

June 2017

LCWR Mourns Passing of its Former President Nadine Foley, OP

Former LCWR president Nadine Foley, OP, prioress of the Adrian Dominican Sisters from 1986 to 1992, died on May 13 at the age of 93.



For much of her religious life, Nadine figured prominently in religious circles as a leader both for the Adrian Dominican congregation and for women religious throughout the nation. She served for two terms as a general councilor for the Adrian Dominican sisters, in 1974-1978 and 1978-1982, before being elected as the congregation's prioress in 1986. She served in the LCWR presidency from 1987-90, and also was elected to serve as US delegate to the International Union of Superiors General.

"Sister Nadine led LCWR at a particularly difficult time in its history as it discerned its own identity and the

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LCWR Assembly Luncheons

This year's LCWR assembly will provide participants with several opportunities for further learning and interaction with others over the lunch breaks.

Wednesday, August 9

Religious Institutes in Transition

Mary Hughes, OP, LCWR director of transitional services, will facilitate a conversation for congregations seeking or developing a partnership with another congregation. The conversation will allow participants to meet others investigating similar relationships, as well as learn more about the resources available to leaders and their congregations as they consider transitions.

Catholic Sisters Initiative

A representative from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation will speak about some of the initiatives the foundation has funded and will respond to questions from those present. The foundation is interested in the development and implementation of strategic initiatives that build the capacity of congregations of women religious in the areas of leadership, membership and resources.

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Register Now for the 2017 LCWR Assembly

August 8 -- 11, 2017 -- (departure date: August 12)
Orlando, Florida

Registration for the assembly and the hotel
must be done online at lcwr.org.



From the LCWR Presidency

Pilgrimage in a Time of Movement

by Teresa Maya, CCVI — LCWR President-Elect

We live in a time of incredible movement -- of people, goods, ideas, and challenges. Surely, there have been times in history that displaced millions of people, but the scale, the stakes, the responses are all new to our time. Pope Francis has called us to be a church that *goes forth*. The Spanish - "*Iglesia en salida*" - works better to illustrate the call: a Church always "leaving". And, we have a lot of leaving to do -- out of our comfort zones, out of what we know, out of our own challenges. This invitation became very clear to me the last few weeks.



and Canada, and the United States I suddenly realized how "small" my image of church often is. We are a community bigger than our language, our race or culture, our nationalisms. A community called to unity by the joy of the Easter message. The realization can be overwhelming when you find yourself a simple pilgrim among many others the world over.

The CHA program brought me to Assisi where I felt as if I was hearing the story of Francis and Clare for the very first time. The beautiful Umbrian crisp

spring day and the flowers everywhere helped, of course. You truly feel why Assisi is the City of Peace. But it was my fellow pilgrims, the men and women of Catholic healthcare today who brought me to tears at the tomb of Francis. Their willingness to learn, to witness to the healing ministry of Jesus Christ, their appreciation for our legacy and history and faith, made me realize that indeed we are all pilgrims on a journey.

I just returned from a long trip abroad that included the LCWR annual visit to the Holy See, the CHA ecclesiology seminar, and my congregation's co-sponsored CHRISTUS Health pilgrimage to Rome and Lyon. Small wonder I bear all the signs of a returned pilgrim: worn out and disoriented, with the crumpled clothes to go with it!

At each stop of my journey, I realized that there is no perspective without distance. We need to "go out," to go forth or simply to "*salir*," in order to see our call with better clarity. Our stories as women religious are filled with courageous women who "moved" -- left their familiar surroundings, engaged the world with conviction, and migrated to the far corners of the world. How are we going to participate today in this time of incredible movement? Are we even considering moving, any "*salida*"? Can we at least "move" a little distance away from our convictions?

And finally, as I stood before the holy sites of our co-sponsored ministry -- learning about the conviction and resilience of our founders, I was filled with awe for their "courage." Reggie, a friend on the trip, noted Maya Angelou's observation that courage is the most important character trait a person must have. And as I knelt on that Holy Ground, the very place where our sisters made the decisions to come to America, I prayed for their courage so we too may move, as they did, that we too may be filled with the conviction that the Gospel is far more important than any hardship, any complication, or any ideology.

During the LCWR visits, we participated in the papal audience. Hearing Pope Francis' message repeated in one language after the other, greeting the pilgrims from Colombia, and Poland, and France, and Korea

May we all experience the perspective of pilgrimage, and return home ready to move, one more time!

LCWR Mourns Passing of its Former President Nadine Foley, OP

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identity of religious life in the contemporary world,” said Joan Marie Steadman, CSC, executive director of LCWR. “With keen intelligence and strength of character, she led challenging discussions on these identity questions with church leaders throughout the country, always assuring that the values and integrity of the religious institutions she represented would be protected.”

During her presidency, the Tri-Conference on Religious Life was formed, consisting of the leaders of LCWR, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, an effort which significantly increased mutual support among the three entities. She lived wholeheartedly the words she spoke in her 1989 LCWR presidential address: “We are consecrated for mission in active ministerial communities and mission is our witness. We are ultimately to be sources of unity and reconciliation in all that we do and so to further the coming of the Reign of God. In that sense, along with all the faithful, we can and must be eschatological witnesses.” Nadine’s work to define what religious life needed to be for the world it served left an indelible mark on LCWR, one which continues to guide the conference to this day.

A prolific author of articles on religious life, she also was editor of three books, *Preaching and the Unordained*, *Claiming Our Truth*, and *Journey in Faith and Fidelity*; and wrote two volumes of Adrian Dominican history – *Seeds Scattered and Grown* and *To Fields Near and Far* – and a biography of the congregation’s longest-serving prioress, Mother Mary Gerald Barry, OP: *Ecclesial Woman of Vision and Daring*. She earned several advanced degrees, including a PhD and MA in philosophy, as well as an MS in biology, from Catholic University in Washington, DC; and an STM in scripture from Union Theological Seminary, New York, New York.

A native Michigander, she entered the Adrian Dominican Sisters in 1945, the same year she earned a bachelor’s degree in science from Siena Heights College (now University) in Adrian, Michigan.

LCWR Assembly Lunches

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Thursday, August 10

Leadership Pathways

Two different lunch conversations related to LCWR’s leadership development process, Leadership Pathways, will be available. One opportunity invites any interested member to learn how Leadership Pathways can help strengthen her capacities as a transformational leader and also provide a circle of companions on the journey of elected leadership. This lunch conversation is open to any LCWR member.

The second opportunity will be an informal gathering of members who have already or are currently participating in some segment of Leadership Pathways. This will allow cohort members who have met only virtually to meet and visit together. It will also provide an opportunity to offer feedback and insights on the Leadership Pathways experience.

Translations of Occasional Papers Interviews Available

Thanks to the generosity of the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois, translations into Spanish of two interviews from past issues of *Occasional Papers* are now available: “Pursuing Our Dreams in Times of Darkness” with Constance FitzGerald, OCD; and “Living a Discerning Life in a Complex, Harsh World” with Margaret Wheatley. These and other translated articles can be found at lcwr.org/articles-perti-nent-religious-life.

Any congregation that has translated other articles/ interviews from LCWR publications and is willing to make them available for use by others is asked to contact Annmarie Sanders, IHM at asanders@lcwr.org.

Leading from Within Retreat

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



January 14 -- 19, 2018
Redemptorist Renewal Center -- Tucson, Arizona
desertrenewal.org

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

The days will include input, contemplative space, a variety of ritual experiences and some opportunity for individual conversation with one of the directors and sharing in small wisdom circles for those who choose.

Retreat Directors



Marie McCarthy, SP



Janet Mock, CSJ

Space is limited to 30 persons.
More information and registration materials will be made available soon to all LCWR members.

Position Open at LCWR National Office in Maryland

LCWR is searching for potential candidates for the position of associate director of business and finance at LCWR. This is a critical position on the LCWR staff and the conference is looking for a person with the right set of skills and experience who could bring vision and creativity to this role.

In order to insure a smooth transition LCWR is interested in finding a new associate director for business and finance who could start by July 17.

The full job description for this position and application instructions are available at lcwr.org/media/news/lcwr-seeks-associate-director-business-and-finance. **Applications are still being accepted.** Questions about the position may be directed to Joan Marie Steadman, CSC, LCWR executive director at jsteadman@lcwr.org.

2017 LCWR Assembly Being the Presence of Love: The Power of Transformation

August 8 - 11, 2017 -- Orlando, Florida

Highlights

Keynote Address: "Will the Circle Be Unbroken? Leaning into the Mystery of Resurrection Faith"
-- Dr. Christopher Pramuk

Keynote Address: "We Stood in the Place of Death and Heard the Living Call Our Name"
-- Jan Richardson

Presidential Address -- Mary Pellegrino, CSJ

Young Leaders Conversation

Keynoters Conversation

Deepening Groups

Contemplative Processing

Outstanding Leadership Award Presentation

Discounted price is available
for all who register before June 21

LCWR Makes Annual Visit to Rome

by Joan Marie Steadman, CSC,
LCWR Executive Director

Recently, the LCWR presidency (Mary Pellegrino, CSJ; Teresa Maya, CCVI; and Marcia Allen, CSJ) and I represented LCWR in meetings with various Vatican officials.

The annual trip to Rome is in fact a pilgrimage. It is a journey that gives LCWR the opportunity to listen and to share. One comes away from such a journey with a deeper sense of the global church, a tangible experience of the impact of Pope Francis on the mission and priorities of the offices visited, and a desire to live the Gospel more deeply. In each of the conversations that took place there was a genuine spirit of welcome, a mutual desire to learn from and support one another, and a shared hope for the transformation of hearts and relationships in the global community.

Some of our visits were made with the representatives of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and included:

- Congregation for Catholic Education
- Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples
- Congregation for Promoting Integral Human Development
- Pontifical Council for New Evangelization
- Pontifical Council for Social Communications

Since an ambassador to the Vatican from the United States has yet to be appointed there was a joint visit with the United States Embassy chargé d' affaires.

Mary and I had the blessing of being able to participate in a liturgy with Pope Francis at Santa Marta. After mass we were able to personally greet Pope Francis, extend the love and gratitude of the members of LCWR, and assure him of our prayers.

LCWR visited the following Vatican offices alone:

- Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
- Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life
- Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue
- Vatican Secretary of State

LCWR also met with:

- Congregation leaders who have members in the United States
- Representatives of the Union of International Superiors General (UISG)

LCWR participated in a meeting sponsored by the GHR Foundation and UISG. There, Mary Johnson, SNDdeN, presented her study on International Sisters in the United States. Most of the participants were representatives of congregation leadership teams whose generalates are in Rome. Mary's study has implications for religious congregations far beyond the United States as they reflect on their own reality.

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▲ Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life

◀ Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

LCWR Makes Annual Visit to Rome

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We also participated in the gathering with pilgrims from all over the world for the Wednesday audience with Pope Francis. The group reflected the global face of the church and the joy, energy and commitment to live the gospel that Pope Francis calls forth.



1. *Congregation for Catholic Education*
2. *Pontifical Council for New Evangelization*
3. *Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue*
4. *Vatican Secretary of State*
5. *Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples*
6. *Congregation for Promoting Integral Human Development*
7. *UISG*



Participants at the 2016 LCWR assembly processed their experience in deepening groups where they had the opportunity to engage in contemplative dialogue. Important insights arose from those dialogues which were collected and shared briefly during the assembly.

Throughout the year, LCWR is sharing some of these insights in various ways so that all members may utilize these thoughts and ideas for their own reflection. Individuals may wish to spend time with the insights personally, and leadership teams may want to consider them communally.

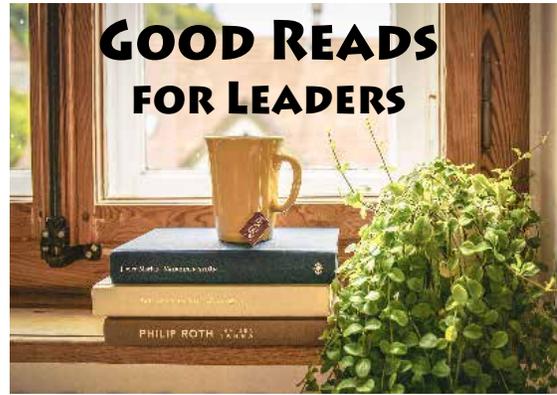
Embracing the Mystery: Living Transformation

- Trusting that our contemplation and contemplative dialogue allures us into Holy Mystery, we lovingly embrace our oneness with the entire cosmos.
- Dare to integrate contemplation and contemplative dialogue into the fabric and business of our congregational life to allow ourselves to love in Holy Mystery.
- In the darkness, receive the allure of unseen forward movement. This is the gift of religious life to the world.



Update is an official publication of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious published monthly and distributed to members nationally. © 2016 LCWR All rights reserved.

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Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult

Recommended by Pat Twohill, OP

All of us have heard it said by experts who know these things “Everyone is racist deep down.” I’ve always thought these theoreticians likely are correct, but silently in my heart of hearts I’ve hoped, “but surely they can’t mean me.” Reality takes some time to dawn, doesn’t it? But blessedly, if we live long enough and cultivate sufficient capacity for self-reflection, we do gain awareness of our implicit biases.

Racism is about more than just discrimination based on skin color. It’s also about the advantages often taken for granted by those with institutional power. If you are open to taking your “implicit bias pulse,” then you will love this book. Fair warning though: If you take up this book it will be hard to put it down, and there may be points when you are not sure you can keep reading. Receive Ruth’s, the main character’s, gift of hope. And enjoy all the characters that populate the pages who may remind you of friends and family members.

My congregation has been doing a lot of study this past year on the topic of “Living Interculturally.” This novel, *Small Great Things*, by Jodi Picoult provided me and our sisters and associates with a captivating point of entry for considering our own prejudices in a non-threatening way. If you are deeply committed to equality, diversity and to improving human relations, I invite you pick up this book and to read with hope.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Assembly
Orlando, Florida
August 8 — 12, 2017

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

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

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

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

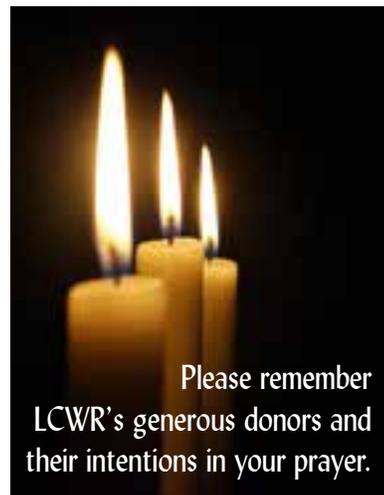
LCWR Assembly
Scottsdale, Arizona
August 13 — 17, 2019

NRRO Planning and Implementation Assistance

Six religious institutes gathered with National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) staff and consultants for a Planning and Implementation Assistance Workshop at the Begamo Retreat Center, Dayton, OH, from April 25 to 27, 2017.

Institutes in Planning and Implementation Assistance spend roughly 12-24 months identifying their most pressing issues related to retirement funding and developing plans to address them. NRRO staff and consultants provide expertise and guidance through onsite visits, monthly phone call support, and other contacts. The consultation services are free to participants. Financial assistance for planning needs are available as is financial assistance for implementing solutions.

Examples of projects include development office audits, solar energy projects, studying land and building usage, motherhouse projects, and various eldercare concerns. Information on qualifications for participation is available at: (www.usccb.org/about/national-religious-retirement-office/planning-and-implementation-assistance.cfm) or by calling the office at 202-541-3215.



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

Is Your Leadership Term About to End?

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



by Joan Mumaw, IHM
President
www.solidarityfriends.org

The Face of God Turns Toward the World

The readings of this post-Easter season are rich in images. The disciples struggle to understand the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection. We too seek understanding in a world fraught with pain and suffering. Solidarity remains standing with the people of South Sudan, the face of God, in an ever widening conflict.

When the UISG and USG took on the challenge of ministry in South Sudan, they also committed religious to build the capacity of the church, including two indigenous religious congregations, the St. Martin Brothers and the Sacred Heart Sisters.

The Sacred Heart Sisters were founded in Sudan in 1954 by Bishop Mazzoldi, an Italian Comboni missionary. Due to constant war, the sisters have often been displaced, losing their few houses and resources. In the mid- 1980s they were forced to flee to Northern Uganda. The Sacred Heart Sisters, with two provinces, now serve in 15 dioceses in Uganda, Sudan, and Nairobi, Kenya. The congregation has 160 members from 46 different tribes. The official language of the congregation is English.

“Our Charism is ‘evangelization’, making Christ known and keeping him present among the most needy and abandoned through personal life witness. Called by God to preach His Good News among our people, we cannot separate preaching the Good News from solidarity with the poor... High priority is given to education as the means of liberating people from ignorance, poverty and low self-image, to bring them into the light of God and knowledge. The children are the hope of every nation; we do not neglect the adults in our services but we give priority to the children, especially in the field of education.”

Because of the ongoing civil wars (65+ years) the sisters in Sudan have few resources and need help to care for their elderly and sick sisters (relocated from Malakal in 2014 due to war). The Sudan province is in need of assistance to complete a province center in Juba for care of the elderly and to serve as a province office. Solidarity is educating some sisters as teachers and nurses; one has been trained in accounting and works in the office in Juba. These religious women are the “face of God” to their own people.

The development of these two congregations is important to the sustainability of the work of Solidarity. These religious are potential leaders of the institutions established by Solidarity.

Perhaps you would like to develop a partnership with the Sacred Heart Sisters. For more information about the sisters and their needs contact jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com. Tax deductible donations can be made to Friends in Solidarity, 8808 Cameron St. Silver Spring, MD 20910 or online www.solidarityfriends.org/donate.