



August - September 2017

How to Prepare for the LCWR Assembly

Nearly 800 LCWR members, associates, and guests will attend this year's LCWR assembly, "Being the Presence of Love: The Power of Transformation."



All attendees are asked to prepare for this event in the following ways:

- Read the [LCWR 2016-2017 annual report](#) available online. Members will be asked to approve the report at the assembly.
- Read the Summer 2017 issue of LCWR's *Occasional Papers* entitled, "Put Out into the Deep."
- For those who have not already done so, watch the video [Contemplative Dialogue: Unleashing the Transformative Power of Communal Wisdom](#). The method of dialogue demonstrated there will be similar to the process used at the assembly. Familiarity with the method will help facilitate the assembly dialogue experiences where the entire body seeks to listen to the movement of God.
- Consider [ordering CDs, DVDs or MP3s or MP4s of the assembly presentations](#) and inform community members about the possibility of ordering them as well.

Members are reminded that they will be asked to express support for a restructuring of the conference's national board as an initial step toward adapting LCWR's governance and organization. This change and others to come are designed to allow for greater flexibility and responsiveness to LCWR's shifting demographics and

other rapidly changing realities that impact both congregations and the conference.

Attendees are asked to read the following information that is available on the private side of the website under "Assembly":

- Materials on the proposed changes to the LCWR governance model
- Bios on the candidates for LCWR president
- General information on the assembly

All attendees are encouraged to visit and support the more than 80 exhibitors who will be present at the assembly, and to especially thank the exhibitors who are sponsors for the assembly. Their participation in this event significantly assists LCWR financially.

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



The presenters, facilitators, liturgist, and LCWR president and staff have been meeting via videoconferencing to prepare for the assembly which promises to be rich in content and process.

There is still time to register!

From the LCWR Presidency

You, Elected Leaders, are Seed People

by Marcia Allen, CSJ — LCWR Past President

*We were spirit people, seed people;
no matter how bleak the terrain looked
out there,
we were planted for a rich harvest.*
-- Victoria Gray, Civil Rights Activist

A mere month ago, the editor of this fine publication, Annmarie Sanders, reminded me that this is my last message – my last chance, she said, to say what I want to say. Such an opportunity should not go unregarded!

What I want to say first of all is THANK YOU for allowing me the privilege of serving the conference as I have for the last three years – strange years of interlude while we attempted to right ourselves after the shipwreck of the doctrinal investigation challenged our identity.

Today you can feel the breath of new energy in the new governance structure which you have helped design and critique. It's not finished yet but there is a start and that's what is important. We are on the way to a new thing that has been a long time coming. But then, we all know that everything comes in its own time. And now it is finally time for the conference to bring into existence a new way of being.

And it begins with the new structure of the executive board. The board will be decided by the members. YOU will elect the members of the next board to a most important work – the continuing re-design of the conference.



At its inception the conference membership represented tens of thousands (180,000+!) of women who filled the ministries and works of service throughout the country and abroad. In a very few years according to recent NRRO statistics the conference membership will represent around 12,000 women religious. Today you represent around 37,000 women religious. The face of the conference has changed dramatically – and you, who comprise the members today, are the seeds of its future. It is up to you to create the new conference. Your first step will be to elect the new board this fall.

The board will work with the regions in a most critical way. Together you will redefine the conference and its purpose and function. There is no more important work than this. And the time is now! You are the people! Quoting our numbers might sound like end-time thinking but actually it is a time of opportunity. You, elected leaders, are seed people. When at first glance the horizon portrays a bleak terrain, those who truly see perceive the hidden treasures beneath the surface. There is a vision that seed people, vivified in the crucible of leadership, grow in the fertile soil of wisdom, and a rich harvest results.

All of this is in the very air we breathe. The past which has seemed so disastrous is actually gathered up in our very skin and becomes our commitment to the future.

I end as I began: THANK YOU for the privilege of serving the conference and you these past three years! May you grasp the future with vision, courage, and bold hope.



LCWR Welcomes to its Staff Christine Beckett, SCN

LCWR has hired Christine Beckett, a Sister of Charity of Nazareth, as the new associate director for business and finance. Christine is completing 11 years of service as the president of Presentation Academy in Louisville, Kentucky.



Christine brings skills as a leader and a team member along with a wealth of experience in religious life, organizational development, finance, and development. Her ministries have included service as director of formation, vocation director, retreat and spiritual director/facilitator, congregation leadership, lay mission program director, and volunteer service as a prison chaplain. Christine's belief in religious life, her own spirituality, creativity, and joy undergird the passion she has brought to her ministries.

In her tenure at Presentation Academy she oversaw a successful capital campaign, the construction of a new building for arts and athletics, and development of a major gifts program. There she devoted herself to leading a diverse educational community preparing young women to be future leaders in a global society.

Christine will be present at the LCWR assembly where she will work with the current associate director, Grace Hartzog, SC. Grace will complete her service to LCWR on August 18 as she assumes the responsibilities of the executive director of the Sisters of Charity Federation. Christine will join the staff at the LCWR national office on September 1, 2017. LCWR expresses its profound gratitude to Grace for her five years of service to the conference and all that she has done to encourage and support the engagement of the members in the life of the conference.

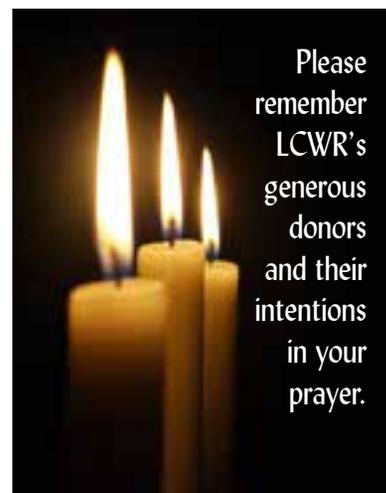
LCWR Deepening Groups Will Form After Assembly

In response to the expressed desire of a number of members to participate in ongoing contemplative dialogue with other leaders, LCWR will be setting up a process to assist members who so desire to form deepening groups.

Deepening Groups Purpose

Women religious are being called into global, universal consciousness, to moving from "I" to "We," allowing the Spirit the opportunity to work in them in new and different ways as they let the life itself teach them how they are being called at this time. In order to foster this process, LCWR will be forming virtual/online or in-person deepening groups to engage in ongoing communal contemplative dialogue focused on the essence and meaning of religious life.

Shortly after the LCWR assembly, an email message will go out inviting members to indicate their desire to belong to such a group. The message will provide a link to a Google accounts form that will collect the needed information from those interested in joining a group. LCWR will then provide a process for joining a group and getting started. The recommended group size is five to six persons. Members will be provided the opportunity to continue the deepening group begun at the 2017 assembly, sign up as a new group, or be assigned to a group.





CMSWR executive secretary Marie Bernadette Thompson, OP and LCWR executive director Joan Marie Steadman, CSC were among the panelists at the convocation

LCWR Participates in USCCB Convocation of Catholic Leaders

A delegation of 28 LCWR officers, members, and staff were among the more than 3100 invited participants in a gathering sponsored by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and held in Orlando, Florida, July 1-4.

With the title “Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America,” the event was designed to help dioceses, parishes, and organizations implement and live out key principles of *Evangelii Gaudium*. Most participants came to the convocation as members of teams, particularly diocesan teams, and those forming their delegations were encouraged to send groups that represented a rich diversity of cultures and ages. The

team-approach received strong emphasis during the convocation, with time provided on the final day for delegations to discern together next steps for implementing what they learned when they return home.

According to the convocation planners, the event arose out of a study of Catholics in the United States that revealed the various types of emotional engagement the survey participants had with the church. The first full day of the convocation was designed to help participants better know the cultural and ecclesial landscape in which they are serving so that they could understand the hopes, fears, and beliefs of the church’s members. A plenary session that looked at the mission field of the United States, was followed by 22 breakout sessions where participants could explore several aspects of that landscape.

The following day the convocation examined the peripheries to see who needs the church’s care and attention. A plenary session explored how to reach out to the margins of society and serve those who dwell there, often in shadows. Breakout sessions allowed participants to look at who is living at today’s peripheries which included: migrants, people with disabilities, persons caught in sex trafficking, people affected by climate change, and many others. A second round of breakouts that day included a session on vocations, formation, and seminaries with input from LCWR executive director Joan Marie Steadman, CSC.

The final day focused on being evangelizers and leaders for missionary discipleship. In addition to the plenary

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Some of the many women religious participants at the USCCB convocation

LCWR Participates in USCCB Convocation of Catholic Leaders

(continued from page 4)

session, delegations met to consider the most effective ways in which to bring the convocation home to their mission fields. The LCWR delegation spent the time with an initial de-briefing of each person's experience at the convocation and made plans for continuing the conversation later via videoconferencing. The delegation affirmed the USCCB for its efforts to foster zeal for the mission of the church to live and share the joy of the gospel, increase understanding of the diverse needs of the people it serves, and find ways to create spaces for honest conversation among the participants on such a wide array of concerns. The LCWR participants also noted their gratitude for the opportunity to meet many committed Catholics who are living the gospel message with vibrancy as they attempt to meet the many needs before them on local and national levels.



LCWR Mourns the Death of Former President Mary Mollison, CSA

Former LCWR president Mary Mollison, CSA died on June 30 in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin at age 70. Mary served in the LCWR presidency from 1999-2002, while superior general of her community, the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes.

Born in Niles, Michigan, Mary held a bachelor of science in nursing degree from Marian College of Fond du Lac and later earned two graduate degrees -- one in nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the other in theology from Felician University in New Jersey.

Mary dedicated much of her life to healthcare, working as a staff nurse, supervising nurse, and vice-president of nursing in hospitals in Wisconsin and Kansas. For 11 years, she was her congregation's director of sponsorship, before being elected to congregation leadership. Following her time in leadership she continued working both to promote the mission of religious life and on addressing some of the most urgent issues for Catholic healthcare.

LCWR is grateful for Mary's years of service to the conference and for her many contributions to the formation of leaders to meet the changing realities of religious life. The conference extends its gratitude as well to the Congregation of St. Agnes for sharing Mary with the wider body of women religious nationally and internationally.



Msgr. Carlo Alberto Capella; Annmarie Sanders, IHM; Joan Marie Steadman, CSC; Archbishop Christophe Pierre; Marissa Thomas; Mary Hughes, OP; Carol Glidden; and Janette Cahill visit at the LCWR office.

Papal Nuncio to the US Visits LCWR

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, papal nuncio to the United States, visited the offices of organizations serving religious in Silver Spring, Maryland on June 27. He was accompanied by another member of the nunciature staff, Msgr. Carlo Alberto Capella.

Archbishop Pierre, who was born in Rennes, France, and has served in many countries including New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Cuba, Brazil, Haiti, and most recently Mexico, visited with the staff of LCWR, and later with the administrative staffs of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and the Resource Center for Religious Institutes. Before departing, he and Msgr. Capella joined all the employees for a social.

CMSWR Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Members of the LCWR staff joined the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious at its office in Washington, DC to commemorate the 25th anniversary of its founding.



Papal nuncio Archbishop Christophe Pierre delivers remarks at the CMSWR anniversary

Leading from Within Retreat

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



January 14 -- 19, 2018
Redemptorist Renewal Center -- Tucson, Arizona
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 individual conversation with one of the directors and sharing in small wisdom circles for those who choose.

Retreat Directors



Marie McCarthy, SP



Janet Mock, CSJ

Space is limited to 30 persons.
More information and registration materials are available at
lcwr.org/calendar/leading-within

Unleashing the Energies of Love An Imagining Justice Event

March 12 -- 15, 2018
Redemptorist Renewal Center
Tucson, Arizona

Based on the conviction that, whenever the energies of Love are unleashed, the universe soars to greater heights and the world is transformed, this bi-annual LCWR Imagining Justice event will focus this year on
Unleashing the Energies of Love.



Gail Worcelo, SGM,
from the Green Mountain Monastery in Vermont,
will be the presenter and guide for these days.
Gail, who was a student and close friend of Thomas Berry, CP,
has worked with groups both nationally and internationally to
assist them in integrating the wonder and power of the
Universe Story and its emergent
mysteries into their daily lives and ministries.

The location of the event, on the edge of the Sonoran desert,
provides rich nourishment for body, spirit and imagination.
In addition to presentations and input from Gail, participants will
have the opportunity for contemplative sitting, listening, and
speaking, mutual awakening practices,
the practice of imagination, and personal and shared reflection.

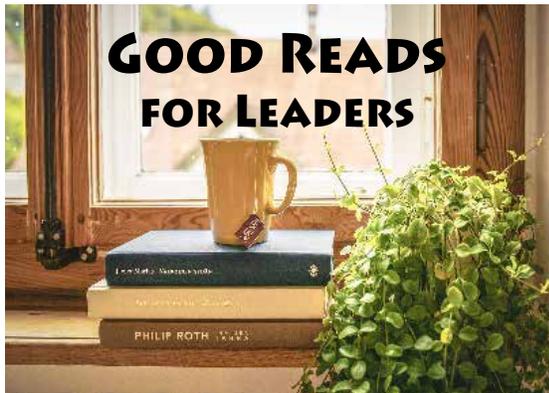
A flyer describing the event along with a registration form are
available on the LCWR website at
lcwr.org/social-justice/ImaginingJustice2018
Registration is limited to 37 participants.

Additional 'Questions to Go Deeper'

The Summer 2017 issue of *Occasional Papers* included a section in which several LCWR members shared "Questions to Go Deeper." The questions of one member, Carole M. Blazina, SC, inadvertently got left out. So as not to lose the richness of her contribution, her questions are included here.

Can we be quiet together to hear anew the call to *come*; as community are we free to risk and *follow* Jesus' lead in new ways both of being and doing? Can we listen for the loving invitation in mission to one another and for the world in relationship, heart to heart?

-- Carole M. Blazina, SC



Any LCWR member who has read a book that may be of interest to other women religious leaders is asked to consider submitting a brief review to include in the monthly "Good Reads" column. This is a helpful way to share good resources with one another.

Contact LCWR communications director Annmarie Sanders, IHM for more information (asanders@lcwr.org).

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Assembly
Orlando, Florida
August 8 — 12, 2017

Leading from Within Retreat
Redemptorist Renewal Center
Tucson, Arizona
January 14 – 19, 2018

Imagining Justice Workshop
Redemptorist Renewal Center
Tucson, Arizona
March 12 – 15, 2018

LCWR New Leader Workshop
Conference Center
University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois
April 12 — 15, 2018

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

LCWR Assembly
Scottsdale, Arizona
August 13 — 17, 2019

LCWR Assembly
Dallas, Texas
August 11 — 15, 2020



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New LCWR Resolutions to Action Published

LCWR member Susan Franco, CSJP provides a theological reflection on the topic of resistance in the spring edition of *Resolutions to Action*. In the essay she encourages readers to look at the ways that individuals and societies are enmeshed and complicit in the structures of social sin and she encourages resistance whenever and wherever possible. Susan's reflections call people of faith to participate in the movements of resistance emerging in the both the global and local communities. The reflection is available at tinyurl.com/yad75dtz and may be shared with religious congregation members and others.

Thanks for Your Prayers and Support

Dear Sisters,

Thanks to each and every one for your thoughts and prayers over these past few months as I struggled to regain my health. What a blessing it is to be held in prayer by friends across the country and around the world! The power of your prayers and good wishes was palpable.



While I know that road to recovery is long and windy, the prognosis is excellent. The doctors are as certain as they can be, that they removed all of the cancer and that I will not need any additional chemotherapy. I'm gaining strength each day and have begun to spend some time in the office each week. In the meantime, I promise to remember you in my prayers and continue to count on yours.

*Much love and many blessings,
Ann Scholz, SSND
LCWR Associate Director for Social Mission*

Senate Bill Threatens the Right to Healthcare

The US Senate proposal to replace the Affordable Care Act unfairly burdens the nation's poor and vulnerable



and will result in millions of people losing their health insurance, a dramatic step back for a country that is working to improve insurance coverage and healthcare access, particularly to those most in need.

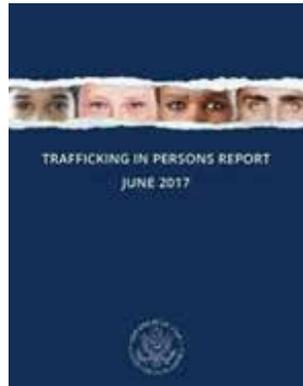
The proposal would cut the Medicaid program by \$700 billion forcing an estimated 15 million off its rolls, while at the same time providing a huge tax break for the wealthiest Americans. The top 0.1 earners would receive a \$200,000 annual tax cut. The bill cuts a total of \$756 billion in taxes over 10 years.

Carol Keehan, DC, president and chief executive officer of the Catholic Health Association, said under the Senate proposal, Medicaid would be radically restructured through per capita caps or block grants. This fundamentally undermines coverage for more than 70 million poor and vulnerable children, pregnant women, elderly, and disabled individuals in the nation, she said. She called federal Medicaid funding caps simply a vehicle to shift the cost burden onto local and state governments, providers, and individuals. States would be focused on ways to cut eligibility, benefits, and provider payments rather than on ways to improve care and lower long-term costs through innovation, she said. The proposal will harm low- to middle-income people who will experience the loss of cost-sharing subsidies or find themselves priced out of being able to afford their insurance and medical costs, she added.

On June 27, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell postponed a vote on the plan until after the July 4 recess knowing he did not have enough votes to pass the legislation. Senators are facing growing opposition from constituents causing a growing number of Republican legislators to voice opposition to the bill in its current form.

US Department of State Releases the Annual TIP Report

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson released the 2017 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report on June 27. This year's theme, "Enhancing Criminal Accountability and Addressing Challenges in Prosecution Efforts," highlights the difficulties of convicting perpetrators.



The total number of worldwide convictions reported by governments in 2016 still pales in comparison to the size of the problem as a whole. With more than 20 million estimated trafficking victims around the world and fewer than 15,000 prosecutions and 10,000 convictions.

The TIP Report is the result of extensive research and analysis by Department of State staff in Washington, DC and its embassies around the world. Their work is supplemented by the experience of non-governmental organizations, academicians, and international organizations.

The 2017 TIP report includes narratives for 187 countries and territories, including the United States. The goal of the report is to stimulate action and create partnerships around the world in the fight against modern slavery. The full report and other materials are available at: tinyurl.com/ya5weacc.

Celebrate the Season of Creation

Preparations are underway for the ecumenical Season of Creation which is slated for September 1 through October 4. It is a time when people of faith around the globe will come together to pray and care for creation. This year, communities are encouraged to host prayer services and symbolic actions that highlight "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" throughout the globe. The month of prayer and action begins with the September 1, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Resources and additional information can be found at <http://seasonofcreation.org/>.



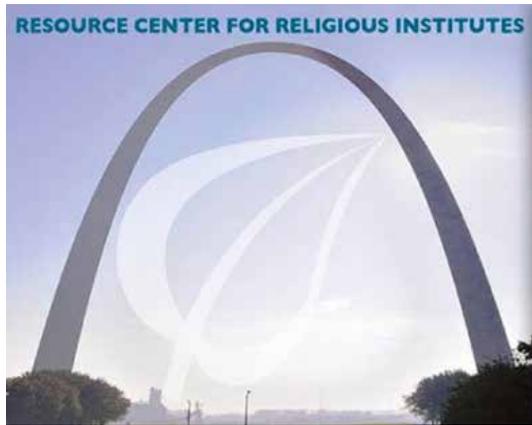
The Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) is encouraging Catholics to celebrate the Season of Creation by promoting the Laudato Si' Pledge. They are seeking to gather 1 million signatures on the pledge in order to raise the Catholic voice on climate change and to show political leaders that Catholics around the world stand behind Pope Francis and his encyclical on ecology in urging all people to care for creation. GCCM has developed a Laudato Si Promotion Toolkit which can be downloaded at tinyurl.com/y7w9kuo5.

National Religious Retirement Office

The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) staff are looking forward to the LCWR assembly in August. It will be a great opportunity for leaders to explore the programs and resources NRRO offers.

In August, qualifying institutes will be receiving invitations to participate in the Planning and Implementation Assistance cycle that begins in January 2018. This program helps participants address critical retirement challenges by providing funding and hands-on support from experts in leadership, financial planning, and eldercare. Leaders who receive an invitation are asked to seriously consider accepting it.

NRRO invites LCWR assembly participants to visit its booth during the assembly to learn more about Planning and Implementation and other educational, financial, and consultative services offered by the NRRO. www.usccb.org/about/national-religious-retirement-office



2017 RCRI National Conference

RCRI's 2017 national conference that will be held from October 31 to November 3 at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch. The theme will be "Changing Times: Challenges and Transitions."

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo, former president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services and currently the president's fellow for global development at Purdue University. She also served as dean of the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business

Workshops: 40 workshops covering topics related to finance, canon and civil law, and planning for institutes in transition. We will also offer a new track on Elder-care sponsored by NRRO. On November 2 a conference liturgy will be celebrated for all participants.

Pre-Conference Workshops: Three pre-conference workshops will be offered prior to the conference: Legal Overview for Religious Institutes 2017 – Michael Airdo; Patrimony: Canon and Civil Law Issues – Donna Miller; and TRENDS for Beginners/Refresher for Users – Larry Lundin, SJ and Hertha Longo, CSA.

Conference Registration: A link is posted on the RCRI website at www.trcri.org for members and guests to register. RCRI members will receive a discount if they register before the deadline.



Associate Director Position Opening at RFC

The position of associate director of the Religious Formation Conference (RFC) will be open after the conclusion of the RFC's national congress in November 2017. To ensure continuity in this significant role, a search will begin August 1, 2017, with the posting of the job description, application process and timeline on the Conference website (www.relforcon.org). The conference hopes to have a new associate director in place by January 2018. RFC requests that leaders share this announcement with their members.

National Congress 2017

Registration continues for the RFC's 2017 national congress, Grace in the Now: the Gospel of Encounter. Teresa Maya, CCVI and Steven Bevans, SVD are the congress keynoters; responding to them will be a diverse panel of new, young women and men religious.

A unique feature of this congress will be a post-congress workshop featuring Mary Johnson, SNDdeN and Sandra Schneiders, IHM who will offer an analysis of religious life in the United States through the lenses of theology and sociology and engage participants in re-imagining formation for the religious life emerging in our times. Registration is at www.relforcon.org.



Gratitude for Vocation Ambassadors

In June, 27 new vocation ambassadors were commissioned to create key messages to promote vocations to religious life. A design team and presenters created an interactive Share the Sacred workshop providing many communication skills. Nine new teams will work

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- Letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration asking them to hold rigorous oversight hearings on the three immigration Executive Orders issued by President Trump. LCWR (3/9/17)
- Letters to the chairs and ranking members requesting action by three key congressional appropriations subcommittees: Labor, Health and Human Services, Education; Commerce, Justice, Science; and State and Foreign Operations to support anti-trafficking initiatives. LCWR (3/13/17)
- Letter from faith leaders welcoming a Republican resolution affirming the impacts of climate change, acknowledging that human activity has contributed to these changes, and calling on Congress to work constructively on solutions. Joan Marie Steadman, CSC (3/15/17)
- Letter from faith-based communities to President Trump and DHS Secretary Kelly expressing strong opposition to the executive orders on immigration enforcement and border security, their implementation memos, and current enforcement actions. LCWR (3/15/17)
- Letter to Secretary Kelly objecting to his remarks last week that DHS is considering a formal policy of separating families at the border. LCWR (3/16/17)
- Letter to House and Senate leadership urging them to reject the unnecessary supplemental funding request for detention and deportation program, as well as the border wall. LCWR (3/21/17)
- Endorsement of 2017 resolution of Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence. LCWR (3/21/17)
- Public statement in preparation for the United Nations' negotiations on a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. Mary Pellegrino, CSJ (3/27/17)
- Letter to members of Congress and President Trump from Catholic clergy and religious in support of refugee resettlement. LCWR (3/27/17)
- Written testimony to the House Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs from faith-based organizations expressing support for U.S. investments in international humanitarian and poverty-focused assistance and peacebuilding programs that alleviate suffering from hunger, extreme poverty, debilitating illness, complex emergencies and violent conflict and urging members to protect funding levels for FY2018 State and Foreign Operations. LCWR (4/1/17)
- Faith letter to President Trump registering objection to his Executive Order on the Clean Power Plan and urging him to protect clean air so as to ensure the health and wellbeing of all creation. LCWR (4/1/17)
- Amicus brief filed in the Fourth Circuit in International Refugee Assistance Project v. President Trump in support of a challenge to the president's plan to drastically reduce refugee admissions to the country and to impose limitations on entry to Muslims as a group. LCWR (4/19/17)
- Amicus brief filed in Ninth Circuit addressing both the six-country travel ban and the refugee provisions of President Trump's executive order. LCWR (4/20/17)
- Letter from member organizations of Catholic Climate Covenant to President Trump expressing deep disappointment with his decision to withdraw the US from the Paris Agreement and imploring him to reconsider. Mary Pellegrino, CSJ (6/1/17)
- Letter to chair and ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee urging them to significantly reduce funding for immigration enforcement and detention in the FY2018 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of Justice (DOJ) appropriations bills until the Administration can demonstrate that there is prioritization and accountability at the agencies. LCWR (6/2/17)
- Letter to members of Congress from religious organizations reminding them that access to affordable, quality health care should not and cannot be a privilege; it is a requirement rooted in faith to protect the life and dignity of every person. LCWR (6/2/17)
- Letter to Congress urging them to ensure that funding in the FY 2018 budget is adequate to meet the needs of all people and communities. LCWR (6/29/17)
- Amicus brief on behalf of national-level faith-based organizations filed with the United State Supreme Court urging the court not to stay the federal court orders that have prevented implementation of the Executive Order that would ban entry to the U.S. by people from six predominantly Muslim countries and by refugees from around the world, and drastically cut the number of refugees who can enter the

- US this year. LCWR (6/12/17)
- Endorsement of House Resolution reaffirming the leadership of the US in promoting the safety, health, and wellbeing of refugees and displaced persons. (LCWR (6/20/17)
- Endorsement of Senate Resolution recognizing World Refugee Day and honoring the courage, strength, and determination of women, men, and children forced to flee their homes because of conflict, violence, and persecution. LCWR (6/20/17)
- Letter to members of the House urging them to oppose the No Sanctuary for Criminals Act, HR 3003 and Kate’s Law, HR 3004, and any similar legislation that jeopardizes public safety, erodes the goodwill forged between local police and its residents, and perpetuates the criminalization and incarceration of immigrants. LCWR (6/27/17)
- Interfaith statement welcoming the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. LCWR (7/7/17)

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. www.un.org/en/events/humantrafficking/.



August 9—International Day of 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. www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday.

August 23—International Day of Remembrance of 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. tinyurl.com/jou3eru.

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. The theme for 2017, “Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All,” recognizes the

plight of migrants, refugees, and their host communities. www.un.org/en/events/peaceday.

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. tinyurl.com/hxwubo3.

UN Launches Campaign to Promote Respect for Refugees and Migrants

Together is a United Nations campaign that promotes respect, safety, and dignity for refugees and migrants. Launched in September 2016, its aim is to counter the rise in xenophobia and discrimination.

The campaign brings together a coalition of UN member states, private sector organizations, civil society representatives, and individuals committed to change negative narratives on migration and to strengthen the social cohesion between host communities and refugees and migrants. together.un.org/

National Religious Vocation Conference

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together to accomplish a 100-hour project over the next nine months. Their progress will be noted on the National Religious Vocation Conference Facebook page. All are invited to send a tweet to NRVC’s executive director, Sharon Dillon, SSJ-TOSF at @Sister_Sharon.

Unprecedented Membership Growth

In June, NRVC welcomed its 946th member, which means this is the third year NRVC has experienced a growth as a national organization. This increase is significant because NRVC now has more members than it did in 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, and 2012. From 2004 to 2014, NRVC experienced a continual decline in membership but since 2015 membership has increased. The impact of the generosity of members donating to the Misericordia Scholarship fund to financially assist in membership fees, the expansion of single memberships to five-member licenses, the award-winning HORIZON Journal, VISION vocation network, and member discounts for resources and workshops have helped members to invite others who support vocation ministry to join NRVC.