



October 2018

LCWR Assembly Explores the Call to Foster Communion in a Fractured World

At LCWR's 2018 assembly, held in St. Louis, August 7-10, nearly 800 participants explored the assembly theme of "Being the Presence of Love: The Power of Communion."

The assembly focused on the urgent need to foster communion and connection in a world plagued by polarization, division, and fractures of communion. Speakers explored insights from new understandings of Trinitarian theology and how those insights might help in the creation of new and more effective ways of strengthening and supporting the global community.

In her presidential address, Teresa Maya, CCVI spoke of the need to be prepared for this unique time in religious life and what may be the new call to Catholic sisters. "Our new apostolic call is centered on meaning. We need to tell our story, the deep meaning of our lives, that allowed us to do everything we have done," she said. "Our story needs to be shared with a world desperate for meaning and purpose. Sisters, our time in



Keynoters *Simón Pedro Arnold, OSB; Heidi Russell; Gloria Schaab, SSJ; and facilitator Cathy Bertrand, SSND*

leadership will not be complete until we have called all of our sisters to share the 'why' of their extraordinary lives."

She continued, "We will become lighter and itinerant, we will be fewer. However, we will be enough; we will be what God needs today. We will bring with us our call to communion and our stubborn conviction that Christ suffering in God's people requires our response."

The first keynoter, Gloria Schaab, SSJ, proposed that "living in Trinitarian relation in our world calls us to foster nonhierarchical relationships of inclusivity; transform social, ethical, and political systems; and imitate divine solidarity with human suffering." To the extent that we do this, she noted, is "the radical power of communion and love in the image of Trinity dynamic, emergent, and effective in the church and in our world."

The second keynoter, Heidi Russell, spoke of the interconnectedness of all of life, reminding participants, *(continued on page 3)*



Fox News interviews LCWR president Teresa Maya, CCVI prior to the start of the assembly in its St. Louis studio

From the LCWR Presidency

Facing Our Histories of Racism

by Sharlet Wagner, CSC — LCWR President

My first international trip as a newly-elected leadership team member was a visit to our sisters in Bangladesh. The trip was a profound experience of disorientation and displacement for me. Bangladesh, a country that is 90% Muslim, has a culture that is rich in sounds, scents, colors, and dress that were entirely foreign to my experience. I had lived and traveled internationally but had never felt quite so alien nor quite so helpless as I did in Bangladesh.

Two of our sisters and I were traveling from one village to another by train one morning, and as we stood on the platform, a crowd of men formed a circle around us, several people deep, all staring at me. I knew rationally that they meant no harm. I looked very foreign and they were simply curious. Nevertheless, I felt my anxiety rising as the minutes passed and the crowd grew. Thankfully, the train soon arrived and we boarded and found seats facing an older man and two children, a boy and a girl.

The man's appearance fit the Western stereotype of a fundamentalist Muslim. He wore a full-length white robe and white prayer cap and had a long grey beard and bushy grey eyebrows beneath which his eyes glared out at me in a menacing way. I was already in a state of heightened anxiety due to my experience on the train platform, and this did nothing to calm me. As we waited for the train to move, I feverishly thought, "He hates me! He knows I'm a Christian, and an American, and he hates me!" I only hoped he would not act on his obvious animosity toward me.

At that moment a vendor walked by and I asked the Sister next to me what he was selling. She told me it was *chanachur*, a local spicy snack food. When the vendor passed the other way, the menacing man opposite me stopped him, bought some *chanachur*, handed it to



We are called to explore how our biases and prejudices continue to limit both our congregations and our sisters and brothers.

me with a smile, and said a few words to the sister next to me. She translated, "He told me, 'She is a guest in our country. We must be nice to her.'"

I remembered this experience during the LCWR national assembly in St. Louis as I listened to keynote speaker Heidi Russell challenge us to examine our own racism. I had been shockingly quick to see this Bengali Muslim man as a threat. I, who believe wholeheartedly that we are all sisters and brothers, equally created in the image of Christ, had seen only the strange in the stranger sitting across from me, and had failed to see the Christ.

We rightly cry out for justice in society and decry the evils committed through intolerance, through fear of the "other," through all of the "isms" that pollute our world. It is good that we do this. At the same time, as leaders in our religious congregations, we must each examine our own "isms," and help our members do the same. This means facing histories of racism in our communities. At the same time, it is critical that we not naively assume that congregational racism belongs only to our past. We are called to explore how our biases and prejudices continue to limit both our congregations and our sisters and brothers. When we help ourselves and our members to become more finely attuned to our unconscious intolerances and assumptions of superiority, we can become fuller participants in God's mission.

The Muslim man on a crowded train was a profound experience of God's presence for me. His act of reaching out toward me shattered my stereotypes and called forth a desire to reach back. I had some Oreo cookies in my bag, and I asked the man's permission to share them with him and his two grandchildren. The Good News was profoundly present among us as they ate Oreos and I ate *chanachur* and the train moved through the Bangladesh countryside.

LCWR Assembly Explores Communion

(continued from page 1)

“At our core we are interconnected to one another and to God, and yet somehow we find ourselves limited in our relationality, finite in our capacity to connect to one another.” Sharing insights into racism that she has gleaned from her experience after adopting two children who are black, she challenged participants to continuously ask themselves: “Whose voices do we not hear? What connections have we turned off? Who are those at the margins of our communities?”

Simón Pedro Arnold, OSB spoke of the freedom that arises when one accepts one’s own vulnerability and need for mutual dependence. Communion, he believes, is “not the end of rifts and divisions among us,” and it comes from “the choice to share with one another our vulnerabilities, fragilities, and wounds.” “For those in the ministry of leadership in religious life, the increasing fragility of institutions, persons, and communities is almost always seen as a dying.... Would this be a gospel attitude?” he asked. “The ministry of leadership is to believe, trust, and permit the providential and surprising fruitfulness of fragility, not to resist it.”

Participants practiced contemplative dialogue in small groups twice during the assembly, asking the questions: What ignites a spark in you about the power of communion as it relates to your life and ministry? What matters most for the future of our communities,



Deepening group listeners Barbara Flores, SCN; Virginia Herbers, ASCJ; and Susan Francois, CSJP; and contemplative guide Liz Sweeney, SSJ



Responders Charmaine Krohe, SSND; Cecilia Magladry, CSJ; Sangeeta Ayithamattam, SCN; and Barbara Dreher, CSJ

religious life, and the world we serve? Throughout the assembly participants were also invited to commit to spending time each day in personal and communal contemplation that placed them in deeper communion with the world, especially the places of great suffering and pain.

Being in Communion: Standing Against Racism

The assembly unanimously recommitted to its 2016 assembly resolution which states:

In the presence of constant and painful reminders of the deep roots of racism in our country, we the Leadership Conference of Women Religious reaffirm the 2016 assembly resolution and pledge to go deeper into the critical work of creating communion, examining the root causes of injustice and our own complicity, and purging ourselves, our communities, and our country of the sin of racism and its destructive effects.

(continued on page 4)



Responders Jane Herb, IHM; Veronique Wiedower, CSC; Pat Siemen, OP; and Maria Hughes, ASC

LCWR Assembly Explores Communion

(continued from page 3)

Following the passage of the resolution, the participants demonstrated their commitment by leaving the meeting area and walking outside to the steps St. Louis' Old Courthouse where Dred Scott sued for his freedom in 1846. There, the nearly 800 members stood in silent prayer to remember victims of racism and to pray for the systemic elimination of racism throughout the country and the world.

Outstanding Leadership Award

During the assembly, LCWR bestowed the 2018 Outstanding Leadership Award on Anita Baird, a member of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary. The former director of the racial justice office of the Archdiocese of Chicago, she made significant contributions to eradicating racism in the parishes, schools, and other institutions and agencies within the archdiocese. Today, Anita preaches and leads revivals throughout the United States and remains a strong proponent of racial justice.

Election of Officers

At the conclusion of the assembly, Sharlet Wagner, a member of the leadership council of the Sisters of the Holy Cross in South Bend, Indiana, assumed the office of LCWR president for 2018-2019.

The conference voted in Jayne Helmlinger as its president-elect. Currently, the general superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, California, she has 25 years of experience as a healthcare executive, having served as vice-president of mission integration for several healthcare systems and hospitals. The members

thanked Mary Pellegrino, CSJ as she concluded her service as past president.



2018-19 LCWR presidency: Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ; Sharlet Wagner, CSC; and Teresa Maya, CCVI



LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award recipient Anita Baird, DHM



Deepening group listeners



Responders Constance Phelps, SCL; Rosalia Meza, VDFM; Toni Harris, OP; and Pat Cormack, SCSC

Deepening group listeners Judy Donovan, CSJ and Joan Gallagher, CSJ



(continued on page 5)

LCWR Assembly Explores Communion

(continued from page 3)



LCWR assembly participants stand against racism as a public witness event on the steps of the Old Courthouse in downtown St. Louis

Assembly Resources Available

The following resources are available on the [LCWR website](#):

- Presidential Address by Teresa Maya, CCVI (English and Spanish)
- Keynote Address by Gloria Schaab, SSJ (English)
- Keynote Address by Heidi Russell (English)
- Keynote Address by Simon Pedro Arnold, OSB (English, French and Spanish)
- 2018 Assembly Resolution (English)
- LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award Acceptance Remarks by Anita Baird, DHM (English)
- Press release on the LCWR assembly
- Poem: "The Second Music" by Annie Lighthart
- [Video of assembly highlights](#)
- [Read coverage of the assembly in the Global Sisters Report](#)
- [Order CDs, DVDs, MP3 or MP4 files of the major assembly events](#)



The assembly blesses the LCWR national board



Assembly participants had several opportunities to converse at tables and at deepening groups

New Governance Structure Brings Together Regional Chairs, Board, and Staff at Pre-Assembly Meeting

For the first time since LCWR initiated its new governance model earlier this year, the LCWR regional chairs, and members of the national board and staff met for a full-day in St. Louis on August 6.

Among the topics explored were the following:

1. Ongoing communications. As all recognized a need to keep communications flowing among the chairs, board, and staff, suggestions were made for how to strengthen the communications, and provide opportunities for the regional chairs to build relationships among themselves so that they can share ideas. Two fundamental questions that came to the floor were: What is the purpose of LCWR today? What is LCWR's central focus?
2. Review of the LCWR needs assessment data.
3. New nomination and election process. Beginning this fall, LCWR will initiate a new process for nominations of board members and the president-elect. The new process calls for nominations to be submitted by individuals or leadership teams, will provide more discernment time for those nominated, and will increase the opportunities for members to become acquainted with the nominees. The election of the board members and the president-elect will take place at assemblies.

LCWR invited Sharon Euart, RSM, executive director of the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI), to the meeting to speak on the commissary option for canonical governance of religious institutes. (A commissary is a person appointed to act as the canonical superior of another institute.) Several institutes that have no members able to serve in canonical governance have already opted for the appointment of a commissary. While an institute may recommend a commissary, the actual appointment is made by an ecclesial authority. Discussion took place about how women religious willing to be commissaries might receive training, and how LCWR may be of service to those serving as commissaries.

A meeting of the chairs, board, and staff will become an annual event to be held the day prior to the start of the LCWR assembly.



The LCWR regional chairs, members of the national board, and members of the staff meet in St. Louis

LCWR National Board Looks Toward the Future

The LCWR national board met following the assembly from August 11-13, with staff in attendance for the first two days. The agenda included the following:

1. Debriefing the LCWR assembly.
2. Ideas for how the board, regional chairs, and staff can work together.
3. Further reflection on the results of the LCWR Needs Assessment and review of the feedback submitted by members during the assembly. Conversation centered primarily on the areas of LCWR region meetings, the assembly, the conference's programs and services, and future planning.

Emergent Planning Process

On its final day, the board approved the new nominations process for board members and the president-elect. The members also approved an emergent planning process for the conference that incorporates the results of the needs assessment along with some of the other changes occurring in the conference.

More information about all of these areas will be shared at the LCWR fall regional meetings.

National Black Sister Conference Celebrates 50 Years

by Teresa Maya, CCVI, LCWR Past President

LCWR had the privilege of participating in the 50th anniversary celebration of the National Black Sisters Conference (NBSC) in New Orleans at the end of July. The joint conference of the Black clergy, deacons, and sisters was a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the journey since the tragic death of Dr. Martin Luther King that led directly to its creation. Teresita Weind, SNDdeN reminded participants of the importance of trusting our story, that she had come to learn through her own personal journey that “glory comes in increments, a little here and there.” She challenged all there to “catch it” and claim what we have seen or heard as a moment of glory, for after all the journeying and suffering and struggle, after Selma and Civil rights, we cannot simply wait for the final Glory or we will miss “the incremental moments of experience that continue to get us there.”

Patte Grey, founder of the NBSC, shared her own incremental moments of glory in a beautiful and inspirational story that wove the pain of rejection with the power of reconciliation. Recounting the most significant moments of her life, she spoke about the way the rejection of her first request for entrance into religious life had marked her life. She then mentioned how she was able to overcome rejection to enter the Sisters of Mercy and experience how important leadership can be in

encouraging members to new possibilities, by recounting the meaningful influence of Mother Thomas, the superior who encouraged her to convene the Black sisters conference in the United States in 1968. After speaking of the early years of the conference, she had a powerful story to share about the reconciliation with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, the first community she sought to enter. The call from Mary Pellegrino, a few years ago, seeking forgiveness for that original rejection, made her recognize how deeply it had affected her, but responding to the call, has now become a defining moment in her life.

The story of Black Catholic sisters should continue to challenge us. As Shawn Copeland noted, we are all called to “prophetic ministry.” May we be open to remain in conversation and dialogue so new “incremental moments of Glory” continue to unfold.



Roberta Fulton, SSMN, president of the National Black Sisters Conference; Tere Maya; Anita Baird, DHM; and Patricia Lucas, DHM



Participants in the NBSC gathering in New Orleans

CLAR and CELAM Celebrate 50 Years Since Medellin

by Teresa Maya, CCVI, LCWR Past President

The Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM) and the Confederation of Latin American Religious (CLAR) gathered in Medellin, Colombia to reflect on the last 50 years since the groundbreaking conference of Latin American bishops held there, which affirmed the preferential option for the poor and launched the Latin American church into decades of transformation and turmoil. The same chapel that witnessed the transformative inspiration of Vatican II renewal served as the site for the conference. Speakers highlighted the contributions Medellin made to Latin America and to the church at large. Participants came from all conferences -- lay, religious, and clergy alike -- gathered for several days to discern what actions steps would be inspired using the same method Medellin embraced: see-judge-act. All participants could affirm that the signs of the times continue to be the "theological place" for our discernment, our *encuentro* and our response.

The CLAR assembly followed the Medellin joint conference, where executive committees of all conferences of religious in Latin America gathered for their tri-annual meeting. The *ambiente* [spirit] among participants was both hopeful and expectant. While the possibility of collaboration remains wide open among conferences, the crisis in the church challenged the assembly to a reflection on an adequate response to the triple evil of abuse, which must be faced in the church. In the words of CLAR theologian Jose María Arnaiz, the entire Church must face "the abuse of conscience, the abuse of authority, and sexual abuse."



Site of the conference in Medellin, Colombia

Several moments stand out in the experience of both gatherings. The first was the moment when the picture of Oscar Romero was brought as part of the offertory of the delegation from San Salvador and the whole assembly broke in spontaneous applause. The next one was the words of Mercedes Casas, FSPS, outgoing president of CLAR, when she reminded us "prophecy can only be done in communion." And the final one, happened when the president of CELAM asked all participants to stand with Pope Francis, the applause was prolonged, grateful, prophetic, and very moving. The joint conference sent a letter to Pope Francis, knowing how critical the months ahead will be.



Tere and LCWR member Inma Cuesta, CMS, who is the coordinator of the Association of Latin American Missionary Sisters (ALHMA)



Tere visits with some members of the Canadian delegation

Opportunities for Enhancing One's Leadership Experience

There is something about the arrival of the month of September that triggers for many the back-to-school feeling, the start of a new year, a time to launch into new projects and undertakings. This September there are several resources available to LCWR members to assist them with deepening and strengthening their capacities for anticipatory, transformational leadership.

Leadership Pathways Offerings

This fall LCWR is once again offering members the opportunity to participate in one of the Leadership Pathways online offerings.



Each of these offerings provides participants the opportunity to build a circle of trusted companions with whom to explore the day-to-day challenges and opportunities of elected leadership and to build new depth and competency in responding to these challenges and opportunities. Participants are assigned to learning cohorts of five or six guided by a seasoned mentor. Each cohort sets its own schedule and pace for working with the materials.

Registration is currently open for the following modules:

- Becoming the Leaders We Hope To Be: The Foundations of Transformational Leadership
- Rooted In God's Mission: the Foundation of Mission Grounded
- Leading In An Evolving Universe

Full descriptions of each of the offerings along with registration forms are available under Leadership Pathways in the members' only section of the LCWR website. Registration for these three offerings closes on September 28, 2018.

An additional offering, **Foundations for Becoming Transformational Leaders**, is also available for congregation members who are not in elected

leadership positions and who are recommended for participation by a member of their congregation leadership team. Its purpose is to strengthen leadership capacities in members who demonstrate leadership ability and who may, at some point, be invited to serve in elected leadership.

The application form to participate in this offering is available under Leadership Pathways in the members' only section of the website. An LCWR member must send the application form to the prospective participant who returns it to LCWR. Upon acceptance into the offering the individual will receive a registration form to complete. Registration for this offering closes on October 5, 2018.

Those interested may contact Marie McCarthy, SP for further information.

Deepening Groups

Some members of LCWR have begun participating in deepening groups. The purpose of the groups is described on the LCWR website: "As women religious we are being called into global, universal consciousness, to moving from 'I' to 'We,' allowing the Spirit the opportunity to work in us in new and different ways as we let the life itself teach us how we are being called at this time."

More information about the deepening groups is available on [the LCWR website](#). Those wishing to join a deepening group can contact Marie McCarthy, SP, mmccarthy@lcwr.org for assistance.

The Many Faces of Contemplative Engagement

Beginning this fall LCWR will be providing a new resource to all LCWR members. The resource, which is called The Many Faces of Contemplative Engagement, is a reflection process designed to assist members in engaging the day-to-day realities of the ministry of elected leadership from a contemplatively-grounded consciousness. Once a month, members will receive an email from the national office containing a reflection process which can be used individually, with team members, with associates, and with other groups which gather.

The hope is that this will be an easily accessible, user-friendly, practical resource that will meet leaders where they are in the reality of their ministries and will also be a resource that can be readily used with others.

Leading from Within Retreat

Leading from Within
is a retreat for LCWR members
and LCWR associates who are serving
in congregation leadership



February 10 — 15, 2019
Bethany Retreat Center -- Lutz, Florida
bethanycenterfl.org

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

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

The retreat will be led by
Janet Mock, CSJ and Marie McCarthy, SP.

Space is limited to 35 persons and
there are just a few spots open.
Registration form is available at:
lcsr.org/calendar/leading-within.
Some financial assistance is available.



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Upcoming LCWR Dates

Leading from Within Retreat
Bethany Retreat Center
Lutz, Florida
February 10 – 15, 2019

LCWR New Leader Workshop
Conference Center
University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois
April 4 — 7, 2019

LCWR Assembly
Scottsdale, Arizona
August 13 — 17, 2019

Leading from Within Retreat
Redemptorist Renewal Center
Tucson, Arizona
January 12 – 17, 2020

Imagining Justice
Bon Secours Retreat & Conference Center
Marriottsville, MD
April 20 – 23, 2020

LCWR Assembly
Dallas, Texas
August 11 — 15, 2020

EMERGING QUESTIONS FOR
REFLECTION AND CONVERSATION

Can we imagine ways of
moving forward in religious life
inter-congregationally?

Standing Against Racism: A GCC Resource-Sharing Column



The Global Concerns Committee (GCC) is committed to providing resources to help with the implementation of the [2018 assembly commitment](#) to “go deeper into the critical work of creating communion, examining the root causes of injustice and our own complicity, and purging ourselves, our communities, and our country of the sin of racism and its destructive effects.”

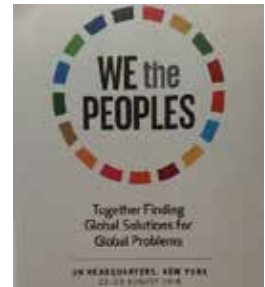
Over the course of the next months, committee members will publish reviews of resources and practices that they have found helpful in anti-racism work. Look for this column in each edition of Update, and please feel free to share insights and suggestions for action on the [LCWR Resource Sharing Forum](#). This month’s contribution comes from **Susan Francois, CSJP**.

Racial Justice and the Catholic Church (Bryan Massingale, Orbis Books, 2010) Fr. Bryan Massingale’s comprehensive book, *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church*, is an excellent starting point for going deeper into the critical work of addressing racism in the Catholic context. He begins by exploring what we mean by racism. Subsequent chapters offer both a survey and analysis of Catholic Social Teaching on racism, steps toward a more adequate Catholic engagement of racism, and how the African American vision of a “dream deferred can” contextualize this critical work in terms of justice and hope. His words are well chosen, challenging and inspiring. His book provides a path forward for the reader.

UN Conference Seeks Global Solutions for Global Problems

The 67th United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) / Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Conference was held at the UN headquarters in New York, August 22-23, 2018. LCWR was represented at the conference by associate director for social mission, Ann Scholz, SSND. The conference aimed

to provide a policy-building forum for NGO collaboration with the United Nations. In addition to the plenary sessions and roundtables, the conference included a number of NGO workshops featuring the participation of civil society, United Nations, academia, government, and private-sector representatives.



Today skepticism is rising worldwide about the value of multilateralism and the UN faces the challenge of remaining relevant and effective. This conference was an opportunity to discuss concrete ways to take the UN’s people-centered mandate forward in closer partnership with civil society.

The assembly adopted two outcome documents. The first, “[We the Future](#)” was written by the youth-delegates and laid out a peaceful and sustainable vision of the future. In it they commit the youth of the world to active global citizenship and pledged their abilities, efforts, and heart to leave no one behind in the accomplishment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The second, echoed the sentiment of the first. “[People-Centered Multilateralism: A Call to Action](#)” was drafted by civil society and adopted at the closing plenary. It outlined an agenda designed to assure that the 2030 agenda leaves no one behind. It rejects the false choice between nationalism and globalism and pledges all stakeholders to work side-by-side to achieve the SDGs. Those gathered made commitments to contribute to equitable and sustainable development and they called on member states, multinational corporations and the United Nations system to establish a truly people-centered multilateralism in order to realize the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

The DPI/NGO Conference is the premier event in the NGO calendar at the United Nations. This year’s conference, “We the Peoples--Together Finding Global Solutions for Global Problems,” attracted 1037 representatives from more than 300 non-governmental organizations representing more than 80 countries.

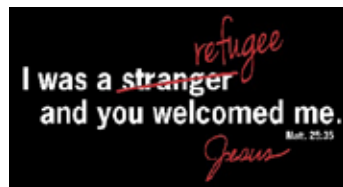
Global Concerns Committee Publishes New Resolution to Action

The Global Concerns Committee recently published the Summer 2018 edition of *Resolutions to Action*. No matter where one stands, or how one sees the universe, these are challenging times. Recognizing that division, disappointment, and discord are always part of ebb and flow of life, Eileen Haynes, SCL reminds readers that *"We Are Made for these Times."* She advises that everyone needs to take simple, basic steps to maintain a healthy balance in their lives, for themselves, and for those with whom they are called to journey.



Faith Leaders and Faith Organizations Decry Low Refugee Numbers

Every September, the President sets the refugee admissions goal for the next fiscal year. Last year, the "Presidential Determination" number dropped to a historic low, allowing for just 45,000 refugees to be resettled in fiscal year 2018.



In mid-August 120 faith-based organizations and 636 faith leaders [sent a letter](#) to members of Congress and President Trump urging the administration to set the fiscal year 2019 refugee admissions goal at 75,000 and expressing deep concern about the record-low arrivals of refugees who have been resettled to the United States this year. The Department of State [reported](#) that as of July 31 fewer than 20,000 refugees had been admitted to the United States.

As Congress and the administration discuss next year's Presidential Determination, [reports have surfaced](#) of the administration plans to set the refugee admissions goal for 2019 at 25,000 or fewer. Members of the faith community rightly characterize such action as an abdication of this nation's leadership in humanitarian protection through resettlement.

"For decades, people of faith have welcomed refugees into our homes, houses of worship, and communities.

Refugees are powerful ambassadors of our founding principles of equal opportunity, religious freedom, and liberty and justice for all," wrote the signatories.

The [letter](#) highlights the faith community's readiness to welcome 75,000 refugees amidst a global displacement crisis of more than 25 million refugees worldwide. The US Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP), which was built as a private-public partnership between faith communities and the US government, has enjoyed broad bipartisan support since its inception in 1980 and has successfully provided more than three million refugees tools for integration and self-sufficiency. As a pillar of US foreign policy, our nation's resettlement program represents a standard of excellence that other countries look to as a touchstone for their own policies.

"We pray that in your process of discernment, compassion for the plight of refugees will touch your hearts. We urge you to be bold in choosing moral, just policies that provide refuge for vulnerable individuals seeking protection," the faith leaders added.

Nuns on the Bus Hit the Road Again

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice announced that Nuns on the Bus is hitting the road again this fall, to talk about the harmful effects of the 2017 tax cuts and to hold members of Congress accountable.

The Nuns on the Bus "On the Road to Mar-a-Lago" tour will include 54 events in 21 states over the course of 27 days. The tour will launch in Los Angeles with a rally and end at Mar-a-Lago in Florida with a "Fiesta for the Common Good." Along the way the bus will visit congressional districts where the incumbent chose to support the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017."

The month-long Nuns on the Bus tour, which will run from October 8 to November 2, is NETWORK's sixth. Thirty Catholic Sisters from across the country will travel on the bus. They will carry what they learn from voters across the country to President Trump's resort at Mar-a-Lago. More information (including full route) is available on the [Nuns on the Bus](#) website.





- Letter to members of Congress expressing opposition to the administration's "zero tolerance" policy that separates families and detains and prosecutes parents, and to any proposal that would expand immigration detention. Family incarceration is not a solution to family separation. Carol Zinn, SSJ (7/18/18)
- LCWR Statement expressing deep concern about the growing repression and state-sanctioned violence in Nicaragua and pledging solidarity with the people and religious of the country. LCWR (7/19/18)
- Endorsement of the Human Migrant Remains ID and Beacons Act offered by Senators Harris and Cornyn which provides for the establishment of a grant program to reimburse state and local entities for costs associated with handling of unidentified human remains found along the southern border of the United States and the expansion of the deployment of rescue beacons. LCWR (7/24/18)
- Letter to Senate and House appropriators thanking them for supporting robust funding for life-saving humanitarian, peacebuilding, and poverty-focused international programs and urging them to provide the maximum level of funding possible to vital programs that work to alleviate suffering for people living in extreme poverty. LCWR (7/27/18)
- Letter to Senate and House appropriators thanking them for their continued support in robustly funding life-saving education, child development, food assistance, and security programs within the Agricultural appropriations bill. LCWR (7/27/18)
- Letter to House Speaker Paul Ryan and Leader Nancy Pelosi expressing profound concern regarding the Trump administration's unacceptably slow response to its self-created crisis of family separations at the Southern border. LCWR (7/30/18)
- Letter to House and Senate leadership asking them to reject H.R. 6417, the Agricultural and Legal Workforce Act, and instead to promptly vote on bipartisan legislation which establishes permanent protections for Dreamers and Temporary Protected Status workers without harming the broader immigrant community. LCWR (7/31/18)
- Letter to members of Congress urging them to pass a Farm Bill that reduces hunger and improves nutrition in the United States. LCWR (8/1/18)
- Letter to Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo in support of maintaining both the State Department's Office of Religion and Global Affairs (RGA) and Office of International Religious Freedom (IRF). LCWR (8/11/18)
- Letter to President Trump from Catholic leaders expressing strong support for resettling refugees in our states and communities and urging him to resettle at least 75,000 refugees in the coming 2019 fiscal year. (8/15/18)
- LCWR Statement opposing the Environmental Protection Agency's Affordable Clean Energy Rule which would severely limit the 2014 Clean Power Plan. LCWR (8/23/18)
- Quote for joint press release decrying the Trump administration's attempts to dismantle the refugee resettlement program. Carol Zinn, SSJ (8/24/18)
- Quote for joint press release on the occasion of the first anniversary of President Trump's termination of the DACA program calling for immediate passage of the Dream Act. Carol Zinn, SSJ (8/29/18)
- Letter to the Honorable Alex Azar, Secretary, US Department of Health and Human Services, opposing the citizenship documentation requirement New Hampshire is seeking to impose on Medicaid applicants. These requirements would result in eligible people missing out on coverage, will be costly to the state and federal government, and will not further the objectives of the Medicaid program. LCWR (8/30/18)
- Letter to House Farm Bill Conferees urging Congress to protect and strengthen the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by rejecting any cuts SNAP, adopting the Senate Farm Bill SNAP provisions in the conference agreement on the Farm Bill, and considering ways to improve SNAP benefit adequacy. LCWR (9/7/18)
- Letter to Bill Ford, Executive Chairman and Jim Hackett, CEO of the Ford Motor Company expressing disappointment in Ford's efforts to weaken environmental protections and calling on Ford to end its lobbying to undermine Clean Car Standards and instead to work to engineer and

(continued on page 14)

LCWR SIGN ONs & Letters

(continued from page 13)

- build clean, efficient cars. LCWR (9/7/18)
- Support for a resolution sponsored by Representative Hank Johnson (GA) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Presidential Determination of the annual refugee admissions limit in fiscal year 2019 shall be no less than 75,000 and that President Trump and his administration shall operate the US Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) in good faith. LCWR (9/10/18)

Position Open at NRRO

The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) is seeking a Planning and Education Coordinator to address the NRRO mission by developing planning programs and educational resources in response to the retirement needs of religious institutes, including regular evaluation and budget design. Working in a collaborative manner with other staff, the coordinator will promote NRRO resources, aid institutes in their planning processes, and liaison with other entities that support religious institutes. The coordinator contributes to the bishops' strategic plan for the conference and demonstrates willingness and ability to understand, respect, and contribute to the USCCB mission and to fulfill job duties in accordance with its Catholic identity.



The candidate should have a minimum of three to five years of experience of related experience and a bachelor degree in communications, education, business, or a related field. Previous experience in religious institute leadership is strongly preferred. Strong communication, and budgeting experience. Attention to details and record-keeping. Experience/knowledge of religious institutes desirable. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office programs and willing to travel.

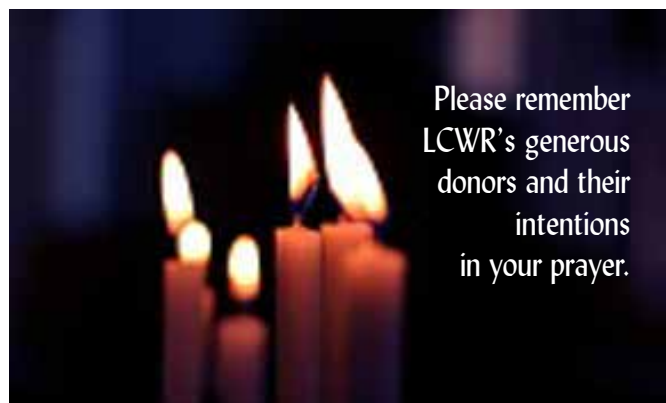
Application information is available on the [USCCB website](#).



The NRVC Convocation is quickly approaching, November 1-5, 2018, in Buffalo, New York. The event will feature four keynote presenters and four pre-convocation workshops (former LCWR president Mary Pellegrino, CSJ is one of the keynote presenters). The early discount registration fee ends September 30, beginning October 1 the fee rises an additional \$100 per person. Registration for this year's event, which is also NRVC's 30th anniversary, [is available online](#).

The NRVC board recently elected Kristin Matthes, SNDdeN, as its new chair. Also elected to the NRVC executive board committee are Virginia Herbers, ASCJ and Adam MacDonald, SVD. Both Kristin and Virginia are LCWR members.

The NRVC executive director search continues. Inquiries and resumes may be sent to Kristin Matthes at kristin.matthes@sndden.org.



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

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.



2018 National Conference of the
Resource Center for Religious Institutes
Pastoral Conversion:
Structures in Service to Mission
Orlando, Florida

Registration is open for the [2018 RCRI annual conference](#), October 30 - November 2, at the Rosen Centre Hotel.

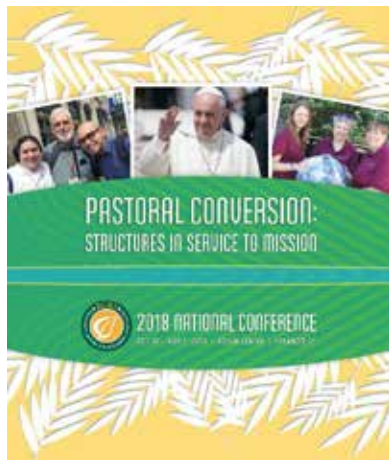
Three pre-conference workshops will be offered prior to the conference on October 30:

- Finance 101 for Persons in Leadership Roles
- Legal Overview for Religious Institutes in 2018
- TRENDS for Beginners

The keynote speaker for this year's conference will be Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio of the United States of America, who will address the conference on "Pastoral Conversion: Structures in Service to Mission."

The conference will offer 37 workshops covering topics related to finance, as well as canon and civil law including planning for institutes in transition. The program will also include a track on eldercare sponsored by NRRO. On November 1 a conference liturgy will be celebrated for all participants.

Registrants can save \$50 by using promo code: **SAVE18** during checkout. This offer ends on September 30, 2018.

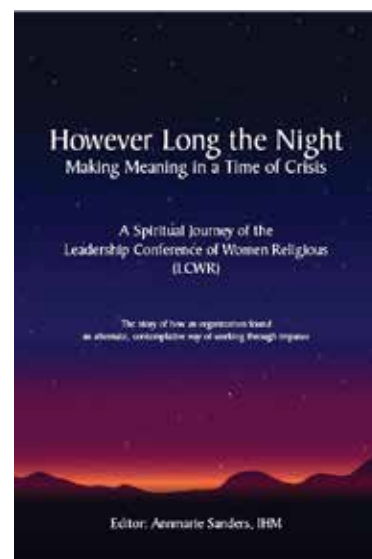


Workshop on 'Live-Giving Community' Offered In-Person and by Livestream Online

The workshop, "Life-Giving Community: Cultivating Communication, Connection, and Compassion" will take place on Saturday, October 27 and be facilitated by Kathy Galleher, PhD, licensed psychologist. It will be offered both in-person (onsite in Renton, Washington) and via livestream online.

Dr. Galleher will focus on ways to develop deeper intimacy and connection in community life. She will present practical approaches to deepening understanding of one another within community (and across generational and cultural differences) and ways to resolve conflict that cultivate compassion. The workshop will include input, opportunities for questions, conversation, and "practice."

[More information and registration are available online.](#)



LCWR's new book, *However Long the Night: Making Meaning in a Time of Crisis*, is available through [Amazon in both print and Kindle editions.](#)

Proceeds from sales support LCWR's mission.



by Joan Mumaw, IHM
 President
www.solidarityfriends.org

After 10 years, there is a great need for new staff members to join the effort. Please read this “Letter to the Congregations” from Br. Bill Firman, FSC, executive director of Solidarity with South Sudan who writes to you of this need for staff. ([Letter to Congregations](#)) Those with some mission experience may be ready for a new challenge. For more information, please contact me at jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com.

Labor Day has come and gone and the summer is almost over or at least that is what is supposed to happen. It seems, however, that the climate is changing and metro DC feels more like South Sudan without air conditioning.

It was very good to meet so many of you at LCWR and UISG-US, following upon the annual assembly. Having the opportunity to share with you some photos from my recent trip to South Sudan helped you, I hope, to see the situation on the ground in South Sudan and the institutions that are supported by you and religious from around the world. The Solidarity Teacher Training College (STTC) and the Catholic Health Training College (CHTI), as well as, the Good Shepherd Peace Center (GSPC) and the Sustainable Agricultural Training Project are unique in the country. In recent years, the STTC and CHTI were among the very few institutions able to operate and/or graduate new teachers and healthcare professionals for the country.

We pray daily for the safety of our staff and protection for them and those with whom they work. GSPC is the only affordable conference/retreat facility in the country. It is owned by the Religious Superiors Association of South Sudan (RSASS) and used by bishops, clergy, religious, CRS, African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC), and many other organizations. It is an initiative motivated by Solidarity with South Sudan with RSASS and supported by the Italian Bishops Conference and many other donors. What a breath of fresh air for all Solidarity members who gathered there for their annual meeting and celebration of their tenth anniversary. [GSPC Newsletter 2018](#)

News from the UN

October 2—*International Day of Nonviolence* marks the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. The day is an opportunity to reaffirm the universal relevance of the principle of nonviolence and the desire to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding, and nonviolence.



October 11—*International Day of the Girl Child* is celebrated annually to highlight issues concerning the gender inequality facing young girls. This year’s theme is “The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030.”

October 16—*World Food Day* will focus on achieving #ZeroHunger by 2030. Zero hunger means working together to ensure everyone, everywhere, has access to the safe, healthy, and nutritious food they need.

October 17—*International Day for the Eradication of Poverty* this year encourages people to come together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity.

October 24—*United Nations Day* marks the 73rd anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the United Nations Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council,