

Update

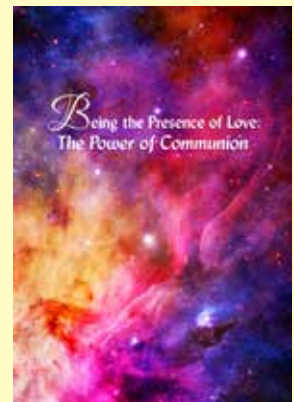
A Publication of the
Leadership Conference of Women Religious

August/September 2018

How to Best Prepare for the LCWR Assembly

At the close of the 2017 LCWR assembly, Outstanding Leadership Award recipient, Constance FitzGerald, OCD, challenged the members to be “prophets of communion,” and encouraged them to read as much as they could about the Trinity, theology, and science while letting it underpin their prayer. “We have got to open ourselves,” said Constance, “to the challenge of living through Jesus Christ into the vibrant life of Trinitarian communion, and to allow this radiant pattern, this orientation toward relationship, to permeate and transform our consciousness.” Contributing to this evolution of consciousness may be the imperative of this time and may be the most important thing women religious can offer the world.

The 2018 LCWR assembly is a response to this challenge. The event will provide a deep dive into an understanding of Trinitarian theology and the power of communion as vowed religious discern what the world most needs of them. What contribution are religious being invited to make as the world stands on the edge of this new moment? What particular potential do religious have because of the nature of their lives to increase the presence of love and inclusion in the world today?



To date, 780 LCWR members, associates, and guests have registered for the LCWR assembly, **“Being the Presence of Love: The Power of Communion.”**

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

- Consider Constance FitzGerald’s challenge and what you believe might be the call to women religious to be the presence of love and to foster communion in the world today.
- Read the bios of the two candidates for LCWR president, Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ and Mary Jo Nelson, OLVN. The bios are available on the members’ section of the LCWR website.
- Read the [LCWR 2017-2018 annual report](#) available online. Members will be asked to approve the report at the assembly.
- Read the Summer 2018 issue of LCWR’s *Occasional*

Papers entitled, “Staying Grounded in a Time of Uncertainty,” and review the 2018 LCWR reflection book, *Becoming One in Love*.

- Review the [2018 LCWR Assembly Resolution](#) which members will be asked to support during the assembly. (See story on page 3 for more information on the resolution and ideas for preparing for the resolution hearing.)
- 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 experience.
- Review the information about the assembly available on the members’ section of the website.

(continued on page 3)

From the LCWR Presidency

A Fine Mingling

by Mary Pellegrino, CSJ — LCWR Past President

I know that the slow work of God about which Teilhard de Chardin wrote so eloquently really refers to the activity of grace or the glacier-like pace of evolution and human development. But if he had to extricate himself out of my office after 10 years of congregational leadership I'm pretty sure he'd include that in the lexicon of things that constitute the slow work of God. I know I do.

Although I've been anticipating this transition out of elected leadership for quite a while, I've only gotten serious about it since our chapter ended earlier this month. I've been spending time each day packing personal items, sorting books, purging files. I've filled the shredding bin twice, am on my way to filling the recycling one, have a box ready for the archives, and perhaps most importantly, a larger box filled with items for the motherhouse's monthly prize bingo game. No one can accuse me of not doing my part for the care and well-being of my sisters.

Today as I was quickly sorting through a basket of personal cards, letters, and notes, I came across one from a sister written a year or so ago when she was preparing to undergo a hip replacement. On the cover was a sentiment by Havelock Ellis, a British author, physician, and social reformer. It reads: "The art of living lies in a fine mingling of letting go and holding on."

While I had easily discarded other notes, this one gave me pause. I considered Ellis' wisdom and in that mo-



ment knew the bittersweet truth of that fine mingling. From the chapel ramp down the hall from my office I could hear joyful shouts and laughter signaling the end of the wedding of a former student of our academy. I watched the wedding party make their way to a scenic place on our grounds and could hear the squeals of the toddler flower girl. Truly a celebration of holding on. Elsewhere in the motherhouse preparations were being made to welcome the body of a dear 96-year old sister from a companion community who died last evening and whom we will wake and bury in our cemetery. For her own community and for mine, truly a letting go of epic proportions.

If the art of living is a fine mingling of letting go and holding on, so too, the art of leadership. In the days remaining on my term – 56 as of this writing – I've begun to pray for two things. First, that I might let go gracefully of the honor and privilege of this ministry, and in so doing open space for those to whom it belongs next. And second, that I might hold on to the grace of every blessing and challenge that drew me deeper into the world and my vocation and closer to Christ and my sisters.

It's from that fine mingling that I offer my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to serve our conference, religious life, and the evolution of both during these past three years. While there will always be much to let go of, the economy of grace ensures that there will also always be something to hold on to.

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How to Best Prepare for the LCWR Assembly

(continued from page 1)

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

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

Reviewing the Assembly Resolution

At the LCWR spring regional meetings, members overwhelmingly supported the idea of recommitting to the [2016 LCWR Assembly Resolution](#) on the systemic causes of injustice. The LCWR Global Concerns Committee received a few suggestions from regions for edits and/or additions to the statement of recommitment, all of which they seriously considered and some of which they incorporated. The statement now reads:

In the presence of constant and painful reminders of the deep roots of racism in our country, we

the Leadership Conference of Women Religious reaffirm the 2016 Assembly Resolution and pledge to go deeper into the critical work of creating communion, examining the root causes of injustice and our own complicity, and purging ourselves, our communities, and our country of the sin of racism and its destructive effects.

At the assembly members will have the opportunity to contemplatively consider the proposal and to decide if they wish to approve the statement of recommitment. As has been the practice in recent years, there will not be time for further amendment to the statement.

The Global Concerns Committee recommends reading the article in the Summer 2018 edition of Occasional Papers, "We Cannot Heal What We Cannot Name," by Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN and Anne-Louise Nadeau, SNDdeN as members consider their recommitment to the 2016 resolution regarding the systemic causes of injustice, particularly racism.



Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Event

On Wednesday, August 8 at 6:00 PM, at the close of the plenary session, all assembly participants are invited to attend a presentation entitled, "Future Directions of the Catholic Sisters Initiative at the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation." The gathering will take place in the same ballroom as the session preceding it and no further registration is required.

EMERGING QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND CONVERSATION

If inter-congregational realities are the future in religious life,

what does this mean for *leadership?*

Leading from Within Retreat

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



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

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

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

Retreat Directors



Marie McCarthy, SP

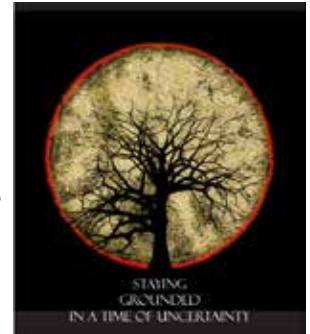


Janet Mock, CSJ

Space is limited to 35 persons.
More information is available at
lcwr.org/calendar/leading-within.
Registration will open soon.

Additional Copies Available of the Summer 2018 Edition of Occasional Papers

Some additional copies of the Summer 2018 issue of *Occasional Papers*: “**Staying Grounded in a Time of Uncertainty**” are available for purchase. Copies for members, associates, subscribers, and those who purchased copies online are in the mail.



This issue focuses on how humanity might effectively thrive in the uncertain and difficult situation in which the world finds itself. How can one be grounded in one’s deepest self and with God at a time of great outrage, disbelief, and fear for what is ahead? How does one sustain oneself and not become hopeless or numb in light of disconcerting political and ethical decisions we watch being made? What is the role of religious life in response to this milieu? How might religious life leaders make a contribution to the spiritual hungers and needs that are present in society today and among their own members?



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Catholic Leaders Declare ‘We’re Still In’ on the Paris Climate Agreement

On the third anniversary of Pope Francis’s encyclical, *Laudato Si’*, more than 600 US Catholic institutions, including dioceses, communities of men and women religious, healthcare systems, universities, as well as parishes and schools signed the [Catholic Climate Declaration](#) that affirms the [Paris Agreement](#) and supports actions to meet its goals. The declaration responds to President Trump’s decision to withdraw the United States from the agreement, is in solidarity with the US bishops’ position, and is consistent with the calls for climate action from Pope Francis. The declaration was organized by [Catholic Climate Covenant](#) (CCC), a Washington, DC-based organization that partners with 17 national Catholic institutions including LCWR. The declaration also joins the wider [We Are Still In](#) campaign organized a year ago.

On a call with reporters, leaders from several institutions spoke in moral terms of the need, in the words of Pope Francis, to “care for our common home.” Leaders pointed to the human suffering and threats to human life caused by human activity.

Bishop Richard Pates of Des Moines said, “The immorality of inaction on climate change has been clear for a long time. With ever-increasing temperatures fueling super hurricanes as well as extending and deepening droughts, we are seeing the tragedies of inaction up close and personal.”

Even while the signatories noted that progress on climate change has been imperiled by President Trump’s withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement, Sharlet Wagner, CSC, president-elect of LCWR, said, “Climate change is not a political issue but a moral issue. God’s creation is imperiled by our own actions. Yet we know it is a gift for us to enjoy, safeguard, and protect for future generations.”

Throughout the summer and leading up to the September 12-15 [Global Climate Action Summit](#) in San Francisco, the covenant will gather commitments from signers to the declaration to share during the event. The

summit will bring together people from around the world to “take ambition to the next level.” It will be a moment to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of states, regions, cities, companies, investors, and citizens with respect to climate action.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

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

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

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

LCWR Assembly
Scottsdale, Arizona
August 13 — 17, 2019

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

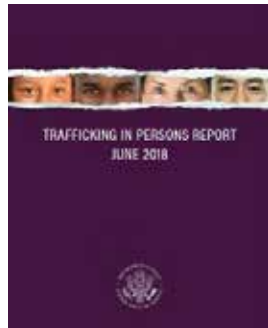
Imagining Justice
Bon Secours Retreat & Conference Center
Marriottsville, MD
April 20 – 23, 2020

LCWR Assembly
Dallas, Texas
August 11 — 15, 2020



US Department of State Publishes the 2018 TIP Report

This year's *Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report* from the US Department of State focuses on effective ways local communities can address human trafficking proactively and on how national governments can support and empower them. By engaging and training law enforcement, religious leaders, teachers, tribal elders, and business executives, local communities learn to identify and address vulnerabilities swiftly. Individuals closest to a problem are often the best equipped for solving it, which is why the Department of State prioritizes equipping and empowering front-line civil society leaders.



The introduction to this year's report focuses on the importance of local communities in the fight against human trafficking and encourages national governments to support and empower their partners on the ground. It underscores how local context and a dynamic policy framework are integral components of anti-trafficking strategies and highlights the opportunities national governments have to facilitate coordination, cooperation, and responsibility-sharing with and between local governments and communities.

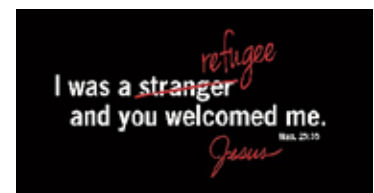
The introduction also outlines some of the important activities necessary for driving local action, including forming task forces, conducting community assessments so that anti-trafficking responses are tailored to the local context, raising awareness among those professionals and community members likely to come into contact with trafficking victims, and developing processes and protocols for an effective, victim-centered response.

As always, the *TIP Report*, especially through the country narratives, underscores the responsibility national governments bear in combating human trafficking across the 3Ps of prosecution, protection, and prevention and urges them to see local communities as strategic partners in the fight against human trafficking.

In addition, this year's report encourages readers to acknowledge that their communities are not powerless against modern slavery. Individuals can learn to recognize the signs of human trafficking and know where to go for help when they see it. They can educate others on the tactics of traffickers; demand that local authorities and other professionals be trained to address the crime; and contribute their time, money, and talents to the issue.

Attorney General Sessions Limits Asylum-Seekers' Access to Safety

Attorney General Jeff Sessions' ruling earlier this summer reverses a practice of the Obama administration



to provide asylum to women with credible claims of domestic violence. In his ruling, General Sessions found that victims of domestic violence may not receive the protection of asylum in the United States, even when they come from countries whose governments are either unable or unwilling to protect them.

"To declare that asylum can no longer be granted to victims of gang violence or spousal abuse not only flies in the face of the American tradition of protecting the most vulnerable immigrants, it sets a dangerous precedent for other victims of violence, including those who are targeted for their religious beliefs," said Jeanne Atkinson, executive director of the [Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. \(CLINIC\)](#). Asylum law has long recognized that persecution can occur at the hands of entities that a national government is "unable or unwilling to control" including by terrorist groups such as the Islamic State, Al Qaeda, and the Tamil Tigers.

The case involves a Salvadoran woman who was a victim of domestic abuse. Known as A-B she was granted asylum by the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA). In reversing the BIA, General Sessions said that "claims by aliens pertaining to domestic violence or gang violence perpetrated by non-governmental actors will not qualify for asylum." CLINIC and other faith-based groups, including LCWR, had filed an amicus brief, arguing that a ruling against A-B would have repercussions for people in many other types of situation.



- Letter expressing grave concerns with Speaker Ryan’s Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018 and urging all members of Congress to vote against this bill that slashes family-based immigration system, guts asylum laws, waives laws that protect communities within 100 miles of the borders and wastes \$23 billion taxpayer dollars to build a wall and militarize border communities. LCWR (6/19/18)
- Letter from the Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) urging members of Congress to reject HR 4760, The Securing America’s Future Act. (6/19/18)
- Open letter from national faith-based organizations objecting to Attorney General Jeff Sessions’ recent use of the Bible as justification for forcibly separating families seeking asylum at the border. LCWR (6/21/18)
- Letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions asking him to immediately revoke his erroneous decision in the matter of A-B which threatens the lives and safety of immigrant survivors of domestic violence seeking asylum in the U.S. LCWR (6/20/18)
- LCWR Statement objecting to the Supreme Court decision to uphold President Trump’s Muslim travel ban. LCWR (6/26/18)
- Letter from Catholic advocacy organizations thanking Bishops for their recent statements objecting to the separation of immigrant families. LCWR (7/2/18)
- Letter to Secretary of State Pompeo and Secretary of Homeland Security Nielsen respectfully requesting that they designate Guatemala for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) given the environmental conditions stemming from a June 2018 volcano eruption. LCWR (7/3/18)
- Letter to members of Congress expressing unequivocal opposition to the administration’s “zero tolerance” policy that separates families and detains and prosecutes parents, and against any proposal that would expand immigration detention,

as family incarceration is not a solution to family separation. LCWR (7/18/18)

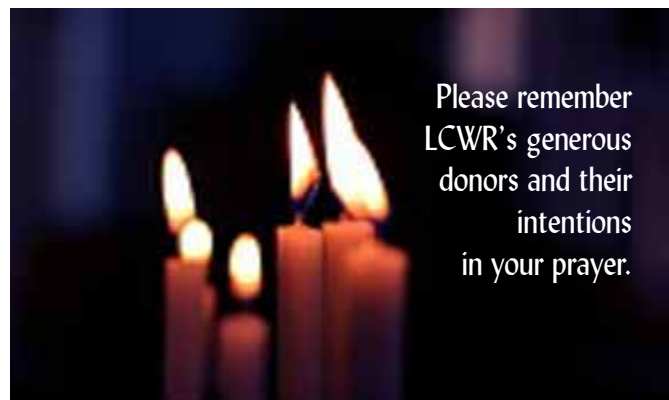
- Amicus brief filed by religious organizations in support of the New Jersey Attorney General’s defense of DACA and opposition to the Texas Attorney General’s request that the court block Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from adjudicating any further DACA applications. LCWR (7/18/18)

US Catholic Leaders Send Letters of Thanks to Bishops for their Support of Family Unity

LCWR was among a group of Catholic peace and justice organizations that sent letters of thanks to bishops who have made public statements against the separation of families at the border. The group wanted to acknowledge the bishops’ public concern for immigrant families and encourage their continued leadership in the spirit of the Gospel and the tradition of Catholic Social Teaching.



The letter read in part: “As a Church leader, your voice needs to be heard, by both decision makers in government and by the faithful in your diocese. We encourage you to call on the clergy in your diocese to follow your example.” It went on to express deep gratitude for the efforts of the bishops and urged them to assist with helping to reunite children with their parents. The groups pledged their continued support to the bishops as they defend the family unit.



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

Catholic Health Association Launches ‘Medicaid Makes It Possible’ Campaign

Medicaid is under threat. Millions of people who rely on the program for their health care, including the elderly, could lose their coverage if the program’s opponents have their way. The Catholic Health Association (CHA) is determined to fight efforts to roll back Medicaid benefits and restrict access to health care. That is why they have launched their “[Medicaid Makes It Possible](#)” campaign.

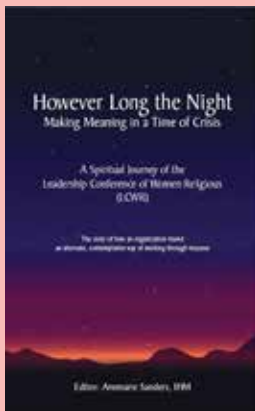


Some of the sisters present at the ALAMA gathering.

While repeated efforts in the US Congress last year failed to carry through on a campaign promise by President Trump to repeal the Affordable Care Act in its entirety, significant regulatory and funding threats to the Medicaid program remain. Several states have received, or are seeking, regulatory waivers imposing work requirements on Medicaid beneficiaries, lifetime limits on eligibility, and other restrictions on participation. CHA has released a [white paper](#) explaining how such waivers could force needy and vulnerable individuals to lose their coverage. CHA launched its “Medicaid Makes It Possible” campaign at its national assembly in June. Through a website, videos, social media push, and other resources and activities it hopes to break through false stereotypes and illustrate that people of all ages and circumstances could be harmed by cuts to the Medicaid program. By telling the stories of people who have benefitted from Medicaid, CHA hopes to grow public support for the insurance program.

Latina Sisters Meet in San Antonio

LCWR president Tere Maya, CCVI, attended the encuentro of the Association of Latin American Missionary Sisters (ALAMA) held at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. The mission of ALAMA is to serve the Latina sisters who have been sent as missionaries to or minister in the United States. Among the topics discussed were the culture of encounter, and the current situation of migrants and refugees.



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

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

Position Open at NRRO

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



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

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

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.



ReligiousFormation
CONFERENCE

Apply to Participate in October's
Orientation to Formation Program

October 12-14, 2018

Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL
Presenters: Helen Cahill, OP & Henry Beck, OFM

The changing and hope-filled realities of religious life today raise challenging questions regarding the present and future life of the global church. These questions are especially relevant to formators who are engaged in the sacred ministry of accompanying new members. The critical questions most often raised by formation directors focus on how to be with new members as they discern their call to religious life.

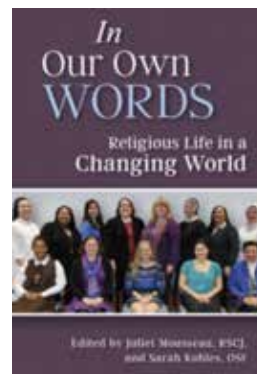
Orientation to Formation is specifically designed for formators and those in leadership who accompany new members as they make their sacred journey.

More information is available on [the RFC website](#).
Application deadline is Friday, September 7.

Webinar: A Conversation about the Vows

On Thursday, September 13 RFC will host a webinar discussion with the editors of and an author in the book, *In Our Own Words: Religious Life in a Changing World*. Sarah Kohles, OSF; Juliet Mousseau, RSCJ; and Tracy Kemme, SC will participate in this conversation.

Webinars are open to all those who wish to attend. One does *not* need to be a member of the RFC to participate. More information is available on [the RFC website](#).





2018 RCRI National Conference

Pastoral Conversion: Structures in Service to Mission

The annual conference of the Resource Center for Religious Institutes will be held in Orlando Florida, October 30 - November 2, 2018.

The keynote speaker for this year's conference will be Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio of the United States of America.

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

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

The conference will offer 37 workshops covering topics related to finance, and canon and civil law including planning for institutes in transition. The program will also include a track on eldercare sponsored by NRRO. On Thursday afternoon, November 1, a conference liturgy will be celebrated for all participants. A link for conference registration is now available on RCRI's web-site at www.tcri.org.

News from the United Nations

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



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

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

September 21—International Day of Peace is designated by the UN General Assembly to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. The theme for the International Day of Peace in 2018 is "The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70"

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.



Purchase LCWR's Contemplative Greeting Cards at the LCWR Assembly

Sets of 10 will be available for
\$10



by Joan Mumaw, IHM
President
www.solidarityfriends.org

Reflections from South Sudan

During the past month, I have had the privilege of visiting the ministries of Solidarity with South Sudan in that war-ravaged country. It is difficult to put into words both the situation in the country and the courage with which Solidarity members continue in ministry to the people of South Sudan.

Peace negotiations have once again collapsed and the parliament has extended the term of the current administration until 2021. This is the same corrupt group of “leaders: which has driven the economy into collapse and stolen oil revenues and public funds for their own use. (Cf Sentry project at www.enough.org) Just to put things in context: a teacher in a government school earns the equivalent of US\$10 per month. This is less than 50 cents per day to feed a family. A bottle of water costs 100SSP or about 30 cents. More than half the population is facing food insecurity bordering on famine.

The area around Riimenze, where Solidarity has an Agricultural Training Project, is a conflict zone with people constantly on the move for fear of armed groups, both the army and rebel groups. Nearly 7500 are encamped at the parish, some for the last 18 months. Daily porridge for children and vulnerable adults, provided by Solidarity, is staving off malnutrition. Up to 100 persons from the camp are employed daily on the farm. The 40 tons of food produced on the farm is shared with the Solidarity Teacher Training College (60%) and with employees and the displaced.

At the recent Solidarity Assembly, the speaker indicated that what Solidarity members are doing is “not normal.” Most people leave when the going gets tough. Solidarity staff have continued to walk with the people and, as a result, teachers are being trained and medical personnel are graduating as registered nurses and midwives, so needed in this country.

Solidarity is seeking much needed personnel so as to relieve those who have been in the country for many years. Some of these needs include: science and English language teachers for the Solidarity primary teacher training college, clinical supervisors and tutors for the Catholic Health Training Institute, an accountant for the Sustainable Agricultural project, a person with social work skills to be present to the refugees, and persons able to train catechists and pastoral teams. We hope to have job descriptions for these positions in a few weeks.

Great appreciation for your support was expressed by Solidarity members at their assembly in early July. As we celebrate 10 years of Solidarity, we hope you will continue to support this important work. For more details contact jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com.



Joan Mumaw, IHM (far left) visiting South Sudan in June