

July 2018



LCWR staff member Ann Scholz, SSND (at microphone) represents LCWR on June 19 as Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical, Muslim, and Jewish women gathered at the US Customs and Border Protection headquarters in Washington, DC to pray and to ask the Trump administration to immediately halt its “zero tolerance” policy resulting in the separation of thousands of children from their parents at the border.

LCWR Calls for Justice for Immigrant Families

Persistent pressure by the public, especially by the faith community, persuaded President Trump to sign an executive order on June 20 reversing his administration’s practice of forcibly separating children from their parents at the US southern border. Unfortunately, his action does little to address the crisis his own administration has created. The president’s executive order simply trades family separation for the indefinite incarceration of immigrant families. Instead of protecting children, the president has directed his administration to jail them along with their parents in prison-like conditions.

In early May, Trump administration attorney general Jeff Sessions announced a zero-tolerance policy that requires the criminal prosecution of all border-crossers,

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LCWR National Board Works to Create a Strong Future for the Conference

The LCWR national board met in May at Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center in Marriottsville, Maryland. Prominent in its agenda were topics exploring the most effective ways the conference may serve its members. Among the matters discussed were the following:

LCWR Needs Assessment Report

The LCWR Needs Assessment Task Force prepared a report on the first part of a comprehensive assessment of LCWR’s services which was conducted at the spring LCWR regional meetings where members responded to the following questions:

- What learnings/insights have significantly impacted your service of leadership?
- What key LCWR experiences, services, or resources are most valuable for your ministry of elected leadership?
- What questions, if explored by LCWR, could make a difference in how we create the future of the conference?
- What are your concrete wishes for the future of LCWR?

The board and national staff discussed some of the implications the members’ responses have for the future work of LCWR. They also reviewed a draft of an online survey that was later sent to all LCWR members asking for feedback on specific resources and services. Highlights of the results of this two-part assessment

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From the LCWR Presidency
A Season for Jubilee

This year I had the blessing of experiencing three jubilee celebrations in one week. Watching our jubilarians line up at the back of the chapel, stretching to see where their families had settled, arranging their corsages, smiling, just beaming, I wondered, why are they so joyful? What is it about jubilee that makes us truly jubilant? We may not use the jubilee china any more, and yet it never fails; year after year, the smiles, the corsages, the energy fills our hearts. Why?

One of the jubilees I attended was for another community. A lifelong Dominican sister friend invited me and I had to go. On my way there, in between my two congregational jubilees, I realized I was going to the community where my journey into religious life started. This time as “jubilee guest,” I understood jubilees from a different angle: I was there to give them thanks for what they had done for me, for the education of my entire family. In one amazing moment, I finally realized that gratitude was the soul of the joy in jubilee.

Religious life in the United States has been experiencing a season of jubilee. A season when most of our sisters will have crossed the threshold of 50 or 60 years in vowed life. The journey has now been blessed with wisdom gained after years of service, of authentic search, of claiming their dignity as women in the church. The harvest has been amazing, brilliant; they are slowing down but the glow of their wisdom remains with us. This time, we have an incredible opportunity to be there for one another, to express



our heartfelt gratitude. And this gratitude will burst into joy. With this season of jubilee we need to ponder where we have been and what have we learned -- what does it mean? We have a time-sensitive opportunity: The opportunity to express our gratitude and remember together. And remembering will bring joy to our hearts that will kindle our hope.

Memory is a sacrament that brings an experience to the present. This is why we celebrate Eucharist, to “do this in memory” of Jesus; and in remembering, we realize his presence among us. Jubilee is a sacred remembering of our incredible stories, stories that together weave the soul of religious life. Stories that need to be retold and beheld in the gratitude that begets hope.

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is a sacred remembering
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religious life.

Jubilee is about the perseverance possible through God’s mercy, which can only be paralleled by profound gratitude. By the time of my third jubilee, when I saw my sister jubilarians process into our chapel for the celebration, I knew why I have chosen to remain in religious life. I knew it at the very core of my soul: I remain because of them, because of their witness, their stories, because of the authenticity with which they have lived their call. This is why today I join all our communities, in thanksgiving for lives of love and sacrifice, lives of discipleship, that have

shown us the face of Christ. Jubilarians are the body of Christ and they have called us into it.

Now that is a reason for jubilation!

LCWR Calls for Justice for Immigrant Families

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including asylum seeking families and children. The administration claims that this measure will deter families from fleeing to the United States, but there is little evidence to suggest that the policy will actually stop families fleeing danger and death in their home countries.

The executive order does nothing to end General Session's zero-tolerance policy or ameliorate its harm. As long as the administration chooses to criminally prosecute 100% of parents, children will have to be separated from, or indefinitely incarcerated with, their parents. The order fails to include a plan to reunite the children already in government custody with their parents and it directs the Justice Department to seek to remove the child welfare protections laid out in the 1997 Flores agreement.

Immigrant and human rights advocates have pointed out that the administration's claim that detention is the only way to ensure that those crossing the border without authorization will appear for their immigration hearings is simply wrong. There are viable alternatives to detention including intensive case management programs that have a proven track record. Their clients show up for their court dates 97% of the time.

The policy has already had heartbreaking results. Between May and June 20 approximately 2300 children who arrived at the southern border were separated

from their parents. While family separation at the border is not an entirely new phenomenon, these numbers are unprecedented.

Opposition by some members of Congress has been swift. Democratic members of both the Senate and House quickly introduced legislation to keep families together. Immigrant advocates and faith leaders, including LCWR, have strongly condemned the Trump administration policy of separating families. As LCWR president Teresa Maya, CCVI put it in a joint interfaith press statement on May 31:

As women of faith, as Catholic sisters, we strongly oppose the Trump administration's decision to forcibly separate parents from their children in an effort to punish families seeking safety in the United States. Mothers and fathers are taking tremendous risks to bring their children to safety. These are families fleeing violence and death in their home countries. They have every right to ask for protection in the United States and the Trump administration is legally and morally obligated to give them a fair chance to seek asylum. It is impossible to imagine the fear of a child being ripped from the arms of her mother or the pain of a father watching a stranger take his son. It is cruel and inhumane and it must stop. Our faith demands it and our national values require it. We are better than this.

Advocates have made it clear that they will continue to seek justice for immigrant families including putting an end to the zero-tolerance policy, closing family detention centers, and ensuring the reunification of every single family.

EMERGING QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND CONVERSATION

Are we simply adapting, modifying, and adjusting what we have in place
rather than
reimagining
the whole of
religious life?

LCWR National Board Works to Create a Strong Future for the Conference

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will be shared at the LCWR assembly, with time for members to process them and their implications.

Emerging Membership Questions

Sharon Euart, RSM, the executive director of the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) joined the board for discussion of the significant changes occurring in US religious life, particularly the numbers of congregations that will very soon no longer be able to elect canonical leaders from among their own membership. Sharon provided information on the role of pontifical commissaries who are appointed by the Holy See to serve as the canonical superior for a specific community. Discussion took place on what LCWR might do to help congregations prepare for the reality of an increased need for commissaries.

Relationship of Boards to Regions

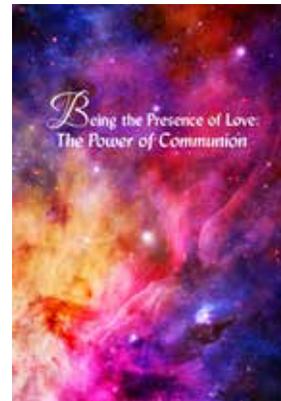
The LCWR board will hold a meeting in St. Louis immediately prior to the LCWR assembly where the members will meet with the 15 regional chairs and members of the staff to explore the most effective ways for communication among the three groups. The board also appointed three of its members to serve as liaisons to the regions. Each liaison will connect with the chairs of five regions each following every board meeting. The liaisons are:

- Elise Garcia, OP: Regions 2, 6, 9, 12, 13
- Jan Cebula, OSF: Regions 1, 5, 8, 11, 14
- Sue Durkin, OSU: 3, 4, 7, 10, 15

Committee Appointments

The board appointed the following LCWR members for service on committees:

- Rosalia Meza, VDMF – Contemporary Religious Life Committee
- Sue Dunning, CSJ; Pat Siemen, OP – Global Concerns Committee
- Patty Moriarty, RSM; Maureen O'Connor, OSF; Veronique Wiedower, CSC – Finance and Audit Committee



More than 740 Now Registered for the LCWR Assembly in St. Louis

To date, 742 LCWR members, associates, and guests have registered for this year's LCWR assembly to take place in St. Louis from August 7 to 10.

Additional Event at the LCWR Assembly

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.

Facilitators Invited to LCWR Assembly

Any LCWR members who are working with a facilitator who has not already received an invitation to the 2018 assembly and who would like that person to be on the assembly invitation list are asked to send the facilitator's name and email address to Carol Glidden at cglidden@lcwr.org.

Scholarships

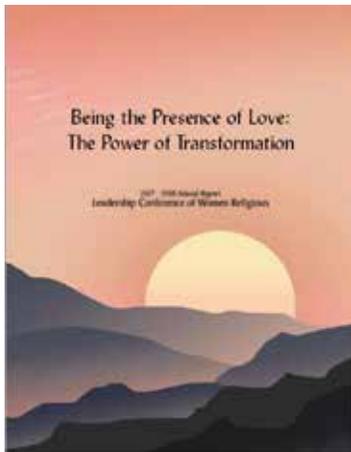
Any congregation leader who wishes to attend the assembly but needs assistance is asked to contact Chris Beckett, SCN (cbeckett@lcwr.org) to request a partial scholarship. Partial assistance with registration and/or hotel accommodations is available through the LCWR scholarship fund. Any congregation that has the means to enable the attendance of another member is invited to consider a donation to the LCWR scholarship fund. The conference is grateful to those congregations who have already sent in contributions.

Two Candidates to Stand for LCWR Presidential Election

All LCWR members who will be attending the LCWR assembly are asked to read the biographies on the members' section of the LCWR website of the women who have allowed their names to go forward for the presidential election. They are:

- Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ
- Mary Jo Nelson, OLVN

LCWR thanks both Mary Jo and Jayne for their willingness to serve the conference in this key role.



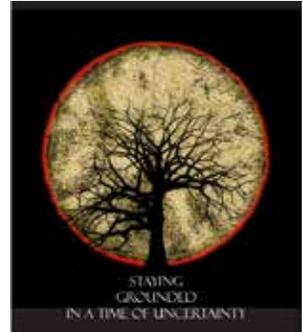
LCWR Annual Report Available Online

The 2017-2018 LCWR annual report is available on the LCWR website. The publication provides an overview of the major activities and services of the conference offered in the past 12 months, a look at the events occurring in each of the 15 regions, and a summary of the undertakings by some of the other organizations serving US religious life.

Members will be asked to approve the report at the August assembly.

Additional Copies Available of the Summer 2018 Edition of Occasional Papers

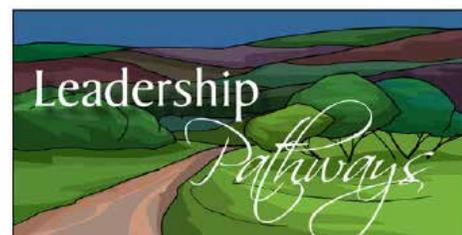
Some additional copies of the Summer 2018 issue of *Occasional Papers*: "Staying Grounded in a Time of Uncertainty" are available for purchase. Copies for members, associates, subscribers, and those who purchased copies online are in the mail.



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?

Access to Leadership Pathways

As a part of the process of updating and revising the Leadership Pathways offerings, the list of users who have access to the site is also being updated. Users who have not accessed the site in more than two years have been removed. Hopefully no users have been removed in error. Anyone who should have access to the site and who has trouble logging on should contact Marie McCarthy, SP (mmccarthy@lcwr.org) for assistance.



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
lwr.org/calendar/leading-within.
Registration will open soon.

Catholic Organizations Call Decision to Pull Out of the Iran Deal a 'Tragedy of Monumental Proportions'

More than 160 Catholic organizations, including LCWR and many of its member congregations, from countries around the globe sent a [statement](#) to the US Congress decrying President Trump's decision to end US participation in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) negotiated in 2015 during the Obama administration. The so-called "Iran deal" is an agreement on the nuclear program of Iran negotiated by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, and United States) with Germany and the European Union and Iran.



"In direct contradiction to the repeated verifications provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the advice of his own Secretaries of Defence and State, and the positions of US allies, President Trump has announced his decision to end the United States' participation in the Iran Deal and begin re-imposing the US nuclear-related sanctions that were lifted as part of the JCPOA," the statement reads. "The rejection of the JCPOA by the President of the United States is a tragedy of monumental proportions, most immediately for the people of Iran, who will endure the horrendous consequences of sanctions."

The more than 160 organizations representing 19 countries were joined by 551 Catholic leaders from 23 countries and 46 states in the United States in expressing their deep concern "that this action will create even more tension in the Middle East and undermine delicate negotiations with North Korea by sending a signal that whatever agreement you reach with the United States will not be honored."

Pax Christi International, representing a global network of over 120 member organizations in over 50 countries, helped to organize and craft the statement.

Hope in the Midst of Crisis: A Call for Solidarity in Honduras

This spring, LCWR hosted a presentation by Rosa Maria Trochez, a School Sister of Notre Dame from El Progreso, Honduras. Rosa Maria came to the United States as a member of a six-person delegation of Honduran religious leaders and human rights defenders on a 10-city speaking tour. They came to raise awareness about the violence and human rights abuses they face daily and to generate faith-based solidarity for the struggles of the Honduran people.



They chose to cap-off the tour in Washington, D.C. to inform the faith community and Congressional offices about the “furnace of violence” in Honduras, how US policies are contributing to the human rights crisis, and what can be done to stop the abuse. In her presentation at LCWR, Rosa Maria discussed the shrinking space for public expression, deepening militarization, and the repression of peaceful protest in the aftermath of the unconstitutional and highly contested presidential election November 26, 2017.

Members of the delegation, including Ismael Moreno (Padre Melo), a Jesuit priest and director of Radio Progreso and the Social Action and the Reflection, Investigation and Communication Team (ERIC), testified before the Lantos Congressional Human Rights Commission about the illegality of the November elections and the growing state-sponsored violence and political repression. Members of the delegation also addressed the root causes of forced migration that have been exacerbated by US economic and military policy in the region.

US advocates are calling for the passage of the [Berta Caceres Human Rights in Honduras Act \(HR 1299\)](#). The legislation would cut off US funds for security assistance and require the Honduran government to address the corruption and abuses of police and military officials.

In late January, [SHARE El Salvador](#) organized a delegation of 50 US faith leaders, including LCWR

members, to stand in solidarity with the people of Honduras. They went in response to a request from Padre Melo who himself has received three new death threats in the post-election period. More information about the situation in Honduras can be found in the [Report of the Emergency U.S. Religious Delegation to Honduras](#).

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

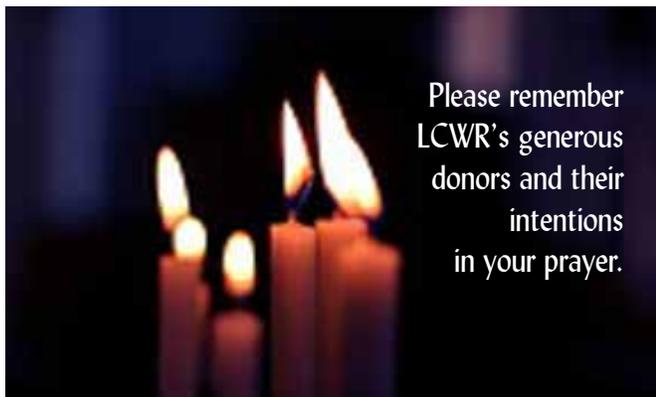
LCWR Assembly
Dallas, Texas
August 11 — 15, 2020



- Interfaith letter calling for a Farm Bill that protects and strengthens nutrition assistance programs in the United States and stating concern about harmful proposals that would restrict eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by imposing arbitrary work requirements. LCWR (5/14/18)
- Letter to Members of Congress urging them to reject the \$15.3 billion rescissions package proposed by the Trump Administration that violates the agreement enacted in the Bipartisan Budget Act by eliminating funds that make fairer levels of domestic appropriations possible, so that unmet needs may be addressed. LCWR (5/15/18)
- Statement by the international Catholic community denouncing President Trump's decision to end the United States' participation in the "Iran Deal" and begin re-imposing the U.S. nuclear-related sanctions that were lifted as part of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). LCWR (6/6/18)
- Letter to the Honorable Pete Sessions, chairman, House Rules Committee asking him to hold a full and open debate to address the uncertainty facing immigrants and to create a community where Dreamers and TPS recipients can be welcomed. LCWR (5/18/18)
- Letter from women's organizations to Congressional leadership expressing horror and dismay regarding the Trump administration's inhumane treatment of immigrant women and children and urging Congress to engage in aggressive oversight to ensure that women and children are treated with dignity. LCWR (5/22/18)
- Letter to Congressional leaders bringing to their attention the devastating worksite raids that have taken place in Tennessee and Iowa, highlighting legal concerns, questions about DHS and ICE conduct, sharing the stories of impacted individuals, and calling for Congress to ensure due process for those involved and an end to worksite raids. LCWR (5/22/18)
- Letter in support of Fordham doctoral candidate Eric Martin who is facing disciplinary procedures as a result of his peaceful protest against white supremacist activities in Charlottesville, VA. Ann Scholz, SSND (5/22/18)
- LCWR World Refugee Day letter to members of Congress asking them to ensure adequate funding for refugee related accounts, both domestic and international in FY19, and to demand that the administration resettle 45,000 refugees this fiscal year, the refugee admissions goal it set for FY18, and to encourage the administration to commit to resettle at least 75,000 refugees in FY19. Carole Shinnick, SSND (5/27/18)
- Press statement expressing opposition to the Trump administration's decision to forcibly separate parents from their children in an effort to punish families seeking safety in the United States. Teresa Maya, CCVI (5/31/18)
- Letter to Congressional leadership urging them to reject and refuse a vote on HR 3 which contains a harmful provision that would rescind \$7 billion in funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). LCWR (6/6/18)
- Statement by the international Catholic community denouncing President Trump's decision to end the United States' participation in the Iran Deal and begin re-imposing the US nuclear-related sanctions that were lifted as part of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). LCWR (6/6/18)
- Letter from faith-based organizations to Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen urging her to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Yemen for another 18 months as well as re-designate it in order to protect as many lives as possible from the country's brutal conflict and humanitarian crisis. LCWR (6/7/18)
- Statement by Catholic organizations in the United States declaring their continued commitment to the climate goals outlined in the Paris Agreement. LCWR (6/11/18)
- Letter to members of Congress opposing Representative Bob Goodlatte's bill, the Securing America's Future Act (HR 4760) and any cuts to our family-based immigration system, the diversity visa program, or ramped up enforcement measures that would further tear families apart. LCWR (6/15/18)
- Letter to Senate and House leadership calling on Congress to oppose any actions that facilitate the Department of Homeland Security's mass deten-

tion and deportation, especially of people of color, construction of a harmful border wall, or further border militarization. Specifically, urging Congress to significantly cut funds for immigration detention and enforcement within the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) budgets whether funded through the appropriations process or other legislative vehicles. LCWR (6/11/18)

- Letter to members of Congress from Catholic organizations asking them to support HR 3923, the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act, which would help to ensure that immigrants who are detained are treated in a way that protects their inherent worth and dignity as children of God. LCWR 6/13/18)

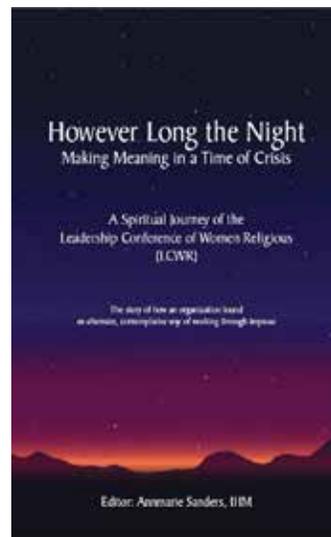


Update is an official publication of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious published monthly and distributed to members nationally. © 2018 LCWR All rights reserved.

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Encourage Use of New LCWR Book Within Religious Life and Beyond

LCWR's new book, *However Long the Night: Making Meaning in a Time of Crisis*, is now available through [Amazon in both print and Kindle editions](#).



The book was written in response to the critical need to find ways to work through the deep-seated polarization that marks these times in the world and country. Written in the context of LCWR's experience with the six-year investigation by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith from 2009-2015, the book offers both spiritual and practical advice for anyone working through situations of conflict.

The conference seeks the help of its members and associates in this effort. All are asked to consider the following:

1. Notify sisters, associates, staff members and others about the book. [Book announcements can be downloaded from the LCWR website](#).
2. Use congregation/organization communication vehicles and social media outlets to promote the book.
3. Consider hosting an event such as a presentation or workshop based on the book and, if possible, invite one or more of the authors to speak or participate in a book-signing.
4. Write a customer review of the book on the Amazon site. Reviews help boost sales.
5. Encourage the formation of book clubs or discussion circles. Each chapter of the book includes questions for reflection and discussion that help readers apply the book material to their own lives.

Proceeds from the sale of the book go to support the mission and work of LCWR.



NRVC Summer Institute Registration Breaks Record

The National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) is delighted to have 160 registrations for the annual Summer Institute and, for the first time, had to close registrations for the Behavioral Assessment workshop as it was filled with 50 participants. NRVC will welcome participants from more than 20 countries to Chicago beginning July 9. Registrations are still being accepted for the other four workshops, however overnight accommodations are at near capacity. The late fee of \$100 per workshop goes into effect on June 26. Registration information: <https://nrvc.net/292/publication/5311/article/16380-2018-nrvc-summer-institute>.

Nominate an NRVC Member for Outstanding Service

Many vocation directors give countless hours, enthusiastically promote vocations, and assess candidates for religious life. LCWR members are invited to consider nominating a vocation director who is an NRVC member for an outstanding recognition award. This award is given at the NRVC convocation banquet after recipients are selected by the national board at its August meeting from the nominations submitted. Nomination requirements and forms are available at <https://nrvc.net/274/publication/4171/article/16562-2018-convocation>.

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 lcvr.org/members/lcwr-membership-information.



2018 RCRI National Conference

The 2018 RCRI national conference will be held from October 30 to November 2. This year's conference will be held in Orlando, Florida at a new site for RCRI – the Rosen Center Hotel which is in downtown Orlando across from the Orange County Convention Center.

The theme for this year's conference will be *Pastoral Conversion: Structures in Service to Mission*, reflecting Pope Francis's insistence that personal conversion is not enough; religious institutes are called to align their structures to the mission of the church today.

The keynote speaker for the conference will be Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States.

The program will include 37 workshops covering topics related to finance, canon and civil law, and planning for institutes in transition. Again this year, NRRO will offer a series of workshops on retirement, aging, and health care. A link for conference registration is now available on RCRI's website at www.trcri.org. RCRI members will receive a discount if they register before the deadline.

RCRI will also offer three half-day pre-conference workshops on October 30. The workshops include "Finance 101 for Persons in Leadership Roles" directed toward new leaders and council members; "Legal Overview for Religious Institutes in 2018" for leaders, council members, and finance personnel; and "TRENDS for Beginners." A link is also posted on the RCRI website for online registration for the Rosen Center Hotel.





by Joan Mumaw, IHM
 President
www.solidarityfriends.org

Solidarity Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Solidarity with South Sudan is celebrating its 10th anniversary of ministry in South Sudan in 2018. The beginning celebrations will take place at the Good Shepherd Peace Center, a short distance from Juba, June 30 – July 3, 2018. Staff and board members of Solidarity will gather there for reflection and sharing on their experience. Our Solidarity members work with great challenges and under very difficult circumstances, so it is a gift for them to be able to gather at this Center and celebrate 10 years in South Sudan. I am privileged to join them after visiting the Solidarity projects in the country.

Pray that all goes well. The situation in the country is not good. Peace negotiations taking place in Ethiopia have collapsed. The churches are continuing to mediate and facilitate dialogue among the different factions. Pope Francis is establishing a Vatican Embassy in the country – an expression of his concern and a sign of hope for the people.

Fighting between the army and rebels continues to plague the people. In the Riimenze area there are nearly 7000 displaced who are too afraid to return to their plots of land to prepare the ground for the rains which are now coming. Solidarity staff at Riimenze minister to the elderly, pregnant women and children and the disabled. The latest UN figures indicate that 5.5 million are facing food insecurity, bordering on famine, due to insecurity and the inability of humanitarian organizations to reach distressed populations. Two million people are internally displaced and 2.5 million have fled to neighboring countries in search of safety and food.

Guardian angels must be protecting Solidarity staff and students as we have been spared harm and destruction in this civil war. Solidarity institutions may be the only ones graduating teachers, nurses and midwives.

This is due primarily to the support provided by religious communities and their ministry funds. We so appreciate your support and hope you will continue to support us going forward. Please visit our exhibit during the LCWR annual Assembly. I would like to meet you. jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com

July 9 marks the seventh year since Independence in South Sudan. Please invite your community members to download a prayer to commemorate this occasion and to pray for peace in this beleaguered nation. <https://www.solidarityfriends.org/resources/>

News from the National Religious Retirement Office

Recently, National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) staff members traveled to Hartford, Connecticut, to meet with religious and provide an overview of the services and support made possible by the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. The team shared information on the financial assistance, retirement planning, and educational programs offered by the NRRO. Later in the day, time was available for religious to work with individual staff members. The event was organized by Mariette Moan, ASCJ, vicar for religious for the Archdiocese of Hartford, and attended by roughly 40 religious from five (arch)dioceses. Other LCWR regions interested in a similar day are asked to contact NRRO executive director Stephanie Still, PBVM at sstill@uscgb.org or (202) 541-3217 to learn more or to set a date.



All LCWR assembly participants are invited to stop at the NRRO exhibitor's booth to explore the educational, financial, and consultative services offered by the NRRO. Information is also on the [NRRO website](http://www.nrro.org).

News from the United Nations

July 18—[*Nelson Mandela*](#)

[*International Day*](#)—Every year on the anniversary of Nelson Mandela’s birth, the UN joins a call by the Nelson Mandela Foundation to devote 67 minutes of time to helping others, as a way to honor his 67 years of service to humanity as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker, and the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa.



July 30—[*International Day of Friendship*](#)—The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures, and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities and to support the goals and objectives of the Declaration and Program of Action on a Culture of Peace.

July 30—[*World Day against Trafficking in Persons*](#)—

In 2013 the UN General Assembly held a high-level meeting to appraise progress in the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. At the meeting, member states also designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons. The resolution declared that such a day was necessary to “raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.”

Support LCWR Through the Purchase of Cards



Consider supporting LCWR and purchasing sets of 10 greeting cards based on the insights of its members that were voiced at the 2016 LCWR assembly. Priced at just \$10.00 for the set of 10, these folded cards make great gifts and are a means of sharing ideas about contemplation, communion, and Gospel-centered living. All proceeds from the sale of cards go toward supporting the work and mission of LCWR. Cards may be purchased online at lcwr.org/item/contemplative-greeting-cards. For more information, contact Carol Glidden at cglidden@lcwr.org.