



May 2019

2019 LCWR Assembly

Imaging Leadership in a Global Community

Registration is underway for the 2019 LCWR assembly, **Imaging Leadership in a Global Community**. With the presence of keynote **Pat Murray, IBVM**, the assembly will explore important movements occurring within religious life globally and locally through the lens of leadership. Pat, the executive director of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG), will draw upon her vast experience at the heart of global religious life as she explores how leaders can learn to focus on what is emerging in religious life and find meaning in their ministry.



August 13 – 16, 2019
Scottsdale, Arizona

Leaders will be helped in this assembly to learn how they too can watch the trends occurring in society and within religious life and discern how their institutes may best respond. In the midst of the deep transformation occurring in religious life, how can leaders assist their members to claim their own critical part in birthing the new life that is aching to come forth?

An important part of this assembly will be the opportunity to examine what LCWR is learning through its emergent planning process. Not only is the conference looking at how it might reimagine how it can be a relevant resource for religious life in this time of dramatic change, but it is also gaining a body of critical new insights into how religious life is emerging into something quite different from what it has been in the recent past. The assembly will provide opportunities for participants to engage in conversations about: How

are these insights calling women religious to reshape the way they lead their own religious institutes? How is LCWR being called to re-envision how it can be as supportive as possible of religious life as it moves into the future?

LCWR also plans to have a number of guests present at this assembly, including younger religious, religious from a variety of ethnicities, facilitators who work with religious communities, and representatives of many of the national organizations serving religious life. These guests will join with members in the conversations so as to expand the perspectives of all present.

The assembly prayer and ritual will also incorporate some of the culture and terrain of the unique and beautiful hotel setting in the midst of the mountains and desert of Arizona.

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From the LCWR Executive Director

Black Holes, Holons, and Holy Mystery

by Carol Zinn, SSJ — LCWR Executive Director

*Holy Mystery. Sacred Presence. All-Embracing, Creator God.
Gracious Spirit. Womb of all Life. Ever-Gracing, Most Wondrous God.
In this moment, in our being, we are One.
We are One. [1]*

When I saw the first pictures of a “black hole” and sensed the awe in realizing that Albert Einstein predicted the existence of black holes decades ago, these words of the hymn by Monica Brown came to mind. One of the most fascinating realizations is that black holes are not empty. Rather, there is a tremendous amount of matter packed into a very small area and its gravitational pull is so great that nothing, not even light, can escape. When massive stars die, they leave behind a small, dense, remnant core and it’s possible, given certain conditions, that the force of gravity overwhelms all other forces and produces a black hole.

In reflecting on the realities within our world, church, country, and congregations, I am discovering meaning in the depth of the gravitational pull of Holy Mystery, Creator God, who continues to call us forth towards a future filled with hope. What is ours to do in these times? How do we witness to the presence of hope and the deeper reality that in this moment -- in our being -- we are One?

Holons are both parts and wholes; wholes within wholes: a letter within a word within a sentence within a paragraph within a story. Each is a whole entity nested within a larger whole entity.

In pondering the transformational activity of the Spirit within religious life -- globally and nationally -- I am discovering meaning in the depth of trust in that religious life is God’s work. We find ourselves living in a moment when God invites us to participate



in the transformation of the vocation of consecrated, religious life. However, wherever, and whenever this transformation manifests itself in one religious institute, one congregation, one leadership team, one new member, one death, one letting go of temporal goods, one celebration of new life, the transformation happens to all of us. As holons, we are nested within the larger holon of each other, together. What is ours to do in these times? How do we witness to the presence of solidarity and the deeper reality that in this moment -- in our being -- we are One?

In anticipating the 2019 LCWR assembly and its focus on *Imagining Leadership in a Global Community*, I am discovering a deeper awareness of the need for imagination and leadership in and for a global community. As the scope of the needs of the global community expands, the breadth of the presence of religious life spreads. The desire of women religious to respond to gospel cries of this 21st century resonates within each of us even as we embrace our own realities.

What is ours to do in these times? How do we witness to the presence of discernment in our planning, inclusivity in our relationships, creativity in our thinking, fidelity in our commitment, flexibility in our expectations, and passion in our visioning?



As we plan to gather in Scottsdale, Arizona in August, may we consider the gravitational pull of our Creator God calling us into a future filled with hope. May we embrace the truth of our nested interdependence — holons of consecrated, religious life — wholes within wholes — each of us part of a larger whole. And may we engage the work of assembly 2019 in the spirit of Holy Mystery, Sacred Presence — where, in this moment, in our being, we are One.

Endnote:

[1. YouTube of “Holy Mystery” by Monica Brown](#)

Imagining Leadership in a Global Community

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Of Special Note:

- LCWR will provide English-Spanish translators and will have translation equipment available for anyone interested in this service throughout the assembly. Those wishing to avail themselves of this service must indicate this on their registration form.
- LCWR is looking for members who would be willing to serve as table facilitators since the assembly will utilize contemplative processing.
- All who are new to LCWR, or who are returning to the conference after a few years away, are encouraged to attend the new member orientation on August 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM.
- Congregations that are able are asked to consider making a donation to the LCWR Financial Assistance Fund to assist communities needing funds to attend the LCWR assembly. Members may include a donation with their assembly registration.
- Leadership teams seeking financial assistance grants to attend the assembly need to contact Christine Beckett, SCN (301-588-4955 or cbeckett@lcwr.org).



Members and associates are encouraged to register early for the assembly and make a hotel reservation since rooms at the hotel are limited.

Extra Copies of LCWR Reflection Book Available

A few copies of LCWR's 2019 reflection book, *Making Meaning of Our Lives*, are still available and may be [ordered online](#). The cost of each book is \$6.00, plus shipping and handling. Revenue from this LCWR project helps defray the costs of the resources and programs the conference provides its members. Questions about orders may be directed to LCWR's administrative assistant, Carol Glidden, at cglidden@lcwr.org.



LCWR Mourns the Passing of Carol Quigley, IHM

LCWR joins with all who mourn the loss of former LCWR president Carol Ann Quigley, IHM who died on April 2 at age 78. Carol, a member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Monroe, Michigan, served as LCWR president in 1986.



Carol ministered in a variety of works including as a teacher; member of the Archdiocese of Detroit Evangelization Team to Recife Brazil; coordinator of leadership development for Core City Neighborhoods, Detroit; vice president for mission advancement at Marygrove College; and as president, leadership member, and as coordinator of ministry. Most recently, she served as program coordinator for River House Spirituality Center and as a spiritual director.

After entering her community in 1958, she earned a bachelor's degree at Marygrove College and a master's degree from the University of St. Michael's College at the Toronto School of Theology, Toronto, Canada.

Among the many projects on which she worked was the IHM Feminist History Project, which produced the book, *Building Sisterhood*.

LCWR remembers with great gratitude Carol's service to the conference and her many contributions to the mission of the Gospel.

New Leaders Workshop Provides Wealth of Information to Participants

From April 4 to 7, 82 LCWR members from 19 congregations gathered at St. Mary of the Lake University in Mundelein for the annual New Leaders Workshop. LCWR directors Carol Zinn, SSJ; Chris Beckett, SCN; Annmarie Sanders, IHM; Mary Hughes, OP; and Marie McCarthy, SP were joined by Nancy Schreck, OSF; Lynn Levo, CSJ; Sharon Euart, RSM from the Resource Center for Religious; and Stephanie Still, PBVM, from the National Religious Retirement Office and together formed the team that guided the workshop.

At the time of registration participants received a link to a website containing a variety of resources including a video on the relationship between canon and civil law by Simone Campbell, SSS and Lynn Jarrell, OSU and two videos on leading in evolutionary times by Lynn Levo, CSJ. In addition to the videos, the site provides information on a variety of organizations that leaders will find helpful and hints and tips for working effectively with persons in key congregation positions, e.g. formation personnel, justice personnel, etc. These resources continue to be available to participants throughout their term in leadership.

The workshop included input and conversation around the topics of spiritual leadership, team building, mission, canon law, and the daily realities of religious life leadership at this time in history. Several scenarios were used to explore a variety of issues that leaders face. While a wealth of information was presented, the overall structure of scenarios, conversation with one another, and conversation with the resource persons present kept the atmosphere lively and engaging. Two primary messages that participants took home with them were: there are a wealth of resources available to them and consult, consult, consult. Participants returned home strengthened by the interaction and the knowledge that they have good companions for the journey.





Pope Francis greets LCWR president Sharlet Wagner, CSC

LCWR Annual Visit to Rome Provides Numerous Opportunities to Share the Perspectives of US Women Religious

by Carol Zinn, SSJ

LCWR's 2019 annual visit to Rome took place from March 23-31. Sharlet Wagner, CSC; Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ; Teresa Maya, CCVI; and I represented LCWR in various meetings with dicasteries and offices at the Vatican. While the annual visit usually takes place after Easter, because Easter falls later in the 2019 calendar and the UISG Assembly is in the beginning of May, LCWR decided to go to Rome earlier this year. The meetings were marked by a warm welcomes, a deep desire for mutual dialogue, shared topics for conversation, and a felt sense of the church universal.

Again, this year LCWR was joined by our CMSM brothers (Timothy Kesicki, SJ; Patrick Sean Moffett, CFC; Mark Padrez, OP; and Larry Schatz, FSC). We participated in several joint meetings as well as meetings particular to each conference. It was a gift to share in this annual Rome visit with our CMSM brothers. Spending time together in prayer, liturgy, meals, conversations, and meetings deepened our relationships as we serve in the ministry of leadership for our conferences.

Our meetings with the Congregation for Religious, the Congregation for Bishops, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and Congregation for Education provided the venue to really dialogue about the

presence and role of religious life in the church in the United States as well as within the global church. The topics of Catholic identity, emerging religious life, the US bishops' ad limina visit in November, and the impact of the abuse crisis on the people of God offered us the opportunity to share our experience and perspective and to learn how the universal church sees these same topics from their experience and perspective.

Our meetings with the Offices for Integral Human Development, Migration and Refugees, Secretary of State, Evangelization of Peoples, Inter-Religious Dialogue and the New Evangelization provided both conferences of CMSM and LCWR the opportunity to share the realities of our current political climate and its impact on a range of humanitarian crises. These meetings also created the venue for us to learn how these offices work towards the gospel values of human dignity, justice, nonviolence, environmental sustainability and climate change, the welcome of and care for our sisters and brothers who are poor, marginalized, oppressed, and vulnerable. In these conversations we were able to share how we are working to further the creation of a world characterized by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and how we can align more closely with other global movements of the Catholic Church. The background work done by Ann Scholz, SSND and Eli McCarthy of CMSM situated our conversations in the depth of analysis and scope of coalitions in which both conferences participate. We left copies of these materials with the various offices who were very grateful to have such high-quality data about

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Pope Francis greets LCWR president-elect Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ and CMSM executive director Mark Padrez, OP

LCWR Annual Visit to Rome

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the work of religious in the United States on the various topics and issues.

We joyfully welcomed the opportunity to participate in the papal audience on March 27 and had the blessing to greet Pope Francis individually. As we stood together waiting to greet Francis, there was a felt sense that we were greeting him in the name of the members of our conferences. And we promised him the prayer and support of our LCWR members. His response was: "Thank you. I need your prayers. Thank all the Sisters."

During the annual visit, the LCWR officers typically meet with women religious leaders based in Rome who have members living in the United States. This year, the theme of the gathering was "Sharing the Vision: A Dialogue on Religious Life Today Now and into the Future." The event consisted of a panel presentation by the four of us from LCWR with UISG executive secretary Pat Murray, IBVM serving as the moderator. Approximately 80 religious participated, including some men religious. An [online video](#) is available of the meeting which includes LCWR's discussion of its emergent planning process, the US political situation, the sexual abuse/scandal situation in the US church, the ongoing relationship between LCWR and CMSWR, and our visits to the various dicasteries. A Q&A session followed our presentation.



Several of the visits were made jointly with the CMSM delegation



LCWR meets with the staff of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life

A Reminder About the 2020 LCWR Leadership Award 4/26 Deadline

On March 12, 2019 an invitation was sent to all LCWR members to raise names of religious women leaders for the 2020 Outstanding Leadership Award. [A form may be downloaded](#) from the LCWR website to submit names. The form is located at the top of the list of private attachments. (*Members must be signed in to this section of the website*). Forms need to be returned to Christine Beckett, SCN at cbeckett@lcwr.org by April 26, 2019.

EMERGING QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & CONVERSATION



Can we give away some of what we do so that we can attend to what is ours to do as women religious today?

Order Summer 2019 Occasional Papers

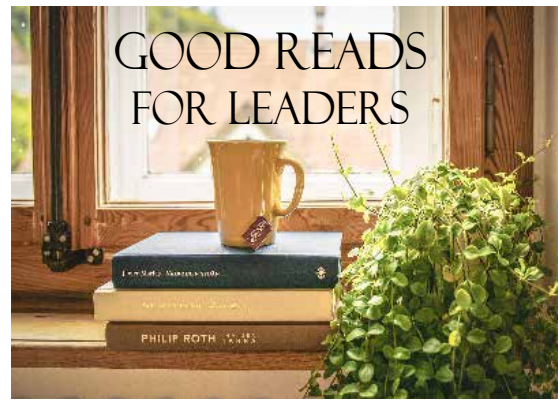


The Summer 2019 issue of *Occasional Papers* is entitled **Our Search for Meaning**. A document created by LCWR several years ago, “Dimensions of Leadership,” notes that an essential part of spiritual leadership is “an ability to connect the richness of the inner world with the significant challenges and movements of a given time. The symbolic/meaning-making dimension attends to urgent human longings for God, wholeness, meaning, and harmony.”

Women religious are increasingly experiencing a call to join with others in this search for meaning. With so much in flux in the world today and with all the ambiguity and uncertainty in our life experiences, being able to find and articulate meaning is an essential component for a healthy and fruitful life.

This issue of *Occasional Papers* will explore some of the significant changes occurring in religious life and the seeds of newness that are appearing – such as the growing intercultural make-up of congregations, the greater sense of an intercongregational religious life, the draw of young adults to women religious in experiences of shared meaning and belonging, as well as all the efforts to right-size our communities to our new realities. The issue will also include reflections by individuals from different fields on how they find meaning: Walter Brueggemann; Margaret Farley, RSM; Edwina Gately; Anthony Gittens, CPPS; Katie Gordon; Nicholas Kristoff; Courtney E. Martin; Jim Martin, SJ; Cokie Roberts; Mary Southard, CSJ; and Jean Stokan.

LCWR prints only the number of copies that are pre-ordered. **Orders for this issue may be placed here and must be received by June 3, 2019. Copies will be mailed in June 2019.**



Radical Hope: Ethics in the Face of Cultural Devastation

by Jonathan Lear

Recommended by Susan Sanders, RSM

[W]hen the buffalo went away, the hearts of my people fell to the ground, and they could not lift them again. After this, nothing happened. . .

Nothing happened. For Chief Plenty Coups, nothing of significance occurred after the “buffalo went away” and the entire Crow nation moved to the reservation. There, at first, the old Crow ways of living and making sense of life were gone. Attitudes and actions that showed core Crow tribal values of bravery, courage, and community were now meaningless. Subsequently, what helped them thrive in the face of cultural devastation was what Jonathan Lear calls “radical hope” (*Radical Hope: Ethics in the Face of Cultural Devastation*, Harvard Press, 2006).

During her 2014 LCWR assembly address, Nancy Schreck, OSF, applied Lear’s framework of radical hope to what she saw as our communal experience of darkness in the “new normal” of religious life. For leaders of women’s religious communities, Nancy’s application of Lear’s research is both organizationally helpful and spiritually consoling because *Radical Hope* suggests questions and topics for communal conversation, and guides for congregational decision-making: Hold to the founding vision; Remember core values; Hear the dreams of the young and rely on elders to interpret them; Face reality and avoid nostalgia for what is no longer coming back; Find new ways to be brave and courageous in the new reality. Congregational leaders will find *Radical Hope*, while essentially a philosophical treatise, an accessible book for helping them think through ways to help their congregations negotiate substantial organizational and spiritual change.

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 Assembly
Dallas, Texas
 August 11 — 15, 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



Sisters Continue the Work to Welcome Immigrants

In November 2018 LCWR responded to a request for assistance from colleagues staffing respite centers along the Southern border. The request came as a result of the decision by the administration to release hundreds of asylum seekers into border communities without any support. Shelters in those communities were quickly overwhelmed by the hundreds of immigrants in need of welcome, food, and rest before continuing their journey to join sponsors in other parts of the country. The need continues, as does the response from congregations of women religious to that call to assist at the border and at immigrant resource centers in the interior.

Some 77 congregations of women religious have provided nearly 500 volunteers and more than \$700,000 to help with the needs of immigrants seeking safety and shelter in the United States. Sisters have spent weeks at Annunciation House in El Paso; La Posada Providencia in San Benito; and Catholic Charities' programs in McAllen, Tucson, and San Antonio. Sisters, associates, and their colleagues have provided support to colleagues in San Diego, San Bernardino, and Chula Vista. Congregations are providing hospitality and support in the midwest and along the east coast. At the border and across the country, sisters are serving meals and cleaning rooms, providing welcome at bus stations and packing care packages for travelers. They are helping with medical needs and communication with sponsors. They are providing legal aid and assisting with interpretation and travel arrangements. They are making beds and sorting clothes; reading to children and praying with parents.

This summary is at best a rough estimate of all the good work that is going on across the country. It is impossible to accurately report the countless ways women religious are engaged in welcoming immigrants. Anyone who has not yet reported on the work of a congregation, is asked to contact Janette Cahill at jcahill@lcwr.org.

Faith Leaders Embark on Pilgrimage to Honduras

A delegation of 72 faith leaders and immigrant justice advocates, traveled to Honduras March 18-25 to meet with grassroots organizers and religious partners in order to better understand the circumstances that have forced thousands in Central America's Northern Triangle to flee their homes.



The interfaith delegation, of which LCWR was a co-sponsor, met with community organizers, religious leaders, and advocates for human and environmental rights. They found pervasive violence, government repression, environmental degradation, and extreme poverty. Groups from the delegation visited communities fighting against land displacement caused by mining companies, agribusiness, hydroelectric projects, private development, and the tourism industry, and they heard from those impacted by human rights violations and impunity.

Despite the myriad challenges the people of Honduras face and the despair that forces many to migrate, delegates saw the strength and courage of many who, day after day, defend human rights, protect the environment, care for children and youth, educate women, and promote nonviolence.

Members of the delegation shared their learnings and concerns with chargé d'affaires [Heide B. Fulton](#) at the US Embassy in Tegucigalpa and urged her to push for withdrawal of US support for the repressive government of Juan Orlando Hernández and suspension of US military aid to Honduran security forces.

The dates of the delegation's visit coincided with the 39th anniversary of the martyrdom of St. Oscar Romero who was assassinated for his social justice activism by government forces in El Salvador on March 24, 1980. The delegation commemorated the anniversary with a theological forum on the teachings of the slain Archbishop of San Salvador. Speakers at the forum included Pat Farrell, OSF, former president of LCWR.

"We saw clearly that the migrant caravans from Central America are a modern-day Exodus. As people of faith,

we cannot close the borders of our hearts to God's people, rather we must walk with them, learn from them, and together address the root causes that force so many to take unimaginable risks for the sake of their families." said Ann Scholz, SSND, LCWR associate director for social mission, and a member of the delegation.

Standing Against Racism Resource Sharing Column

Cracking the Codes

Reviewed by [Susan Francois, CSJP](#)



Cracking the Codes, a project that includes [a film](#), [conversation guide](#), and [website](#), seeks to help us understand the codes of racialization/inequality built into our society and our network of relationships in order to better participate in building up a society where racial justice becomes the norm. The film is 75 minutes, although the website also makes available a number of shorter film clips. It tells the story of how we got here (history, identity, and culture) and then delves into the internal and external components of bias, privilege, and internalized racism. It is a great resource for individuals and groups.



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

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Faith Leaders and Peace Practitioners Deepen Church's Commitment to Nonviolence

The Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and Pax Christi International's Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, of which LCWR

is a founding member, held a workshop from April 4-5 on the theme, "Path of Nonviolence: Towards a Culture of Peace."



With a consideration and understanding of current situations of conflict and violence, participants engaged in dialogue about the roots of violence, the hope for peace and reconciliation, and reflected on paths to nonviolence. They noted that nonviolence is not only a method but a way of life, a way to protect and care for the conditions of life.

"Our conversations on nonviolence and peace filled our hearts and minds with a consideration of the dignity of each person – young people, women and men, people who are impoverished, citizens and leaders," said Mons. Bruno Marie Duffé, secretary of the dicastery. "Nonviolence and peace call us to a conversion to receive and to give, to gather and to hope."

"Pax Christi International deeply appreciates the support and participation of the dicastery in this workshop, which has been a significant and positive step in the work of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative," said Marie Dennis, co-president of Pax Christi International. "We are touched by the interventions from all the participants, who reiterated the importance of nonviolence rooted in respect, patience, and spiritual strength."

Workshop participants hailed from Mexico, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Colombia, Honduras, Brazil, Canada, the United States, Uganda, Philippines, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Fiji, South Sudan, Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Palestine, the United Kingdom, France and Italy, and included bishops, archbishops, peace practitioners, theologians, social scientists, educators and those in pastoral ministry. In addition, the dicastery's prefect Cardinal

Peter Turkson (Ghana) was present, as was Cardinal Joseph Tobin (Newark, New Jersey). Ann Scholz, SSND represented LCWR.

Participants will continue their dialogue and research; their reflections will be shared with the Holy Father, with the hope for a possible encyclical that will address these issues and challenges and will promote nonviolent initiatives as a way for mediation, rights, hope, and love.

'The Climate Action Now Act' Moves Forward in the House

On April 4, members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee voted 29-19 in favor of HR 9 "The Climate Action Now Act." This legislation would require the United States to remain in the Paris climate agreement, which President Donald Trump has vowed to leave, and would keep the country on track to achieve benchmarks set by the Paris accord. It would ensure that the United States meets its international commitment to cut carbon emissions by at least 26 to 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025.

On December 12, 2015, the nations of the world came together to declare with a single voice their commitment to tackle the climate crisis. Nearly 200 countries, including the United States, China, India, and the European Union, have signed the landmark Paris Agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate and amplify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future. Its central purpose was for the nations of the world to work together, through nationally determined contributions (NDC), to keep the global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius and to try to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 F).

On June 1, 2017, President Trump announced his intention to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement making it the only country to reject the global pact. Despite his declaration, the earliest date the United States could withdraw from the Paris Agreement is November 2020. HR 9 would prohibit any federal funds from being used to take any action to advance the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement.

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‘The Climate Action Now Act’ Moves Forward in the House

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There is far-reaching support for the Paris Agreement from state, local, and tribal-elected officials, business leaders, consumer, health and labor organizations, faith leaders, and more. More than 2,000 businesses and investors, 280 cities and counties, and 10 states have independently pledged to meet the US commitment under the Paris climate agreement.

Justice Promoters Gather to Examine Racism and White Privilege

More than 115 justice promoters attended the third convocation of Justice Promoters for Women Religious (JCWR) in St. Louis, March 25-27. Women religious and their lay colleagues, both men and women, came from across the country to tackle the twin challenges of white privilege and systemic racism.



Patricia Chappell, SSND de N and Anne-Louie Nadeau, SSNDdeN*

Participants were invited to take a deep dive into the conference theme, *Racism: Through the Prism of Social Justice*, to examine the roots of systemic racism, and to explore the difficult work of purging themselves, their communities, and the country of racism and its destructive effects.

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Patricia Chappell and Anne-Louise Nadeau of Pax Christi USA keynoted the convocation. Convocation participants presented workshops that challenged people to go deeper still into the roots of racism. Marcelline Koch, OP offered a breakout session that explored the “soup” of white privilege in which the majority swim. Jennifer Reyes Lay, assistant director of the justice office of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, invited participants to wrestle with the legacy of white supremacist colonial Christianity. Meg Olson of NETWORK Catholic Social Lobby led an interactive workshop which served to educate about the origins of the structural racial wealth and income gap and the systemic nature of racism in the United States.

*Photo credit: Joellen Sbrissa, CSJ



- Letter to House leadership expressing support for HR 6, the Dream and Promise Act of 2019, which would put immigrant youth known as Dreamers and long-time beneficiaries of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) on the road to citizenship. LCWR (3/28/19)
- Letter to members of Congress expressing strong support for the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act (NO BAN Act) which would end the harmful Muslim Ban and put in place vital protections against future discriminatory bans. LCWR (3/21/19)
- Letter to House and Senate leadership urging Congress to appropriate \$50 million in the FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies bill specifically for the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and National Institutes of Health to research gun violence. LCWR (3/24/19)
- Letter to members of Congress, asking them to use their oversight authority to prohibit the closure of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) International Operations Division. LCWR (3/24/19)
- Letter to members of Congress urging them to reinstate a just tax system, including investment in the renewal of the entire nation’s economic wellbeing and protection of vulnerable communities living in poverty. LCWR (3/26/19)
- Letter to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Wheeler urging him to withdraw the Waters of the United States Rulemaking which threatens the health and safety of one-third of Americans and instead embrace EPA’s stated mission to protect human health and the environment. LCWR 3/30/19
- Letter to members of Congress asking them to co-sponsor the Agricultural Worker Program Act of 2019 which provides a one-time opportunity for experienced agricultural workers to apply

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LCWR SIGN-ONS and Letters

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for legal status if they meet certain criteria. The bill is a bridge to further reform and will provide desperately needed legal status for farmworkers and help stabilize the agricultural economy. LCWR (4/1/19)

- Endorsement of the Working Families Tax Relief Act (WFTRA) which would substantially expand both the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC), boosting the economic security of 44 million households. LCWR (4/5/19)

NRRO Offers Free Webinar Series

In conjunction with the Avila Institute of Gerontology, the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) offers a free quarterly webinar series on a wide range of topics associated with retirement and eldercare. The latest webinar, for example, overviewed how person-centered care can support the social and emotional needs of elder members with dementia. Other recent webinars have addressed governmental benefits, support for hearing loss, and palliative care. Webinars are free and last just 60 minutes. If the date or time is not convenient, recorded versions can be accessed 24-7 through the online archive, retiredreligious.org/webinars.



The next webinar is on May 14. Sharon Euart, RSM, executive director of the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) and Christopher J. Fusco, RCRI's associate director of civil law, will address civil and canon law issues as they relate to healthcare.

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.

CMSM Names New Executive Director

On April 1, Mark Padrez, OP became the new executive director of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men. He had been serving as president of CMSM and just completed his second term as provincial for the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus in Oakland, California.

Born in 1963 and raised in Nogales, Arizona, Mark joined the Dominican Order in 1987 and made his first profession the next year. After studies at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley, California, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1995. He served in several ministries, including as the director of vocations, then socius of the province before being elected as prior provincial in 2011. He was re-elected in 2015.

As president-elect and then president of CMSM, Mark was deeply engaged in the mission of CMSM and in projects such as the transition to the conference's new national office. He is the first Hispanic executive director of CMSM.

Larry Schatz, FSC, visitor for the Christian Brothers of the Midwest, assumed presidency of CMSM. He had been vice-president.



CMSM president Larry Schatz, FSC and executive director Mark Padrez, OP in Rome



New Team Management Model

From April 2-4, the board and staff of the National Religious Vocation Conference gathered to make decisions for the future leadership of the organization. The long search for an NRVC executive director transitioned in the autumn into a formal discernment process to identify the next leader for NRVC. In remaining faithful to that process of discernment, the names of many capable leaders and visionaries surfaced. As the discernment unfolded, the individuals who had entered into the process were unable to proceed due to the needs of their own communities and ministries.

The board and staff discerned at their April meeting to adopt a team management model. Recognizing the professional skills of each member of the staff and board, NRVC chose to bring those skills together in strong collaboration. This model has been in full and successful operation at NRVC for many months in the absence of an executive director. With enhanced definition and support from the membership, NRVC feels confident that it will continue to serve members and the wider church in unique and essential ways.

NRVC/CARA Study on Recent Trends in Newer Members to Religious Life is Underway

Every newer member who entered religious life since 2003 will be sent a questionnaire by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA). The questions are available in English and Spanish. NRVC asks leaders to encourage their members to complete the survey to ensure a wide representation on the current reality of religious life. [More information about this study and the questionnaire itself](#) are available online.

Register for Summer and Fall Institute

Registration is underway for nine workshops, given by 19 presenters representing diverse fields to enhance professional competencies, engage in networking on a national level, and provide an inclusive approach to

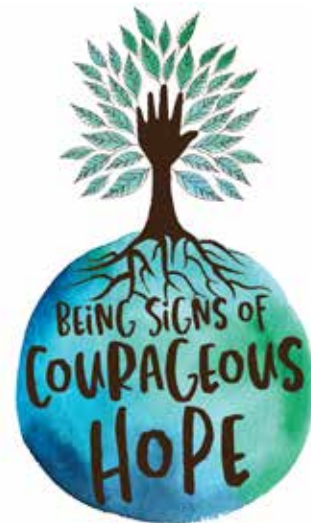
vocation ministry and the full flourishing of religious life. Information on the [Summer Institute in Chicago](#), and the [Fall Institute in Leavenworth](#) is available online.

Being Signs of Courageous Hope 2019 RFC Congress

The Religious Formation Conference's 2019 Congress – *Being Signs of Courageous Hope* – will take place October 24-27, 2019 in Louisville, KY. [Registration is now open.](#)

The congress will bring together Teresa Maya, CCVI; Bryan Massingale; Norma Pimentel, MJ; Emily Cash; Mickey McGrath, OSFS; and others.

Questions about sponsoring and/or exhibiting may be directed to RFC associate director Ryan Hoffmann via email at rhoffmann@relforcon.org.



RELIGIOUS FORMATION CONFERENCE CONGRESS 2019
OCTOBER 24-27 | LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

News from the UN

International Day of Families

The [International Day of Families](#) is observed on May 15 every year to reflect the importance the international community attaches to families. The day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase knowledge of the social, economic, and demographic processes affecting families.



World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

In 2001, UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and in December 2002, the UN General Assembly declared May 21 to be the [World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development](#). The day provides an opportunity to deepen understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together better.

Have You Registered for the LCWR Resource Sharing Forum?

The forum is a listserv that is open only to LCWR members and associates. This listserv is a means for LCWR members and associates to communicate with one another online with a question or to share information. When you post a message to this forum it will go to all members who are participating.

The listserv has been an invaluable tool for members seeking information on a variety of topics such as speakers and facilitators; sample policies on housing, retirement, transportation; consultants on building and property renovation; information on sponsorship; group processes; and many other needs.

Information for signing up may be found on the Members' section of the LCWR website.

*Blessings to you this Easter season
from the
LCWR presidency, board and office staff*

