



July 2015



EWTN Features the Conclusion of the CDF Mandate

EWTN Nightly News invited the LCWR leadership to its program to talk about the doctrinal assessment by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the conclusion of its mandate.

Anchor Brian Patrick interviewed Sharon Holland, IHM; Marcia Allen, CSJ; Carol Zinn, SSJ; and Joan Marie Steadman, CSC while the four were in Washington, DC for the LCWR executive committee meeting. The interview provided an opportunity for the LCWR leaders to answer questions about the assessment and how LCWR and the bishops delegated to implement the mandate worked together to bring the mandate to conclusion. The interview was shown in two parts and can be seen by clicking on the links to the EWTN YouTube channel: [May 28](#) and [May 29](#).



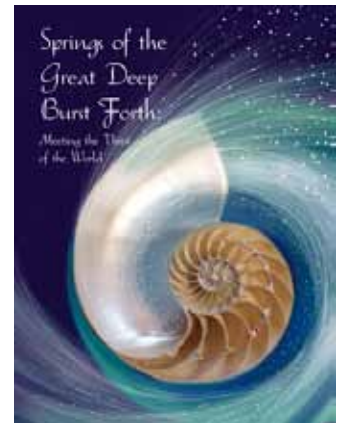
More Than 775 LCWR Members Register for the August Assembly

August 11- 14, 2015
Houston, Texas

More than 775 LCWR members and associates will gather in Houston to explore the theme, "Spirings of the Great Deep Burst Forth: Meeting the Thirsts of the World."

The assembly will explore what is being accessed these days from the Great Deep by women religious, as well as what may be drawn from it to meet the many urgent thirsts experienced throughout the world.

In addition to keynote presentations by Janet Mock, CSJ and Stephen Bevans, SVD, the assembly will reflect on the experience of the doctrinal assessment and mandate of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and its significance as LCWR plans for the future. As part of this reflection, the conference has invited all of the past and present LCWR presidents and executive directors who had been involved with the CDF assessment to participate in a conversation sharing their insights on the experience in an executive session. Present will be: J Lora Dambroski, OSF; Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA; Mary Hughes, OP; Pat Farrell, OSF; Florence Deacon, OSF; Carol Zinn, SSJ; Sharon Holland, IHM; Marcia Allen, CSJ; Janet Mock, CSJ; and Joan Marie Steadman, CSC. The LCWR members will also have an opportunity to process and share their insights on the call to LCWR as it looks to the future.



From the LCWR Presidency

Thirsting for Water; Thirsting for God

by Sharon Holland, IHM — LCWR President

Midsummer!

As we look forward to our August assembly, we thirst for those waters which are yet to “burst forth” from the Great Deep. We thirst for God, for the waters of the Spirit, and for justice for the many who simply thirst for clean water.

By the time we arrive in Houston—in fact or in spirit—many will have read Pope Francis’ Encyclical, “Praised Be: On the Care of Our Common Home.” John Allen reminds us that the title is the beginning of St. Francis’ “Canticle of the Sun”: “*Laudato Si*”. Praised be God, through Brother Sun, and Sister Water.

Commentaries on the publication of the encyclical have highlighted the notion of “integral ecology.” The text is seen as original in establishing a new relationship between social and eco-justice. Cardinal Turkson of Ghana, currently serving as president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, has identified the fundamental principles of integral ecology (David Pruett of *Huffington Post* (6/12/15).

1. The call to all peoples to be protectors of the environment is integral and all embracing.
2. Care for creation is a virtue in its own right.
3. It is necessary to care for what we cherish and revere.
4. A new global solidarity is a key value to direct our search for the common good.

The entire theme resonates with the LCWR Call - 2015 -2022. In the prologue, we recognize ourselves as ecclesial women living in a world which presents both challenge and opportunity. “We experience the reality that growing inequity breeds oppression. Unbridled consumption and unfettered capitalism imperil the com-



We thirst for God,
for the waters of the Spirit,
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mon good and environmental degradation threatens all God’s creation. We desire to understand and address root causes of systemic evil and work with others to meet global needs in a way that reflects the spaciousness of God’s abundant love in the world.”

In another century, but with extraordinary vision, Teilhard de Chardin, SJ wrote “The age of nations is past. The task before us now, if we would not perish, is to build the earth.” In a similar vein in the present century, Dorothy Stang, SND, referred to as the Martyr of the Amazon, is often pictured wearing a T-shirt declaring: “The death of the forest is the end of our life.” Although not formally canonized, John Allen suggests that it would be apt to recognize Sr. Dorothy as patron of Pope Francis’ “eco-encyclical”. She has, he notes, put her life on the line to defend the dignity and rights of poor farmers in the Brazilian Amazon, and protect the environment, specifically the Amazon rainforest. (*Crux*, June 11,2015)

Laudato Si!

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
which is very useful and humble and precious and
chaste.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth
who sustains us and governs us and who produces
varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

Blessed are those who endure in peace
For by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.
(*St. Francis, Canticle of Brother Sun*)

Midsummer. *Laudato Si!*



Executive committee members: Pat Eck, CBS (present through videoconferencing); Mary Beth Gianoli, OSF; Carol Zinn, SSJ; Rose Marie Jasinski, CBS; Rosemary Brennan, CSJ; Sharon Holland, IHM; Joan Marie Steadman, CSC; and Marcia Allen, CSJ

LCWR Executive Committee Meets in Washington

From May 25-27, the members of the LCWR Executive Committee met at the Washington Retreat House in DC. Among other agenda items the committee discussed the upcoming LCWR assembly, the conclusion of the CDF mandate, the conference's finances, and development efforts.

Spiritual Leadership for Challenging Times Wins CPA Book Award

Catholic Press Association awarded *Spiritual Leadership for Challenging Times: Presidential Addresses from the Leadership Conference for Women Religious* one of its 2015 book awards. The collection of LCWR addresses won third place in the category of gender.



CPA announced the award at its Catholic Media Conference which took place from June 24-26 in Buffalo, New York.

LCWR Contemporary Religious Life Committee Focuses on Deepened Understanding of Contemplation

Gathered from June 10-12 in Washington, DC, the members of the LCWR Contemporary Life Committee spent significant time exploring what it means to contemplatively live, love, and lead.

Discussion during the meeting focused on how to effectively conduct all of the efforts of the conference in a contemplative manner and to assist the members to do the same in their leadership ministries. The committee, which has been charged with exploring emerging interests and trends for the conference, is also looking at new ways to consult with a wide variety of persons whose professional disciplines and insights may be of assistance to LCWR at this time.

At its next in-person meeting, the committee will spend time with Constance FitzGerald, OCD and Liz Sweeney, SSJ exploring concepts of contemplative leadership.



Contemporary Religious Life Committee members: (standing) Marie McCarthy, SP (staff); Ana Lydia Sonera, CDP; Cathy Bertrand, SSND (facilitator); Annmarie Sanders, IHM (staff); (seated) Maria Hughes, ASC; Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ; and Joan Marie Steadman, CSC (executive director). Not in photo: Pat McDermott, RSM.



New Cohorts Forming For Leadership Pathways

This September new learning cohorts will be forming for two different Leadership Pathways modules. This is an opportunity for interested members to join an online learning cohort, facilitated by a group mentor, to explore and integrate more deeply the dispositions and skills needed to be a transformational leader.

The module, *Becoming the Leaders We Hope To Be: The Foundations of Transformational Leadership*, focuses on developing the dispositions, skills, and knowledge that are needed by elected leaders today. It explores the role of self-knowledge and vulnerability in effective leadership, the art of seeing things whole and thinking and acting from a systems perspective, how to lead from a contemplatively-grounded place, and how to build a collective, collaborative congregational vision.

The module, *Rooted in God's Mission: The Foundations of Mission-Grounded Leadership*, focuses on the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed to assist leaders in keeping mission at the heart of the ministry and fostering the sense of mission among those serving in congregation ministries. It includes materials and reflection on the theology of mission, Catholic identity, sponsorship, the development of specific competencies needed to lead from a mission-grounded consciousness, and contemplative, ethical decision-making.

Group members work at their own pace and on their own time. All materials are available online. At the end of each of the major sections the group meets together online for in-depth conversation and sharing. It generally takes a group anywhere from nine to 12 months to work through the material.

Members may sign up as individuals or as teams to participate in this experience. Thus far three pilot groups

have completed the module on *Becoming the Leaders We Hope to Be* and another five groups are working with the material. Three pilot groups are currently working with the module, *Rooted in God's Mission* and are about half-way through the process.

Feedback from the participants in each of the modules indicates that the experience is genuinely helpful to them in their ministry of leadership.

Anyone interested in participating in the learning cohorts that will be forming in the fall can find further information and a registration form on the [LCWR website under resources](#).

LCWR's 'Dimensions of Leadership' Available in French and Spanish

A document well-used by many congregations of women religious is "Dimensions of Leadership," prepared by members of an LCWR think tank on leadership development in 1997. The document identifies capacities, skills, and competencies required for effective leadership in religious institutes. Despite its age, the document provides valuable information that has proven helpful to many, particularly as congregations explore leadership development, as well as prepare for elections.

Thanks to the generosity of the Sisters of Providence in Montreal, the document is now available in French and Spanish on the [LCWR website](#).



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Symposium on the 2014 NRVC/CARA Study on Incorporating Cultural Diversity in Religious Life

LCWR, CMSM, and RFC, as well as some of the conferences' members, were invited to participate in a symposium held at the USCCB offices in Washington and offered by the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) to report its findings on a study conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) on incorporating cultural diversity in religious life. Dr. Mary Gautier of CARA shared the findings from a study of US-based religious institutes of men and women about the ways they recruit and integrate multicultural candidates into their communities. The study was conducted to learn about their policies, procedures, and experiences with the formation and integration of candidates from cultures different from the dominant one of the institute. The goal of the research was to provide information that will help promote religious life and strengthen its quality so that it will better attract and retain new members.

Dr. Guatier presented findings on the racial and ethnic composition of religious institutes, recruitment of culturally diverse candidates, and integration of culturally diverse members into initial formation programs and into community life.

The symposium also included input from newer religious from cultures outside of the United States on their personal experiences of formation and integration. Symposium participants also shared their own best practices, as well as insights into the challenges of intercultural religious life, particularly the challenges noted in the study of some unwillingness to change to accommodate other cultures on the part of professed members of the congregation and the aging of US religious congregations.



Panel of newer women and men religious from diverse cultures at the NRVC symposium.

The full report, an executive summary, and a compendium video from the study are available at nrvc.net/278/publication/2014-nrvc-cara-cultural-diversity-study-2978.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Assembly
Houston, Texas
August 11—14, 2015

**LCWR Leadership Pathways
Online Learning Cohorts Forming**
Deadline: September 15, 2015

Leading from Within Retreat
Redemptorist Retreat Center
Tucson, Arizona
January 17 — 22, 2016

Imagining Justice
Bethany Center
Lutz, Florida
March 7 — 10, 2016

LCWR New Leader Workshop
Conference Center
University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois
April 7 — 10, 2016

LCWR Assembly
Atlanta, Georgia
August 9—13, 2016

LCWR Assembly
Orlando, Florida
August 8—12, 2017

LCWR Assembly
St. Louis, Missouri
August 7—11, 2018



- Letter to Senate leadership urging swift confirmation of Gayle E. Smith as the administrator of the US Agency for International Development. LCWR (5/6/15)
- Faith-based organizations letter to Senate leadership urging them to oppose S. 750, the Arizona Borderlands Protection and Preservation Act. LCWR (5/7/15)
- Letter to Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson outlining the faith community's serious concern that ICE officials are not properly following the November 2014 guidelines for prosecutorial discretion and priorities for enforcement operations. LCWR (5/12/15)
- Letter to President Obama urging the administration to end the practice of family detention. LCWR (5/11/15)
- Letter to Senate leadership expressing strong support for S.1339, legislation which would extend permanently the Special Immigrant Non-Minister portion of the Religious Worker Visa Program. LCWR (5/14/15)
- Letter from faith-based organizations urging the Senate to include Senator Bob Menendez's No Fast Track for Human Traffickers amendment to S. 995, the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015. LCWR (5/18/15)
- Letter from faith-based organizations to the chairs of House and Senate appropriations committees asking them to fund international humanitarian, poverty-focused development, and peacebuilding assistance programs in FY 2016 at equal or higher levels as those enacted in fiscal year 2015, LCWR (5/29/15).
- Letter to the Senate appropriations committee asking them to create funding solutions that identify much-needed savings in the Pentagon budget while preserving funding for programs that serve our most vulnerable populations. LCWR (6/5/15)
- Letter to President Obama calling for an end to the administration's practice of family detention. LCWR (6/8/15)

Registration for December Pilgrimage to El Salvador is Open

Registration for the November 28-December 5 pilgrimage commemorating the 35th anniversary of the martyrdom of the four church



women in El Salvador is now open. The LCWR delegation will be led by president Marcia Allen, CSJ and include approximately 25 representatives from the conference's 15 regions. Organizers from SHARE El Salvador are planning for a delegation of 65-100 including women religious, sister parish members, and young women exploring religious life.

The program will include a pilgrimage to the site of the martyrdom of the four women, opportunities to speak with those who knew them, and a visit to the sites of the martyrdom of Archbishop Romero and the Jesuits and their co-workers. Delegates will discuss the root causes of forced migration and the current challenges facing impoverished communities. They will visit and lend support to grassroots movements of women, human rights defenders, and the mothers of the disappeared, and anti-mining and environmental activists.

The cost for the program is \$1200, plus airfare. Partial scholarships may be available from SHARE. Details and registration materials are available at: tinyurl.com/q9wqhqm.



Due to a printer overrun, some extra copies of the Summer 2015 issue of *The Occasional Papers* are available. Purchases may be made online at lcwr.org/item/summer-2015-exploring-great-deep

Faith Groups Call for End to Family Detention

In late May a group of faith leaders met with White House staff to call for an end to family detention, delivering a letter signed by nearly 1,500 faith leaders from around the country. These leaders joined calls by a growing number of congressional members, civil society groups, and advocates to end this inhumane practice once and for all.



The US government reinstated family detention in response to the arrival of 68,684 families at the US-Mexico border in 2014. Currently, more than 1500 refugee mothers and children from Central America are being incarcerated in three detention centers in Karnes City, Texas; Dilley, Texas; and Berks County, Pennsylvania. In 2009 the Obama administration closed the T. Don Hutto detention facility in Taylor, Texas due to complaints of abuse and poor conditions. Advocates and those currently detained report similar conditions as well as inadequate nutrition and medical care.

A lawsuit challenging the administration on this practice was set to be resolved in late May but negotiations between the parties have been extended with a final agreement expected before the end of June. Administration attorneys maintain that detention allows for greater flexibility in responding to surges of unauthorized migration. Immigrant advocates argue that family detention is simply wrong.

LCWR registered its concern about the continuing practice of detaining mothers and children fleeing violence in their homelands during the faith-leaders meeting at the White House. LCWR associate director Ann Scholz, SSND argued, "Imprisoning families is unnecessary, inappropriate, and immoral. It violates the tenets of our faith and disparages the values of our nation."

On June 11, Kathleen Erickson, RSM, who recently served as chaplain at the for-profit detention center in Dilley, Texas, shared her experience with Senate and House staffers. She told of women who fled horrible violence and death in Central America in search of safety.

Instead of asylum they found themselves incarcerated with little access to legal counsel or even basic information about their situation.

Kathleen reported that the women she met were desperate for information about what is happening; what their future holds; and what it will mean for the welfare of their children. She explained that the whole paradigm is wrong. If the focus was on refugee resettlement, on welcoming those in need, everything would be different.

More information about efforts to end family detention can be found at: www.justiceforimmigrants.org and cliniclegal.org/letters.

National Faith Leaders Rally Behind New Research and Tale of Two States Campaign

On June 11, Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, a coalition of more than 50 national faith groups and organizations that includes LCWR, gathered at Washington National Cathedral to launch a campaign called "Tale of Two States: Handgun Purchaser Licensing Saves Lives."

Faith leaders touted a new study published the same day in the American Journal of Public Health by the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research showing that Connecticut's handgun purchaser licensing legislation led to a 40 percent drop in gun homicides in the state. Another recent study in Missouri showed that their repeal of their licensing law led to a 25 percent increase in gun homicides.

Faiths United is asking faith and community groups across the country to endorse a new resolution calling for handgun purchaser licensing nationwide. The resolution can be signed at www.taleoftwostates.com.



FAITHS UNITED
TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

Fate of DAPA and Expanded DACA Still in Uncertain

The US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit denied the US Department of Justice's request for an emergency stay in the anti-immigrant lawsuit, *Texas v. United States of America*. Texas federal judge Andrew Hanen issued an injunction in mid-February temporarily halting the implementation of the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) and expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) programs. Up to five million immigrants across the country are forced to wait, continuing to live in fear of deportation and being torn from their families.

LCWR was one a number of faith-based organizations which filed an amicus brief asking that the stay be lifted as the state's challenge of the President's executive action works its way through the courts.

Despite the slow movement of the anti-immigrant lawsuit through the court system, support for immigrant families and the presidential action that created the deferred action programs has been building. More than 100 legal scholars have come forward declaring President Obama acted within his authority. Separate amicus briefs and public statements of support have been made by governors, attorneys general, law enforcement officers, dozens of large city mayors and public officials, and others in the case supporting the expanded DACA and DAPA programs.

The government has already announced that it will not seek an appeal of the emergency stay denial. Instead, it will proceed with its appeal of the preliminary injunction. Oral argument on that appeal is scheduled for July 10, 2015.

Update from the United Nations

The United Nations will mark the World Day against Trafficking in Persons on July 30. Every year, thousands of men, women, and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. Every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit, or destination. More information is available at: www.un.org/en/events/humantrafficking/index.shtml.



National Conference of the Resource Center for Religious Institutes

October 27 - 30, 2015
Caribe Royale Hotel and Conference Center
Orlando, Florida

The theme of this year's conference will be a celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life. Keynote speaker, Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin, CSsR, of Indianapolis and former secretary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, will open the conference on October 27. Prior to the opening, RCRI will offer three pre-conference workshops: a half-day session on Impact Investment sponsored by Catholic Relief Services (CRS); an all-day session for new treasurers and finance personnel, new leaders and leadership councils on management of religious institutes in the areas of finance, civil and canon law; and a half-day session (afternoon) on TRENDS 2015 for new users or those who need a refresher workshop.

Among the features this year will be 35 workshops, plus a general session for the Legal Update including updates from NRRO, RCRI and LCWR; and a conference liturgy to be celebrated on Thursday afternoon, October 29.

The full program and other materials available online in early July at www.trcri.org.



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



**Special NRVC Workshop
Vocation Ministry within the
Year of Consecrated Life:
Trends, Issues, Best Practices**

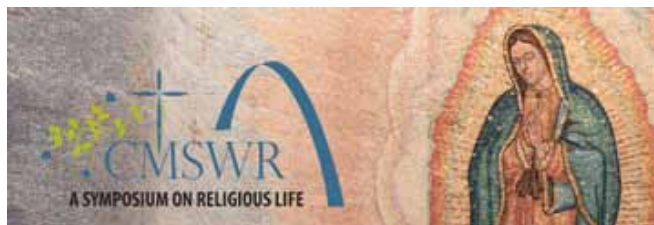
"I am counting on you 'to wake up the world,' since the distinctive sign of consecrated life is prophecy This is the priority that is needed right now: to be prophets who witness to how Jesus lived on this earth."
– Pope Francis, Apostolic Letter Marking Start of the Year of Consecrated Life

In celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life, NRVC is offering a commemorative workshop as part of its Fall Institute, which will feature three ministerial professionals treating the topic of religious life and its implications for vocation ministry, with and among the young church today. Approaching the topic from their own expertise, each presenter will offer the trends, issues, best practices, and skills needed for credible and proficient vocation ministry, in three individual day-long workshops. The central focus of this comprehensive three-day workshop is for participants to echo the words of Pope Francis: to "look to the past with gratitude . . . live the present with passion . . . [and] embrace the future with hope" as we "Wake up the World" while celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life.

The workshop will be offered October 23-25, at the Marillac Center in Leavenworth, Kansas. The presenters are:

- Maria Cimperman, RSCJ: "A Call to Encounter/ Encuentro"
- Ted Dunn, PhD: "Vocation Ministry Through the Lens of Transformation"
- Sean Sammon, FMS: "Creating a Religious Life for the 21st Century"

More information is available at: nrvc.net/293/article/vocation-ministry-within-the-year-of-consecrated-life-trends-issues-best-practices-6580.



CMSWR Symposium on Religious Life

The Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) has an extended an invitation to all women religious, clergy, and laity to attend its symposium, "To Wake up the World: Religious Life as Prophetic Witness," November 13-14, 2015 at the Drury Plaza Hotel at the Arch in St. Louis, Missouri.

The event begins Friday evening with a keynote address by Archbishop Augustine DiNoia, OP, adjunct secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. On Saturday, the symposium will feature a variety of speakers focusing on the many aspects of religious life including Sister Mary Prudence Allen, RSM; Sister Sara Butler, MSBT; Rev. Christopher Collins SJ; Helen Alvare; Sister Mary Nika Schaumber, RSM; Rev. David Meconi, SJ; and Sister Mary Timothea Elliot, RSM. These religious leaders will focus on theological perspectives, structures of religious life, and teachings of Pope Francis on religious life.

Registration information is available at: www.cmswr.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 at lcwr.org/members/lcwr-membership-information.



SOLIDARITY with South Sudan

by Joan Mumaw, IHM
US Regional Development Director

Daily reports from South Sudan are alarming. The power struggle between the leaders is rapidly becoming “ethnic warfare” as traditional hostilities are exploited by rival factions. 600,000 have been added to the two million already displaced, and 40% of the population or 4.6 million people are facing food insecurity and possible famine. Displaced people are not in their own homes to plant during the rainy season so that they can harvest food in the next few months. Roads are impassable making the provision of emergency foodstuffs difficult to bring to those most in need. The economy is in free-fall and the lack of foreign exchange, resulting from the financing of the war and the decline in the price of oil, means that essential goods that must be imported are not being brought into the country.

In the midst of this bad news, there is good news! The South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC), which was a strong voice in earlier peace processes, is re-energizing itself with new leadership. (The Catholic Church is an active member of the SSCC.) The SSCC, representing the major Christian denominations in the country, which is 90 percent Christian, has recently returned from a retreat in Rwanda. There they learned how the churches in Rwanda dealt with the genocide that divided that country. As a result of the retreat, they have expressed their unity and issued a “solemn statement of (their) intent to achieve peace and reconciliation for (their) beloved nation.” They reiterated their belief that this is a senseless war with no moral justification for the continued killing.

The people are completely polarized and the churches must play a significant role in the process which must be owned by the South Sudanese stakeholders. They go on to state strongly, “We wish to inform our leaders, our people and the regional and international community that the Church is now taking serious steps to bring about a homegrown solution for peace and reconciliation.... We will find ways to bring stakeholders together in a less politically-charged atmosphere and to build bridges between them to overcome mistrust and disagreements.” They ended the statement asking forgiveness for their “failure to speak and act in love to heal our nation.” Full statement: en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/06/07/church_leaders_continue_search_for_peace/1149786.

Here in the United States, representatives of churches active in South Sudan, are seeking ways to support the South Sudan Council of Churches. You may hear more about this in the weeks ahead. For more about the work of Solidarity in South Sudan contact: jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com.

National Conference for Women Religious Under 50

Giving Voice invites all sisters under 50 years of age to explore the theme of “Crossing Boundaries in Religious Life” at its national conference from August 6-9 at Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, Kansas .

Keynote speakers will be LCWR member Teresa Maya, CCVI, congregational coordinator of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in Texas, Mexico, Zambia, and Peru; as well as Sophia Park, SNJM, an assistant professor of religious studies and philosophy at Holy Names University in Oakland, California. Simultaneous translation will be offered in Spanish and scholarship funds are available. Registration information is available at tinyurl.com/GVNationalConference2015.

Catholic Mission Forum to Host Four Day Congress in Houston

Fourteen Catholic mission organizations that form a collaborative effort known as the Catholic Mission Forum, convened by the United States Catholic Mission Association (USCMA), will host Mission Congress 2015, October 1-4, 2015 at the Houston Hotel North in Houston, Texas. The forum will include a series of events featuring keynote speakers, workshops, and breakout sessions, mass at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, and local immersions trips.

The theme of Mission Congress 2015 is “Witnessing Mission: Called to be Missionary Disciples.” Keynote speakers will include: Dr. Carolyn Woo of Catholic Relief Services; Frank DeSiano, CSP of Paulist Evangelization Ministries; Rev. Virgilio Elizando; and Meg Guider, OSF. Workshops will explore parish twinning, the Third Wave of Mission, engaging parish families in mission, and living solidarity in Africa, to name a few. More information is available at: missioncongress.org/.