

June 2016

LCWR Mourns the Passing of its Former President Margaret Brennan, IHM

Former LCWR president Margaret Brennan, IHM, 92, died on April 28, at the IHM motherhouse in Monroe, Michigan.



Margaret was elected general superior of the IHM congregation in 1966 and ministered as president through 1976. She led the congregation through the many changes and opportunities made available through the Second Vatican Council. During her years in leadership, she was an active LCWR member and regarded as an ingenious and imaginative leader. She exercised strong influence in the organization and was elected to the presidency in 1971.

During those tumultuous years in religious life and the church, she exercised extraordinary vision as the organization went through a significant revision of bylaws and changed its name from the Conference of Major Superiors of Women to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. She was a steadfast advocate for many US communities with the Vatican, and often spoke on behalf of contemplative sisters in their struggle to win a voice in decision-making regarding their own communities.

Shortly after completing her leadership term, Margaret became a pioneer in the field of theology. She was named associate professor of pastoral theology at Regis College, a theological college of the University of To-

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New LCWR Contemplative Dialogue Resource Available



Because of the increasing interest in understanding contemplative dialogue, LCWR created an online resource that demonstrates this practice and highlights its potential as an instrument of transformation.

Contemplative Dialogue: Unleashing the Transformative Power of Communal Wisdom is a video of eight women religious who allowed their actual contemplative dialogue session to be filmed so that others could see how this form of communal contemplation and sharing works. [The one-hour film may be seen online](#) and is available on the public side of LCWR's website.

The dialogue session is introduced and facilitated by Liz Sweeney, SSJ who has been working with this practice for a number of years. [A transcript of her introduction to the film](#) where she explains contemplative dialogue is available as a downloadable document. Also available is [a document with additional information](#) on this practice and suggestions for conducting a contemplative dialogue session.

Viewers are encouraged to watch the film from a centered, prayerful space in order to feel the experience of contemplative dialogue which involves slow conversa-

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From the LCWR Presidency

‘Throw Open the Windows of the Church’

by Mary Pellegrino, CSJ — LCWR President-Elect

“Throw open the windows of the church and let the fresh air of the spirit blow through.”
-- Pope Saint John XXIII announcing the Second Vatican Council

I never quite appreciated that image until our recent visit to Rome for LCWR’s annual meetings with various officials and dicasteries, where we encountered welcome equal in warmth to the unseasonable weather, but very few open windows!

On or about the third day of sunny skies and temps in the mid-70s (F), the heat and accompanying closed windows nearly everywhere we went became a running joke among our group. Entering the stifling air of centuries old Vatican buildings from the mostly sun-soaked streets, we would wonder aloud about the status of the windows in our meeting rooms. The status was ordinarily closed. For some in our group that was just fine; for me, wearing lined jackets and prone to hot flashes, not so much.

In one notable tease, as we entered the room where we would meet with the staff of CICALSAL, I was thrilled to see that the high windows were not only open, but there was a gentle breeze wafting through the room. It was a like an answer to prayer, short-lived though it was. After the greetings and warm welcome, one of our hosts turned to pull the windows closed. Because, well, you know, the draft.

I learned from Sharon that Italians are suspect of drafts or “correndi d’aria”, literally “currents of air.” I should have remembered that from the way my immigrant grandparents kept their home hermetically sealed even during hot Pittsburgh summers.

So for John XXIII to use an image of intentionally throwing windows open and likening the Holy Spirit to



How long is the
Spirit anywhere
before we notice
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suspicious movements of air seems to me to be either a genius challenge or an unfortunate invitation.

We all live with the tension created by the Spirit blowing freely through windows either opened by our own hands or unable to remain closed against the invisible force of an unseen God. Renewal in our congregations and in the church has been at times effected by one or another or both of these realities. And regardless of where anyone stands on the continuum of ongoing renewal, none of us remains the same for it.

Refreshingly, the closed windows in the Vatican offices we visited didn’t reflect the reality we encountered within. We were met with respect, enthusiasm, and genuine welcome. We participated in conversations about items of mutual concern and interest. We heard appreciation from more than one office for the contributions and presence of religious throughout the world, particularly in the most vulnerable and war-torn, conflict areas of the globe.

I believe we encountered the fresh air of a church being worked on by the Holy Spirit. This is a church of which religious are a vital part, a church whose vision and concern is more global and inclusive than we might readily recognize from any of our vantage points, a church that is not perfect, but is being perfected.

There was one office whose windows were flung wide when we entered the meeting room and remained so throughout our time together. It was CDF. At the end of the meeting as we rose to leave, a bird flew playfully around and around the chandelier hanging from the high ceiling. How long had it been there? No one knew. How long is the Spirit anywhere before we notice its unmistakable presence?

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ronto, and became the first female theology professor at the school, where she taught for 24 years. She authored numerous articles and books on religious life, spirituality, and culture.

She returned to Michigan in 2002 and served as a theological consultant at Visitation Spirituality Center in Monroe, while continuing to lecture in both the United States and Canada. In 2010, LCWR honored her with its Outstanding Leadership Award.

New LCWR Contemplative Dialogue Resource Available

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tion, pauses, and silence so that participants go deeper in their listening to and building upon the responses of one another.

This slow-moving manner of dialogue is structured to help participants pay attention to the field of relationship among them (the “we space”) and thus deepen their sense of union. The intent of the dialogue is to move beyond the personal as participants probe significant ideas together and listen deeply for truth in another’s point of view. Contemplative dialogue is a means of readying the ground for collective transformation, for helping shift from I to we, from individualism to communion.

All who plan to attend this year’s LCWR assembly are encouraged to watch the video prior to participating in the assembly since all attendees will be part of two experiences of contemplative dialogue during the event.

Ministry Openings Available

LCWR Executive Assistant

LCWR is seeking an executive assistant to provide administrative and clerical support to the LCWR executive director. The LCWR offices are located in Silver Spring, Maryland. [A position description](#) and [application details](#) are available on the LCWR website.

Leadership Collaborative Executive Director

The Leadership Collaborative is a working group consisting of members of several women’s religious congregations, as well as representatives of LCWR and the Religious Formation Conference. The group has collaborated for several years to provide opportunities for leadership development for women religious ages 60 and younger, as well as associates. The Collaborative Leadership Development Program, which has now provided leadership training for members of many congregations throughout the United States and abroad, is among the projects of the Leadership Collaborative.

The Leadership Collaborative is now seeking an executive director who would be responsible for the management and operation of all programs, services, and activities of the Leadership Collaborative and for implementing all policy and strategic planning decisions of the collaborative’s board. The new executive director is free to choose a location from which to work. A brief description of the position, as well as the full job description are available.

Applicants for the position are asked to submit the following materials: a cover letter which includes responses to the following questions: What draws you to this position? and What would you bring to this position?; a resumé; and three references. All materials must be received by July 8, 2016 and should be sent electronically to: Erica Faulhaber at: efaulhaber@cscsisters.org (574-284-5645). Candidates who are selected for consideration would be asked to travel to Silver Spring, Maryland for an interview on August 18 and 19, 2016.

If applicants have specific questions that are not answered in the job description, they may contact search committee member Annmarie Sanders, IHM at asanders@lwr.org or at 301-588-4955.



Roma, 9-13 / 05 / 2016

LCWR Members Participate in UISG Plenary in Rome

Many members of LCWR were among the more than 850 women religious who participated in the 20th plenary assembly of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) held in Rome from May 9-13. The participants, who are all leaders of women's congregations of apostolic life, reflected on the theme "Weaving Global Solidarity for Life."

Participants came from 80 countries, some of which are known areas of conflict and war where people endure suffering and deprivation on a daily basis. Others came from countries where to be Catholic is seen by some as a threat and a reason for persecution.

In addition to hearing and processing addresses and reports, the assembly participants had the opportunity to attend a private audience with Pope Francis who greeted them and then fielded questions for 75 minutes from the group.

For this assembly, UISG invited guests from many of the continental and national conferences of religious. Joan Marie Steadman, CSC represented LCWR as its executive director.

Among the keynoters was former LCWR president Carol Zinn, SSJ, while former LCWR executive director Janet Mock, CSJ served as a co-facilitator of the event.

Copies of the major addresses and reports can be found at www.internationalunion-superiorsgeneral.org/meetings/assembly. The materials are available in English, French, German, Italian, and Portuguese.

Among the assembly participants were LCWR board members Carol Wagner, RDC (far left) and Marilyn Geiger, OSF (far right)

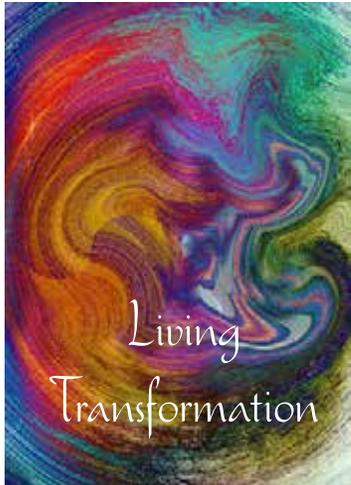


UISG participants await the arrival of Pope Francis at their private audience



LCWR executive director Joan Marie Steadman, CSC (right) was among the representatives of continental and national conferences





Order Copies of Summer 2016 Occasional Papers by June 1

This issue of LCWR's *Occasional Papers* on "Living Transformation" will explore the multiple processes of transformation underway in the cosmos and on this planet and how our personal journeys intersect with these larger stories of transformation. Writers explore: What is it that the world needs from us as we individually and corporately undergo transformation – transformation of our understandings of life, of ourselves, and of religious life? Why does it matter that we fully participate in the processes of transformation as we are able? What benefit will our participation in transformation have for the wider world?

Topics to be explored in this edition include:

- Leading in times of great ambiguity
- The place of contemplative engagement in the transformation process
- Managing change
- Learning from outstanding leaders who led through periods of great transformation
- The role of dreaming in creating a preferred future
- What is already emerging in religious life as this way of life undergoes transformation

The issue includes interviews with author and organizational development specialist Peter Block and author Jeremy Taylor who works with dreams from the perspective of spirituality and social conscience.

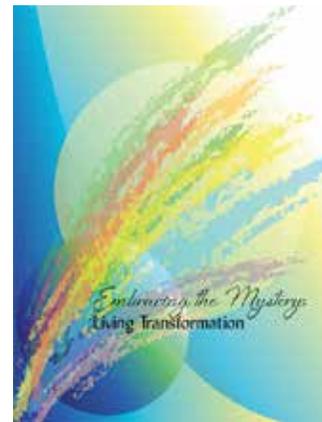
Orders may be placed online at lcsr.org/item/summer-2016-living-transformation-0 and must be received by **June 1, 2016**. Copies will be mailed in late June.



Due to a printer overrun, LCWR has extra copies for sale of its new book, *Avanti!*.

The cost of each book is \$6.00, plus shipping and handling. Orders may be placed online at lcsr.org/item/daily-reflection-book. Questions about orders may be directed to LCWR's administrative assistant, Carol Glidden, at cglidden@lcsr.org or at 301-588-4955.

The 2016 LCWR Assembly



Embracing the Mystery: Living Transformation August 9 – 12 -- Atlanta, Georgia

Registration Now Open for LCWR Assembly

All LCWR members and associates are encouraged to register now for the 2016 LCWR assembly. Registration for both the hotel and the assembly must be completed online. Information is on the members section of the LCWR website: www.lcsr.org.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Assembly
Atlanta, Georgia
August 9 — 13, 2016

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat
Bethany Retreat Center
Lutz, Florida
January 15 — 20, 2017

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

LCWR Assembly
Orlando, Florida
August 8 — 12, 2017

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

Leading from Within Retreat

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



January 15 — 20, 2017
Bethany Retreat Center -- Lutz, Florida
bethany.catholicweb.com

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.

Help Make Assembly Attendance Possible for Members Through a Donation to the LCWR Scholarship Fund

LCWR is aware that attendance at the national assembly is financially challenging for some members. Any congregation that has the means to enable the attendance of another member is invited to consider a donation to the LCWR scholarship fund. Donations (checks payable to LCWR) may be directed to Grace Hartzog, SC, associate director for business and finance, at 8808 Cameron Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Any congregation that wishes to attend the conference, but needs assistance also is asked to contact Grace (ghartzog@lcwr.org) to request a partial scholarship. Partial assistance with registration and/or hotel accommodations is available through the LCWR scholarship fund.

Retreat Directors



Marie McCarthy, SP

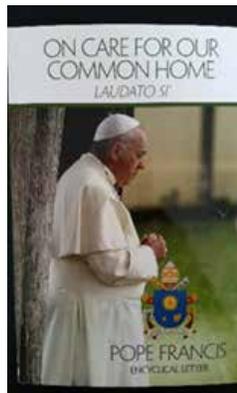


Janet Mock, CSJ

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

Celebrate the First-Anniversary of the *Laudato Si'*

June 18, 2016 marks the first anniversary of the publication of the historic encyclical, *Praise Be to You. Laudato Si'* Week (June 12-19) will be an opportunity to celebrate, to reflect on the message of integral ecology, and to express gratitude to Pope Francis by taking action to bring the encyclical to life.



From flash mobs in Zimbabwe, to launching of parish green teams in the United States, to hosting Laudato Si workshops across Europe, people around the world are preparing to celebrate Pope Francis's historic encyclical on integral ecology.

Parishes and communities around the globe are planning to celebrate the encyclical's anniversary with events featuring reflection, inspiration, and transformative action. Local planners are encouraged to share information about their events and to learn about others plans at the *Laudato Si'* website, laudatosiweek.org.

The Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) is planning a series of webinars with prominent speakers including Bishop Sanchez Sorondo from the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and Jeffrey Sachs from Columbia University, to dialogue about *On Care of Our Common Home*. Those interested may sign up to receive information about the online conference at tinyurl.com/jy5bee3.

GCCM is also looking for inspiring stories of Catholic environmental stewardship. They are also seeking stories about how religious congregations, parishes, and Catholic institutions implementing ecological practices. Stories may be added at tinyurl.com/j8xfou3.

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.

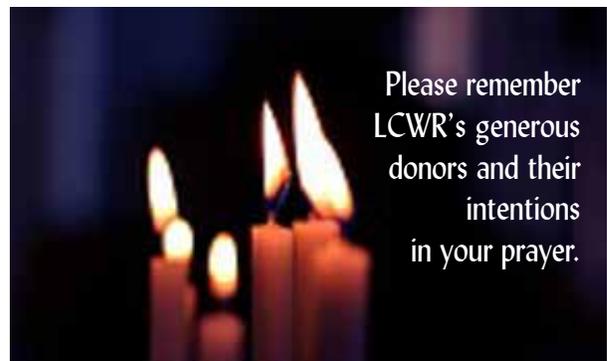
LCWR Joins the Refugees Welcome Campaign

With millions of people displaced worldwide and nearly 17 million refugees, resettlement organizations, refugee and human rights organizations, and faith-based NGOs are all working in partnership to provide a vibrant welcome to refugees and to encourage US leaders to continue to respond to the world's crisis by offering hospitality to the most vulnerable.



A recently formed coalition launched a campaign to do just that. The Refugees Welcome Campaign hopes to provide opportunities for refugees to share their experiences with faith and community groups. It seeks to build friendships among diverse cultures and faiths, strengthen public and private welcome of our refugee neighbors, promote refugee integration and leadership, and celebrate refugees' contributions to the community.

Organizers claim that as the world faces the largest refugee crisis since the end of World War II, it is more important than ever that local communities open their hearts and doors to refugees seeking safety and a chance to rebuild their lives. Information about the campaign and how to get involved can be found at www.refugeesarewelcome.org.



LCWR Endorses Generation Freedom Campaign

Generation Freedom is a broad non-partisan coalition founded by some of the country's leading anti-trafficking experts and activists to build political will for greater US leadership to combat human trafficking.



Experts estimate that there are more than 20 million victims of human trafficking around the world exploited for labor or commercial sex. Their traffickers are estimated to make more than \$150 billion in profits from human misery every year.

If the US government were to allocate just two cents to fight trafficking for every dollar traffickers make, that would yield a budget of \$3 billion which could be used to fight human trafficking and potentially liberate millions now in modern slavery on a global scale.

Coordinated by United Way Center on Human Trafficking and Slavery, Generation Freedom seeks to persuade the next president of the United States that she or he can break the back of human trafficking and modern slavery in this generation.

A petition to the 2016 presidential candidates may be signed on the campaign's website www.generation-freedom.org.



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Formerly Detained Central American Mothers Seek Support from White House Mothers

Wednesday, May 4, LCWR joined other immigrant advocates in co-sponsoring a Mothers' Day event at the White House. The gathering honored a dozen formerly detained moms with flowers and certificates attesting to their courage and commitment to the safety and security of their families. They in turn presented Mothers' Day cards to White House staffers who promised to deliver them to First Lady Michelle Obama, Dr. Jill Biden, assistant to the president Celia Muñoz, and senior advisor to the president Valerie Jarrett.

The immigrant mothers were all previously detained along with their children by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) while seeking protection in the United States after fleeing the humanitarian crisis in Central America. They gathered to thank high-ranking mothers in the administration for being such strong advocates for families and to ask that they join the call to end family detention.

The Mother's Day event, which was called "Let Hope Bloom," came amid mounting pressure on the Obama Administration, including statements by both Democratic presidential candidates, to end ICE's practices of sweeping up Central American refugees in raids and housing children and their parents in detention centers. The administration has also come under heavy criticism for prolonged detention of traumatized women and children under troubling conditions and then at times hastily responding to this criticism by quickly pushing families through the legal system only to deny them protection and deport them back into the deadly crisis from which they fled.



by Joan Mumaw, IHM
US Regional
Development Director

Seeking Volunteers and Support in this Year of Mercy

Solidarity with South Sudan has been in South Sudan since 2009. Many of the religious volunteers present in the country are coming to the end of their terms in the country. There is a need for new personnel to join the Solidarity team. Ordinarily, this is a three-year commitment with the possibility of renewal, but the needs of the individuals and their communities are taken into consideration.

This ministry, initiated by the UISG/USG, is inspired by the Congress on Consecrated Life held in Rome in 2005. In a statement from the Congress entitled, *Passion for Christ, Passion for Humanity*, religious were invited to search for “a new paradigm...born of compassion for the downtrodden of the earth... around new priorities, new models of organization and open and flexible collaboration between men and women of good will.”

Perhaps, you can call forth volunteers for this exciting and new style of ministry? Sisters, brothers and priests are working with the laity to build the capacity of the South Sudanese who will, in due time, assume responsibility for the work now being done by expatriate religious from 20 congregations and 14 countries. There is a need for personnel with the following experience and skills:

- Administrators
- Nursing/midwifery tutors
- Teacher trainers (especially for science at elementary school level)
- Nurse for clinic at Riimenze
- Bookkeeper/driver for the agricultural project based in Riimenze
- Hospitality based in Juba
- Development
- Pastoral, justice and peace
- Philosophy lecturer for the seminary

There is also the need for financial support for expatriate staff and for the expansion of dormitory and

common space at both the teacher training college and the Catholic Health Training Institute. You may not have staff to send, but may be in a position to support someone else who can go. Contributions can be made to: Friends in Solidarity, 8808 Cameron St. Silver Spring, MD 20910. This is your opportunity to respond to the call of Pope Francis to reach out in mercy to those less fortunate than ourselves.

For more information contact: Joan Mumaw, IHM, President and Chief Administrative Officer for Friends in Solidarity, representing Solidarity with South Sudan in the United States. Jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com.

Nuns on the Bus Getting Back on the Road Again

NETWORK's Nuns on the Bus is headed back out on the road to challenge candidates to mend the gaps in income and wealth inequality in the nation. NETWORK will be driving the bus to both the Republican and Democratic conventions where they plan to offer workshops that feature the stories of people they have met along the road and demonstrate how an economy of inclusion can benefit everyone.

They hope to bring a politics of inclusion to divided places, change the conversation to mending the vast economic and social divides in the country, and counter political incivility with a message of community. Organizers point to NETWORK's 44 year-old faith-filled political message as an alternative to the negativity that has characterized so much of this political season.

NETWORK, in collaboration with key stakeholders and partner organizations, will journey from July 11-29 to 22 cities in 13 states including Madison and Janesville, Wisconsin; Peoria and Springfield, Illinois; Jefferson City and St. Louis, Missouri; Terre Haute and Fort Wayne Indiana; and they will make a stop in Toledo on their way to the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. The bus will also be in Rochester and Albany, New York; Brattleboro, Vermont; Concord and Manchester, New Hampshire; as well as Boston, Massachusetts; Providence, Rhode Island; Hartford, Connecticut; and Newark New Jersey. The bus will also go to Erie and Scranton, Pennsylvania before arriving in Philadelphia in time for the Democratic National Convention.



Resource Center for Religious Institutes National Conference

October 11 – 14, 2016
Anaheim Marriott – Anaheim, California
Theme: Celebrating the Year of Mercy

- Keynote address by John L. Allen, Jr., editor of *Cruz*, specializing in coverage of the Vatican and the Catholic Church
- 38 workshops on a broad range of topics including finance, accounting, human resources, investment approaches, liability, corporate structures, Affordable Care Act, planning for the future, canonical options for governance, social media, tax exemption, aging, grieving, government regulations, immigration, real estate, eldercare, retirement, and canon and civil law issues facing religious institutes. Rev. Hank Lemoncelli, OMI, an official of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Life, will also give a workshop on the future of religious life.
- General session updates on legal matters, RCRI and NRRO

Pre-Conference Workshops

- Management Issues for New Leaders and Finance Personnel of Religious Institutes (full-day)
- TRENDS for Beginners and a Refresher for Users (afternoon)

The full program and registration materials will be available online at www.trcri.org in mid-June.



- Letter to attorney general Loretta Lynch strongly objecting to the government's ongoing practice of pursuing deportation proceedings against children who do not have legal counsel. LCWR (4/27/16)
- Thank you letter to Minerva Carcaño, resident bishop of the California-Pacific Conference, United Methodist Church, for her testimony before the House Judiciary Committee hearing on immigration on April 19, 2016. LCWR (5/4/16)
- Endorsement of a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit denying admissions to the United States because of an individual's religion. LCWR (5/5/16)
- Letter to President Obama encouraging him to visit Hiroshima when he is in Japan in late May, to use the opportunity to renew his administration's commitment to nuclear disarmament, and to listen to the concerns of the Japanese people about new national security laws in Japan. LCWR (5/6/16)
- Endorsement of "Dear Colleague Letter," authored by Senator Durbin, to the president supporting Syrian refugee resettlement and expressing concern about the slow pace of admissions. LCWR (5/9/16)
- Letter to congressional appropriators, Senators Roy Blunt and Patty Murray, and Representatives Tom Cole and Rosa DeLauro, urging them to ensure critical funding to end child and forced labor around the world. LCWR (5/9/16)
- Statement by US faith-based organizations seeking to empower the impoverished and marginalized throughout the world by supporting the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (S 1252/HR 1567) and urging final passage of the bill through congress. LCWR (5/12/16).

News from the United Nations



June 5—World Environment Day

World Environment Day (WED) is the United Nations' most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of the environment. Since it began in 1974, it has grown to become a global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated in more than 100 countries. This year's theme, Go Wild for Life, shines a spotlight on the booming illegal trade in wildlife products which is eroding Earth's precious biodiversity and driving whole species to the brink of extinction. The killing and smuggling are also undermining economies and ecosystems, fueling organized crime, and feeding corruption and insecurity across the globe. More information can be found at www.wed2016.com.

June 12—World Day Against Child Labor

Today, throughout the world, approximately 215 million children work, many full-time. They do not go to school and have little or no time to play. They are denied the chance to be children. More than half of them are

exposed to the worst forms of child labor such as work in hazardous environments, slavery, or other forms of forced labor, and illicit activities including drug-trafficking and prostitution, as well as involvement in armed conflict. Each year on June 12, the world day brings together governments, employer and worker organizations, and civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight of child laborers and to explore what can be done to help them. Additional information is available at www.un.org/en/events/childlabourday.

June 20--World Refugee Day

More than 50 million people are currently displaced by war and violence, some 33.3 million in their own country and 16.7 million as refugees, mostly in neighboring countries. Last year alone, more than 10 million people were newly displaced. Every 15 minutes one family was forced into flight. The ongoing conflict in Syria, as well as crises in Iraq, Ukraine, South Sudan, Central African Republic, northeastern Nigeria and parts of Pakistan, have led to a staggering growth and acceleration of global forced displacement. In 2014, 42,500 people became refugees, asylum seekers, or were internally displaced every single day, a rate that has quadrupled in only four years. More information on the world's refugees is available at www.unhcr.org/refugeeday/us.

Sign Up for the LCWR Resource Sharing Forum

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

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