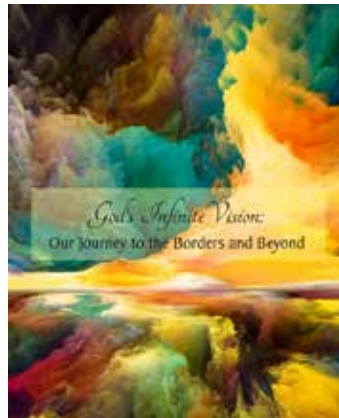




August/September 2020

Preparing for the LCWR Assembly

The LCWR assembly will be an important moment for collective reflection on the twin crises hitting the world at this time – COVID-19 and the realization of how deep systemic racism is in this country. What does it mean to serve in religious life leadership at such a fragile, uncertain time? What new opportunities do the pandemic and the cries for racial justice provide so that the world may move in closer alignment with God's infinite vision? What is the call to women religious at this time?



A Spirit Call within a Call A Message from LCWR's Officers

On July 10, 2020, the national board of LCWR unanimously affirmed a call to place the conference on a five-year journey to address systemic racism and white privilege. The call emerged from an open and honest conversation held among leaders of LCWR and the National Black Sisters' Conference.

The call goes beyond the assembly resolutions that have committed us to do the "critical work of recognizing racism as a systemic, structural cause underlying ... multiple situations of injustice" with a "focus on the intersection of racism, migration, and climate crisis."

That work remains critical. As Hop Hopkins wrote recently in *Racism Is Killing the Planet*, "You can't have climate change without sacrifice zones, and you can't have sacrifice zones without disposable people, and you can't have disposable people without racism."

This call, however, takes us to another level of engagement. One that goes to the heart of remembering "who we are and whose we are," as Servant of God Thea Bowman, FSPA, said, and to our integrity as a conference of religious leaders.

To prepare for this assembly, participants are asked to consider the following:

- Watch a video tutorial of the virtual environment that will be sent from Nix Conference & Meeting Management prior to the assembly. This will help you understand and navigate the system throughout the assembly. (Please note that the Nix staff will be available throughout the assembly via live chat, email, or phone for any participant who needs assistance with the technology.)
- Read and reflect on:
 - [The LCWR Call 2015-2022](#)
 - [The LCWR Emerging Orientations](#)
 - [The LCWR Annual Report: 2019 – 2020](#)
 - [The Occasional Papers – Summer 2020](#)
 - [Assembly Resolution 2019-2020](#)

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Preparing for the LCWR Assembly

(continued from page 1)

- Be at your own computer (not in a board room with others) since you will be placed in small groups at various times throughout the assembly.
- Have your assembly registration password handy (This is the password you created when you registered for the assembly.)
- Visit the exhibit booths prior to the start of the meeting each day. The booths will be open one hour before the first session begins and will be open in between the sessions each day. The exhibitors and sponsors are important sources of revenue for LCWR, thus it is important that participants visit them. Visitors can view the materials of the exhibitors, engage in live video or chat conversations, and even schedule visits with them when they visit their booths. This year, approximately 50 organizations and companies will be in the virtual exhibit hall – eager to see you and share information and resources with you.
- Find a space that you can use for Thursday’s individual reflection time that keeps you free from other distractions.

Closer to the time of the assembly, all participants will be sent via email a program with materials for prayer, questions for the contemplative dialogue sessions, journaling prompts, and other items -- as well as the link to join the assembly.

Currently, more than 800 are registered for the assembly.

A Spirit Call within a Call

(continued from page 1)

It is a call to the kind of journey through fire and spirit we have been summoned to before. During the past decade, we embarked on such a journey – though not of our choosing – when the integrity of the conference was at stake in the face of the doctrinal investigation. Farther back in time, in 1978, we charted a five-year course in the face of other challenges to uncover the foundational meaning and implications of our identity as *women* in church and society.

Like those, this journey is spiritual in nature, raising existential questions about LCWR and our identity as US women religious, as followers of the way of Jesus who called us “to love one another as I have loved you.” (John 15:12)

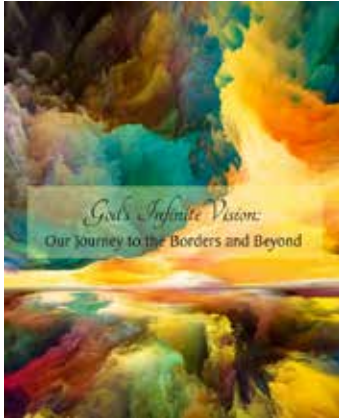
In a [reflection on Pentecost](#) this year, M. Shawn Copeland, PhD, preached, “As a nation, we gasp for air as rage flames in nearly every corner of our country. We cannot breathe. White racist supremacy is suffocating us, choking the very life and breath of God out of us all, snuffing out the possibilities for embodied difference to live, to breathe.” She continued: “We need Spirit-*ruah* to breathe on us, breathe with us, and breathe through us so that we may turn away from indifference, suspicion, and hostility and turn toward openness, compassion, and solidarity.”

Together, in the days and months to come, we will identify the steps that beckon us on this journey – the profound truth-telling, reconciliation, repentance, and repair work needed for Spirit-*ruah* to breathe us through to transformative change. As members of a church deeply implicated in the origin and perpetuation of our nation’s perduring sin of racism, of congregations that have been complicit, and of a conference whose whiteness has been unexamined, we take our part in the national reckoning provoked by the horrific public murder of George Floyd and the all-too-many killings that preceded it and yet continue.

“During these soul-wrenching days,” Dr. Copeland reminds us, “we do well to remember that the Spirit cannot and will not be made captive, that the Spirit will not and cannot be tamed.” To be “authentic disciples of Jesus,” we must “face the wind and fire Spirit-*ruah* breathes.”

Let us go forth.

Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ, President; Elise D. Garcia, OP, President-Elect; Sharlet Wagner, CSC, Past President; Carol Zinn, SSJ, Executive Director



July Pre-Assembly Reflection

Many LCWR members, associates, and facilitators have been preparing for the LCWR assembly by reflecting on the materials provided in June and July and participating in the contemplative dialogue sessions offered almost daily. There are still opportunities to join others for conversation on the July reflection, “Embracing Vulnerability in Our Service of Leadership,” which is available [online](#).

Contemplative Dialogue Sessions in Spanish

The dialogue for two of the upcoming sessions will be in Spanish and any member, associate, or facilitator who would like to participate (whether Spanish is their first language or not) is welcome.

Due to the generosity of the Sisters of Providence (Montreal), the July reflection is available in [Spanish](#) and [French](#) as well.

Assembly Orientation for New and Returning Members

On Tuesday, August 11 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM an orientation to the assembly will be held online for leaders who are new to LCWR, recently returned to LCWR, or who have not recently participated in an LCWR assembly. The orientation provides important information to enable full participation in the assembly. Those interested may register for this session as part of the assembly registration process. Currently approximately 80 members have registered. Closer to the date, all orientation participants will receive an agenda and a link to this Zoom event.



LCWR Members Need to Vote to Affirm the Annual Report by August 1

The LCWR 2019-2020 annual report which includes the LCWR financial report is available online. The report chronicles the remarkable scope of presence, ministry, and outreach that LCWR and its regions brought to life during this past year.

All LCWR members received on July 16 a link to a brief survey where they are asked to affirm the annual report and the financial report. Members are asked to complete the survey by August 1.

Extended Terms of Leadership

With the postponement of chapters due to the pandemic, many leaders have extended their term of office. Any leader who now has an extended term is asked to notify [Carol Glidden](#) with the extension date so that the LCWR database can be updated.



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Editor: Annmarie Sanders, IHM
 8737 Colesville Road, Suite 610
 Silver Spring, MD 20910
 Phone: 301-588-4955 Fax: 301-587-4575
 E-mail: asanders@lcwr.org Website: lcwr.org

LCWR Members Elect New Officers

Due to the pandemic, LCWR members voted for their new president-elect and four new members of the conference's national board electronically prior to the conference.

Jane Herb, IHM was elected to the LCWR presidency. A current member of the LCWR national board, she has been serving as the president of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Monroe, Michigan) since 2012.



Jane has served on the LCWR Finance and Audit Committee and some of her recent board experiences include the Resource Center for Religious Institutes, Marygrove Conservancy, and Friends in Solidarity, Member.

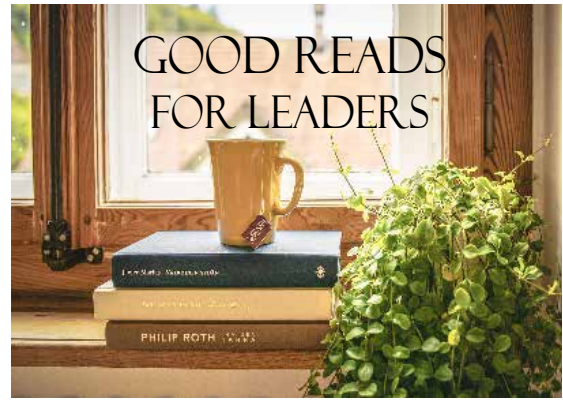
She holds a bachelor's degree in math from Madonna University, a master's degree in education from Wayne State University, and a doctoral degree in education from Boston College. Her ministry experiences have included service as regional director for the Archdiocese of Boston before becoming the superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Albany, New York, a position she held for 15 years. Prior to that she ministered as a secondary school teacher and principal.

The four new Board members are Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP; Vicky Larson, PBVM; Jocelyn Quijano, PBVM; and Anna Marie Reha, SSND.

The terms for all five will begin at the conclusion of the LCWR assembly on August 14.

Assembly 2020 Registration

Space is limited to 1000.
Members and associates are encouraged to register soon.
Registration closes on August 1.



Our Iceberg is Melting

by John Kotter and Holger Rathgeber

Recommended by Sandra Delgado, OP

John Kotter, professor of leadership, emeritus and well-known author, along with Holger Rathgeber, use a fable about a penguin colony to teach a lesson about involving the community to deal with change. The penguins, with human characteristics, face the fear of losing their iceberg.

Our religious communities are dealing with many changes and fears, from providing for the needs of our older members, to dispossessing ourselves of properties, and now living in a COVID-19 world along with the ever-present issue of racism in our country. All the while, we continue to find ways to remain in ministry.

The penguin leaders did not have all the answers. They did, however, allow the colony to help them find a resolution to their problem. Everyone was able to contribute in one way or another, from the youngest to the oldest. The leaders were the motivators and a hopeful presence.

This fable served as a reminder to me that each member of our congregations can contribute to solving our concerns. Our congregations are filled with very capable women: sisters who ran schools and hospitals, who solved issues in the classroom and the board room, women of prayer and great faith. And women who are willing, if asked, to share their gifts in forming our future. Just as the fable's penguins, it is our role to also be the motivators and women of hope as we all journey together through the challenges of today.

The dates below are tentative due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Members will be kept up to date on plans as they progress.

At this time, all in-person LCWR regional meetings, workshops and other gatherings have been suspended through the end of 2020.
Regions will determine how they wish to gather virtually.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR New Member Orientation to the LCWR Assembly

Online -- 1:00-3:00 PM EASTERN
August 11, 2020

LCWR Assembly

Online
August 12, 13, 14 2020

Leading from Within Retreat

San Pedro Retreat Center
Winter Park, Florida
January 10 – 15, 2021

LCWR New Leader Workshop

Conference Center
University of St. Mary of the Lake | Mundelein, Illinois
March 25 — 28, 2021

LCWR Assembly

Orlando, Florida
August 10 — 13, 2021

Leading from Within Retreat

Redemptorist Renewal Center | Tucson, Arizona
January 16 — 21, 2022

LCWR Assembly

St. Louis, Missouri
August 9 — 12, 2022

Vatican Calls for *Laudato Si'* Anniversary Year

The Vatican dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development has announced a *Special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year*, May 2020 – May 2021. The anniversary year and the decade to follow is designed to be a *Kairos* experience and “Jubilee” time for Earth, and humanity, and all God’s creatures. The anniversary year opened with *Laudato Si' Week 2020* in May and will include several initiatives with a clear emphasis on ecological conversion in action.



Organizers call for immediate, holistic, and unified responses at all levels -- local, regional, national, and international. They hope to build a peoples’ movement. As Pope Francis said, “All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements, and talents.” (*LS*, 14)

The fifth anniversary of the encyclical comes in the midst of a global pandemic. The encyclical can provide the moral and spiritual compass for the journey to create a more caring, communal, peaceful, and sustainable world. In the words of the planners,

We have, in fact, a unique opportunity to transform the present groaning and travail into the birth pangs of a new way of living together, bonded together in love, compassion, and solidarity, and a more harmonious relationship with the natural world, our common home. As we begin to envision a post-COVID world, we need above all an integral approach as “everything is closely interrelated and today’s problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis.” (*LS*, 137)

More information is available [here](#), including a special anniversary guide.

2020 Census Begins In-Person Count of People Living in Group Quarters

Group Quarters Enumeration is the US Census Bureau's special set of operations for counting people who live in the estimated 250,000 communal living facilities, including convents, motherhouses, monasteries, abbeys, university student housing, and nursing and skilled facilities. The Census Bureau works directly with these administrators in responding to the 2020 Census on behalf of residents to ensure a complete and accurate census count.



The 2020 Census offers several response options for people living in group arrangements, including electronic response options where an administrator fills in data for each person who stayed at the facility on April 1, 2020. Group quarter administrators can also mail a paper listing of census response data for each person staying at their facility to their area census office or have a census taker pick up the paper listing or drop off paper questionnaires to the facility. The Census Bureau strongly encourages group quarters facilities to utilize options that do not involve in-person contact.

For facilities that elected an in-person response method, the Census Bureau will conduct in-person interviews to complete their census questionnaire between July 1 and September 3. All census takers have been trained on social distancing protocols, and will be issued Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and will follow local guidelines. This operation was originally scheduled to occur between April 2 - June 5 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Census Bureau continues to coordinate with group quarters administrators to assist in counting people living there, including contacting group quarters facilities between February 3 and March 6 as part of the Group Quarters Advance Contact Operation. Many group quarters began responding on April 2 through an eResponse option. Facilities that have not responded by early August will be visited by a census taker.

More details about group quarters and the Census 2020 data collection efforts for this special operation are available at [Group Quarter Enumeration](#).

Bells Ring Out: SCOTUS Ruled Against Attempt to End DACA

In a 5-4 decision released on June 19, the US Supreme Court ruled against the Trump administration's attempt to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The case before the court asked the justices to consider whether courts had authority to review the administration's decision and whether the way the administration terminated DACA was lawful.



In the decision authored by Chief Justice John Roberts, the court determined that it does have jurisdiction and the authority to review the Trump administration's rescission under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The court held that the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) decision to rescind DACA was arbitrary and capricious and therefore unlawful, because DHS failed to supply the required "reasoned analysis" in its decision-making process and DHS also failed to address whether there was "legitimate reliance" on the 2012 DACA policy.

In affirming the lower court's judgment in the *Trump v. NAACP* case, the ruling vacates the rescission of DACA and allows for the DACA program to continue. However, the court's opinion does *not* mean that DHS may not terminate DACA in the future, just that the *way* that it terminated it this time was unlawful.

In a [statement](#) issued on the day of the decision, LCWR welcomed the Court's ruling and called for immediate action by Congress to provide a permanent fix.

While we welcome the Court's ruling, we recognize that this is not a permanent solution. We call on members of Congress to move expeditiously to pass legislation that will provide lasting stability for DACA recipients, those with Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and Dreamers, their families and our

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Bells Ring Out: SCOTUS Ruled Against Attempt to End DACA

(continued from page 6)

communities. It is long past time to enact a Dream Act that provides a path to citizenship without including funding for detention, deportation, or border militarization, or provisions that would limit opportunities for family reunification. The House of Representatives has already passed the bipartisan American Dream and Promise Act of 2019 (HR 6). It is time for the Senate to do the same.

On the following Monday [#DACABells4Justice](#) rang out in celebration of the US Supreme Court's decision. Supporter rang in front of the court and in churches, convents, and streets across the land. A total of 1,638 faith partners in 18 states and the District of Columbia rang bells for DACA in their communities.

Giovana Oaxaca, government relations associate at NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, and a DACA recipient, said: "Just like the *cacerolazos* that have been such powerful tools of protest in the past, the [#DACABells4Justice](#) actions rang across the nation, loud and clear. DACA stays! We must continue to call politicians to task and request a permanent legislative solution. We must continue to demand justice for immigrants on every platform and in every way."

2020 Marks the 75th Anniversary of Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

This August marks 75 years since the United States conducted nuclear attacks against the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, devastating their populations and destroying their infrastructure. Following their use in Japan, the production and testing of nuclear weapons in the United States and internationally continues to harm the health, environment, and cultures of communities around the world.

In this time of pandemic, people have come to realize more fully the deep interconnections and mutual dependence of life on Earth. Many are beginning to rethink national security and question national priorities.

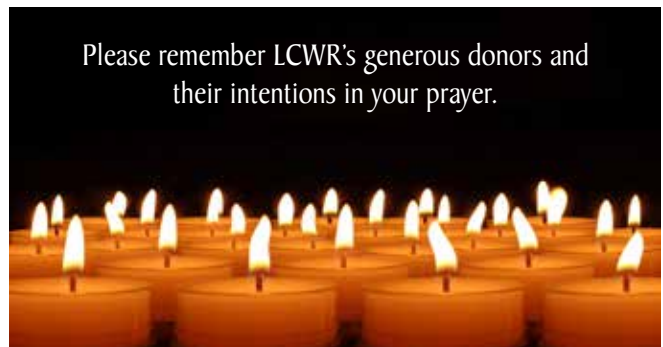
Today, nine countries still possess nearly 14,000 nuclear weapons, enough to end all life on the planet many times over. Just one year of US nuclear weapons spending is currently projected to be \$49 billion, enough money to provide 300,000 ICU beds, 35,000 ventilators, and pay the salaries of 150,000 nurses and 75,000 doctors. Unlike the coronavirus, maintaining and expanding international nuclear arsenals, and the threats they pose to the world, are a choice nuclear-armed countries make. Nuclear weapons opponents claim it is time to refocus our national priorities on preventing and treating real threats, like COVID-19, not in creating new ones.

While it is fitting to mourn the lives lost to COVID-19, this anniversary also invites people around the world to stand with the *hibakusha*, the survivors of the bombings in Japan, and other communities harmed by nuclear weapons. To mark this 75th anniversary of the only use of nuclear weapons in war, a coalition of groups has formed to coordinate efforts to remember the victims of the bombings, and mobilize the public to take action.

LCWR has signed the 75th Anniversary position statement and committed to stand with the *hibakusha* in their call for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Others are invited to sign the position statement by filling out [this form](#) and to share the [hibakusha appeal](#). This petition was created by the survivors of the bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and calls for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

During his visit to Nagasaki and Hiroshima last November, Pope Francis made an impassioned appeal for the total elimination of nuclear arms, "In a world where millions of children and families live in inhumane conditions, the money that is squandered and the fortunes made through the manufacture, upgrading, maintenance and sale of ever more destructive weapons, are an affront crying out to heaven."

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





LCWR exercised its voice in the public square through the following actions:

- Letter to Acting Secretary of Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Chad Wolf, strongly opposing recent DHS measures that threaten the safety and family unity of vulnerable immigrant children. LCWR (6/13/20)
- Letter to urging the administration to allow at least 60 days for public comment on proposed rulemaking (NPRM) regarding procedures for asylum and withholding of removal. LCWR (6/16/20)
- Quote in Interfaith Immigration Coalition press release on the occasion of World Refugee Day 2020 and the 40th Anniversary of the passage of the US Refugee Act of 1980. Ann Scholz, SSND (6/16/20)
- Letter to Rep. Karen Bass in support of the leadership of the Congressional Black Caucus for the Justice in Policing Act. Ann Scholz, SSND (6/17/20)
- Open Letter to lawmakers condemning systemic racism. Ann Scholz, SSND (6/17/20)
- Quote in Interfaith Immigration Coalition press release on the occasion of World Refugee Day and urging all Members of Congress to support refugees. Ann Scholz, SSND (6/17/2020)
- LCWR Statement welcoming the SCOTUS decision protecting Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) from the Trump administration's attempt to dismantle it. (6/18/20)
- Quote in Interfaith Immigration Coalition Press Release in response to the SCOTUS Decision in favor of DACA. Carol Zinn, SSJ (6/18/20)
- Joint testimony to House Ways and Means Committee on "The 2020 Trade Policy Agenda," from Catholic organizations. LCWR (6/21/20)
- Letter of support to Pope Francis urging him to author a companion reflection to *Laudato Si'* that would deepen and greatly expand Catholic understanding of, and commitment to, nonviolence as a crucial pillar in the foundation of integral human development and a more sustainable common home. LCWR (6/24/20)
- Quote for press release about the national bell ringing to celebrate the June 18 Supreme Court decision protecting recipients of DACA. Ann Scholz, SSND (6/24/20)
- Letter to members of the House and Senate in support of the proposed amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 that would reallocate 10 percent of the Pentagon budget to severely underfunded human needs priorities, many of which are more critical than ever as the country continues to confront the COVID-19 pandemic. LCWR (6/25/20)
- Letter to House and Senate Appropriations and Judiciary Committee chairs and ranking Members urging them to include in all appropriations bills language defunding of president's proclamation banning immigration and requesting that appropriations bills and supplemental funding bills for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) provisions preserve the number of allocated diversity and family-based visas that are not used this year due to administrative actions and allow them to be used in subsequent fiscal years. LCWR (6/25/20).
- Statement by DC-based Catholic Organizations calling for the immediate release of all children and their associated family members detained at the Dilley, Karnes and Berks family detention centers. LCWR (7/2/20).
- Comment in opposition to the proposed rule, *Procedures for Asylum and Withholding of Removal; Credible Fear and Reasonable Fear Review*, that would virtually end the US asylum program. LCWR (7/4/20)
- Endorsement of Senate resolution introduced by Senators Sherrod Brown, Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Kamala Harris (D-CA) declaring racism a public health crisis in the United States and calling for the dismantling of pervasive, racist systemic policies that perpetuate health disparities. LCWR (7/11/20)

All are Invited to Participate in the Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is an annual celebration of prayer and action for “our common home.” For decades, Christians around the world have come together to honor the Creator by loving creation and one another. The celebration begins on September 1, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends on October 4, the feast of St. Francis. The suggested theme for this year is “Jubilee for the Earth.” In the long Christian tradition, jubilee is a time of restoration and repairing relationships with one another and all creation.



Pope Francis used powerful words last year to invite all Catholics to take part. “This is the season for letting our prayer be inspired anew by closeness to nature . . . to reflect on our lifestyles . . . for undertaking prophetic actions . . . directing the planet towards life, not death.”

This year, Monsignor Bruno-Marie Duffé, a leading Vatican official on human rights, wrote a letter that echoed Pope Francis’ invitation. Mons. Duffé called on Catholics to “grow more and more in solidarity” and to work on “repairing the bonds we have broken” during the Season of Creation. Those interested may register and view the letter at seasonofcreation.org.

Is Your Leadership Term About to End?

If your leadership term is ending this month, we ask you to submit a change of leadership form found in the [LCWR Members’ Information section](#) (password-protected) of the website.



2020 Study of Newer Entrants

An infographic along with the 2020 NRVC/CARA Study of sisters, brothers, and priests who entered religious life between 2003-2018 is available to the public in English and Spanish, by downloading it from the NRVC website. A compendium booklet and the spring HORIZON Journal was sent in the mail earlier this year to every major superior in the United States. A study and reflection guide will be published in September.

The key findings about newer members include:

- An endless story of call: women and men continue to respond to the call to religious life
- Drawn by prayer, spirituality, charism, community life and mission
- Community life as embracing intercultural and intergenerational living
- Committed to living simply and in solidarity with the poor
- Filled with abundant hope for religious life amid changing demographics

This fifth NRVC/CARA Study may help to provide comprehensive information and spark conversation for the upcoming presentation on the National Discernment of the Emerging Future of Religious Life at the LCWR Assembly on Friday, August 14. NRVC is grateful to the GHR Foundation for helping NRVC to provide leading-edge resources, education, and research to advance the field of intercultural vocation ministry, assessment skills, and discernment to religious life. NRVC will be exhibiting at the LCWR virtual assembly and is available for ongoing conversation about growing and nurturing an intercultural approach to vocation ministry, celebrating the charism of each Catholic religious institute.

Updates from NRRO

On August 11, the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) and the Avila Institute of Gerontology will offer a free, one-hour webinar entitled *Compassion Fatigue: A Self-Care Imperative*. Participants will explore the distinction between burnout and compassion fatigue and will receive concrete steps for healing the mind, body, and spirit. Additional information is available [here](#) and people may [register here](#).



NRRO will have a virtual booth at the upcoming LCWR assembly where participants can download information about the many types of retirement and eldercare assistance made possible by the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Also available will be a schedule of upcoming educational opportunities. NRRO hopes to greet everyone in person at next year's assembly, and the staff continues to pray for the well-being of all religious communities.

News from the UN

August 9—International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is a day to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population and to recognize their achievements and contributions to improve the world and protect the environment.

August 23—International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is a day of tribute to all those who were enslaved and their resistance and a call to truth, justice, and dialogue between peoples.

August 29 —International Day Against Nuclear Tests stressing the powerful and negative effects of tests on human life and the health of Earth.

September 21—International Day of Peace is designed to strengthen the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.

September 26—International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons encourages a renewed commitment to nuclear disarmament throughout the world, recognizing the benefits of these efforts and the consequences of their perpetuation.

Solidarity Urgently Seeking Personnel

Friends in Solidarity, the US partner to Solidarity with South Sudan, recently received a message from the executive director of Solidarity with South Sudan, Jim Greene, MAfr informing us of the urgent need for personnel, especially for the Catholic Health Training Institute. He writes, "Solidarity's personnel needs are many. In an effort to diversify our membership, we made some initial progress in inviting local congregations of Sisters in East Africa to consider joining this Solidarity adventure. However, COVID-19 has put a temporary stop to this and it will probably be one year at least before we can advance on that initiative. In the meantime, some personnel are leaving us for normal reasons, their term of contract is over, they have reached the age limit of 75 years, etc...."

"Our staffing in the Catholic Health Teaching Institute (CHTI) in Wau is at a critical level. Presently we have three members in our community there. All are sisters coming from different congregations. All are scheduled to leave by December 2021. At its current stage of development, it is felt that there is a need for strong religious personnel to continue to give guidance to the institute. Plans are afoot to train local lay South Sudanese to assume positions of responsibility. Currently we are looking for a principal, administrator, and clinical tutors. It is hoped that Solidarity will be able to hand over this institute to either the bishops conference or some religious congregation by the year 2026. Other needs include: a projects officer based in Juba, to provide more coordination with what is happening in the field, and to relate to the fundraising departments in Rome and the US. There is also a need for an agronomist and an administrator for our Sustainable Agriculture Project in Riimenze near Yambio."

Solidarity with South Sudan is an initiative of the International Union(s) of Superiors General (women and men) and relies on religious congregations from around the world for professional staff for the training of nurses, midwives, and primary school teachers. The goal is capacity-building of South Sudanese to assume responsibility for institutions built by the global religious community. Contracts are three years, renewable. This is an opportunity to leave a legacy of educated professionals in South Sudan. For more information, contact: Joan Mumaw, IHM jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com