



June 2015

## LCWR Officers Issue Statement on the CDF Doctrinal Assessment and Mandate

On May 15 LCWR released a [statement](#) with reflections of the LCWR officers about the completion of the mandate of implementation issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) after its doctrinal assessment of LCWR. Articles in publications throughout the world excerpted from the statement, issued by LCWR president Sharon Holland, IHM; president-elect Marcia Allen, CSJ; past president Carol Zinn, SSJ; and executive director Joan Marie Steadman, CSC. In addition, the LCWR officers gave several interviews to the press.

Some of the coverage included the following articles:

- [New York Times](#)
- [National Catholic Reporter - Article](#)
- [National Catholic Reporter - Q&A with Sharon Holland, IHM](#)
- [National Catholic Reporter - Article](#)
- [Religion News Service](#)
- [Catholic News Service](#)
- [National Catholic Register](#)

The LCWR officers will offer additional reflections on the conclusion of the mandate at the August LCWR assembly and will engage the participants in a corporate reflection on the experience of working through the process.

Due to the generosity of the Sisters of Bon Secours, the joint final report on the CDF mandate, as well as the press release issued on April 16 about the mandate's conclusion are now available in Spanish on the [LCWR website](#).

### The New York Times

*The Nuns Spoke Out, but the Archbishop Listened*

By LAURE GORRETTEN MAY 15, 2015



Carol Zinn, a past president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, was one of a group of nuns who met with Pope Francis in the Vatican last month. Her article in The New York Times.



### GLOBAL SISTERS REPORT

A project of National Catholic Reporter.



LCWR evaluates end of mandate

By News Christi-Action

May 31, 2015

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### LCWR President Discusses Long Road to Final Agreement on Vatican Reforms

Guest

An Interview with Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Sharon Holland

BY ANW CAREY 05/16/2015 Comments 191

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*From the LCWR Presidency*

## The Art and Science of Relinquishment

by Marcia Allen, CSJ — LCWR President-Elect

**T**he art and science of relinquishment...

Most of us are familiar with the dark night of the soul and the relinquishments, large and small, that go with it.

The doctrinal assessment and the mandate are over. Finished. Done. This generation of leaders will not experience another such in their lifetime (I hope!). Two questions come over and over from the media and from friends and community members alike: What does it feel like to be free of the CDF assessment? What will LCWR do now that the assessment is over?

What DOES it feel like? What WILL we do now?

Some have said, "We're free!" We'll keep doing what we've been doing: responding to the social needs of our time in our usual manner. We will attend to the mission – the work of keeping leaders abreast of the leading issues that form the context for their leadership. Now our focus is no longer on the CDF and the major work that it demanded from the assembly once a year and the leadership of the conference in between times.

Here's the thing: relinquishment can cut two ways. It points to a sea-change in the inner life of a person or organization, usually due to radical changes in external circumstances. We are freed of something but usually at great cost. We experience a loss that changes every-



When everything changes,  
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that has made us  
different forever.

thing. Consequently it is a contextual change in one's personal life or in the life of an organization. When everything changes, then we are hard put to catch up with a reality that has made us different forever.

We are very familiar with these sorts of things in our personal lives: the loss of a loved one, of a job, of our health, etc. We tend not to think of them in terms of the organization itself. But even organizations have a spiritual life. LCWR certainly does. After all, the statutes indicate that we are a Christ-centered conference. This in itself indicates that whatever else we experience, the inner life, the spirit of the conference as a whole, is permeated with the Christ-life which is that of the Paschal Mystery, the self-gift that strips us of all that is not wholly consecrated to our Central Project – love of and complete dependence on God; self utterly given for the sake of the whole – the whole world where God is self-given day after day.

Stripped of that reference point – the CDF – how do we reorient our focus, our energies, our self-gift? This is the real question behind those questions we hear so frequently. Spiritual authors advise us to remember the future rather than remember the past. We reverence the past and its hardships but we gather it within and allow it to enspirit our energy forward into our real purpose for being. The "old" referent made us who we are today, that is, the new people now free to reconstitute our purpose in the Christ-work of our new moment. Let's do it!



## LCWR Assembly

LCWR members and associates may register online for the assembly. Rates increase after June 21.

Information on the assembly is available in the Members Area of the LCWR website.

August 11- 14, 2015  
(Travel day: August 15)  
Houston, Texas

## Help Make Assembly Attendance Possible for Members Through a Donation to the LCWR Scholarship Fund

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

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

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

# THE Occasional Papers

## Exploring the Great Deep

The focus of the Summer 2015 issue of *Occasional Papers* springs from a concept put forward by Jesuit superior general, Adolfo Nicolás, SJ. While addressing those working in Jesuit higher education, Fr. Nicolás noted a phenomenon he named the “globalization of superficiality” that has risen due to our new capacities to access information; publish our opinions; be exposed to multiple options, values, and visions of life; and become “friends” with mere acquaintances or total strangers on social networks. These realities, he says, can lead us away from the painstaking work of serious, critical thinking; of forming communities of dialogue in search of truth and understanding; and of building true and meaningful relationships. To counter this globalization of superficiality, Fr. Nicolás speaks of a strong need to promote depth of thought, as well as imagination and creativity.



The authors in *Occasional Papers* explore this phenomenon through a variety of perspectives and suggest what this reality may mean for those in religious life today. This issue also includes interviews on this topic with both Dewitt Jones, a former *National Geographic* photographer who now teaches about creativity and vision, and Peggy McAllister, an executive coach and leadership development consultant.

This issue is also intended to serve as a preparatory resource for LCWR members as they look ahead to the August 2015 LCWR assembly entitled, “Spirings of the Great Deep Burst Forth: Meeting the Thirsts of the World.”

Although all LCWR members, associates, and subscribers will receive a copy of *Occasional Papers*, many leaders order additional copies for their own members, associates, and staffs. Orders and payment must be received by **June 5, 2015**. Orders may be placed online at [lcwr.org/item/summer-2015-exploring-great-deep](http://lcwr.org/item/summer-2015-exploring-great-deep).



At the LCWR spring meetings this year several regions had the opportunity to have “a taste” of Leadership Pathways. This provided the opportunity to experience something of the content of Pathways, to get an overview of its various components, and to provide input on what members would find helpful with regard to the content, structure, and availability of the various components.

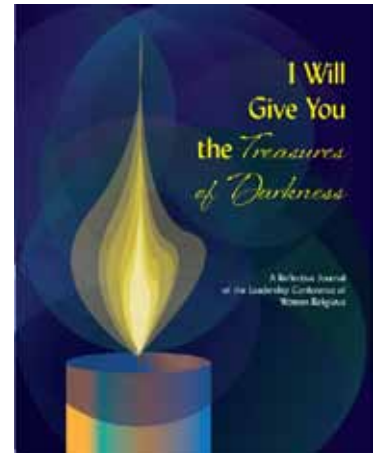
Reports from these regions indicate that members appreciate and enjoy the material and find it quite helpful. There is a real desire among the members to develop more fully their capacities as transformational leaders. And, at the same time, many members feel that the demands of the ministry of elected leadership are such that their time and energies are already stretched to the limits. A number of members expressed a desire to have some ongoing input at the regional meetings and perhaps to have other formats in which the content and processes could be made available, for example face-to-face as well as online possibilities. A number suggested using the content with their entire leadership team.

When the Leadership Pathways Advisory Committee meets in June it will consider ways in which these suggestions might be implemented.

In addition, materials and a process are being developed which would involve individual members, leadership teams, and the region in reflection and conversation together around a common focus. These materials will be available for any region that wishes to use them as part of their fall regional meeting experience.

## Additional Copies of 2015 LCWR Reflection Books Available for Purchase

Due to a printer overrun, copies of the 2015 LCWR reflection book, *I Will Give You the Treasures of Darkness*, are available for purchase. The books sell for \$5.00 each, plus shipping and handling. Discounts are available for orders of more than 10 books. Books may be purchased at [lcsr.org/publications/i-will-give-you-treasures-darkness](http://lcsr.org/publications/i-will-give-you-treasures-darkness).



## USCCB Report Calls for a ‘Transformation’ of the Immigration Detention System

The US immigrant detention system, which treats vulnerable immigrant detainees as criminals, needs extensive reforms, said representatives of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Center for Migration Studies (CMS), as they released a report and policy recommendations. They urged Congress and the administration to build a system that affords due process protections, honors human dignity, and minimizes the use of detentions.

“Unlocking Human Dignity: A Plan to Transform the US Immigrant Detention System” addresses one of the most troubling features of the US immigration system and highlights the need for fundamental changes. The report recommends that the US immigrant detention system be dismantled and replaced with a network of supervised release, case management, and community support programs, designed to ensure court appearances.

The report, written and produced by CMS, a Catholic-based educational institute that studies migration, and Migration and Refugee Services of USCCB, is available at: [tinyurl.com/mzax9or](http://tinyurl.com/mzax9or).

## LCWR Members to Visit Karnes City Family Detention Facility

LCWR Region 12 is inviting LCWR members to join in a day-long pilgrimage to the family detention facility in Karnes City, Texas on August 15, 2015. The trip, immediately following the LCWR assembly, will offer participants an opportunity to learn more about the family detention system and to take action on behalf of immigrant justice.



Plans call for the group to leave from the assembly hotel at 7:00 AM and to return by 4:30 PM. The trip will include an orientation to the family detention system, testimony from sisters and others who regularly visit with women and children who are being held in the Karnes City facility, and some time for prayer and public witness.

The trip will not include a tour of the detention center, in part because organizers do not want to be party to what are often simply “show tours.” Sisters who regularly enter the Karnes City facility to visit and pray with those being held report that GEO, the for-profit prison group which runs the center, is doing everything possible to try to show that it is well-equipped and comfortable, with lots of amenities. When staff conducts official tours of the Karnes facility, they stock the refrigerators and point out the comforts and conveniences.

The residents tell a different story. Women say that the refrigerators are empty, the meals inadequate, and diapers in short supply. Those mothers who tried to call attention to the suffering of their children with hunger strikes have suffered the consequences.

Hundreds of refugee children and their mothers are currently being imprisoned in these for-profit detention facilities, essentially jails, in Karnes City and Dilley. Undernourishment and severe sickness are common among children in the camps. Schooling appears to be sporadic. Overcrowded living conditions are the norm.

The *New York Times* recently reported on the horrors in these camps under the headline, “The Shame of America’s Family Detention Camps.”

The cost of the trip will be determined by the number of participants and the cost of transportation and will include a box lunch. Those interested in participating in the pilgrimage to Karnes City should contact Lourdes Leal, CDP, chair of LCWR Region 12 at [lleal@cdptexas.org](mailto:lleal@cdptexas.org).

## Upcoming LCWR Dates

### LCWR Assembly

*Houston, Texas*  
August 11—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



- Statement by Catholic theologians, ethicists, and leaders of Catholic organizations affirming that no justification exists that would allow the continued existence of nuclear weapons and urging a ban that would not only make it illegal for nations to use or possess nuclear weapons but also help pave the way to their complete elimination. Sharon Holland, IHM (3/1/15)
- Faith letter to President Obama expressing gratitude for his veto of the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act and asking that he reject the planned Keystone XL Pipeline so that the country can move forward with the administration's 2013 Climate Action Plan. LCWR (3/4/15)
- Letter to members of Congress urging them to base their budget decisions on four principles espoused by the Strengthening the Values and Economy (SAVE) for All campaign: (1) protect low-income and vulnerable people; (2) invest in broadly shared prosperity that raises incomes across the economic spectrum; (3) increase revenues from fair sources; and (4) seek responsible savings by targeting wasteful spending in the Pentagon and elsewhere. LCWR (3/12/15)
- Letter to members of Congress asking them to support a four-year extension of funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) which provides critical support to millions of children who would otherwise be without access to care. LCWR (3/17/15)
- Faith letter to Congress asking members to support for the US pledge to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the President's FY2016 budget request of \$500 million for the GCF. LCWR (3/26/15)
- Letter to Senate Democrats urging them to oppose any anti-immigration amendments offered to the Budget Resolution. LCWR (3/23/15)
- Letter to President Obama urging him to use his executive power to put an end to family detention and help protect vulnerable and innocent children who are detained in for-profit prisons. Ann Scholz, SSND (3/26/15)
- Letter to members of Congress expressing support for HR 1568 the "Protecting Religious Minorities Persecuted by ISIS Act of 2015" which would enhance the protection of refugees from Iraq and Syria by allowing certain persecuted nationals or residents of Iraq or Syria to apply directly to the United States Refugee Admissions Program, and by streamlining refugee processing. LCWR (3/30/15)
- Faith statement calling for a compassionate budget and urging members of Congress to craft budget and spending bills that promote the good of every member of society, especially those who are most vulnerable. LCWR (3/31/15).
- Interfaith letter urging members of the House of Representatives to co-sponsor the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act which would require employers to reasonably accommodate pregnant employees' health needs—if the employer can do so without undue hardship—allowing pregnant workers to continue to work to earn wages and benefits. LCWR (4/16/14)
- Interfaith letter in support of S 497 and HR 932 which will ensure that all hardworking Americans, and their families, have paid sick days. LCWR (4/16/15)
- Faith leaders letter to leaders of the Senate appropriations committee urging robust US investments in international humanitarian and poverty-focused development and peacebuilding assistance programs. LCWR (4/30/15)
- Letter to UN ambassadors commending member states for naming the human right to water in the chapeau of the outcome document of the Open Working Group and asking that the human right to water and sanitation be included in the declaration of the post-2015 development agenda. LCWR (5/1/14)
- Letter to Senators urging opposition to S 750, the "Arizona Borderlands Protection and Preservation Act," which would subordinate every existing legal protection applicable to federal public lands in a 10-million-acre area of Arizona to its unattainable objective of entirely sealing the southwest border. LCWR (5/4/15)

## EAD Workshop Breaking the Chains: Mass Incarceration and Systems of Exploitation

LCWR was represented among the more than 1,000 Christian advocates gathered in Washington, DC from April 17-20 for Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD). The annual event was entitled “Breaking the Chains: Mass Incarceration and Systems of Exploitation.”



Participants were challenged to action by panel discussions on the role of the church in the “War on Drugs” and moved to tears and action in light of the deplorable incarceration and abuse of children, women, and men in prisons around the world. In a panel entitled “How a Renewed Focus on Women and Girls Can Serve as the Core of a Sustainable Development Model,” associate director for social mission Ann Scholz, SSND, unpacked the costs of gender discrimination and pointed to the cascading benefits of investment girls’ education.

There were opportunities for networking by denomination and by state and local regions and a day of advocacy on Capitol Hill.

## Affordable Care Act is Five Years Old

It has been five years since the Affordable Care Act (ACA) became law. Since then, 16.4 million Americans have gained health insurance, and millions more are receiving federal subsidies to make their coverage more affordable. Providing access to quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans is no longer a distant vision; it is a reachable goal. For instance, women, who had been forced to pay higher premiums for reduced coverage before the law passed, are no longer subject to such sex discrimination, which means that almost 40 million adult women no longer have lifetime limits on their health insurance plans.

To mark the fifth anniversary of the ACA Center for American Progress is taking a look at key measures of

the law’s impact and success. State-based fact sheets lay out ACA benefits in states such as Florida and New Hampshire; an infographic shows how women are benefiting from the ACA; and another infographic spells out five health gains that are in serious jeopardy with the U.S. Supreme Court case *King v. Burwell*. Materials can be found at: [tinyurl.com/mtq2u8p](http://tinyurl.com/mtq2u8p).

## Update from the United Nations

### World Environment Day—June 5

World Environment Day is the United Nations’ principal vehicle for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment. It has grown to be a broad, global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated in over 100 countries. It also serves as the “people’s day” for doing something positive for the environment, galvanizing individual actions into a collective power that generates an exponential positive impact on the planet. The theme this year is “Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care.” More information is available at: [www.unep.org/wed](http://www.unep.org/wed)



### World Day Against Child Labour—June 12

The International Labor Organization (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labor and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. The World Day brings together governments, employers, and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight of child laborers and what can be done to help them. More information is available at: [www.un.org/en/events/childlabourday](http://www.un.org/en/events/childlabourday).

### World Refugee Day—June 20

World Refugee Day honors the strength and resilience of the more than 50 million people around the world who have fled war, persecution, and human rights abuses. It is a chance to renew the global commitment to end armed conflict, and to help the people who have been forced to flee their homes. Even one family torn apart by war is too many. Information is available at [www.un.org/en/events/refugeeday](http://www.un.org/en/events/refugeeday). Advocacy resources are available at: [tinyurl.com/lb8r6mf](http://tinyurl.com/lb8r6mf).



## SOLIDARITY with South Sudan

by Joan Mumaw, IHM  
US Regional Development Director

*"In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of  
death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace."*

--Luke 1: 78

Often during this past year when I have prayed the Benedictus, I have thought and prayed for the people of South Sudan whose lives are engulfed in civil war. During this past month, I was able to experience the anguish of the people of that new country and the heartbreak of those who minister to a traumatized people. When will the "dawn from on high" break upon this people of diverse cultures and languages? Who will be the emissaries of God guiding them "into a way of peace"?

The question of the day seems to be: how do we do development in the midst of ongoing civil war and humanitarian crisis? When does compassion fatigue drain the energy and resources of those responding to a crisis created by a power struggle among leadership elites?

Solidarity members struggle with this on a daily basis. How to keep the focus on capacity-building when before your very eyes children are hungry and going to schools that are in deplorable conditions with unqualified and poorly trained teachers? How do you respond to women who are eking out an existence for their families, carrying water for miles and, when they are a second or third wife, begging to be baptized in a church that prohibits this grace?

These are the questions that haunt me as I return to clean water, air conditioning, fewer mosquitos and, despite our potholes, passable and paved roads. And yet hope abounds. Nearly 100 women and men are studying to be registered nurses and midwives at the Catholic Health Training Center. We celebrate that nearly 50% are now young women. And in the midst of their studies they took time to commemorate Earth Day by planting trees and flowers for the campus.

The Solidarity Teacher Training College (TTC) in Yambio is bulging at the seams with one-third of their students coming from areas of conflict in the north. So short are they of space that they are in a campaign to build a second dormitory and renovate the existing dormitory for women students. Additional staff housing has been completed and a small chapel available to staff and students now graces the campus. Every available land on the campus is under cultivation as it is the rainy season and students can sell what they grow to the campus kitchen. Negotiations are underway for a national certification for those who graduate from the two-year primary teaching program.

At the Riimenze agricultural project 50 families are now benefiting from education in sustainable farming methods and seeing food crops grow on their small plots. Another piece of land one kilometer by a half a kilometer is being cleared and planted with crops to sell to the TTC and the market. And a baby leopard, orphaned after its mother was killed, is learning to live with animals that are its prey, dik-diks, and other varieties of antelope. The farm has been declared a wild life sanctuary for the moment. Perhaps this sign of the "lion lying down with the lamb" witnesses to what needs to happen among the people as they struggle to overcome the trauma of war and learn to live in peace, cattle keepers with farmers, Nuer with Dinka, South Sudanese with expatriates who have come to assist them in building up a new nation.

Enough musings on the profound experience of seeing Solidarity members ministering with and among the people of South Sudan. Now back to seeking funding for that much needed dormitory.



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





**N**RVC currently has more than 800 members and nearly 1,000 people who have participated in our various programs last year. However, NRVC also knows that some of their colleagues in vocation ministry are unable to benefit from all that the organization offers due to financial restraints.

So as not to exclude any religious institute committed to promoting religious life for future generations, NRVC proudly announces the establishment of the NRVC Misericordia Scholarship Fund. This fund, initiated during the Year of Consecrated Life and in anticipation of the Holy Year of Mercy, will provide grants for NRVC membership and programming to religious institutes in need.

Those interested in obtaining more information about the Misericordia Scholarship Fund may contact Debbie Borneman, SSCM, NRVC director of member relations and services, or Mark Teresi, director of development.

## 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 [lcsr.org/members/lcsr-membership-information](http://lcsr.org/members/lcsr-membership-information).