

January 2016

LCWR Explores Invitation to Live and Lead from a Contemplative Center

The members of the LCWR Contemporary Religious Life Committee gathered to explore the call perceived by women religious and LCWR to live and lead from a deepened contemplative stance. Gathering at Bon Secours Retreat Center in Marriottsville, Maryland from December 3 to 5, the committee spent significant time in silence, prayer, reflection, and conversation to explore ideas for what LCWR might do to assist members to lead in a contemplative manner and live from a spirituality equal to the demands of these times.

The committee invited Liz Sweeney, SSJ, a spiritual director whose ministry includes the development of integral spirituality and consciousness transformation through the practice of contemplative dialogue, to guide the days. Constance FitzGerald, OCD, who has devoted her intellectual life to the explication and interpretation of the writings of the great Carmelite mystics, also joined the committee for its reflection and conversations. In her writings and lectures, Constance has worked to show the relationship between contemplative prayer and the evolution of consciousness.



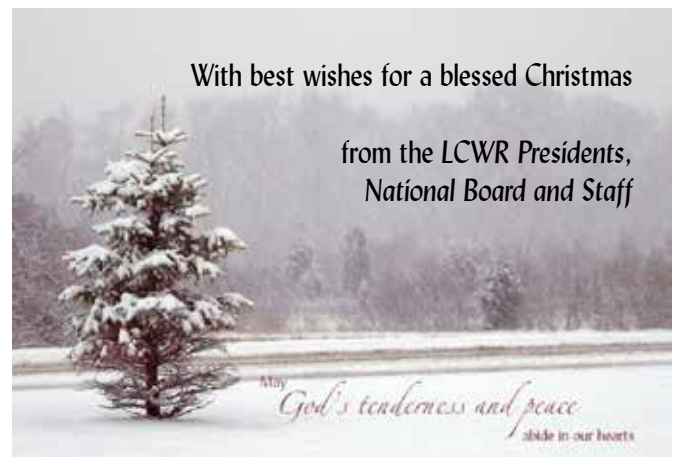
*Liz Sweeney, SSJ and
Constance FitzGerald, OCD*

Conversation by the committee included an exchange of ideas about how LCWR may respond to the call to

live out of a contemplative consciousness, ground itself in the mystical tradition, hold more intentionally the suffering of the world, explore various ways members may companion one another on the journey, and more. The committee also worked on shaping the 2016 LCWR assembly to allow for deepened experiences of prayer and contemplative dialogue.



Meeting at Bon Secours Retreat Center were (standing): Ana Lydia Sonera Matos, CDP; Marie McCarthy, SP; Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ; Catherine Bertrand, SSND; Maria Hughes, ASC; Pat McDermott, RSM; Liz Sweeney, SSJ; and Annmarie Sanders, IHM; (seated) Constance FitzGerald, OCD; Joan Marie Steadman, CSC; and Miriam Ukeritis, CSJ



From the LCWR Presidency

For A New Year -- Christ Actually!⁽¹⁾

by Marcia Allen, CSJ — LCWR President

The idea of “Christ - actually.” Looking back on the historical Jesus – the man in history and how he has been remembered over the centuries: what happens as one studies this – through the scriptures found in the New Testament and through the scriptures written in peoples’ lives down through the centuries?

Followers of Jesus, the Christ: who are these people? If we say that we are they, then who are we really? Bonhoeffer, in the midst of his upheaved life asked: “What keeps gnawing at me is the question,...who is Christ actually for us today?” (2) Today, in our upheaved planet, we too can ask what the meaning of Christ is - actually.

The year, 2016, comes to us new. Francis has declared a new time. The Paris Climate Summit has declared a new time. We’ve wished everyone we know a “Happy New Year.” In that simple greeting – well-worn and now basically *pro forma* – we’ve declared a new time.

Slowly, but too quickly, time will move on through the days, weeks and months and finally 2016 will come to an end. In these 12 months what has been the meaning of Christ -- actually?

This question gnaws at me too. Studying the meaning of Jesus as seen through the eyes, ears, hearts of the people who knew him; studying heroic followers of Christ – those people who down through history have been the prophetic voices in history throughout the world; these real Christians who dared to do with their very lives what Jesus did with his: being the “force,” the



This function is one of living the radical life of Jesus in the 21st century milieu – a life rooted in mercy, hearts moved with pity – another description of hope, perhaps?

“activating power” (3) that communicates the reality of God’s tender love for creation – all of it.

Johann Baptist Metz, the 20th century German theologian, spoke eloquently and urgently about the nature of religious life. Although a book written in 1978, *Followers of Christ* might as well have landed from the printer today with ink still wet. Religious, he said, must be “initiators of a more decisive readiness to follow Christ on the part of the Church as a whole.” (4)

This function is one of living the radical life of Jesus in the 21st century milieu – a life rooted in mercy, hearts moved with pity – another description of hope, perhaps? This prophetic love/hope changes the world – for refugees, warring men and women and victims of war; for politicians, for church authorities, for everyone from presidents to terrorists to homeless persons – to all of us. A year of MERCY/HOPE, charged with the force and activating power of love-in-action – that is our commission. We say that we already do this – and it is true.

But this year let’s do it consciously. Let’s be MERCY/HOPE, the new narrative that brings to life in every corner of our beautiful, broken world, Christ actually.

1 “Christ Actually” is the title of a book by James Carroll in which he explores Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s question from Auschwitz: “...who is Christ actually for us today?”

2 James Carroll, *Christ Actually*, p. 2.

3 Walter Kasper, *Mercy*, p.129.

4 Johannes B. Metz, *Followers of Christ*, p. 36.

LCWR New Leaders Workshop Revamped

Registration is still open for the LCWR New Leaders Workshop in April 2016 at Our Lady of the Lake University Conference Center in Mundelein, Illinois. The workshop will focus on the skills and dispositions needed to grow as spiritually-grounded, transformational leaders. Through the use of input, role play, and contemplative engagement, participants will examine some of the real-life situations and challenges facing leaders today.

Topics and themes for each of the days include:

- Transformational Leadership and Contemplative Engagement
- The Dynamics of Leadership: The Changing Face of Leadership
- Mission Now and into the Future

Resource persons for this workshop will be Nancy Schreck, OSF; Lynn M. Levo, CSJ; Sharon Euart, RSM; and Donna Miller; as well as LCWR staff members Joan Marie Steadman, CSC; Grace Hartzog, SC; Mary Hughes, OP; Marie McCarthy, SP; Annmarie Sanders, IHM; and Ann Scholz, SSND.

The workshop is structured to facilitate interaction among participants in mixed table groupings, as leadership teams, and with resource persons. In addition, the resource persons will be available throughout the days of the workshop for informal conversation.

All persons registering for the workshop will receive a link to a set of online resources. These resources include in-depth presentations by Lynn M. Levo, CSJ; Janice Bader, CPPS; Lynn Jarrell, OSU; and Simone Campbell, SSS. The presentations focus on many of the issues elected leaders face on a regular basis. In addition to the recordings there are some written resources and information on organizations that provide services for elected leaders. These resources are intended to provide a context for participants prior to the workshop and also assist with ongoing leadership development when participants return home.

New leaders and new leadership teams are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. More information and a registration form can be found at: lcwr.org/calendar/new-leader-workshop-0.



The LCWR New Leader Workshop provides several opportunities for interaction among participants.

Religious Leaders Support Syrian Refugees

LCWR was among a number of faith-based organizations that publicly condemned hateful rhetoric and questionable policies aimed at limiting efforts to welcome Syrian refugees fleeing violence and persecution. In a statement published on its website, the conference called for a response to violence and terrorism that is grounded in love and mercy and challenged citizens and policy makers not to let “acts of death and destruction sow the seeds of fear and mistrust that threaten to tear our communities apart and lead inevitably to more violence and harm.” The full statement is available at: tinyurl.com/gp8mzxc.

After the House of Representatives passed legislation that would end the resettlement of Syrian and Iraqi refugees, more than 500 national and local faith leaders, including LCWR president Marcia Allen, CSJ, sent a letter to Congress urging welcome for all refugees. The letter states the signers’ opposition to any legislation that would limit resettlement based on religion or nationality and calls for members of Congress to act with compassion and welcome towards all refugees.

With more than 60 million people displaced worldwide including more than 4 million Syrian refugees, faith leaders continue to urge the United States to embrace its legacy of leadership in refugee resettlement and publicly denounce any efforts to limit resettlement based on religious beliefs or country of origin.



LCWR staff planning day: (standing) Ann Scholz, SSND; Marie McCarthy, SP; Mary Hughes, OP; Annmarie Sanders, IHM; (seated) Grace Hartzog, SC; Joan Marie Steadman, CSC; and Marisa Guerin

LCWR Staff Engages in Planning Processes

On December 17, LCWR's executive director and associate directors held a one-day planning session, directed by Marisa Guerin.

The staff has been working with data on the demographics of US religious life and LCWR, and looking ahead at the anticipated needs of its members as LCWR moves into the future. At the planning day, the staff reviewed its current work, particularly in relation to the LCWR Call: 2015 - 2022; discussed some of the realities of both the organization and the LCWR national office; and imagined possibilities for the future. The work of the day laid the foundation for the next stages of planning.

Marisa, the president of Guerin Management Consulting, Inc., works extensively with non-profits and religious organizations addressing issues of planning, strategy execution, and performance.

2016 LCWR Assembly Plans are Underway



Plans are well underway for the 2016 LCWR assembly set to take place in Atlanta from August 9 to 12. Members of the LCWR staff and Kimberly Ritter of Nix Conference and Meeting Management met with hotel staff in December to secure all that is needed for the event. Above, Dave Olsen, the hotel senior event manager, leads the site tour with Kimberly and Grace Hartzog, SC.

CICLSAL Publishes Third Letter on Consecrated Life

The Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL) published its third circular letter for the Year of Consecrated Life. Entitled *Contemplative*, the letter is an invitation to all consecrated persons to live the contemplative dimension of their lives in order to rediscover that vital relationship with God that allows them to see humanity and creation with God's eyes. During one of his homilies at the Domus Sanctae Marthae, Pope Francis emphasized that: "The contemplative dimension is indispensable while dealing with urgent and grave issues. The more our mission urges us to go forth toward the existential outskirts, the more our heart feels the need to be intimately united to that of Christ, which is full of mercy and love" (May 22, 2015).

The first two letters *Rejoice* and *Keep Watch*, as well as this third letter, are meant as an extended reflection upon consecrated life.



LCWR board member Jan Ginzkey, OSB (far right) on the delegation to El Salvador

LCWR Co-Sponsors Delegation to El Salvador

From November 28-December 5, a delegation of 117 women religious and supporters traveled to El Salvador for the 35th anniversary of martyrdom of four US missionaries who were assassinated by the Salvadoran military for their advocacy on behalf of refugees and the poor. The delegation was sponsored by SHARE El Salvador and LCWR.

During the introduction to the experience, SHARE's Jose Artiga invited church leaders and religious communities to work for "truth, justice, and reparation" for the crimes against the US churchwomen, Blessed Oscar Romero, and the more than 30,000 victims of El Salvador's civil war. In response, Jan Ginzkey, OSB, chair of LCWR Region 13, spoke on behalf of LCWR saying, "We fully support you and will work with you in the future. Thank you for all the work you have done."

During the week, the delegation visited sites and heard first-hand testimonies by people who knew the North American churchwomen. The group met with grassroots movement leaders, human rights defenders, and mothers of the disappeared. The delegation also explored root causes of migration to the United States; learned of current challenges impoverished communities face, including increasing violence; and witnessed ways in which grassroots groups are organizing to build a better future.

In addition to visiting the site of martyrdom of the US churchwomen, the delegation also went to the garden at the University of Central America where six Jesuit

priest scholars, their housekeeper, and her daughter were martyred in November 1989.

The group had opportunities to meet with grassroots groups of women, youth, and local community activists who spoke of how they are organizing in order to move forward and build a better El Salvador for themselves and their children. These groups, in turn, support dozens of other groups building a web of solidarity throughout El Salvador. SHARE connected the delegation with women and children who taught them about the Salvadoran's determination, ability to organize, and desire for accompaniment in building a world that is more life-giving, full of justice, and full of hope.

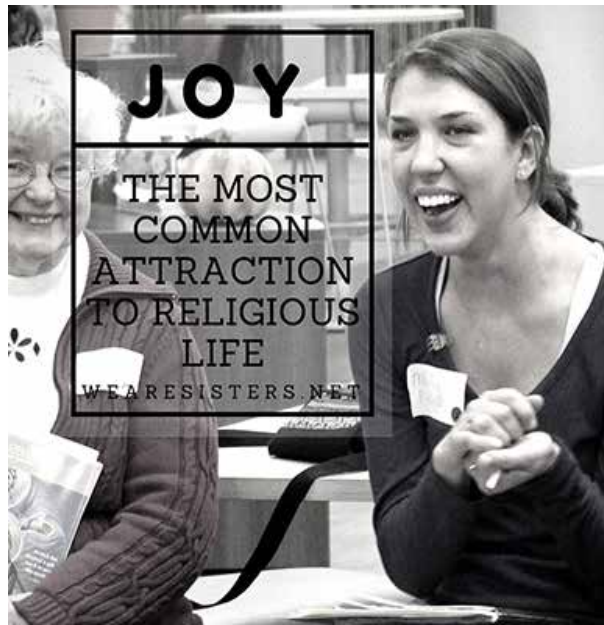
Excerpts from article by delegation member Joanne Gallagher, CSJ

Catholic Group Delivers Climate Petition to White House

On November 21 a delegation of representatives of the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) delivered to the White House more than 20,000 petition signatures from Catholics all over the country asking world leaders at the Paris Climate Summit (COP21) to take bold action on climate change. Melissa Rogers, of the White House Office of Faith Based Initiatives and Dan Utech, deputy director for climate and President Obama's top adviser on energy and climate change, were on hand to receive the copies. The petition, which garnered more than 900,000 signatories from 130 different countries, was delivered by Cardinal Claudio Hummes of Brazil to world leaders in Paris on November 28. More information may be found at: catholicclimatemovement.global/petition.



LCWR's associate director for social mission Ann Scholz, SSND (second from left) was among the delegation delivering the climate change petition to the White House.



Religious Women and Men to Meet During the January 23-26 CMSG

Members of religious congregations and the staff of their social justice offices will meet in Washington, DC on Saturday, January 23 from 11:00-12:00 for conversation around care for creation and the outcome of the Paris conference on climate change. The meeting provides an opportunity for religious men and women and their colleagues who are involved in social ministry to network and explore opportunities for collaboration at the national, regional, and local levels.

The meeting precedes the opening of the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CMSG). Organized by the Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the theme of the 2016 gathering takes inspiration from the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, and Pope Francis' call for an integral ecology that connects justice for all with care of all creation. The annual gathering of Catholic social ministry leaders in the US brings together hundreds of participants whose faith inspires them to respond to pressing current domestic and global challenges relating to poverty, war, injustice, and the promotion of human life and dignity.

Additional information and registration materials are available at tinyurl.com/82usf5u.

FADICA Releases Report on US Catholic Sisters

FADICA (Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities) released a report called "Understanding U.S. Catholic Sisters Today," written by Kathleen Sprows Cummings from the University of Notre Dame. The report delves into the latest sociological studies of US sisters to present a new and comprehensive look at women religious today.

The report may be downloaded from the recently launched website, WeAreSisters.net. FADICA created this microsite to complement and promote the study and to provide resources and tools to tell a hopeful story about Catholic sisters.

In addition to reading the report, religious communities are encouraged to share the report and the website in three ways:

1. Email the link, wearesisters.net, to their contacts.
2. Tweet about it, or post on Instagram or Facebook, with the hashtag #CatholicSisters and the handle @FADICANetwork.
3. Share the poster with parishes, schools or universities.

National Migration Week Scheduled for January 3-6

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops' National Migration Week 2016 will focus on the gospel call to welcome the stranger. In the Gospel of Matthew (25:35) Jesus tells his disciples, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." The call to welcome the stranger plays an important role in the lives of faithful Christians and has a particularly central place for those who work in the migration field. Resources are available at: tinyurl.com/m3teemc.



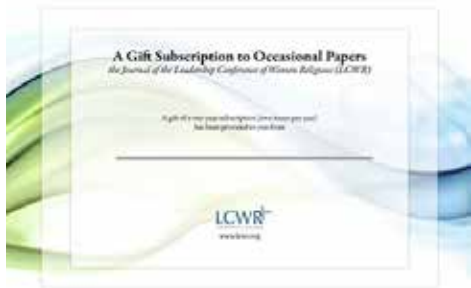
Subscriptions to Occasional Papers Now Available

LCWR is now offering subscriptions to its journal, *Occasional Papers*. Any religious or member of the public may purchase a one-year subscription, which includes two issues per year, for \$15.00 within the United States, or \$30.00 outside of the United States. Subscriptions may be purchased online at: lcsr.org/publications/occasional-papers/subscribe.

LCWR members are asked to share this information with anyone who may be interested in subscribing. Revenue from subscriptions contributes to LCWR's operating budget.

Christmas Gift Idea

Subscriptions may also be purchased for others. \$15.00 provides the recipient with a wealth of informative and reflective reading material on religious life, spirituality, and leadership. Gift subscriptions may be ordered at lcsr.org/publications/occasional-papers/gift.



Gift certificate can be downloaded and given to the gift recipient

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 lcsr.org/members/lcsr-membership-information.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

Leading from Within Retreat
Redemptorist Retreat Center
Tucson, Arizona
January 17 — 22, 2016

Imagining Justice
Bethany Center
Lutz, Florida
March 7 — 10, 2016

LCWR New Leader Workshop
Conference Center
University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois
April 7 — 10, 2016

LCWR Assembly
Atlanta, Georgia
August 9—13, 2016

LCWR Assembly
Orlando, Florida
August 8—12, 2017

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



Update is an official publication of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious published monthly and distributed to members nationally. © 2015 LCWR All rights reserved.

Editor: Annmarie Sanders, IHM
8808 Cameron Street — Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: 301-588-4955 Fax: 301-587-4575
E-mail: asanders@lcsr.org Website: www.lcsr.org



- LCWR statement of prayerful support for all whose lives have been touched by suffering from the terror attacks in Paris. (11/16/15)
- LCWR statement rejecting the rhetoric of fear and hatred and offering welcome to Syrian refugees. (11/17/15)
- Faith leaders letter to Congress expressing support for the US refugee resettlement program, especially the resettlement of Syrians fleeing violence in their homeland. LCWR (11/17/15)
- Letter to Congress from national Catholic organizations in support of the resettlement of Syrian refugees and the diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the violence in Syria. LCWR (11/18/15)
- Faith leaders statement opposing actions by two dozen United States governors to close their states' doors to Syrian refugees fleeing the unspeakable cruelty of ISIS and the Assad regime and condemning proposals to discriminate against refugees on the basis of religion. Ann Scholz, SSND (11/19/15)
- Letter to Congress seeking support for the U.S. pledge to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the President's FY2016 budget request of \$500 million for the GCF. LCWR (11/24/15)
- Faith leaders' letter to President Obama urging world leaders to support an ambitious agreement at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change conference of parties that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, encourages development of low carbon technologies, and assists populations most vulnerable to the effects of a changing climate. Marcia Allen, CSJ (11/30/15)
- Letter to Senators opposing Senators McConnell and Capito's Congressional Review Act resolutions of disapproval that would permanently block the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan to curb climate change. LCWR (12/1/15)
- Letter to Speaker Paul Ryan opposing attempts to insert wholesale changes to refugee admission policies into the year-end omnibus spending bill. LCWR (12/4/15)

- Letter to members of Congress urging them to make the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) permanent in any tax extender bills before Congress. (LCWR 12/4/15)
- Faith-based organizations letter to Congress expressing moral concerns related to H.R. 644, the "Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015" and urging members to oppose any final conference version of the bill which does not preserve the Menendez amendment on "No Fast Track for Human Traffickers." LCWR (12/9/15)

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

By presidential proclamation, January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and Sunday, January 11 is Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

Today, millions of men, women, and children are victims of human trafficking. This modern-day slavery occurs in countries throughout the world and in communities across the United States. As President Obama stated in his proclamation, "People who are trafficked face a cruelty that has no place in a civilized world: children are made to be soldiers, teenage girls are beaten and forced into prostitution, and migrants are exploited and compelled to work for little or no pay." It is a crime that takes many forms and violates the dignity of the person and the values of the human community.

US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking offer a variety of resources for prayer, education, and action on their website: www.sistersagainstrafficking.org.



The Obama Administration Takes Deportation Relief to the Supreme Court

Earlier this month, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the injunction against President Obama's expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and the creation of the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) program, leaving millions of individuals living in fear of deportation. Following the court's ruling, the Obama administration filed an appeal with the US Supreme Court to review the injunction. If the court agrees to take up the case, it could hear oral arguments in the spring and hand down a decision before the end of this term in June.

Earlier this year, more than 19 religious denominations and faith-based organizations, including LCWR, filed an amicus brief with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in support of the administration's executive orders that would provide deferred action for many undocumented immigrants. The amicus brief is available at: tinyurl.com/opsyx3k.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days to Focus on Race, Class, and Power

Nearly 1,000 Christian advocates from across the country are expected to meet in Washington, DC April 15-18 for the 14th annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD). This year's gathering titled, Lift Every Voice! — Racism, Class, and Power, will explore how social, economic, corporate, and political powers have colluded to reduce and eliminate access to that most basic democratic right, voting.

Through prayer, learning, advocacy training, and networking with other Christians, participants will confront the reality of racism, class, and power impacting politics and policies and advocate for the liberty of "Every Voice!" Details are available at: AdvocacyDays.org.



Paris Climate Conference Promises Progress

Years of difficult and often contentious climate negotiations produced what most are calling an historic agreement at the 21st meeting of the conference of parties (COP21) in Paris this month. The deal includes agreement to limit global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius, with an aim of 1.5 degrees, and to achieve climate "neutrality" that will require phasing out fossil fuels soon after mid-century. While it is arguably not enough, it does send a strong signal to citizens, corporations, and elected officials that it is time to move rapidly and decisively beyond the age of fossil fuels.



The Paris Agreement, adopted by more than 190 countries, establishes a long-term, durable global framework to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. It is the first time countries have committed to putting forward successive and ambitious, nationally determined climate targets and reporting on their progress towards them using a rigorous, standardized, and transparent process of review.

While many had hoped for far greater commitments to people vulnerable to the violence of rising seas, stronger storms, and deeper drought, the agreement does provide some assurance to developing countries that they will be supported as they build towards clean, climate resilience.



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



CWR Receives \$1.5 Million Grant

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation awarded a \$1.5 million grant that will enable Communicators for Women Religious (CWR) to grow in its influence in the promotion of women religious and be an even stronger resource to organizations that serve women religious, as well as their own members and individual congregations of women religious.

“Communicators for Women Religious has the potential to have a deeper impact in raising public awareness about women religious, and this is a major step in accomplishing that goal,” said Eileen Dickerson, chair of the CWR board of directors. “We believe that CWR can become a strong hub for all communications related to Catholic women religious, providing resources, training, events, networking, and information regarding Catholic sisters, their mission, and image.”

CWR is an international, professional organization of personnel responsible for communications within religious congregations of women. The organization’s mission is to provide members with the communication tools necessary to promote understanding of women religious, enhance their image and advance their mission; serve as a leader, providing resources and support to organizations serving women religious; and serve as a resource for media and the wider public about the diversity and changing role of women religious in the 21st century.

The Hilton Foundation grant, which will be distributed over three years, will enable CWR to establish a physical office presence, hire full time staff, and launch programs and outreach initiatives that are outlined in its new three-year strategic plan.

RFC Names New Executive Director

Ellen Dauwer, SC will begin her term as executive director of the Religious Formation Conference on January 1, 2016.

A Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth from Convent Station, New Jersey, she recently completed her second term as a member of her congregation’s general council. In this role, she served as council liaison for vocation promotion and initial formation and participated in the establishment of an ongoing formation group for her congregation.

Ellen served as secretary of LCWR, and currently serves as a member of LCWR’s Leadership Pathways Advisory Committee.

Upcoming Webinar:

January 29, 2016 3:00 PM EST
**Hearing God’s Prophetic Call:
 A Model for Initial and Lifelong Formation**
 Presenter: Brad Milunski, OFM Conv.
 Additional information and registration are available at
www.relforcon.org/webinar.



SOLIDARITY with South Sudan

by Joan Mumaw, IHM
US Regional Development Director

This holiday season is a time to celebrate with gratitude the bounty that surrounds us, the gifts we have received. Solidarity with South Sudan, the US Office, has much to be grateful for these days. The new US organization, Friends in Solidarity, Inc. is now incorporated in Maryland. An application for non-profit (501(c) 3 status has been submitted to the IRS.

Friends in Solidarity is committed to raising awareness of the situation in South Sudan and supporting the work of Solidarity with South Sudan. Funds raised by Friends in Solidarity will support projects of capacity building in this war ravaged nation, including the training of primary school teachers, health care professionals including registered nurses and midwives, farmers and diocesan pastoral teams.

We wish to acknowledge with gratitude the assistance received from the staff of Bon Secours Health System in preparing the documentation required for this new organization. We also are grateful to the major superiors of the founding Member congregations: Bon Secours of Paris, Comboni Fathers and Brothers, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Missionary Franciscans of the Immaculate Conception, Religious of Jesus and Mary, School Sisters of Notre Dame (Atlantic-Midwest Province), Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Monroe). We continue to be grateful to LCWR for their support of the office in Silver Spring, MD.

The board of directors appointed by the members include: Ann Oestreich, IHM (Chair); Nuala Mulleady, MFIC; Geraldine Hoyler, CSC; John Sivalon, MM; Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ; and Thomas Tiscornia, MM. Joan Mumaw, IHM, has been appointed the president and chief administrative officer. In the next few months you will see a new logo, website, online banking facilities, and the presence of Friends in Solidarity on social media. We seek assistance of volunteers to help us develop communications and financial systems for this new organization.

To learn how you can support the work of Friends in Solidarity, contact: Jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com or call 734 731 3726.

Wishing you all the blessings of this Christmas season and peace in the New Year.

News from the UN

Historic Agreement Good News for Earth



The Paris climate talks ended on December 12 with an agreement on addressing climate change. “We have come to a defining moment on a long journey that dates back decades,” said United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as delegates prepared to pass the final plan, which is known as the Paris Agreement. “The document with which you have just presented us is historic. It promises to set the world on a new path to a low emission, climate-resilient future,” he said. More information is available at: tinyurl.com/ztabqcr.

UNICEF: World’s Children Will Bear Brunt of Climate Change

Children, especially those in low-income countries, will be more affected by climate change than adults, according to a report by UNICEF. “Today’s children are the least responsible for climate change, but they, and their children, are the ones who will live with its consequences,” says Anthony Lake, UNICEF’s executive director. The report, *Unless We Act Now*, is available at tinyurl.com/zcgd3ep.