our congregations and in society. Our October facilitators, Rose Dowling, FSM and Mary Jordan, FMSA, used an article by Cynthia Bourgeault to help us reflect on how “living from the imaginal realm” can affect what is happening in the world today and in our own congregations/provinces. Reflection and discussion centered on consciously living our lives from this deeper dimension.

In March, the theme of transformation continued. Marisa Guerin, PhD, facilitated conversations on dynamics of leadership, particularly how we are agents of transformation through our loving and “containing” presence.

One unique project this year was the exhibit “Catholic Sisters: The Spirit of St. Louis,” developed by the communicators for the St. Louis congregations and on view at the public library. The exhibit ran for two months, featuring historic and current photos and artifacts from 15 congregations of women religious who have left their mark on the area.



## Region 11

The members of Region 11 are a “Presence of Love” as we support one another and welcome new members. As a predominantly rural region we value being a resource for one another and sharing our experiences of leadership, from how we are dealing with the challenges we face related to caring for aging and newer members, to the use of our buildings and sister personnel.

In our communities we have shared and highlighted our experiences of the LCWR assembly. We use the contemplative dialogue process to engage members in reflecting and sharing how we have been the presence of love in our daily ministry, living settings and relationships. We have invited our members into challenging and transformative conversations about how we respond to those whose ideas, beliefs and actions differ significantly from ours.

We think globally and regionally and act locally in responding to issues of social justice such as antihuman trafficking, antiracism, working for comprehensive immigration reform and standing with immigrants and refugees, and the empowerment of women. We continue to be transformed as we encounter the other and are a presence of love in this region as women of hope.



## Region 12

Region 12 had its fall regional meeting at the San Juan Basilica Retreat Center located in San Juan, Texas in October 2017. The sisters were welcomed by Bishop Daniel Flores upon arrival at the Basilica Retreat Center. This regional meeting was especially memorable because Region 12 invited many of the religious who work in the lower valley of Texas to give talks about their experiences on how they help families cope with immigration issues and poverty. One of the organizations that gave our members a tour of one of the colonias where the poverty level is more prevalent was called the "ARISE Support Center," located in Hidalgo County, TX. This organization is a community-based program that works with colonia families to strengthen and uplift their communities.

Norma Pimentel, MJ, the director of Catholic Charities in the Rio Grande Valley, gave an inspiring talk on the plight of the immigrants. This experience in the Rio Grande Valley proved to be a transforming experience for all Region 12 members who participated in this event.



## Region 13

Because of diversity and geographic distance we use the LCWR Call 2015-2022, assembly resolutions, and electronic information as a platform for each community to take action.

We hosted speakers on racism, ecological projects, and dealing with difficult persons at our region meetings this past year. Individual communities have sponsored and or hosted speakers/panels to raise awareness of and to prevent human trafficking, immigration issues, and the environment. There has been organization for action in these areas as well.

Each community has built bridges by inviting and having dialogues with seminarians, international sisters, sisters not in LCWR, other Christians, and Muslims, as well as state legislators to sponsor/support bills for social justice issues. We have hosted International Day of Peace Celebrations with local churches and organizations. Some members joined the young adults in seeking legislation for gun control on March 24, 2018.

There are positive and proactive commitments to address the root causes of injustice taking place in each community. Our sisters are personally engaged. The number of persons growing in awareness and becoming involved in actions for social justice and environmental issues confirms that transformation is occurring.



## Region 14

The year was full of transformation with the restructuring of the national board and the trust that transition elicited from the region. Region 14 focused on leadership and how we as leaders can grow in being the presence of love and effecting transformation.

Our fall meeting, held in northern California, brought back Dr. Eran Talitman from Southdown Institute to speak on "Leaders Are Made, Not Born." He emphasized that the journey to become a leader comes as a result of going through the process of self-discovery. He focused on the habits of unhealthy leaders and the characteristics of effective leaders. He then went into addressing conflict, offering steps for effectively dealing with conflict, and suggestions for leaders in addressing problematic issues with community members.

In the spring we met in southern California. We had a lively exchange of wisdom and experience in round-table discussions on various topics such as consolidating, eldercare, collaborative partnerships, resources, legacy-planning, and sponsorship transfers.

Mary Waskowiak, RSM addressed the spirituality of leadership, sharing her passion for leadership development and spirituality.

It has been a rich year forming our leaders to be a presence of love, thereby modeling for the communities and the world how this love can be transformative.



## Region 15

As with many congregations and regions, there are multiple transitions occurring. Several congregations are in the covenant process. Others are making adaptations in governance and living situations for both younger and seasoned members of the religious community.

Our spring meeting was hosted by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. As always, we come together not only to conduct the business of the region but because we enjoy the company of one another. With sisters traveling from seven states to be present, we enjoy every opportunity we can.



# Stewardship of LCWR's Financial Resources

**D**uring 2017, the LCWR finance and audit committee and the office staff have continued to work diligently to ensure the careful stewardship of LCWR's resources. The decline in leadership members, congregation units, and congregation members continues. Re-configurations of congregations will continue to affect LCWR membership. The committee was aware of significant changes that have been occurring and in 2017 recommended that the 2018 and 2019 membership dues remain the same, \$455.00 per congregational unit and \$9.00 per congregational member.

## Auditor's Report

Linton, Shafer, Warfield and Garrett, PA completed an audit of LCWR's financial statements and issued an unqualified opinion, noting that the statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of LCWR as of December 31, 2017 and 2016. It notes that the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended are in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## Investments

The LCWR finance and audit committee continues to meet with Mark Degenhart, representative of Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS) to review investment performance and the Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) Guidelines which were reviewed and updated by the finance and audit committee and approved by the national board. In 2017 the mutual fund investments increased in value from \$8,306,172 at December 31, 2016 to \$9,714,471. The realized and unrealized gain was \$1,097,005. Net purchases of investments in 2017 were \$185,025. Reinvested interest and dividends in 2017 were \$126,269.

## Audited Revenues

The total operation revenue increased 7.4% over 2017 compared to the prior year. Revenue from operations was \$1,800,293 and \$1,794,246 for 2017 and 2016, respectively. The major contributors to the operating revenue are membership dues, assembly contributions, and grants.

## Audited Expenses

There was an increase of 7.4% in expenses in 2017 compared to the prior year and the major categories contributing to the increase are the national office, committees, and assembly expenses. The national board showed the most significant decrease in operating expenses from 2016.

*Committee: Jane Herb, IHM; Kathleen Keenan, RSM; Judith Frikker, RSM; Kate Katoski, OSF; Julia Lanigan, GNSH; Chris Beckett, SCN; and Janice Bader, CPPS*

## Net Assets

In 2017 LCWR net assets increased by 19% due to strong investment performance and an increase in grant revenue.

## Budget 2017 to Actual 2017

Budget targets for expenses and revenue were carefully monitored. Operating revenues were less than 1% under budget and expenses were under budget by 13%, resulting in a positive operating variance to budget for the year. The operating revenue, excluding the loan forgiveness of \$250,000 and grant income of \$86,604, was \$1,463,689 verses budgeted revenues of \$1,385,150 for a favorable budget variance of \$78,539. The operating expenses, excluding grant expenses of \$221,461, was \$1,342,807 verses budget expenses of \$1,403,574 for a favorable budget variance of \$61,067.

## LCWR Building

The Cameron Street building, jointly owned by LCWR and CMSM, includes offices for their own staff as well as for the Resource Center for Religious Institutes and Solidarity for South Sudan. The income from rents covered 2017 expenses and provided necessary capital improvements. For calendar year 2017, LCWR's portion of the building fund increase was \$146,835 compared to \$84,685 in 2016, primarily due to investment gains.

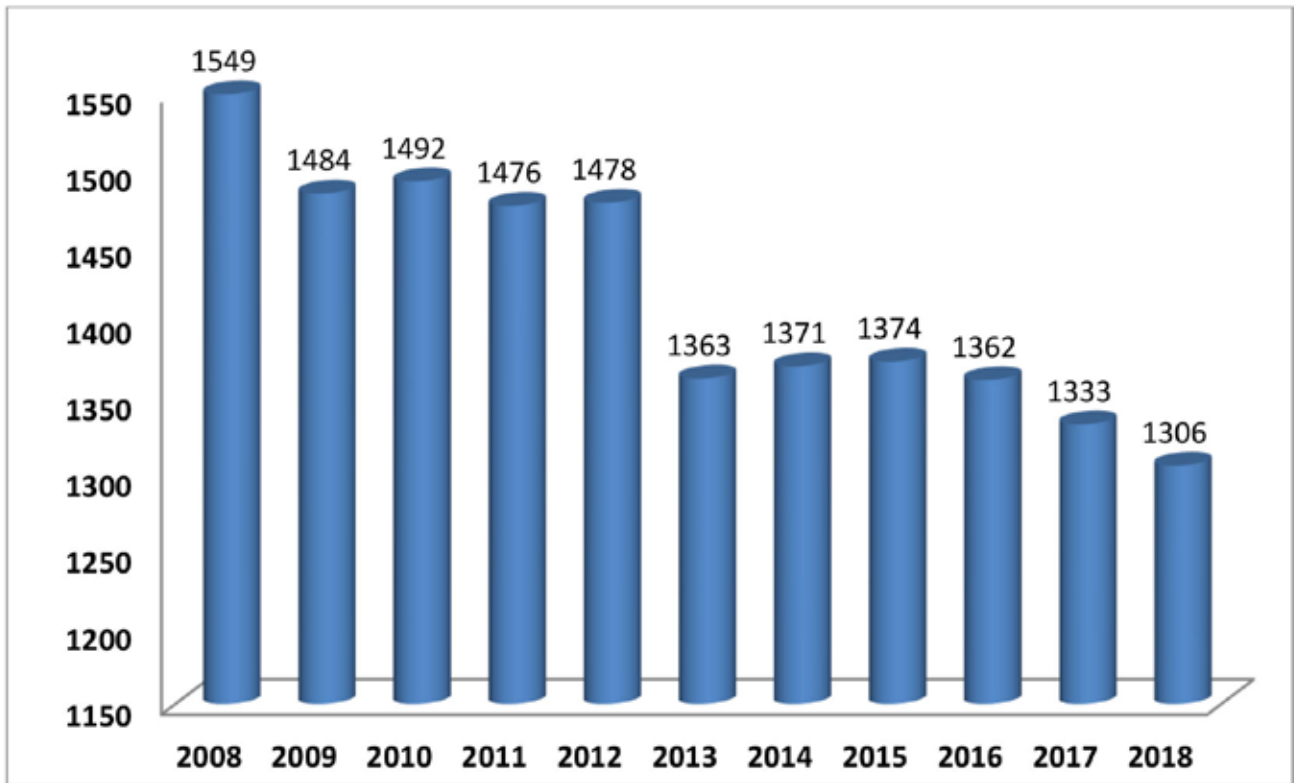
## Membership and Assembly Scholarships Donations and Grants

During 2017 donations from 45 congregations (8 more than in 2016) for Scholarships for Membership Grants totaled \$16,579, an increase of \$5,004 from 2016. In 2017, 19 congregations (5 less than 2016) received Membership Scholarship Grants for a total of \$11,150, a decrease of \$1,912.

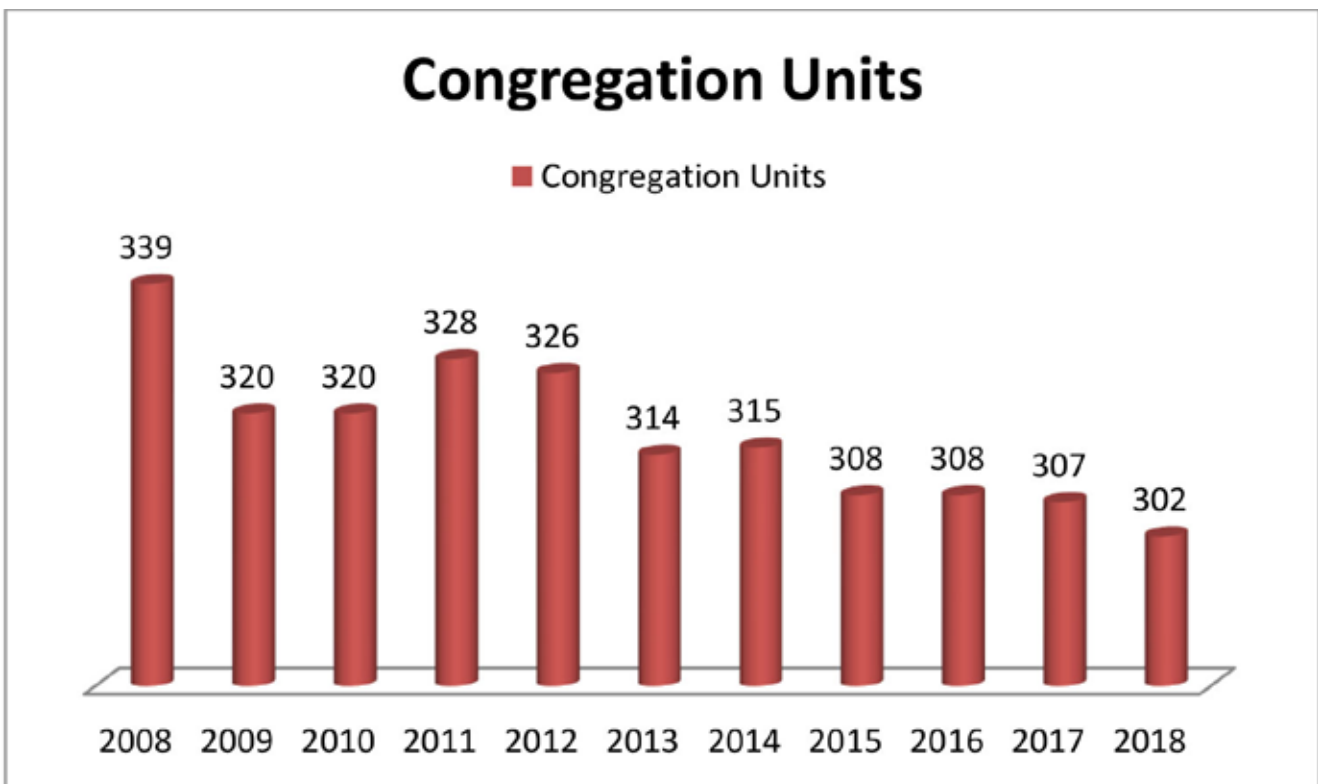
In 2017, 46 congregations, 19 more than in 2016, donated \$23,975 for Assembly Scholarship Grants, an increase of \$11,235 from 2016. Assembly Scholarship grants were awarded to 14 congregations in 2017 (3 less than 2016) totaling \$21,740, an increase of \$4,476 from 2016.



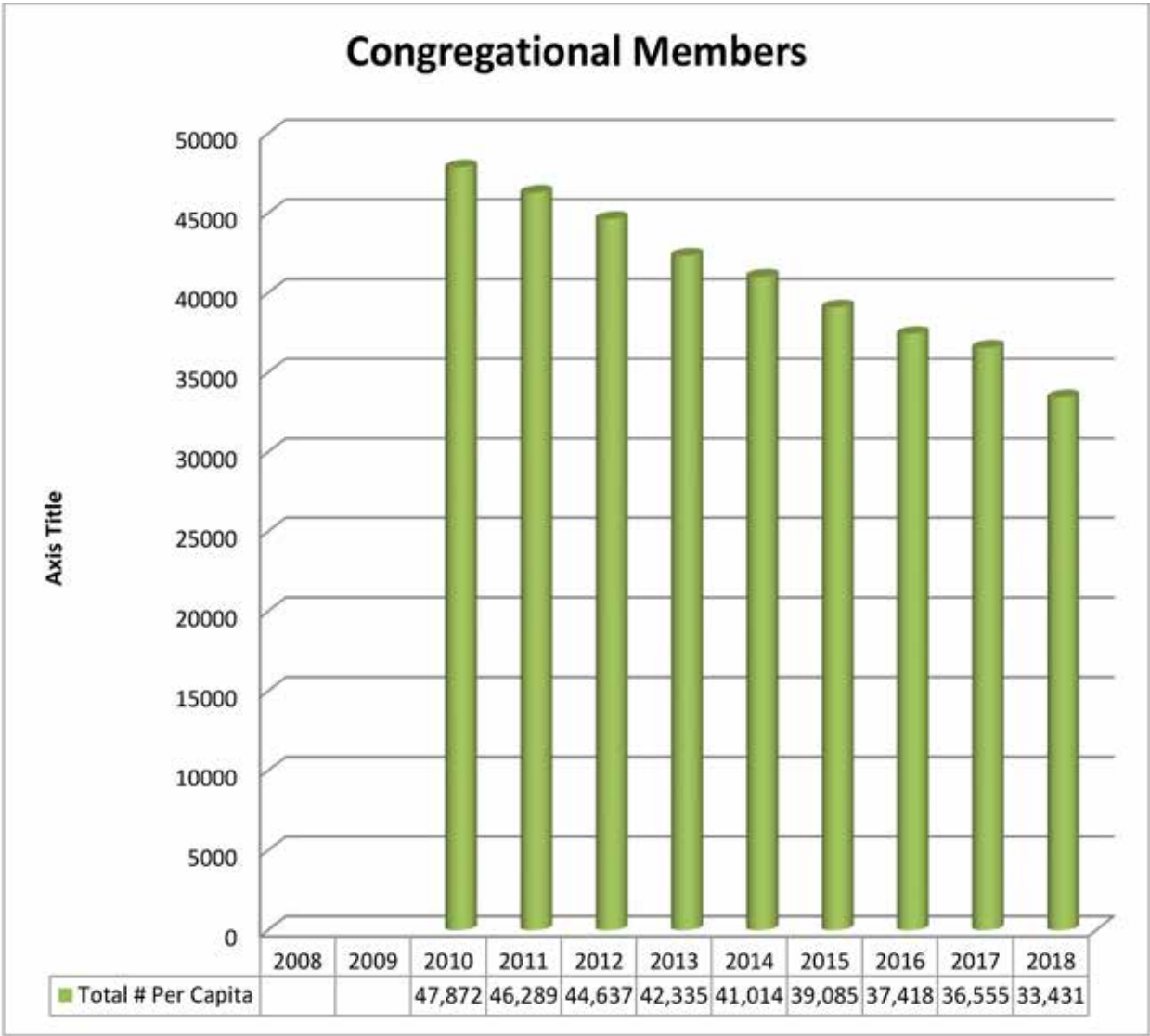
## Elected Members



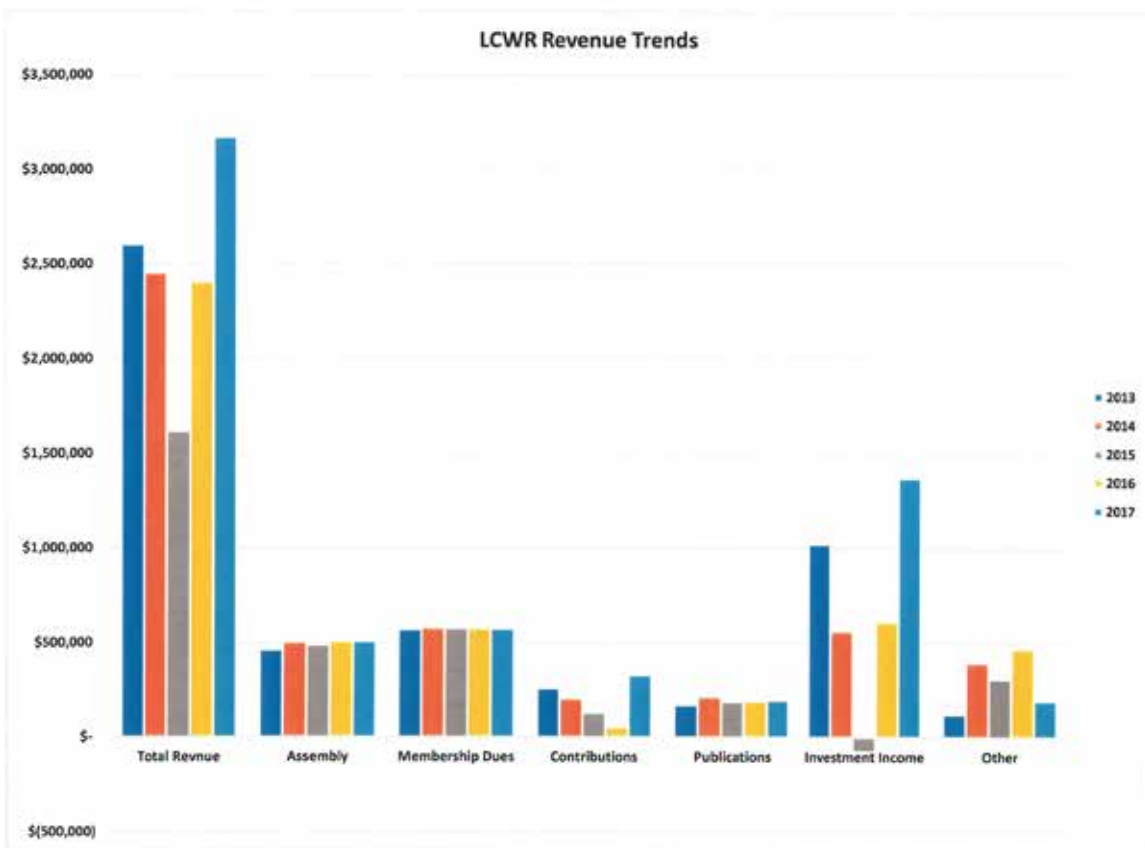
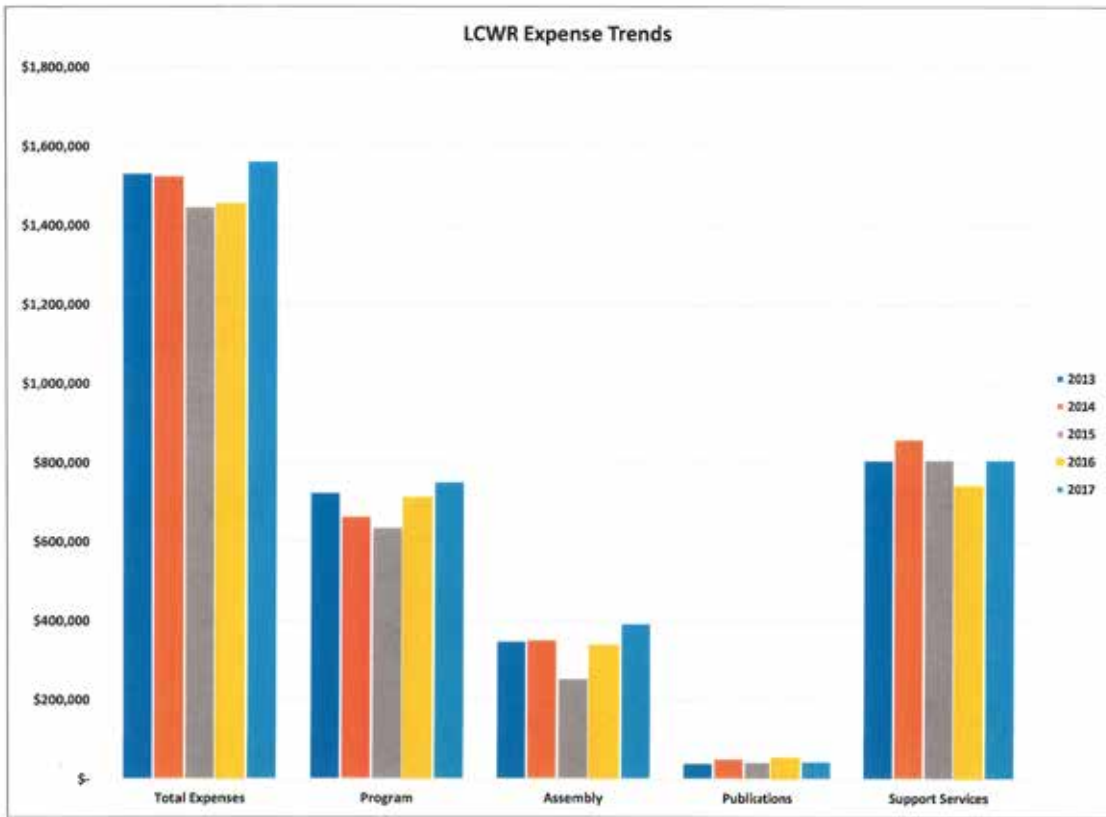
## Congregation Units







## LCWR FINANCES

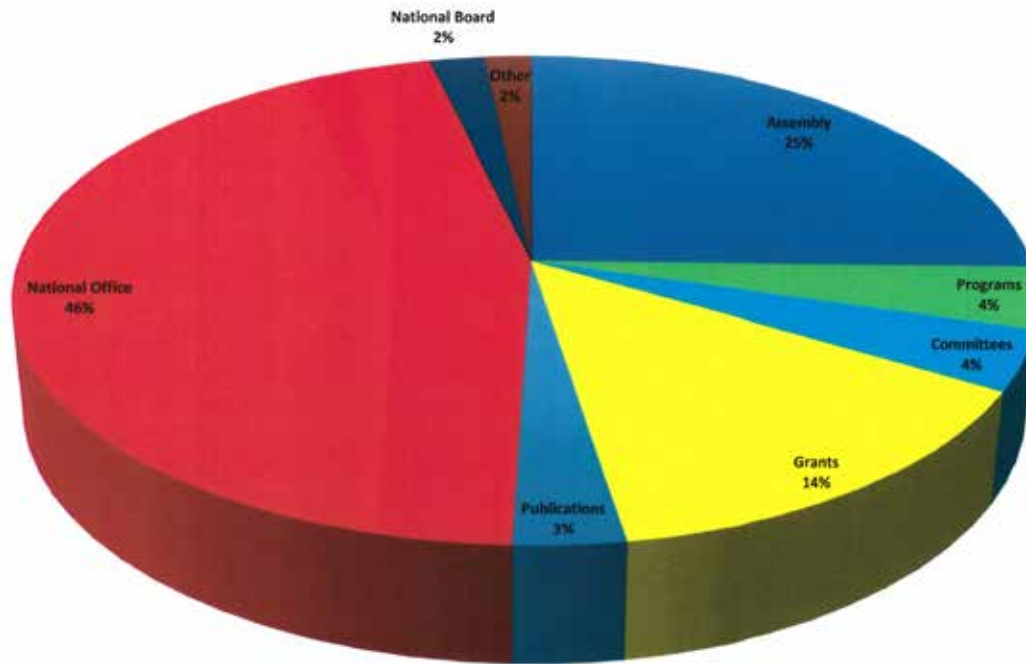


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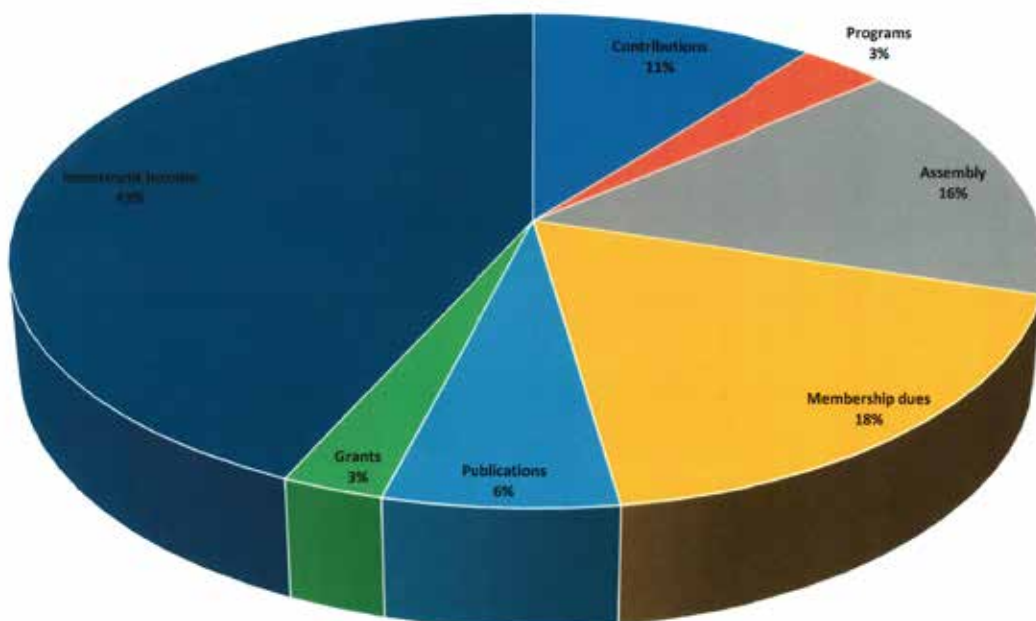
## LCWR FINANCES

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### 2017 LCWR EXPENSES



### 2017 LCWR REVENUES



# Collaborating for the Mission of Religious Life

LCWR works closely with other organizations  
serving women and men religious in the United States.  
These organizations describe how, since the summer of 2017,  
their activities and initiatives have attempted to be a presence of love for the world.

## Conference of Major Superiors of Men

John Pavlik, OFM Cap  
Executive Director

Since August 2017, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men has embarked on a few ambitious and exigent projects for the sake of improving service to its members. The first project involved the decision to revise the handbook and the statutes of the conference, a process endorsed by members at the national assembly and assigned to a task force for review of the 20-year old documents and for articulating a renewed view of how an ecclesial conference might function best. The second project entails the inauguration of an office to advocate for and assist members of smaller institutes in achieving a formal compliance review of their institutes' commitment to the safeguarding of minors. A third project comprises an overarching revision of the office to at once streamline and enhance the essential tasks and services of the conference for its members. A fourth project focused on determining the office space and location requirements immediately necessary and projected into the provision of good service to our members.

A fifth project concerned maintaining the momentum for brotherhood as a primary or foundational aspect of male religious life established through the first national symposium on the vocation of the brother and the presentations and encounters established in the 2017 assembly. And finally, a continuing project addressed the outreach to youth so necessary for sharing Jesus Christ with the world as our primary mission. The conference chooses to align its efforts with those of the universal church in the Synod 2018 and to invite members and youth to dialogue together. In 2019 the CMSM hopes to hold an extraordinary national assembly to invite all its members to encounter the current realities impacting Catholic male religious institutes in the United States and to seek some common, positive direction for our future.



## Religious Formation Conference

Ellen Dauwer, SC  
Executive Director

2017 marked the first full year the Religious Formation Conference spent in Chicago. This change of location has proven to be truly transformative. Spurred by a recent future planning process as well as proximity to other organizations in service to religious life, RFC has been engaged in several collaborative efforts during the past year. Key among them is the new Together program, jointly sponsored by the RFC and Catholic Theological Union. Focused on the theological preparation of newer members, Together also incorporates community and ongoing formation into its design. This blend of theological education, community, and formation for the newest religious women and men has potential to transform religious life in the years to come.

Transformative power was clearly in evidence as the conference gathered in November for its biennial Congress entitled, "Grace in the Now: The Gospel of Encounter." Deep communion and passion for religious life linked the more than 300 conference participants who were energized by the inspirational keynotes of LCWR president Teresa Maya, CCVI and Stephen Bevans, SVD as well as the younger religious who responded to them in panel discussions. The grace of congress continues to motivate the regular offerings and activities of the conference as well as Together, an initiative which is a direct response to both the post-congress session given by Mary Johnson, SNDdeN and Sandra Schneiders, IHM and the RFC strategic plan.



## Resource Center for Religious Institutes

Sharon Euart, RSM  
Executive Director

During the past year RCRI's board of directors and staff continued to seek ways to carry out its mission of assisting religious institutes in tending to their stewardship responsibilities. Our annual conference in St. Louis was a highlight of our activities. The spirit of the gathering, the program, speakers, worship celebrations, and opportunities for networking were exciting and well received by the participants.

We began preparation for a new phase of the GHR grant Planning for the Future which will include a new workshop on Fidelity to the Journey: Together in Communion to be held in September 2018. The workshop is planned to bring together a group of US bishops and leaders of institutes moving toward completion or in their last generation of leadership to gain a better understanding of the experience of diminishment and its impact not only on the religious institute and its members but also on the local church and to provide an opportunity for dialogue and mutual support between bishops and religious leaders.

The toolbox on the RCRI website continues to expand with new resources available to members of RCRI, LCWR, CMSWR, CMSM, UISG, and vicars for religious.

During 2017 we said farewell to our civil attorney Donna Miller who retired from RCRI after serving LRCR and RCRI for 11 years. In March we welcomed Christopher Fusco, Esq, as our new associate director for civil law. We are delighted to have Chris as part of our staff.

As we attend to the transitions in changing times, we embrace the Presence of Love and join LCWR members in responding to the call to embody love for the sake of the world with integrity and authenticity.

## National Religious Vocation Conference

Deborah M. Borneman, SSCM  
Director of Member Relations and Services

During this 30th anniversary of NRVC, we are grateful for an uptick in recent vocations to religious life. One of the most significant findings in the annual CARA Entrance and Profession Class Report is that women and men are continuing to choose a variety of religious institutes to enter, rather than limiting their choices to only a few charisms. As a matter of fact,

- In 2017, 208 women and men professed perpetual profession in 101 religious institutes.
- In 2017, 524 women and men entered 182 religious institutes.

These numbers cast a brighter narrative on the power of transformation and being the presence of love. NRVC has increased its membership 30% since 2014. VISION Vocation Guide and HORIZON Journal were recognized with several publishing awards from the Catholic Press Association. The NFCRV awarded nine grants to alleviate educational debt of candidates entering religious life. We anticipate culminating our 30th anniversary at our convocation in Buffalo, New York, November 1-5, 2018, gathered around the theme: Walk with me: Encounter, Accompaniment and Invitation. We welcome Mary Pellegrino, CSJ, past recipient of our Outstanding Recognition Award, as one of our keynote presenters.

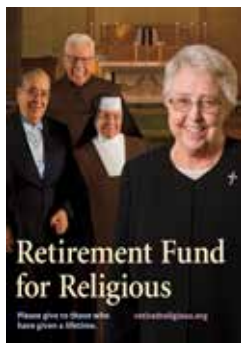


**NRVC**  
National Religious  
Vocation Conference

## National Religious Retirement Office

Stephanie Still, PBVM  
Executive Director

The 2017 LCWR assembly explored the presence of love and the power of transformation. At the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), we see that dynamic lived out daily. Last year, love and gratitude for the service of religious inspired continued generosity to the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection and allowed our office to distribute \$25 million to 390 religious institutes. This support helps institutes meet the current and future needs of senior members. Additional funding was directed to assist communities with critical retirement deficits and to furnish education in retirement planning and eldercare. These educational resources, including a free, quarterly webinar series, offer professional updates for care personnel and strategies for addressing numerous retirement challenges.



Funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation allowed us to launch the Tending the Vineyard Video Series, an online resource to assist religious institute leadership with effective property planning. A facilitator and a panel of religious offer guidance on various brick and mortar decisions, from repurposing to demolition. Strategies are also shared on supporting and empowering members to adjust to evolving realities.

Our grateful prayer is with all those whose love and support is helping transform the retirement outlook for religious communities.



## Friends in Solidarity (with South Sudan)

Joan Mumaw, IHM  
President and Chief Administrative Officer

Friends in Solidarity, the US partner to Solidarity with South Sudan, concluded its first full year of operation as a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization at the end of 2017. During the year, with the financial support of religious congregations, we were able to send nearly \$300,000 to support the Solidarity Teacher Training College and the Catholic Health Training Institute and to assist with support of the nearly 7000 displaced people at Riimenze. In addition, two new volunteers from the US are joining the Solidarity team. Your generosity has enabled this support.

Religious priests, brothers, and sisters coming from 14 congregations and 17 countries are embodying love and deepening communion among the people of South Sudan who are traumatized by ethnic conflict. The diverse nature of the four communities of Solidarity members is a witness to the possibility that people coming from different nations, cultures, genders, and ethnic backgrounds can, indeed, live and work together for the sake of the common good and the growing of the Reign of God in our world. This is, indeed, a new paradigm for ministry in our broken world.

# 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

Teresa Maya, CCVI -- President  
 Sharlet Wagner, CSC -- President-Elect  
 Mary Pellegrino, CSJ -- Past President  
 Mary Beth Gianoli, OSF -- Secretary  
 Pat Eck, CBS (2017); Kate Katoski, OSF (2018) -- Treasurer

### Regional Chairpersons

Luke Parker, SJC -- Region 1  
 Cathy Sheehan, DW -- Region 2  
 Kathryn Clauss, IHM -- Region 3  
 Rose Marie Jasinski, CBS -- Region 4  
 Leona Bruner, SSF -- Region 5  
 Alice Gerdeman, CDP -- Region 6  
 Ginger Downey, OLVN -- Region 7  
 Maria Hughes, ASC -- Region 8  
 Theresa Sandok, OSM -- Region 9  
 Jan Renz, ASC -- Region 10  
 Rosemary DeGracia, OSB -- Region 11  
 Marilyn Springs, IWBS -- Region 12  
 Jan Ginzkey, OSB -- Region 13  
 Judith Dieterle, SSL -- Region 14  
 Jo Ann Showalter, SP -- Region 15

### Executive Director

Joan Marie Steadman, CSC (2017)  
 Carole Shinnick, SSND (2018 - interim)

## Committees

### Advisory Committee for Leadership Pathways

Ellen Dauwer, SC  
 Karin Dufault, SP  
 Alba Letelier, SP  
 Jeanne Hagelskamp, SP  
 Pat Kozak, CSJ  
 Margo Ritchie, CSJ  
 Susan Weber (facilitator and evaluator)  
 Marie McCarthy, SP, (LCWR staff)

### Assembly Resolutions Committee

Jacquelyn Cramer, BVM  
 Maureen Irvin, OSF (chair)  
 Carol Lichtenberg, SDNdN  
 Ann Scholz, SSND (LCWR staff)

### Contemporary Religious Life Committee

Maria Hughes, ASC  
 Sheila Lemieux, CSJP  
 Ana Lydia Sonera Matos, CDP  
 Marie McCarthy, SP (LCWR Staff)  
 Patricia McDermott, RSM  
 Annmarie Sanders, IHM (LCWR staff)  
 Joan Marie Steadman, CSC/Carole Shinnick, SSND (LCWR staff)  
 Miriam Ukeritis, CSJ  
 Catherine Bertrand, SSND (Facilitator)

### Finance and Audit Committee

Pat Eck, CBS (Treasurer)  
 Janice Bader, CPPS  
 Christine Beckett, SCN (LCWR staff)  
 Pat Eck, CBS -- Treasurer (2017)  
 Catherine Fedewa, CSFN  
 Judith Frikker, RSM  
 Julia Lanigan, GNSH  
 Kate Katoski, OSF -- Treasurer (2018)  
 Kathleen Keenan, RSM  
 Mary Jane Herb, IHM

### Global Concerns Committee

Danielle Bonetti, CSJ  
 Gemma Doll, OP  
 Susan Francois, CSJP  
 Alice Gerdeman, CDP (Chair)  
 Donna Marie Gribschaw, CDP  
 Eileen Haynes, SCL  
 Ann Scholz, SSND (LCWR staff)

### Governance Committee

Christine Beckett, SCN (LCWR staff)  
 Judith Desmarais, SP  
 Barbara Dreher, CSJ  
 Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ (chair);  
 Maria Iannucillo, SSND  
 Joyce Lehman, CPPS  
 Mary Pellegrino, CSJ  
 Theresa Sandok, OSM  
 Carole Shinnick SSND (LCWR staff)  
 Sharlet Wagner, CSC

### Needs Assessment Committee

Rita Cammack, OSF  
 Mary Beth Gianoli, OSF  
 Mary Jo Nelson, OLVN  
 Joan Marie Steadman, CSC/Carole Shinnick, SSND (LCWR staff)

### Occasional Papers Advisory Board

Cathy Bertrand, SSND  
 Nancy Conway, CSJ  
 Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP  
 Mary McKay, CSJ  
 Mary Jo Nelson, OLVN  
 Annmarie Sanders, IHM (LCWR staff)

### Outstanding Leadership Award Committee

Christine Beckett, SCN (LCWR staff)  
 Jeannie Masterson, CSJ  
 Dawn Tomaszewski, SP  
 Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA  
 Mary Ann Zollmann, BVM

(continued on page 32)

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## LCWR NATIONAL BOARD AND COMMITTEES

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(continued from page 31)

### Transitional Governance Committee (August – December 2017)

Rosemary Brennan, CSJ (co-chair)  
Katie Clauss, IHM  
Esther Guerrero, MCDP  
Maria Iannuccillo, SSND  
Mary Pellegrino, CSJ  
Theresa Sandok, OSM (co-chair)  
Joan Marie Steadman, CSC (LCWR staff)

## Liaisons to Other Organizations

### Catholic Health Association Board

Joan Marie Steadman, CSC/Ann Scholz, SSND (LCWR Staff)

### Commission on Religious Life and Ministry

Mary Beth Gianoli, OSF  
Teresa Maya, CCVI  
Mary Pellegrino, CSJ  
Joan Marie Steadman, CSC/Carole Shinnick, SSND (LCWR Staff)  
Sharlet Wagner, CSC

### Communicators for Women Religious

Annamarie Sanders, IHM (LCWR Staff)

### Justice Conference of Women Religious

Ann Scholz, SSND (LCWR Staff)

### Leadership Collaborative

Annamarie Sanders, IHM (LCWR Staff)

### National Religious Retirement Office Assistance Review Committee

Maryanne Fitzgerald, SC

### National Religious Retirement Office Management Committee

Joan Marie Steadman, CSC/Carole Shinnick, SSND (LCWR Staff)

### NETWORK Board

Ann Scholz, SSND (LCWR Staff)

### Resource Center for Religious Institutes

Joan Marie Steadman, CSC/ Carole Shinnick, SSND (LCWR Staff)

### USCCB Accounting Practices Committee

Margaret Mary Cosgrove, BVM

### USCCB Committee on Consecrated Life and Vocations

Joan Marie Steadman, CSC/ Carole Shinnick, SSND (LCWR Staff)

### USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development

Joan Marie Steadman, CSC/ Carole Shinnick, SSND(LCWR Staff)

### USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace

Joan Marie Steadman, CSC/ Carole Shinnick, SSND (LCWR Staff)

### USCCB National Advisory Council

Kathryn Dougherty, OSF  
Jenny Howard, SP

### US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

Ann Scholz, SSND (LCWR Staff)



# LCWR National Office Staff

Joan Marie Steadman, CSC  
Executive Director  
2017



Carole Shinnick, SSND  
Interim Executive Director  
2018



Christine Beckett, SCN  
Associate Director for  
Business and Finance



Mary Hughes, OP  
Director of Transi-  
tional Services



Marie McCarthy, SP  
Associate Director  
of Programs



Annmarie Sanders, IHM  
Associate Director  
for Communications



Ann Scholz, SSND  
Associate Director  
for Social Mission



John Baroi  
Administrative  
Support Specialist



Janette Cahill  
Executive Assistant



Carol Glidden  
Administrative Assis-  
tant & Membership  
Coordinator