

# Update

A Publication of the  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious

August/September 2019

## Preparing for the 2019 LCWR Assembly

Each day religious life leaders are faced with questions about how their congregations can best serve the needs of the world today and into the future. The upcoming LCWR assembly will explore the emerging trends in society on the global and national levels, how these trends impact religious life, and what the trends suggest about how religious life can best respond to what the world needs of it.

Because this assembly is dealing with critical questions, LCWR will be livestreaming portions of it so that they can be viewed by all women religious throughout the United States and beyond, as well as others who are interested in the proceedings. A link and a livestreaming schedule can be found on page 3. The videos will be published online so that those who cannot watch live can view them a later time.



August 13 – 16, 2019

Prior to the assembly, all attendees are encouraged to prepare for this event in the following ways:

- ✓ Watch a [10-minute video](#) prepared by LCWR president-elect Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ and executive director Carol Zinn, SSJ that provides an overview of the assembly and some suggestions for preparing for it.
- ✓ Watch the videos and read the bios of the two candidates for LCWR president: Elise Garcia, OP and Marcia Ann Fiutko, FSSJ, as well as the candidates for the LCWR board: Marcia Ann Fiutko; Susan Francois, CSJP; Jane Herb, IHM; Theresa Sandok, OSM; and Michelle Stachowiak, CSSF. The videos and bios are available on the members' section of the [LCWR website](#).
- ✓ Read the [LCWR 2018- 2019 annual report](#) available online. Members will be asked to approve the report at the assembly.
- ✓ Read the Summer 2019 issue of LCWR's *Occasional Papers* entitled, "Our Search for Meaning," and review the 2019 LCWR reflection book, *Making Meaning of Our Lives*. Meaning-making will be at the heart of the processes used throughout the assembly.

- ✓ Review the revised [2019 LCWR assembly resolution](#) which members will be asked to affirm during the assembly. This version of the resolution reflects the suggestions of regions for strengthening and clarifying the earlier draft. Regions expressed overwhelming support for this resolution during their spring meetings.
- ✓ Review the information about the assembly available on the members' section of the website.
- ✓ Share [the livestreaming link to the LCWR assembly](#) and encourage congregation members to watch.
- ✓ Consider organizing live watching sessions.

All attendees are encouraged to visit and support the almost 100 exhibitors who will be present at the assembly. They may particularly want to thank the exhibitors who are also sponsors (names will be listed on the assembly folders) since their generosity to LCWR significantly helps the conference financially.

Finally, all are reminded to check and be sure they have registered for the assembly and have made hotel reservations.

*From the LCWR Presidency*

## A Reflection on This Year with LCWR

Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ — LCWR President-Elect

As I reflect on this past year as LCWR president-elect, I am filled with gratitude. Clearly, as religious life leaders, we live in a time that provides numerous opportunities for deep transformation of ourselves and our institutes. As I reflect on this year, some key words surface: listening, engaging, energizing, expansive, communion, letting go, and leaning in.

This year was a time of *listening* and *engaging*. For example, as we interacted with many individuals, bishops, and survivors around the topic of sexual abuse. Seeing how our member congregations are revising processes and procedures in order to listen well and respond compassionately and actively to survivors of abuse reminds us that this tender work is ongoing and critical.

This year was *energizing*. Having the opportunity to work collaboratively with the members of the LCWR board and the national office ministers, as well as with Sharlet Wagner, CSC (president), Tere Maya, CCVI (past president) and Carol Zinn, SSJ (executive director) is life-giving, stimulating, and energizing. The wealth of experience, wisdom, and creativity that arises when we work together is priceless.

This year was *expansive*. Having the opportunity to participate in the InterAmerican gathering in Chiapas, Mexico and also travel to Rome on behalf of LCWR gave me the opportunity to experience vastly different parts of the world than my own lived reality in Southern California. The InterAmerican gathering firmly solidified for me the importance for LCWR to engage with other conferences



of men and women religious around the world. The opportunity to visit with cardinals and bishops in Rome in the various dicasteries gave me a window into a hierarchy that functions with a very different lens than my own North American lens. It reinforced the necessity of building personal relationships with those in the dicasteries in order that the lines of communication between LCWR and the Roman curia remain open and dialogical.

This year was one of *communion*.

The response from the members of LCWR to serve at the US-Mexico border was generous and immediate. This rapid movement of sisters and other committed persons to the desperate need at our borders is a foreshadowing of how members of LCWR might respond to the signs of the times in the future. Movements and rapid responses to emerging needs,

even for short periods of time, are a part of our reality now and in the foreseeable future.

This year was a year of *letting go and leaning in*. As some of our member congregations move further on in their journey to fulfillment, they do so with courage, integrity, and honesty. At the same time, younger members continue to increase their networks of connection and are creating a road into the future with promise, hope, and joy. All of us, together, are letting

go of what was needed in the past and leaning into what is needed now. Our walk is, as it has been in so many different times throughout the history of religious life, the embodiment of the Paschal Mystery within and among us. Thank you for inviting me to be a part of the leadership of LCWR.

This rapid movement of sisters and other committed persons to the desperate need at our borders is a foreshadowing of how members of LCWR might respond to the signs of the times in the future.

## 2019 LCWR Assembly Livestreaming Schedule

Please note that all times listed here are for EASTERN Daylight Time.  
Please adjust them according to your time zone.

1. **Tuesday, August 13: 10:00 – 11:30 PM EDT** – Opening of the Assembly
2. **Wednesday, August 14: 12:00 – 1:30 PM EDT** – Prayer and Keynote Address by Pat Murray, IBVM
3. **Wednesday, August 14: 5:30 – 6:00 PM EDT** – Introduction to the LCWR Emergent Planning Session
4. **Thursday, August 15: 12:00 – 1:30 PM EDT** – Prayer and Presidential Address by Sharlet Wagner, CSC
5. **Friday, August 16: 1:45 – 2:15 PM EDT** – Justice Panel on the Intersection of Racism, Migration and the Climate Crisis



All sessions may be viewed live at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyUcNzY6pYFx9iSi9DoadJA/live>

Videos will be published online so that those who cannot watch live may view them at a later time.

### Advocating for Justice at the Assembly

On Friday, August 16, three panelists will address the assembly on *Creating Communion at the Intersection of Racism, Migration and Climate Crisis*. After hearing the panelists (LCWR member Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN; Maria Elena Perales, director of the St. Joseph Justice Center for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange; and Joan Brown, OSF, executive director of New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light), the assembly participants will be asked to affirm the proposed assembly resolution on these three threats to the planet.

The assembly participants will be invited to use their phones to call, message, or Tweet President Trump and members of congress asking them to end institutional racism, welcome migrants, and commit the United States to take action on climate change.



## LCWR Comments on Appointments of Women Religious to CICLSAL

LCWR officials were invited to comment for an article recently published by *America* magazine, “More women have been appointed to the Roman Curia. Could this signal new leadership opportunities?”

The article explores the implications of Pope Francis’ recent appointment of six women religious as full members of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL). Full members act as an advisory body that meets annually or every few years. The new appointees will have full voting power, equal to all cardinals and other clerical members of the congregation on any documents or decisions made by CICLSAL. The article quotes former LCWR president Sharon Holland, IHM, who worked at CICLSAL for 21 years, saying that “While women have previously worked at CICLSAL in various capacities as undersecretaries, canon lawyers, or apostolic visitors, they have not had the same authority or influence as the congregation’s all-male members.”

The article quotes LCWR executive director Carol Zinn, SSJ who said that the appointments also open opportunities to break down barriers at every level of the church. “‘This is a big step towards inclusion in the body of Christ for the people of God,’ she said, adding that the obstacles to shared leadership between man and woman, cleric and lay, hierarchy

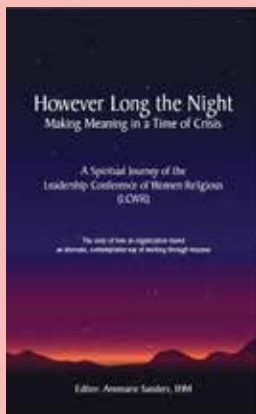
or religious perpetuate divisions that inhibit a deeper unity in the church. Allowing women religious to share equal status with ordained members of CICLSAL could signal further opportunities for lay leadership in the church, she suggested.”

The article also quotes Sharon saying, “We have to admit that things move very slowly in the church. But this is a piece of really good news.”

### Purchase Extra Summer 2019 Occasional Papers



A limited supply of extra copies of the Summer 2019 issue of *Occasional Papers*, entitled **Our Search for Meaning**, is available. [Orders may be placed here.](#)



### Save on Postage and Handling and Purchase LCWR’s *However Long the Night* Book at the LCWR Assembly

Copies of LCWR’s new book, *However Long the Night: Making Meaning in a Time of Crisis*, will be on sale at the LCWR assembly for \$15.00. Copies may be purchased by check or credit card. Proceeds go toward support of the LCWR mission. Copies may also be purchased on [Amazon in print or Kindle editions.](#)

## Upcoming Leadership Development Opportunities

There are a number of opportunities coming up for LCWR members to enrich their capacities as transformational leaders.

### Online Opportunities

Registration will be opening for the following online opportunities this coming fall:

**Becoming the Leaders We Hope To Be: The Foundations of Transformational Leadership** offers LCWR members the opportunity to join with a group of other leaders for an online learning experience guided by a seasoned mentor. The individuals in the group set their own pace for working with the materials. Members who have participated in this experience have found it helpful in broadening and strengthening their skills and capacities as leaders as well as in providing a sounding board for exploring issues related to leadership in greater depth.

**Foundations for Becoming Transformational Leaders** is an adaptation of **Becoming the Leaders We Hope To Be** that is designed to strengthen the leadership capacities of members of your congregation who are not currently in elected leadership.

**A Guide To Facilitation: How To Increase the Odds of Having a Great Meeting** is a brand new offering from LCWR. Among other things it includes input on the challenges of intercultural facilitation, a series of short videos by facilitators who regularly work with LCWR communities on common questions and concerns that arise in the process of facilitation, and a template for use in facilitation. It will take approximately 4 to 6 months to work through the materials and processes. The group will set its own pace.

Leadership teams may choose to register together as a group or individuals may register to join a group forming through LCWR.

**Rooted in God's Mission: The Foundations of Mission-Grounded Leadership** explores the meaning and place of mission, a theology and spirituality of mission, mission integration and ethical discernment and decision making, and other topics. The material for this experience is divided into three six-week sessions

with a four-week break between the sessions for integration. The group determines its own schedule and generally take 9 to 12 months to complete the material.

**Leading in an Evolving Universe** offers members the opportunity to explore the implications of living in an evolving universe for their role as women religious leaders. Members can choose to join a self-directed learning cohort or to work individually with the material.

Fuller descriptions of each of these online opportunities is available on the members' only section of the LCWR website under Leadership Pathways.

### Workshop Opportunities

In addition to these online opportunities, LCWR offers several in-person workshops:

#### New Leader Workshop

University of St. Mary of the Lake Conference Center  
Mundelein, Illinois  
March 26 -- 29, 2020

This annual workshop is recommended not only for those who may be new to congregational leadership, but also for those who may be returning to leadership. The program features outstanding resource persons, presentations, and case studies that are tailored to the particular challenges of religious life leadership today.

#### Imagining Justice Event

Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center  
Marriottsville, Maryland  
April 20 -- 23, 2020

This biannual gathering will feature Carrie Newcomer who will explore the deep grounding of the work for justice and the challenge of sustaining hope and energy for the work. This event is also open to religious congregation justice promoters.

#### Practicing Leadership: How to Embrace A Vital and Vibrant Future

Mater Dolorosa Retreat House  
Sierra Madre, California  
May 11 – 13, 2020,

or

Bethany Center, Lutz, Florida  
September 14 – 16, 2020

*(continued on page 6)*

## Upcoming Leadership Development Opportunities

*(continued from page 5)*

This workshop is intended to deepen and enhance the leadership experience for members who have been serving in elected leadership for two or more years. Some of the topics the workshop will explore include:

- Making the connection between vision and implementation
- Translating vision and meaning into practical responses
- Holding the tension of that which is emerging and that which is passing, tending well to both realities
- Shepherding the emergent while tending the emergencies
- Imagining and practicing a future full of hope.

A fuller description of this workshop is available on the LCWR website under resources for members.

When registration opens for any LCWR workshop members will be notified through a Constant Contact message.

### 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.



*Update* is an official publication of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious published monthly and distributed to members nationally. All rights reserved © 2019 LCWR

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

## Leading from Within Retreat

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



January 12 — 17, 2020  
Redemptorist Renewal Center  
[desertrenewal.org](http://desertrenewal.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 group sharing and individual conversation with the directors.

### Retreat Directors

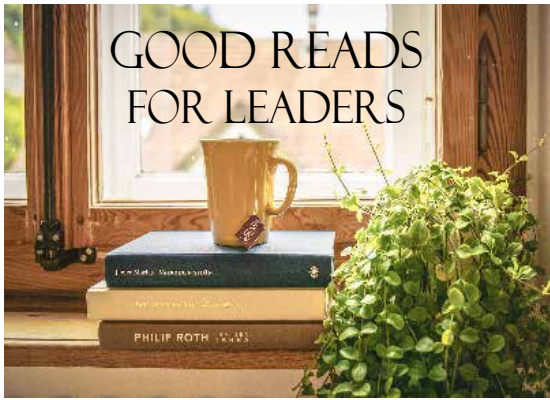


Marie McCarthy, SP



Janet Mock, CSJ

Space is limited to 35 persons.  
More information and registration materials are available at  
[lcwr.org/calendar/leading-within](http://lcwr.org/calendar/leading-within).



## Listen Here!

### The Art and Spirituality of Listening

by Megan McKenna

Recommended by Karin Dufault, SP

I became aware of this 2015 book while attending the 2018 Women of Providence in Collaboration Event where dynamic Megan was the keynote speaker. Megan's reputation as an internationally recognized storyteller who draws on world religions is reinforced in this book. Every story is filled with meaning and contemporary life lessons. The idea of the book originated during a series of all-day workshops for hospital chaplains from a range of traditions.

While Megan distinguishes between hearing and listening, the focus for the majority of the book is authentic listening beyond words. As leaders who have been fostering contemplative listening, dialogue, and discernment among our sisters and among our colleagues in ministry, we can learn from and be challenged by Megan's prophetic insights. The last chapter, *Listening in Relationships of Unequal Power*, may be especially helpful to leadership teams.

Megan reminds us that when we listen with the heart and soul, we discover God revealing something new to us, about God, the other, and ourselves. Awareness of the *art and spirituality of listening* encourages us to continue to develop our listening artistry and view listening as a spiritual practice bringing us closer to God and one another.

Each chapter ends with reflections and practices that invite the reader to deepen and apply what has been read. The suggested practices can serve as meditation starters as well as guides for communal sharing. The book closes with an inspiring *Litany for Listening*.

## CHA Creates the Sister Carol Keehan Award

The more than 850 health care ministers gathered at the annual assembly of the Catholic Health



Association (CHA) honored Carol Keehan, DC for her 14 years of service as president and chief executive officer with the creation of the "Sister Carol Keehan Award." The award will recognize an individual who has "demonstrated a deep commitment to social justice and the common good" and works courageously on behalf of the most vulnerable.

The CHA award that will carry Sr. Carol's name will be created by sculptor Abraham Mohler and will depict Christ as the good shepherd.

Throughout the gathering speaker after speaker paid tribute to Carol's career-long advocacy on behalf of women and children, the health care of the most vulnerable, and her commitment to protecting life from conception to natural death.

At the assembly awards banquet, guests viewed a [video tribute](#) and dozens of CHA's current and past board members took the stage to raise a champagne toast to Carol. She told those assembled, "I will miss you intensely. You have been so incredibly good to me. And I want to thank you with all my heart. And I promise that there will never be a day of my life that I don't pray for you and pray for your success in the ministry."

LCWR was represented at the assembly by president Sharlet Wagner, CSC, executive director Carol Zinn, SSJ, and associate director for Social Mission Ann Scholz, SSND. Ann joined Teresa Welsh, a reporter for Devex, and Rick Jones from Catholic Relief Services for a panel discussion that addressed the conditions in the Northern Triangle of Central America that are fueling the humanitarian crisis at the southern border.

## Upcoming LCWR Dates

**LCWR Assembly**  
*Scottsdale, Arizona*  
August 13 — 16, 2019

**LCWR Practicing Leadership: How to Embrace a Vital and Vibrant Future Workshop**  
*Carmelite Spiritual Center | Darien, Illinois*  
September 17 — 19, 2019

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

**LCWR New Leader Workshop**  
*Conference Center*  
*University of St. Mary of the Lake | Mundelein, Illinois*  
March 26 — 29, 2020

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

**LCWR Practicing Leadership: How to Embrace a Vital and Vibrant Future Workshop**  
*Mater Dolorosa Retreat House | Sierra Madre, CA*  
May 11 — 13, 2020

**LCWR Assembly**  
*Dallas, Texas*  
August 11 — 15, 2020

**LCWR Practicing Leadership: How to Embrace a Vital and Vibrant Future Workshop**  
*Bethany Center | Lutz, Florida*  
September 14 — 16, 2020

**Leading from Within Retreat**  
*San Pedro Retreat Center*  
*Winter Park, Florida*  
January 10 – 15, 2021

### LCWR New Leader Workshop

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

**LCWR Assembly**  
*Orlando, Florida*  
August 10 — 13, 2021

**LCWR Assembly**  
*St. Louis, Missouri*  
August 9 — 12, 2022

## Global Concerns Committee Share Anti-Racism Resources

**TED Talk *Color blindness or color brave?***  
by Mellody Hobson.

Reviewed by Donna Marie Gribshaw, CDP

Mellody, a finance executive, invites us to look at those areas where we find ourselves ignoring the reality of race in the most global sense of the word, or as she says it where we are “color blind.”

She claims that this is a conversation that still makes people uncomfortable. She urges us to create safe spaces to talk about race and to learn how to be comfortable with the uncomfortable. Mellody encourages us to be “color brave”, to be willing to have proactive conversations about race with honesty, courage, and understanding. Why? These conversations will open our minds and hearts to greater diversity. She believes it is important to speak openly about race, as well as diversity, for these conversations create a better society. Let us continue to say YES to diversity and be color brave!





## Religious Leaders Condemn the Administration's Mistreatment of Immigrants

The Office of the Inspector General and several members of Congress have witnessed the mistreatment of children and adults in US detention centers at our southern border. Now President Trump is carrying through on his threat to begin immigration raids in the interior. Religious leaders from diverse faiths are denouncing these aggressive actions against families and communities in a statement released to the press.



"The treatment of children at our southern border is immoral. It violates every tenet of our faith and every value of this nation.... Plans to 'sweep up' thousands of our undocumented neighbors without regard to the children these parents would leave behind or the communities that would be devastated by their loss is unconscionable," said Carol Zinn, SSJ, executive director of LCWR. "Catholic teaching is clear. We are called to respect the dignity of every human person no matter their immigration status or station in life. As women of faith we are compelled to speak out about these injustices and to recommit ourselves to the Gospel call to welcome the stranger and to stand with those in need."

Religious leaders and organizations also issued a [letter](#) to Congress in support of the *Protecting Sensitive Locations Act of 2019*. The bill, which was introduced by [Senator Richard Blumenthal \(D-CT\)](#), would expand and codify the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) existing "[sensitive locations](#)" policy and ensure that immigrants are able to worship, access education, and receive medical care without fear of deportation.

The bill prevents immigration agents from engaging in enforcement actions at or within 1,000 feet of sensitive locations like schools, hospitals, courthouses, and places of worship without prior approval and exigent circumstances.



## Faith-Based Organizations Prepare for Raids

In anticipation of President Trump's plans to conduct raids, arrests, and deportations by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in cities across the US, faith-based organizations have prepared information for those who might be caught up in the ICE dragnet of their families and allies.

Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) has created a toolkit for immigrants and their supporters to help them prepare and respond to these latest actions by the administration. CLINIC's [Raid Response Toolkit](#) is based on best practices and lessons learned from communities conducting rapid responses during past ICE raids and arrests. It provides a guide for impacted people before, during, and after a raid including: a "Know Your Rights" card; "Emergency Planning for Families" guide; and general information about available legal help. It also contains tips for communities who want to build their own "Rapid Response Teams" and suggestions for solidarity actions in support of their immigrant neighbors.

The [Sanctuary Movement](#), another faith-based coalition, has also prepared resources to help allies protect vulnerable members of the immigrant community including a [Rapid Response Toolkit for Faith Allies](#) and a [Sacred Resistance Pledge](#) which congregations can sign.

Target cities include Los Angeles, New York City, Chicago, Houston, Atlanta, Baltimore, Denver, Miami, and San Francisco. While the stated purpose of the raids is to find 2,000 undocumented immigrants who have already received deportation orders, there is little doubt that non-targeted immigrants who happen to be nearby during arrests will also face deportation and the ensuing family separation.



- Endorsement of HR 3157, the Working Families Tax Relief Act, which would expand the earned income and child tax credits. LCWR (6/14/19)
- Letter to the House Ways and Means Committee leadership requesting that any tax package the committee puts forward expand the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit for low-income working families and individuals. LCWR (6/18/19)
- Letter to members of Congress expressing strong support for HR 5950, the Humane Enforcement and Legal Protections (HELP) for Separated Children Act, introduced by Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard, which codify protections for children who may be separated from their parents by immigration enforcement actions in the interior. LCWR (6/25/19)
- Letter from faith-based and religious organizations urging House leadership and members to advance HR 582, the Raise the Wage Act of 2019, without further delay. LCWR (6/26/19)
- Letter to members of Congress expressing strong support for the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act of 2019, which would expand and codify existing federal agency guidance related to immigration enforcement actions at so-called “sensitive locations,” including places of worship, health care facilities, and schools. LCWR (7/3/19)
- Open letter of faith leaders calling for diplomacy, not war, with Iran. Carol Zinn, SSJ, (7/1/19)
- LCWR comments in opposition to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) proposed rule FR-6124-P-01, Housing and Community Development Act of 1980: Verification of Eligible Status that would prohibit “mixed-status” families from living together in public housing. LCWR (7/3/19)

- Quote in faith organizations press release condemning the Trump administration’s plans to “sweep up” thousands of our undocumented immigrants without regard to the children these parents would leave behind or the communities that would be devastated. Carol Zinn, SSJ (7/11/19)

## Talitha Kum Honored as a ‘Trafficking in Persons Report Hero’

Talitha Kum and its network coordinator, Gabriella Bottani, CMS were honored in a ceremony hosted by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at the US Department of State on June 20. Each year as the department issues its *Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report*, which assesses efforts by foreign governments to combat human trafficking, it honors individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the eradication of human trafficking.



This year’s honorees included Gabriella and the more than 2,000 women religious of the Talitha Kum Network involved in anti-trafficking activities around the world. The award is especially fitting as the network will be celebrating its 10th anniversary at its general assembly, September 21-27 which will be attended by more than 90 sisters from 77 countries.

In her acceptance [speech](#) on behalf of the nine award recipients, Gabriella thanked the State Department for the honor and remarked that, “. . . [L]ike the individuals and organizations represented here this morning, we work in dialogue and in collaboration with people of different faith traditions and with people of good will.”

She also reminded the audience that the major causes of vulnerability that can lead to human trafficking, include: unequal power structures in societies, especially regarding women, children, and indigenous people; inadequate migration policies in an increasingly interconnected world; and economic models that exploit human beings and environmental resources for the profit of a few.

## RCRI 2019 Conference A Glorious History to Remember; A Great History Yet to be Accomplished

October 1—4, 2019  
Hyatt Regency Dallas, Texas

As the Resource Center for Religious Institutes celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, its conference will feature Norma Pimentel, MJ, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, as the keynote speaker.



In addition there will be **39 workshops** covering topics related to finance, canon and civil law, and planning for institutes in transition. Once again RCRI will offer a track on eldercare sponsored by NRRO.

**Four Pre-Conference Workshops** will be offered October 1, prior to the conference. The topics will cover: *The Role of a Commissary: Assisting Communities on the Journey of Completion* – Paula Cooney, IHM; Jane Hibbard, OSB; and Ann Lacour, MSC; *Cor Orans – A Year Later* – Lynn McKenzie, OSB and Nancy Bauer, OSB; *Legal Overview for Religious Institutes 2019* – Michael Airdo; and *TRENDS for Beginners* – Larry Lundin, SJ and Hertha Longo, CSA.

**Conference Registration:** [A link is posted on the RCRI website](#) for members and guests to register. RCRI members will receive a discount if they register before August 23.

## Religious Life Communicators to Hold 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference



Communicators for Women Religious (CWR) will hold its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference October 1-4 in Mesa, Arizona. Since 1994, CWR's annual conference has brought together communicators from around the globe to share ideas, spread awareness of emerging communication trends, and support one another in the ministry of communication. This year former LCWR president Joan D. Chittister, OSB will deliver the conference's keynote speech. Her address is part of a prestigious lineup of conference speakers and informative presentations that support the work of all those who communicate the Gospel missions of Catholic sisters.

CWR is a professional organization of personnel responsible for communications within Catholic religious congregations of women. The organization provides networking and professional education for its members who communicate and advance the mission and ministries of women religious.

Leaders are asked to encourage their communicators to attend this important conference.



### Purchase LCWR's Contemplative Greeting Cards at the LCWR Assembly

Sets of 10 will be available for  
\$10

These make great gifts

## National Religious Retirement Office Updates

Thanks to the generosity of concerned Catholics across the nation, the 2018 Retirement Fund for Religious collection raised \$27.7 million. In June, the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) distributed \$28 million to 360 eligible religious institutes in the form of Direct Care Assistance. Due to the ongoing retirement challenges many institutes face, the NRRO's Management Committee increased Direct Care Assistance from \$25 to \$28 million this year, with the additional funding realized through investments and careful financial management. Communities can utilize this funding for immediate eldercare expenses or invest for future needs.



On August 20, the NRRO and the Avila Institute of Gerontology will present *Well-Being and Dementia*, a free, one-hour webinar that will explore the progression of dementia and the psychological and spiritual needs of dementia patients. [Additional information](#) and [registration materials](#) are online.



### Catalyst for Professional Development

The NRVC Summer Institute is underway with 156 registrations including participants from Canada, Guam, France, Guyana, Ireland, United States, and the West Indies. NRVC is grateful for leaders who attend and encourage their vocation teams to participate. The Fall Institute will be held October 8-23 at the Marillac Center in Leavenworth, Kansas. New this year is a three-day workshop, *The Art of Accompaniment and Discernment*, with presenters: Thu Do, LHC; Thomas Gaunt, SJ; Charlotte McCorquodale, and Mary Rowell, CSJ. There are limited scholarships available for religious institutes needing financial assistance to keep updated in the trends, issues, and best practices in vocation ministry. All information about workshops can be accessed at [NRVC.net](http://NRVC.net).

### Catalyst for National Networking

All LCWR assembly participants are invited to stop by the NRVC booth to pick up resources for their vocation ministers. The NRVC staff looks forward to meeting leaders and learning more about the needs of their religious institute.

## Religious Formation Conference -- 2019 Congress



### Being Signs of Courageous Hope

October 24-27, 2019

Louisville, Kentucky

Speakers include: *Teresa Maya, CCVI; Bryan Massingale; Norma Pimentel, MJ; Emily Cash; Mickey McGrath, OSFS; and others.*

Registration materials for national gathering of formators, community leaders, and collaborators interested in the initial and lifelong formation of vowed religious men and women and their associate partners can be found at [www.rfccongress2019.com](http://www.rfccongress2019.com). Questions about sponsoring and/or exhibiting may be directed to Ryan Hoffmann, associate director, at [rhoffmann@relforcon.org](mailto:rhoffmann@relforcon.org).

## News from the UN

**July 30—*World Day against Trafficking in Persons*** highlights the exploitation of men, women, and children around the world and invites advocacy for their protection, particularly that of migrants and refugees.



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

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

**September 21—*International Day of Peace*** is designated by the UN General Assembly to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

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

## Hibakusha Remember the Horror

August 6 and August 9 mark the 74th anniversary of the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. An estimated 140,000 people died in Hiroshima on August 6 and another 80,000 died three days later in Nagasaki. Many more suffered for several years before succumbing to their injuries. Others died later as a result of radiation exposure. It is impossible to know exactly how many lives were cut short by that fateful decision by President Truman. There is little doubt that



those two bombs, “Little Boy” and “Fat Boy” unleashed the horrors of the atomic weapons race.

Pope Francis has been an outspoken critic of nuclear proliferation and has repeatedly called for the creation of a future rooted in moral values and an ethic of solidarity.

Nuclear weapons are a global problem, affecting all nations, and impacting future generations and the planet that is our home. A global ethic is needed if we are to reduce the nuclear threat and work towards nuclear disarmament. Now, more than ever, technological, social and political interdependence urgently calls for an ethic of solidarity (cf. John Paul II, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, 38), which encourages peoples to work together for a more secure world, and a future that is increasingly rooted in moral values and responsibility on a global scale.—Pope Francis, *Message of His Holiness* On the Occasion of the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons.

On July 7, 2017 the United Nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It is the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons. Before it can enter into force, it must be signed and ratified by 50 countries. As of July 4, 2019, only 23 nations had ratified the treaty.

Those nations that are party to the treaty are prohibited from developing, testing, stockpiling, stationing, transferring, and using or threatening to use nuclear weapons. For nuclear armed states joining the treaty, it provides for a time-bound framework for negotiations leading to the verified and irreversible elimination of its nuclear weapons program.

The Hibakusha Rebellion, named for the survivors of the atomic bombing at Hiroshima or Nagasaki in 1945, is a global campaign to encourage nation states to join and eliminate their nuclear weapons and thereby liberate the world from the threat of nuclear annihilation. Information on joining the Hibakusha Rebellion and signing the Hibakusha Appeal is available [here](#).



by Joan Mumaw, IHM  
President  
[www.solidarityfriends.org](http://www.solidarityfriends.org)

Volunteer ministry positions are available with [Solidarity with South Sudan](#). Solidarity has put out an appeal to men and women religious and to laypeople to help continue its mission to build the capacity of South Sudanese through the education of primary teachers, health care professionals, pastoral workers, and agriculturists. This is a new model of ministry: women and men, members of different congregations, cultures and nationalities working together with lay people supporting the people of South Sudan.

Solidarity is seeking religious and laity to live in community and minister as:

- Nurse and midwifery tutors, or clinical supervisors, to live and work at the Catholic Health Training Institute in Wau
- Tutors for primary teacher education at Solidarity Teacher Training College in Yambio
- Religious priest, brother or sister to serve as a member of the pastoral team to train diocesan personnel and catechists
- Semi-retired religious men or women willing to be support persons in community, overseeing hospitality in Juba or Riimenze
- Associate administrator for Friends in Solidarity based in Silver Spring, MD - contact [jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com](mailto:jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com)

For more information re: South Sudan positions, contact Sister Katherine O'Flynn at [koflynnfcj@gmail.com](mailto:koflynnfcj@gmail.com)

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

