



August-September 2016

LCWR Mounts Civil Discourse Campaign

Like so many others, LCWR is concerned about violence in the communities and the politics of the United States. At a time when the country needs courageous leadership that can stop the violence and begin to heal the deep divides, too many candidates and their supporters are engaging in rhetoric that stokes violence and promotes division.

Unfortunately, in this particular presidential cycle, political discourse that preserves the dignity of the human person and promotes the common good is in very short supply. In an attempt to appeal to political candidates' "better angels," LCWR has launched a campaign calling on candidates for the highest office in the land to pledge to engage in careful listening and honest dialogue that honors the dignity of those with whom they disagree and treats all with the respect that is their God-given right.

On July 1 the presidency of LCWR issued a public statement calling for civil discourse on behalf of the common good and urged conference members to share it widely, with their sisters and through letters-to-the-editor and op-ed pieces in their local secular and Catholic press. The statement is available at tinyurl.com/jmaec24.

On July 11 LCWR circulated a letter to be signed by women religious across the country and delivered to the candidates for president, the leadership of their political parties, and the press in early August. The letter is available at tinyurl.com/htpeqdn.

How to Prepare for the 2016 LCWR Assembly



Embracing the Mystery: Living Transformation

August 9 – 12 -- Atlanta, Georgia

More than 800 LCWR members, associates, and guests will attend this year's LCWR assembly, "Embracing the Mystery: Living Transformation."

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

- Spend time in reflection on the question: **What do you believe is the essential work of women religious leaders today?** On the opening night of the assembly, all will have an opportunity to share their reflections at their tables.
- Read the [LCWR 2015-2016 annual report](#) available online. Members will be asked to approve the report at the assembly.
- Read the Summer 2015 issue of LCWR's *Occasional Papers* entitled, "Living Transformation."
- Watch the video [Contemplative Dialogue: Unleashing the Transformative Power of Communal Wisdom](#). The

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From the LCWR Presidency
Embraced by Mystery

by Sharon Holland, IHM — LCWR Past President

As I write, our country awaits, in anticipation or trepidation, the national conventions of our two major political parties. As you read, those events may be ended or in process, naming key players for the next months in US politics.

As citizens of the “Church in the Modern World” we will continue to call ourselves and others to civil discourse.

Again Pope Francis’ words to the US Congress last September touch into our deepest desires:

“Each son or daughter of a given country has a mission, a personal and social responsibility.... You are called to defend and preserve the dignity of your fellow citizens in the tireless and demanding pursuit of the common good, for this is the chief aim of all politics.... Building a future of freedom requires love of the common good and cooperation in the spirit of subsidiarity and solidarity.”

A recent LCWR statement adds: “We cannot let the voices of fear and hatred carry the day.” We are called to value the common good so that it triumphs over fear and hatred. We live in a world anxious about the effects of Brexit. We are surrounded by violent scenes, spawned by fear and hatred, in all parts of the world. As we observed a moment of silence for the victims of one of these tragedies, I was reminded of the line from Tennyson, “More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.” (*Death of Arthur*)



May we too go forward,
embraced by Mystery,
with the morning star
rising in our hearts.

This could seem simplistic; what do we expect from prayer? Our conference theme may offer deeper insight: “Embracing the Mystery: Living Transformation.” We seek to live and speak and decide out of contemplative living and praying. Perhaps it is not so much about praying for others to be changed, as to pray to be transformed personally within. Perhaps it is both. The more deeply we embrace Mystery, the more we may hope for transformation.

Shortly before we begin the assembly, we will celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration, the feast of transforming mystery. Peter finds himself surrounded by Mystery. Jesus’ face is changed and his clothes are dazzling white. Peter talks about making tents, without knowing what he is saying. He and the others are frightened in the overshadowing cloud. Then there is the voice: “This is my chosen Son; listen to him.” (Luke 9:35) Then there is silence, and they descend the mountain with Jesus. Have Peter and the others been transformed? This is not immediately evident.

I remember being fascinated the first time I realized that what I read in 2 Peter was his post-resurrection reflection on this event. It has become a foundation for belief in Christ: “We ourselves heard this voice come down from heaven.” Peter lays claim to a prophetic message, urging listeners to be attentive to it “as to a light shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.” (2 Peter 1:10) May we too go forward, embraced by Mystery, with the morning star rising in our hearts.

LCWR Assembly to Welcome More than 800 Participants

(continued from page 1)

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 or DVDs of the assembly presentations](#) and inform community members about the possibility of ordering them as well.

Attendees are asked to read the following information that is available on the private side of the website under “Assembly.”

- A summary of the feedback given to the LCWR Global Concerns Committee from the LCWR regions after they reviewed the proposed 2016 assembly resolution
- The proposed resolution, “Systemic Causes of Injustice”
- General information on the assembly
- Bios on the candidates for LCWR president.

One document with all this information may also be downloaded or printed out for the convenience of the assembly attendees. This may also be found on the private side under Assembly, in the section entitled, “[What You Need for 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.

While at the LCWR Assembly: Fight Human Trafficking with a Smartphone

The team at Nix Conference and Meeting Management (who work onsite with LCWR at its annual assembly) is taking their work to expose human traffickers to the next level. With the help of designers at Washington University in St. Louis they have recently rolled out a free smart phone app called TraffickCam.

The app is designed to enlist the traveling public in the fight to end human trafficking. TraffickCam allows anyone with a smartphone to help fight sex trafficking by uploading photos of hotel rooms when they travel.

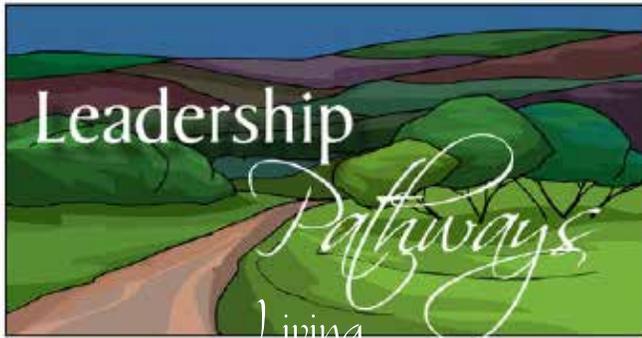
Sex traffickers regularly post photos of victims posed in hotel rooms in their online advertisements. Law enforcement investigators can use these to find victims and prosecute perpetrators if they can determine where the photos were taken.

TraffickCam creates a database of hotel room images that investigators can search. Features such as patterns in the carpeting, furniture, room accessories, and window views are matched against the database of traveler images to provide law enforcement with a list of potential hotels where a victim photo may have been taken.

Information about TraffickCam is available at www.facebook.com/traffickcam. The app is available for Apple devices at the App Store tinyurl.com/z93bjxn and for Android devices at Google Play tinyurl.com/gsp4uzq.

Thank You for Making Assembly Attendance Possible for Members Through Donations to the LCWR Assembly Scholarship Fund

LCWR expresses its profound gratitude to the congregations that sent donations to assist members who requested financial support for registration and/or hotel accommodations for the LCWR assembly. Members who received support have noted their deep appreciation and promise their prayers for the donors.



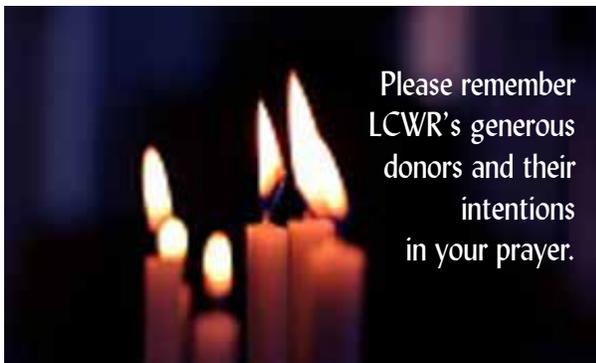
New Cohorts Forming for Leadership Pathways

Registration is open for LCWR members interested in joining a learning cohort in transformational leadership beginning in the fall of 2016. Members have the opportunity to participate in one of three offerings in Leadership Pathways:

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

In addition, a slightly adapted version of Becoming the Leaders We Hope To Be will be offered for congregation members who are not in elected leadership who are 60 years of age or older. Participants in this offering must be recommended by a person on their congregation leadership team. The module, entitled Foundations for Becoming a Transformational Leader, has stirred widespread interest and registration for fall participation is already closed.

Fuller descriptions of each of these offerings is available on the [LCWR website](http://lcwr.org). Questions about any of these offerings may be directed to Marie McCarthy, SP at mmccarthy@lcwr.org.



Only a Few Spaces Left for LCWR Leading from Within Retreat

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



January 15 — 20, 2017

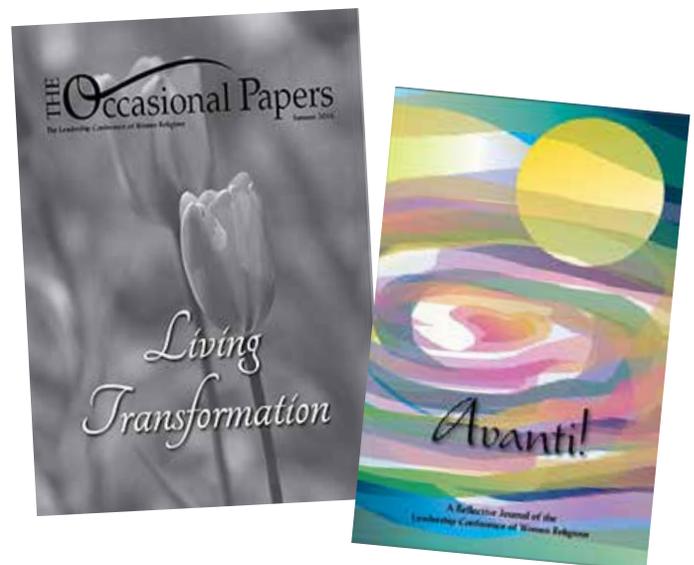
Bethany Retreat Center -- Lutz, Florida

bethanycenterfl.org

Join with other women religious leaders for a five-day retreat that will provide opportunities to reflect on the blessings and challenges of religious life leadership today. The days will include input, contemplative space, a variety of ritual experiences and some opportunity for individual spiritual direction and sharing in small wisdom circles for those who choose.

Space is limited to 30 persons.

More information and registration materials are available at lcwr.org/calendar/leading-within.



Order additional copies of the Summer 2016 edition of Occasional Papers and the 2016 LCWR reflective journal, Avanti!
<https://lcwr.org/item/summer-2016-living-transformation-0>
<https://lcwr.org/item/daily-reflection-book>



- Letter to President Obama urging him to preserve access to federal health insurance affordability programs for DAPA grantees and to restore access to DACA-mented youth to programs under the Affordable Care Act, as well as in Medicaid, and CHIP. LCWR (6/23/16)
- LCWR statement on the Supreme Court’s split-decision allowing the lower court injunction to continue to block the relief to immigrants offered by Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) and expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). LCWR (6/24/16)
- LCWR statement calling on the presidential candidates to commit to civility in discourse and decency in political interaction that promotes the common good, reaches out to others, engages in constructive dialogue, and seeks together the way forward. LCWR (6/30/16)
- Letter to US Senators urging them to oppose the “Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act” (S. 3100) which would punish communities that have immigrant “sanctuary” laws by stripping them of federal funding provided through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and Economic Development Administration (EDA) assistance. LCWR (7/5/16)
- Letter to members of the US House asking for legislation to prevent gun violence that includes universal background checks on every gun purchase and a ban on all high-capacity weapons and ammunition magazines. LCWR (7/5/16)
- Letter to the national chairs and platform committee chairs of the Democratic and Republican National Committees asking both parties to adopt the same language promoting civility and respect in their party platforms. LCWR (7/5/16)
- Letter to Senate leadership urging opposition to any legislation or amendment that would entangle state and local law authorities with immigration enforcement through mandatory notifications. LCWR (7/11/16)

- Letter to President Obama asking him to use his powers to provide all individuals granted relief through the DACA program with access to affordable health care to the same extent as other lawfully present people. LCWR (7/11/16)
- Letter to Senate leadership from faith-based groups urging the Senate to fulfill its constitutional responsibility and hold a swift hearing and vote on US Supreme Court nominee Judge Merrick Garland. LCWR (7/12/16)

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Assembly

Atlanta, Georgia
August 9 — 13, 2016

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat

Bethany Retreat Center
Lutz, Florida
January 15 — 20, 2017

LCWR New Leader Workshop

Conference Center
University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois
March 30 — April 2, 2017

LCWR Assembly

Orlando, Florida
August 8 — 12, 2017

Imagining Justice Workshop

Redemptorist Renewal Center
Tucson, Arizona
March 12 – 18, 2018

LCWR New Leader Workshop

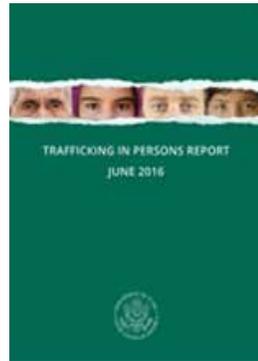
Conference Center
University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois
April 11 — 15, 2018

LCWR Assembly

St. Louis, Missouri
August 7— 11, 2018

2016 Trafficking in Persons Report Released by US State Department

The recently released Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) lists Haiti, Myanmar, and Sudan among the worst offenders for human trafficking. These are just three of 27 countries to be downgraded in this year's report.



The TIP Report is the US government's principal diplomatic tool to engage foreign governments on human trafficking. It is also the world's most comprehensive resource of governmental anti-human trafficking efforts.

According to Secretary of State John Kerry,

If there is a single theme to this year's Trafficking in Persons Report, it is the conviction that there is nothing inevitable about trafficking in human beings. That conviction is where the process of change really begins—with the realization that just because a certain abuse has taken place in the past doesn't mean that we have to tolerate that abuse in the future or that we can afford to avert our eyes. Instead, we should be asking ourselves—what if that victim of trafficking was my daughter, son, sister, or brother? This year's TIP Report asks such questions, because ending modern slavery isn't just a fight we should attempt—it is a fight we can and must win.

The report is available on line at www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2016/index.htm.

SOA Watch Convergence Moves to the Border

LCWR has endorsed the School of the Americas (SOA) Watch Convergence at the Border. This is the SOA Watch's first-ever bi-national gathering for justice and against militarization. It will take place October 7-10, 2016 at the border in Nogales, Sonora/Arizona.

October 7-10, 2016
Converge on the
U.S./Mexico Border

Organizers hope that moving the annual vigil from Ft. Benning to the U.S./Mexico border will shine a light on the many human rights violations caused by destructive US foreign and domestic policy that the SOA represents.

The SOA Watch movement began as a response to what was happening in El Salvador in the 1980s when many religious communities joined the solidarity movement. The patterns of violence and forced migration established during the dirty wars of the 20th century have continued unabated as a direct result of US economic and security policies in Central America.

This year's vigil in Nogales is a response to the present-day call to solidarity. The border mobilization in Nogales is one more way to fight for the closure of the School of the Americas, and to work towards a world that is free of suffering and violence. Many immigrants who make their way to the US/Mexico border are fleeing state-sponsored violence in Latin America. In calling attention to the militarization of the border, SOA Watch continues to demand an end to state-sponsored terrorism and violence against communities on both sides of the border. For more information about the convergence or endorsing the effort go to www.soaw.org/border.

Is Your Leadership Term About to End?

If your leadership term is ending this month, we ask you to submit a change of leadership form found in the LCWR Members' Information section (password-protected) of the website at lcwr.org/members/lcwr-membership-information.



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The Religious Formation Conference has now moved to Chicago; our offices are at Catholic Theological Union:
5401 S. Cornell Ave. Suite 304
Chicago, IL 60615
Phone: 773-675-8362

The fall workshop series, Conversations at the Well, will soon begin. The September workshops will be led by women religious well known to LCWR members.

- Teresa Maya, CCVI, and Jung Eun Sophia Park, SNJM, will lead the series with Sent from the Well: Encounter, Mutual Transformation, and Mission, at the Felician Sisters Center in Chicago, Illinois, September 9-10.
- Helen Marie Burns, RSM, will offer Preserving Patrimony on the Journey in Renton, Washington, September 23-24.

Detailed information about each workshop and registration forms are available on the RFC website (www.relforcon.org). Early registration fees and group fees for members of the same congregation/province are described on the site.

NRRO Seeks Executive Director

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is seeking an executive director for the National Religious Retirement Office. The executive director is responsible for the overall management of the office and supervision of the staff to fulfill the mission and purpose of the NRRO. The executive director designs activities to achieve the goals of the office and serves as public spokesperson for the office.

A [position description and list of requirements](#) for applicants are available on the USCCB website. Questions about the position may be directed to:

Theresa Ridderhoff
Executive Director, Office of Human Resources
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
3211 Fourth Street, NE
Washington DC, 20017-1194
202-541-3156 (direct)/202-541-3412 (fax)
tridderhoff@usccb.org

This ministry of the executive director and the service provided by NRRO are life lines for congregations of women and men religious as they plan for and provide care for their elder members.

Sign Up for the LCWR Resource Sharing Forum

LCWR offers a listserv that is open only to LCWR members and associates. Called the LCWR Resource Sharing Forum, the listserv provides a means for LCWR members to communicate with one another online with a question or to share information. Topics around which members have shared information in the past include: new sponsorship models, chapter facilitators, bilingual speakers on religious life, psychological testing for candidates, canon lawyers who deal with property issues, treatment centers for religious, restructuring buildings for assisted living, and much more.

LCWR members who have not signed up yet for this listserv are encouraged to do so. More information on the forum and how to sign up for it is available on the [LCWR website](#) in the "Members" section. Members must enter their username and password to access this part of the site. Anyone who does not have her username or password may contact Carol Glidden at cglidden@lcwr.org. Carol can also guide members through the process of signing up for the forum.



by Joan Mumaw, IHM
US Regional
Development Director

'This Kind Can Only be Cast Out Through Prayer and Fasting'

As I write this update for the newsletter, the city of Juba is ravaged by ethnic fighting. A shaky cease-fire has been declared by leaders who, it seems, have little control over their armies. Who really is behind this uprising which is mirroring the December 13, 2014 conflict initiated by a power struggle between the president and vice-president of this new country? Are these men, also leaders of the Dinka and Nuer tribes, serious when they claim they want peace?

In war, it is the women and children who suffer most. Hundreds of thousands are now displaced; there is little respect for the safety of those in UN Protection of Civilian Sites and half the population is facing food insecurity and possibly famine. The international community has grown tired of trying to assist a country whose leaders are not sincere when they say they want peace.

Solidarity staff, however, remain committed to standing with the people of South Sudan. The Teacher Training College at Yambio remains open and boasts its largest student population ever (119). The Catholic Health Training Institute in Wau, with 110 students studying to become nurses and midwives, has furnished volunteers for the local hospital when their staff fled the ethnic violence in the past few weeks.

The news coming from Juba these days could easily be an example of the time that the disciples asked Jesus why they could not cast out a demon. Jesus replied to their question by saying that "this kind can only be cast out through prayer and fasting."

Do we dare call for fasting and prayer for all who support Solidarity with South Sudan and the people of that war ravaged country? Can we unite and consciously offer our prayers for peace in a land that knows no peace? Let our prayer also be for a global change of heart for those leaders in South Sudan who have no respect for the sacredness of human life.

Prayer changes things, even human hearts! There is an urgency about this prayer because of the evil being released in, rape, and starvation. Let us pray. For more information about how you can support Friends in Solidarity and its partner, Solidarity with South Sudan, contact: jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com or visit the website: www.solidarityfriends.org.



Photo by Paul Jeffrey. Used with permission.

News from the United Nations

August 9—International Day of Indigenous Peoples

On August 9 people around the world observe 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. More information is available at: www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday.



August 23—International Day for Remembrance of Slave Trade and its Abolition

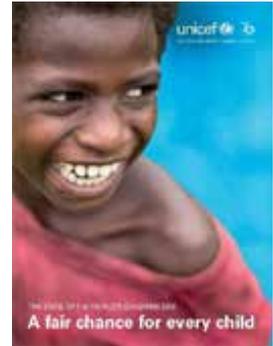
August 23 is a day of tribute to all those who were enslaved and to their resistance and a call to truth, justice, and dialogue between peoples. As Irina Bokova, director general of UNESCO has said, "In highlighting the diversity that nations carry with them, through the experience of slave trade, we can better understand the diversity of the world and find the way to peace." More information is available at: tinyurl.com/jou3eru.

September 21 International Day of Peace

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has dedicated the day to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. The theme for 2016 is "The Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace." More information is available at: www.un.org/en/events/peaceday.

UNICEF Reports the Lives and Futures of Millions of Children are in Jeopardy

UNICEF's 2016 State of the World's Children reports that based on current trends, 69 million children under five will die from mostly preventable causes, 167 million children will live in poverty, and 750 million women will have been married as children by 2030, the target date for the Sustainable Development Goals, unless the world focuses more on the plight of its most disadvantaged children.



The report notes that significant progress has been made in saving children's lives, getting children into school, and lifting people out of poverty. Global under-five mortality rates have been more than halved since 1990, boys and girls attend primary school in equal numbers in 129 countries, and the number of people living in extreme poverty worldwide is almost half what it was in the 1990s. But this progress has been neither even nor fair according to the report. The poorest children are twice as likely as the richest to die before their fifth birthday and to be chronically malnourished. The report may be downloaded at www.unicef.org/sowc2016.



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