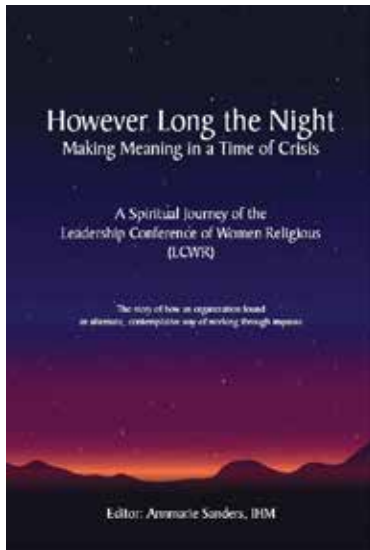




May 2018

LCWR Releases New Book

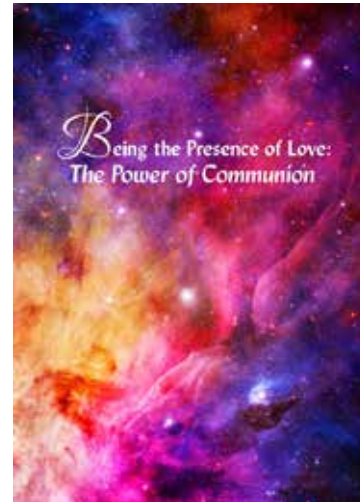


LCWR's new book, *However Long the Night: Making Meaning in a Time of Crisis*, is now available through [Amazon in both print and Kindle editions](#).

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 LCWR presidents and executive directors who led the conference through this critical time are the authors of the book: Marcia Allen, CSJ; Florence Deacon, OSF; Pat Farrell, OSF; Sharon Holland, IHM; Mary Hughes, OP; Janet Mock, CSJ; Joan Marie Steadman, CSC; Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA; and Carol Zinn, SSJ. LCWR communications director Annmarie Sanders, IHM served as the book's editor.

(continued on page 3)



Preparing for the LCWR Assembly

Twelve LCWR members have agreed to serve the conference by participating in the three keynote sessions that will take place during this year's LCWR assembly. In groups of four, they will respond to the keynoters, discussing how the keynote presentations apply to and impact the ministry of religious life leadership.

The responders are: Sangeeta Ayithamattam, SCN; Pat Cormack, SCSC; Barbara Dreher, CSJ; Toni Harris, OP; Jane Herb, IHM; Maria Hughes, ASC; Charmaine Krohe, SSND; Cecilia Magladry, CSJ; Rosalia Meza, VDMF; Connie Phelps, SCL; Pat Siemen, OP; and Veronique Wiedower, CSC

The registration materials for the 2018 LCWR assembly are now available on the members' section of the LCWR website. (Members and associates can log-in to this section of the website using their individual username and password.) Information is there about the events, location, schedule, and other important assembly information, as well as a link to the registration form. Assembly registration as well as hotel registration must

(continued on page 4)

From the LCWR Presidency

The Future That Has Already Entered Us

by Mary Pellegrino, CSJ — LCWR Past President

As I walked the couple blocks from where I parked to the March for Our Lives rally at our county courthouse, I saw a crowd gathering on the courthouse steps and heard faint strains of music rising from somewhere in the crowd. I had been inspired by the courage, poise, and eloquence of the teenage survivors of the mass shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. I wanted to support their efforts, join my voice with theirs, and help to open space for a new generation of citizens to reframe our social and political narratives. I felt purposeful as I approached the rally, eager to hear the experience, challenge, and call of our young people.

As I entered the crowd, I looked around and felt my spirit sink. The vast majority of people were older than I, and the music I heard as I approached turned out to be a steadily off-key rendition of Bob Dylan's "The Times, They are A-Changin'" sung loudly and earnestly by two people who may have cut their teeth on civil rights era protests of the 1960s.

Where are all the young people, I wondered. I couldn't hide my disappointment as I stood with a half dozen of my sisters, listening to one adult after another speak about the perils that today's youth face. Eventually a couple young people did speak. Their messages were focused and authentic and what I had hoped to hear more of.



I left the rally that day saddened that the voices of young people seemed to have been drowned out in their own movement. While I didn't disagree with the adult speakers, I was disappointed that they had chosen to raise their own voices rather than to amplify the voices of a new generation working for change.

Change is hard. Letting go can be painful. Perhaps making way for what is coming next or after us feels like giving up or losing control. How do we know when it's the right time to step

aside, pass something on, let something change, or let it go altogether? How do we mentor and not manage; step back, and not step on? These are hard questions to grapple with when there's so much that needs to be done, so much that needs to be said, so much that needs.

How do we know when it's
the right time to step aside,
pass something on,
let something change, or
let it go altogether?

How do we mentor and not
manage; step back,
and not step on?

And yet I see great hope in the future that has already entered us. We're leading our congregations and our conference through unprecedented changes and transformations. While there is much to let go of, there is still much yet to come. How things were in the past has passed. And the future is not yet known. What we do know is that God has been doing something new in us for quite some time. Our hard work in the midst of it, is to recognize and embrace the new. The times, they really are a-changin'.

What we do know is that God has been doing something new in us for quite some time. Our hard work in the midst of it, is to recognize and embrace the new.

LCWR Releases New Book

(continued from page 1)

With the belief that the book offers wisdom, insight, and practical ideas for how to work through conflict as well as how to lead an organization through a crisis, LCWR seeks ways to make what the conference learned through the doctrinal assessment available to a wide audience. The conference seeks the help of its members and associates in this effort. All are asked to consider the following:

1. Notify the 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.

LCWR kept the book at a reasonable cost so that it can be accessed by many (print: \$14.99, Kindle: \$9.99). Proceeds from the sale of the book go to support the mission and work of LCWR.

Questions may be directed to Annmarie Sanders, IHM at asanders@lcwr.org or 301-588-4955.



*A unique feature of the book is a chapter by **Solidarity with Sisters**, a group of women and men in the Washington, DC area who have been accompanying LCWR since the issuance of the CDF doctrinal assessment mandate in 2012. In their chapter they share what they learned while companioning LCWR and how they apply those learnings to their lives today. Shown here at a writing retreat held in Baden, Pennsylvania are two of the authors Betty Thompson and Anna Jelen, along with Annmarie Sanders, IHM and Janet Mock, CSJ. Missing from the photo is the third chapter author, Anne Regan.*

*The authors of **However Long the Night** hold a writing retreat in September 2017 in order to collaborate on their chapters: Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA; Janet Mock, CSJ; Pat Farrell, OSF; Sharon Holland, IHM; Florence Deacon, OSF; Marcia Allen, CSJ; Carol Zinn, SSJ; Mary Hughes, OP; Joan Marie Steadman, CSC; and Annmarie Sanders, IHM*



Preparing for the LCWR Assembly

(continued from page 1)

be completed online. Participants are asked to note the following:

- Assembly participants are urged to stay at the assembly site so that LCWR reaches the number of rooms for which it contracted. The costs to LCWR for this assembly will be significantly higher if this quota is not met.
- Participants in the assembly will be assigned to a deepening group of their choice.
- Tables will be available for participants who wish to speak Spanish.
- There will be three opportunities for optional lunch conversations around a specific topic. If you plan to attend one or two of these, please indicate this on the registration form. Participants can purchase a lunch and bring it to the assigned meeting area.

Materials to Read

Recognizing that US Catholic sisters may not be familiar with his work, Belgium-born and long-time resident in Peru, Brother Simón Pedro Arnold, OSB, has made available some of his presentations in English. Prior to coming to the LCWR assembly, participants may wish to familiarize themselves with his work by reading these presentations at:

<https://lcwr.org/members/about-2018-lcwr-assembly>

Donations 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. The conference is grateful to those congregations who have already sent in contributions.

Donations (checks payable to LCWR) may be directed to Christine Beckett, SCN, 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 Chris

(cbeckett@lcwr.org) to request a partial scholarship. Partial assistance with registration and/or hotel accommodations is available through the LCWR scholarship fund.

Encourage Participation by Facilitators in the LCWR Assembly

LCWR is inviting professional facilitators who work with institutes of women religious to attend the LCWR assembly. The conference invites its members to encourage the participation of these women and men who are assisting religious congregations in significant ways.

The conference recognizes that many leaders are using the services of facilitators for their chapters and assemblies, for work with their leadership teams, and in other capacities.

As a service to both LCWR members and to the facilitators, LCWR began to make attendance possible for them in 2016. The facilitators are present for all the general sessions, and have the opportunity to be at tables and small group conversations with other facilitators. They report that this participation and opportunities for networking with other facilitators have been invaluable.

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.



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

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

LCWR's Imagining Justice Event Unleashes the Energies of Love

From March 11 to 15, 55 women and men who are either serving in elected leadership or minister as justice promoters for an LCWR member congregation gathered at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson, Arizona for the LCWR Imagining Justice Event. The theme of this year's event was "Unleashing the Energies of Love."

Gail Worcelo, SGM, cofounder with the late Thomas Berry, CP of the Green Mountain Monastery in Vermont, served as facilitator and guide for the event. Drawing on the work of Thomas Berry, Teilhard de Chardin, and many mystics, Gail invited participants into an experience of the interpenetration of the power and wonder of the universe story with the lives and ministries of the participants. The days included input, small and large group sharing, and energy work aimed at assisting participants to free up their own vital energies and unleash those energies of love into the universe.

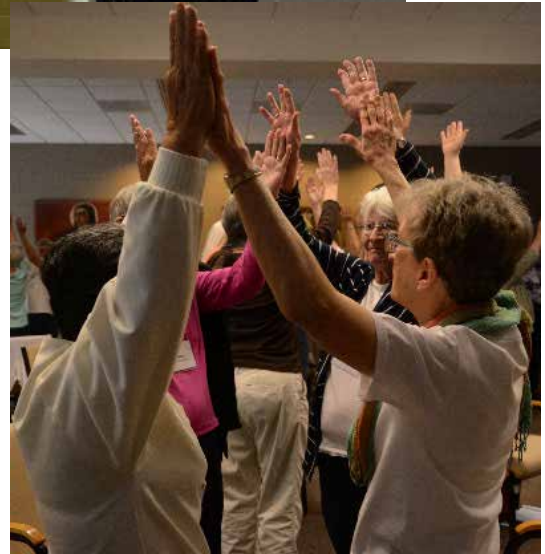
On March 14 the group participated together in a silent, contemplative experience, consciously joining with people across the globe for 17 minutes, sending the healing energies of love to all affected by the shootings in Parkland, Florida and into the wider universe.

On the final evening of the event participants took some time to reflect and share on the various services that LCWR offers related to the ministry of justice and to explore ways of better connecting.

As participants left for home they expressed deep gratitude for the experience together and reported feeling refreshed, renewed, and energized for the work ahead.



*Gail
Worcelo,
SGM*



Work of Women Religious Featured in Article on Education in the United States

The website “The 74” recently ran an article entitled, “How Catholic Nuns Brought Education & Female Empowerment to Millions of Children, Women & Immigrants by Teaching Students on the Fringes.” The article was part of a series run during Women’s History Month that focused on “remarkable women who transformed education.”

Among those interviewed for the article was LCWR president Teresa Maya, CCVI. She is quoted as saying in part, “Teaching is a critical part of the sisters’ mission of education because we believe, in short, that education can save the world. It empowers people, it broadens horizons, it deepens values, it engages conversation between faith and culture.”

President Signs Bill to Curb Human Trafficking

On February 27, the House passed HR 1865, the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (FOSTA). Less than one month later the Senate passed a companion bill, the Stop Enabling Sex Trafficking Act (SESTA) by an overwhelming majority of 97-2. On April 11 President Trump signed the bill into law.

Thanks to the hard work of anti-trafficking advocates, including US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking, websites like Backpage.com will be held accountable when they knowingly facilitate sex trafficking online.

FOSTA-SESTA allows victims and survivors to seek civil remedies, at both the federal and state levels, from website companies that have knowingly profited from their exploitation. Websites will no longer be able to escape liability by hiding behind section 230 of the Communications Decency Act. In fact, Backpage.com has already been indicted on 93 counts of alleged federal crimes, including promoting prostitution and money laundering.



Catholic Organizations Join A.C.T. to End Racism

The National Council of Churches (NCC) has gathered a coalition of more than 50 faith community partners who recognize that those of moral conscience have a specific responsibility and unique gift to address and eliminate racism. Included among these partners are numerous Catholic organizations whose members attended the April 4, 2018 [A.C.T. to End Racism rally](#) on the National Mall in Washington DC.



This landmark event, held 50 years to the day since Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr’s assassination, was part of a movement to honor his death with a witness to end racism. The rally was the starting point of a multi-year effort, launched by NCC, to remove racism from the nation’s social fabric and bring the country together. Dr. King’s message is still alive, and Catholics are carrying on the work to end racism.

Carole Shinnick, SSND, LCWR interim executive director stated, “LCWR is honored to join the NCC in its efforts to confront our nation’s original sin. We condemn racism in all its harmful forms whether the violent acts of white supremacist organizations or the daily acts of hate and discrimination that diminish us all. We grieve with all whose dignity is threatened by hate and violence. We lament the racism that continues to afflict our communities and threaten the values that we hold dear. We acknowledge our own complicity in institutional racism and we commit ourselves to cleanse our hearts and rid our land of this evil.”

The platform for the multi-year campaign is available [here](#). More information about the Catholic commitment to end racism is available in this brief [video](#) featuring some who joined the rally, including former LCWR staff member Marie Lucey, OSF.

Women Religious Join March for Our Lives

Women religious joined hundreds of thousands of people around the world for the March 24, 2018 [March for Our Lives](#) to call for action by elected officials to reduce gun violence. While Washington DC may have had the largest turnout, people in towns across the United States and cities around the world called for sensible gun violence prevention measures.



LCWR members kept the promise they made in their February 23 statement to stand with the young people of Parkland as they joined marches and events across the county. [The LCWR statement](#) reads in part, “We will join you in the March 24 ‘March for Our Lives.’ We will walk with you as together we seek to put an end to violence and follow the path of peace.”

Organizers plan to keep the pressure on legislators. Advocates plan to push for legislation to reduce gun violence in the United States by:

- Banning assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines;
- Enabling the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to research gun violence as a public health issue;
- Requiring background checks for all gun sales;
- Supporting local violence prevention and Intervention programs;
- Disarming all domestic abusers;
- Making extreme risk protection orders available in every state.

US Catholic Leaders Urge Inclusive Diplomacy and Dialogue for a Just Peace in Syria

Hearing the drumbeat of war and hoping to tamp it down, US Catholic leaders from a number of religious congregations and peace and justice organizations call on President Trump and his advisors to listen to the voices of peace and take the path of diplomacy and dialogue in Syria.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said it best, 50 years ago shortly before his assassination, in his historic address at Riverside Church in New York when he publicly spoke out against the war in Vietnam: “We still have a choice today: nonviolent coexistence or violent co-annihilation. The choice is ours, and though we might prefer it otherwise, we must choose in this crucial moment of human history.”

In a statement, members of the Catholic Coalition noted the understandable and justified outrage, “at the suspected use of chemical weapons,” but this must not, “serve as a rationale for expanding the war in Syria and causing further suffering.”

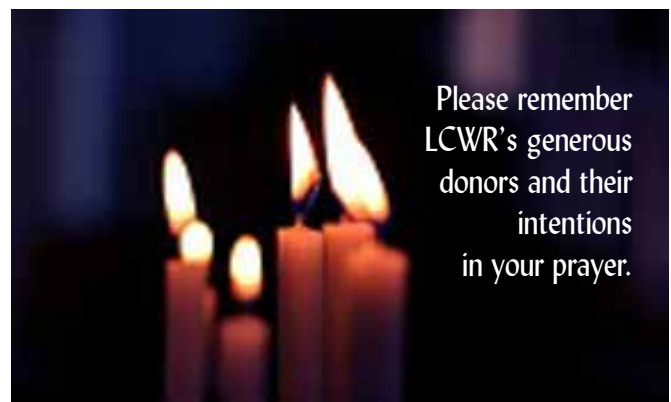
The statement also read: “[E]nding the war in Syria through the just peace norm of inclusive diplomacy and dialogue and saving lives must be the priority. War is not the answer. War is never the answer.

“To prevent further escalation and unsustainable solutions, as well as the real danger of a deepening spiral of violence becoming a regional or global conflict, we call on our own government to pursue all creative, courageous, peaceful paths and all channels of negotiation, including the UN Security Council.”

Finally, the signers pointed out that it is Congress, not the President who authorizes the US use of military force. The statement concludes, “[T]he time is urgent – we must act now to prevent further suffering and a dangerous escalation of violence that threatens global peace.” The full statement is available [here](#).



- Letter to Department of Homeland Security urging the Administration and Congress to restore America's bipartisan commitment to refugee resettlement, admitting at least 45,000 refugees this year and 75,000 next year and strongly suggesting that DHS work to process refugees in a more robust, efficient, and transparent manner. LCWR (3/23/18)
- Letter from faith-based organizations to President Trump and members of Congress expressing deep concern about the low level of refugees who have been resettled to the United States in Fiscal Year 2018. The president set the US refugee admissions goal at a historically low 45,000 for FY18, but to date, the U.S. has resettled fewer than 10,000 refugees. LCWR (3/28/18)
- Letter from faith-based organizations to Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), asking the department and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) to take immediate action to expedite the renewal of applications for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program recipients, to ensure DACA recipients receive automatic extensions of their protection from deportation and work authorization, and to issue clear written guidance providing that current and former DACA recipients will not be enforcement priorities for removal. LCWR (3/22/18)
- Amicus brief in *Hawai'i v. Trump* challenging the indefinite proclamation now in effect that bans immigration and most travel from a group of predominantly Muslim countries. LCWR (3/28/18)
- Letter to Senators from faith-based organizations expressing support for S. 2448, the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2018, which would phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). LCWR (3/29/18)
- Letter to the chair and ranking member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform urging them to hold hearings on Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross's decision to include an untested citizenship question on the 2020 Census, thereby jeopardizing the accuracy of the count. LCWR (4/10/18)
- Statement by U.S. Catholic organizations urging President Trump and Congress to seek diplomacy and dialogue in order to end the violence and achieve just peace in Syria. LCWR (4/13/18)
- Letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen urging the administration to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Honduras for at least 18 months in order to protect TPS holders and their families from food and water insecurity, homelessness, and violence. LCWR (4/20/18)
- Endorsement of a letter from members of Congress to President Trump asking a series of questions addressing the administrations' policies and actions regarding U.S. refugee resettlement. LCWR (4/16/18) program.
- Letter from faith-based organizations to Thomas D. Homan, Deputy Director and Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) expressing outrage at the directive issued by ICE on March 29, 2018, eliminating the presumption that pregnant women should not be detained except in extraordinary circumstances and removing various reporting requirements regarding the treatment of pregnant women in detention. LCWR (4/20/18)



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

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

LCWR Assembly
Dallas, Texas
August 11 — 15, 2020

The Trump Administration Moves to Further Militarize the Border

On April 4, 2018 President Trump signed a proclamation authorizing the deployment of the National Guard to the US-Mexico border. Immigrant advocates believe the President's decision is motivated by the failure of Congress to include his request for funding for a border wall and other immigration enforcement resources in its 2018 omnibus budget bill.



The president also signed a memorandum directing Cabinet departments that deal with immigrants apprehended entering the US to tell the administration what steps they plan to take to expand the capacity and use of immigration detention. The administration signaled that it also intends to seek legislation removing protections from unaccompanied minors fleeing gang violence in Central America and to end the practice of releasing pregnant mothers into the community while they await hearings before immigration judges.

The administration's actions come at a time when unauthorized border crossings are at their lowest rate since 1971.

Looking for Jubilee Gifts?

Consider supporting LCWR and purchasing sets of 10 greeting cards based on contemplative insights of its members. 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.

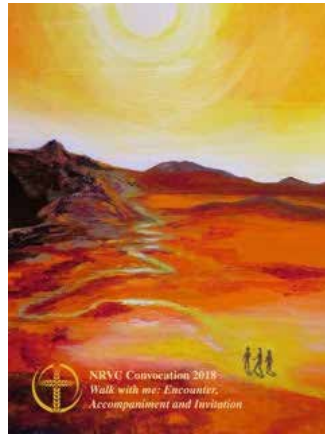
Cards may be purchased online at lcsr.org/item/contemplative-greeting-cards. For more information, contact Carol Glidden at cglidden@lcsr.org.





Convocation 2018

All vocation ministers, formation ministers, religious leaders, and those who support vocation ministry are welcome to register for the NRVC Convocation beginning May 1 through Nix Conference and Planning. A link will be provided on the NRVC website at nrvc.net/274/publication/4171/article/16562-2018-convocation.



Gathered around the theme, Walk with me: Encounter, Accompaniment and Invitation, participants will hear shared wisdom from four keynote presentations, four pre-convocation workshops, liturgies, and networking. For the 30th anniversary year of NRVC, convocation participants will travel by bus to Canisius College for a young adult panel discussion, prayer, pizza, and conversation. The pre-convocation workshops are:

- Finding Your Digital Balance and Reducing Social Media Stress
- Screening Yellow and Red Flags in Candidate Assessment
- Vocation Ministry and the Issues of Civil, Canon and Immigration Law
- Vocation ROI: Grace or Grim

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.

Summer Institute

Every year in Chicago, more than 100 people participate in NRVC's summer institute at DePaul University. Known for outstanding presenters, relevant content, and engaging discussions, NRVC offers five workshops to enhance assessment skills:

- Orientation Program for New Vocation Directors, July 10-14, 2018
- Behavioral Assessment 1, July 16-18, 2018
- The Assessment of Family of Origin Issues for Candidates to Religious Life, July 16-18, 2018
- Ethical Issues in Vocation and Formation Ministry, July 20-21, 2018
- Developing Intercultural Competencies in Screening and Assessment, July 20-21, 2018

All information about the summer institute can be found at nrvc.net/505/publication/7496/article/16687-2018-nrvc-summer-institute.

National Religious Retirement Office

March is always a busy time at the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO). (Arch)dioceses send in their donations from the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection, and religious institutes submit their applications for Direct Care Assistance.



There is an obvious tie between these two, as contributions are quickly allocated for retirement needs and distributed to qualifying institutes by late June. NRRO thanks the institutes that provided actuarial data even if not applying for a grant. This information is vital in helping NRRO better understand the demographics of women and men religious in the United States.

NRRO is very grateful to the US Catholics who continue to give so generously for the needs of senior women and men religious, and to the bishops and diocesan coordinators who support and make possible the collection in parishes.



by Joan Mumaw, IHM
President
www.solidarityfriends.org

Friends in Solidarity, the US partner to Solidarity with South Sudan, supports the work of religious men and women working in South Sudan training teachers, nurses, midwives, farmers, and diocesan pastoral teams.

A commitment was made by UISG/USG in 2006, on behalf of religious congregations throughout the world, to assist the church in Sudan to build the capacity of the people to assume responsibility for their own lives and development. Since that time, South Sudan has become an independent nation (2011) and is now engaged in negotiations to end ethnic fighting.

Solidarity with South Sudan, since 2009, has built a new teacher training college, rehabilitated the Catholic Health Training Institute, established a sustainable agricultural training program, is caring for 7000 displaced in Riimenze and working with diocesan teams in catechetical and pastoral training including trauma healing and peace-building workshops. God has protected these initiatives and those engaged in training South Sudanese attending these programs.

The success of this work is due to the commitment of religious congregations of men and women from across the globe. We are nearing ten years in our commitment to the Church of Sudan. It is easy to forget that this commitment was made on our behalf. Daily we are faced with great needs. And yet, we have this commitment and need to honor it. Currently US support for the work of Solidarity represents about 10% of what is needed to support the work being done in South Sudan. We can do more, but we need to raise awareness of both the need and the commitment of UISG/USG to this effort.

Recently I was reminded by a US major superior that, in the beginning of this initiative, congregations pledged to support the work of Solidarity. This leader suggested that we offer this opportunity again and urge congrega-

tions to “take the pledge.” Pledge forms are now available and can be downloaded from the Friends in Solidarity website. www.solidarityfriends.org/resources.

Thanks for your ongoing support of this important work in the poorest country in our world. For further information contact joanmumaw@solidarityfriends.org

Events Planned for 10th Anniversary of Postville, Iowa, Immigration Raid

On Friday, May 11, 2018, the 10th anniversary of the Postville, Iowa immigration raid,

immigrant advocates will gather to remember the 389 persons who were arrested, to challenge current anti-immigrant rhetoric and behaviors, and to unite in demanding just, humane, and comprehensive immigration reform.



At the time Postville was the site of the largest single-site immigrant raid in the history of the United States. On May 12, 2008, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials raided Agriprocessors, the main producer of kosher meat in the United States. They handcuffed immigrants and bused them to the National Cattle Congress in Waterloo, Iowa. Most detainees were charged with identity theft and sentenced to five months in prison before being deported. In a matter of hours Postville lost a significant segment of its population and hundreds of families were torn apart.

Little has changed since the 2008 raid. Interfaith planners of the commemoration see this as a “call to demonstrate bold resolve by championing the rights of immigrants, respecting and defending their inherent dignity, and by welcoming them and their many contributions to our society.” Individuals and groups are invited to stand in solidarity with those gathering in Postville by joining in prayer and action. Additional information is available on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/summons2018). Additional resources may be obtained from Mary McCauley, BVM at mmccauley@bvmcong.org.

News from the United Nations

International Day of Families

The [International Day of Families](#) is observed on May 15 every year to reflect the importance the international community attaches to families. The International day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase knowledge of the social, economic, and demographic processes affecting families.



World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

In 2001, UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and in December 2002, the UN General Assembly declared May 21 to be the [World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development](#). The day provides an opportunity to deepen understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn and to learn to live together better.