

May 2016



Pope Francis greets LCWR president Marcia Allen, CSJ following the April 13 general audience

LCWR Representatives Make Annual Visit to Rome

LCWR president Marcia Allen, CSJ; president-elect Mary Pellegrino, CSJ; past president Sharon Holland, IHM; and executive director Joan Marie Steadman, CSC journeyed to Rome for LCWR's annual meetings with representatives of various Vatican offices, as well as with other religious and officials. Present in Rome at the same time were the officers from the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, who joined LCWR in some of the meetings. The LCWR visits included time with:

- The Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life
- Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization
- Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
- The Pontifical Council for Social Communications
- Congregation for Catholic Education

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LCWR Participates in Conference on Nonviolence Held in Rome

The Holy See's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and Pax Christi International, with the help of the Justice and Peace Commission of UISG/USG, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, LCWR, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, and the Colombian Fathers, convened an unprecedented conference entitled, "Nonviolence and Just Peace: Contributing to the Catholic Understanding of and Commitment to Nonviolence" in Rome, Italy, April 11-13, 2016. LCWR associate director for social mission Ann Scholz, SSND served on the planning committee and as one of the facilitators at the conference.

In recognition of the Jubilee Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis, the conference included 80 participants representing a broad spectrum of experiences in peace-building and active nonviolence in the face of violence and war.

"We live in a complex world where armed conflicts are pervasive and where violence has become the first (and

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New Leader Workshop



More than 80 leaders participated in the LCWR New Leader Workshop. Read about their experience on page 3.

From the LCWR Presidency
Through Darkness to Light

by Sharon Holland, IHM — LCWR Past President

What has occupied our minds and hearts since the last newsletter? We looked toward the celebration of the Paschal Mystery, not knowing what else might be on the horizon. Our congregations, our nation, and our world swirled in a kaleidoscope of sights and sounds which seemed strangely aligned with, not foreign to, our liturgical season.

In her poem "The News," Edwina Gately reflects on this reality:

The world is tumbling into my private space...
...a constant stream of God's beloved...
...the lines of refugees-their gaunt faces
hungry and despairing.

Now she sees her TV as her "crucifix...and upon it hangs Jesus, with every nation imprinted on His face..." She responds by beseeching God's mercy.

Every year we experience poignant scenes of the Good Friday Adoration of the Cross. At our motherhouse, there is something striking about the procession of wheelchairs and walkers, bringing forward the weak and weary toward the Cross of the Wounded One. They bow or touch or kiss as they are able and continue on their way. They will be back the next night when, at least for a moment of deep reality, the dark night will explode into the light of the Exultet: "This is the night!" Families with small children further symbolize the turning of death to new life.

We need the deepening of faith and hope brought by these moments. We need this trust when our TV crucifixes show us the devastation of suicide bomb-



ers in Brussels, and the desperation of refugees seeking something better, some escape from violence and terror. We long for a deeper, wiser form of discourse among our nation's politicians, one focused on the common good of all.

At the recent meeting of LCWR Region 7, Amata Miller, IHM, offered insight into our situation. In short, she said, the problem is that money is at the center of our economy, rather than people. Money is used to make more money, rather than being used for needs. The poor never have a surplus to use in that way. Sophisticated titles identify the mindsets which aggravate the problem: a technocratic paradigm, misguided anthropomorphism, excessive individualism, compulsive consumerism, and the autonomy of the market.

At the same time, Amata pointed to existing signs of hope. Persons and groups who are standing in opposition to all that is going in the wrong direction, living out of an integrated spirituality, choosing a lifestyle which is just and sustainable, taking initia-

tives which nurture alternatives to the present. The challenges are huge and the road is long but another world is possible, insisted Amata, and it is happening.

In the third circular letter on consecrated life, "Contemplate," the paschal theme comes again: "The night, a dark and grim symbol, becomes an image full of hope within Biblical and Christian spirituality. The story of the Spirit is prepared in the night that readies the radiant and splendid day, the day of light." Flashes of light seem to come when we least expect them.

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New Leaders Explore Transformational Leadership

From April 7 to 10, 83 leaders from 28 congregations gathered at the conference center at St. Mary of the Lake University in Mundelein, Illinois for the LCWR New Leaders Workshop. Prior to the workshop participants were given access to online materials on topics such as spiritual leadership, team building, the relationship between canon and civil law, and staying mission-grounded while dealing with the practical challenges of leadership today.

LCWR staff and resource persons Nancy Schreck, OSF; Lynn M. Levo, CSJ; and Donna Miller from the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) provided additional input and interacted with participants throughout the days. Scenarios and role plays were used to frame issues and focus questions. A contemplative pace was maintained throughout the workshop and participants were invited into an experience of communal contemplative dialogue toward the close of the workshop.

Participants had the opportunity to engage in deeper conversation both in mixed groupings as well as with their own team members. The dialogue and engagement was lively and marked by frequent laughter. Before leaving the workshop each team was invited to identify issues and areas on which they wished to follow up when they returned home, to calendar times for big-picture conversations as a leadership team, and to continue to make use of the online materials together. Participants left not only with new resources to assist them in their ministry of leadership but also with new companions on the journey.



◀ Nancy Schreck, OSF and ▼ Donna Miller present at the LCWR New Leader Workshop

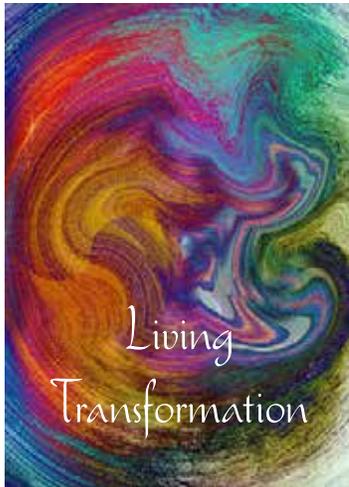


A number of role plays took place during the workshop to stimulate thinking about transformational leadership today



Participants had several opportunities to meet together as leadership teams throughout the workshop





Order Copies of Summer 2016 Occasional Papers

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
- Dealing with vulnerability in leadership
- Managing change
- Learning from outstanding leaders who led through periods of great transformation
- The potential of provocative questions and powerful conversations
- The role of dreaming when 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 lcwr.org/item/summer-2016-living-transformation-0 and must be received by June 1, 2016. Copies will be mailed in late June.

DVDs from New Leader Workshop Available for Purchase

As part of the process of redesigning the LCWR New Leaders Workshop for this year, the conference arranged for the recording of four presentations on various key topics related to the ministry of elected leadership. These recordings are now available in a DVD format for LCWR members who have participated in the New Leaders Workshop in 2014 or 2015. The recordings are \$25 each or \$90 for the set of four.

The material on the recordings is copyrighted and should not be used beyond one's own elected leadership team. Each DVD includes a table of contents and time stamps indicating where particular topics are located on the DVD.

DVDs may be purchased by participants in the 2014 or 2015 New Leader Workshops by contacting Carol Glidden at cglidden@lcwr.org. She will send instructions for how to make the purchase.

The following are available:

Canon and Civil Law for Women Religious Leaders

Presenters: Lynn Jarrell, OSU and Simone Campbell, SSS

Length: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Leading on the Edge of Evolution: A Guide for Surviving and Thriving

Presenter: Lynn M. Levo, CSJ

Length: 2 hours and 15 minutes

Leading Collaboratively in an Evolving World

Presenter: Lynn M. Levo, CSJ

Length: 3 hours

Mission Now and Into the Future

Presenter: Janice Bader, CPPS

Length: 1 hour and 5 minutes

LCWR Representatives Make Annual Visit to Rome

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- The Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Immigrants
- The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace
- The Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples

The LCWR representatives attended the general audience in St. Peter's Square and had an opportunity to greet Pope Francis afterwards.

The LCWR officers also met with:

- The US Ambassador to the Vatican
- The leadership of the International Union of Superiors General
- The leaders of religious institutes with members in the United States



Joan Marie Steadman, CSC; CMSM president Jim Greenfield, OSFS; CMSM board representative Larry Schatz, FSC; CMSM executive director John Pavlik, OFM Cap; CMSM president-elect Brian Terry, SA; Marcia Allen, CSJ; CMSM vice president Joe Rodrigues, SDS; Sharon Holland, IHM; and Mary Pellegrino, CSJ



*Marcia Allen, CSJ;
Mary Pellegrino, CSJ; and
Sharon Holland, IHM*



LCWR with the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life



LCWR with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith



LCWR and CMSM with the Pontifical Council for Social Communication



LCWR and CMSM with the Congregation for Catholic Education

LCWR Participates in Conference on Nonviolence Held in Rome

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many times the only) way to address those conflicts,” said José Henríquez, a member of the planning committee and recent past secretary general of Pax Christi International. “We need to go back to the sources of our faith and to rediscover the nonviolence which is at the heart of the Gospel. As a global community, we need to foster the creative imagination to build merciful societies where nonviolence is the norm and not the exception.”

At the opening session the president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Cardinal Peter Turkson, delivered a message from the Holy Father which called “on all people of good will to recognize what Christians profess as a consequence of faith: that it is only by considering our peers as brothers and sisters that humanity can overcome wars and conflicts.”

Conference participants from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Australia shared their experiences and expertise as they envisioned concrete ways the Catholic Church can deepen its commitment to active nonviolence in its teaching and practice. Together they reflected on the gospel call to follow Jesus’ way of unconditional love, nonviolence, and peace. In dialogue participants challenged the centrality of the just war tradition and affirmed pro-active, nonviolent approaches to peacemaking at all levels.

The final outcome document, *An Appeal to the Catholic Church to Recommit to the Centrality of Gospel Nonviolence*, will be hand-delivered to the Holy Father by Cardinal Turkson. In it participants commit to further Catholic understanding and practice of active nonviolence and call on the church to:

- continue developing Catholic social teaching on nonviolence, including an appeal to Pope Francis to share an encyclical on nonviolence and just peace;
- integrate gospel nonviolence explicitly into the life and work of the church;
- promote nonviolent practices and strategies;
- initiate a global conversation on nonviolence within the church, with people of other faiths and with the larger global community;
- no longer use or teach “just war theory”;

- lift up the prophetic voice of the church to challenge unjust powers and to defend those nonviolent activists whose work for peace and justice put their lives at risk.

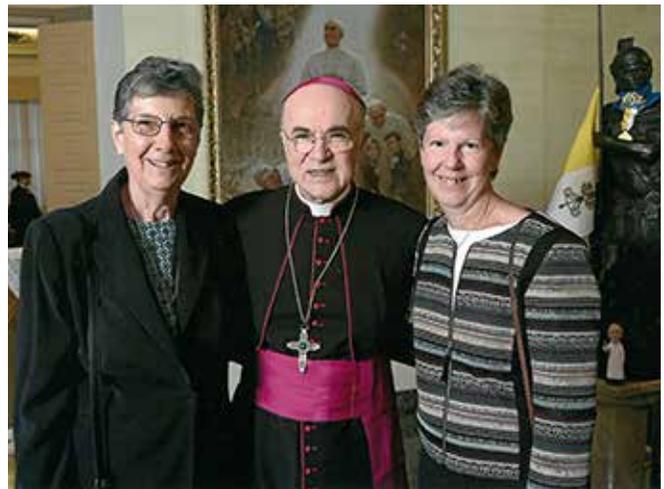
More information about the conference can be found at Pax Christi International: tinyurl.com/glm4wp5.



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

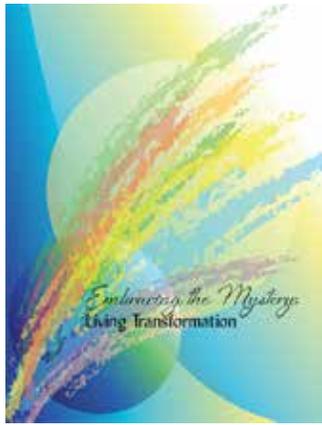
The cost of each book is \$6.00, plus shipping and handling. Orders may be placed online at lcsr.org/item/daily-reflection-book. Questions about orders may be directed to LCWR’s administrative assistant, Carol Glidden, at cglidden@lcsr.org or at 301-588-4955.

LCWR Represented at Apostolic Nunciature Reception



LCWR executive director Joan Marie Steadman, CSC and communications director Annmarie Sanders, IHM greet Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò shortly before the conclusion of his term as apostolic nuncio to the United States

Updates on the 2016 LCWR Assembly



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

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

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

LCWR to Honor Janice Bader, CPPS at August Assembly

LCWR will honor Janice Bader, CPPS at its annual assembly with its 2016 Outstanding Leadership Award. Janice is well-known to many women and men religious throughout the country for her work with the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO). She served as the NRRO project director of retirement services from 2000-2007, and in 2008 became its executive director. In April her congregation, the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood from O'Fallon, Missouri, elected her superior general.



During her years of visionary service at NRRO, Janice developed programs to assist religious communities as they provide adequate care for their frail and elderly, and at the same time, plan for the institute's future. Her creativity, as well as her passion for the mission of religious life, have been instrumental in helping communities navigate these turbulent times. It is with great joy that the conference honors Janice for such essential and selfless service.

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.



Spanish Translation of Occasional Papers Article Available Online

Due to the generosity of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, "Moving into a Deeper Communion: Communal Discernment through Contemplative Dialogue," an article by Liz Sweeney, SSJ published in the Summer 2014 issue of *Occasional Papers*, is available in Spanish. The translation can be found at: lcur.org/sites/default/files/page/files/moving_into_a_deeper_communion_spanish_0.pdf.

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.

USCSAHT Launches Women of the Senate Campaign

The legislative working group of US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking (USCSAHT) is mounting a campaign to build support among women senators for Senate bill S1968, the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act. The bill, introduced by Richard Blumenthal, the senior senator from Connecticut, would amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require certain large companies to disclose information describing any measures the company has taken to identify and address conditions of forced labor, slavery, human trafficking, and the worst forms of child labor within the company's supply chains.



The legislative working group is planning a six-week long campaign to persuade women senators to co-sponsor S 1968. The campaign, which will run from April 25 to June 10, will include emails, phone calls, social media, and visits with staff in Washington and in each Senator's home state. "We are grateful to the women of the Senate for their past efforts to end human trafficking and we were very encouraged when the women of the Senate, Republicans and Democrats alike, chose to focus their common efforts in the 114th Congress on ending human trafficking," said Ann Scholz, SSND, chair of the USCSAHT working group on legislation. "We think their bipartisan support for S1968 would go a long way to ensuring its eventual passage."

The Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act expresses the sense of Congress that companies should provide consumers with information about efforts to ensure that their products are free of child labor, forced labor, slavery, and human trafficking. That information will help both the businesses themselves and consumers avoid inadvertently promoting or sanctioning these crimes through production and purchase of raw materials, goods, and finished products that have been tainted by human trafficking or slave labor in the supply chains.

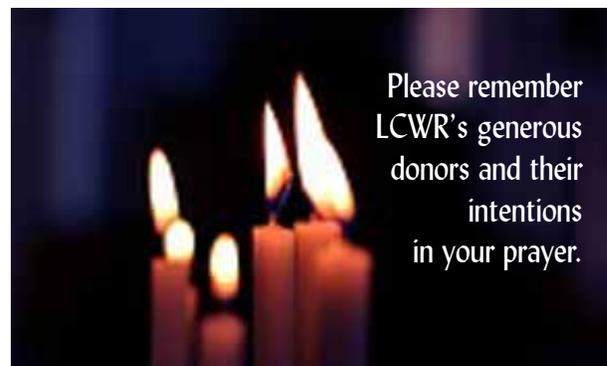
More information about the Women of the Senate Campaign as well as the resources needed for participation are found at: tinyurl.com/jfcljgn.

Federal Court Affirms Constitutional Rights of Children and Denies Motions of Fossil Fuel Industry

US magistrate Judge Thomas Coffin of the federal district court in Eugene, Oregon, decided in favor of 21 young plaintiffs, and Dr. James Hansen on behalf of future generations, in their landmark constitutional climate change case brought against the federal government and the fossil fuel industry. The court's ruling is a major victory for the young plaintiffs, ages 8-19, from across the United States. They sued the federal government for violating their constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property, and their right to essential public trust resources, by permitting continued production and combustion of fossil fuels.

As part of the historic decision, the judge characterized the case as an "unprecedented lawsuit" addressing "government action and inaction" resulting "in carbon pollution of the atmosphere, climate destabilization, and ocean acidification."

At the invitation of Pat Siemen, OP, director of the Center for Earth Jurisprudence at Barry University School of Law, LCWR joined other Catholic organizations as a signatory to an amicus curiae brief in support of the plaintiffs. More information is available at: tinyurl.com/z4dqbf6.



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.

Catholic Advocacy Organizations Release Reflection Guide for the 2016 Election

This election year, citizens face numerous choices among competing visions for the nation's future. Catholics are called by their faith to engage in this democratic process and to carefully consider their decisions in the light of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching. Pope Francis reminds the faithful that "a good Catholic meddles in politics, offering the best of one's self so that those who govern can govern well."

LCWR is part of a coalition of Catholic advocacy organizations which has published the *Revolution of Tenderness: A 2016 Election Values Reflection Guide* to help voters reflect on the important issues facing the nation in the light of faith. Guided by the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching, it offers background information and questions for citizens to consider as they make faith-filled decisions about this year's election. Download the guide at: popefrancis16.com.

CCOAHT Postcard Campaign Successful

During Lent more than 15,000 postcards were sent to seafood producers Costco and Starkist asking them to do all in their power to guarantee that their supply chains are free of forced labor.

This campaign, sponsored by members of the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking (CCOAHT), got the attention of the National Fisheries Institute, a trade organization representing seafood suppliers, wholesalers, and producers. The Institute contacted Christopher Ljungquist and Hilary Chester of the Migrant and Refugee Services of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (MRS/USCCB) requesting a meeting, which was held at USCCB offices on April 5.

News from the United Nations



May 15 —International Day of Families

The International Day of Families is observed on the 15th of May 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. Additional information is available at: www.un.org/en/events/familyday.

May 21 —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 to live together better. More information is available at: www.un.org/en/events/culturaldiversityday.

United Nations Releases Agreed Conclusions for the 2016 Commission on the Status of Women

The 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) concluded with UN member states committing to the gender-responsive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The agreed-upon conclusions call for enhancing the basis for rapid progress, including stronger laws, policies, and institutions, better data, and scaled-up financing.

Growing global commitment was already in evidence with a record number of more than 80 government ministers from around the world attending the commission. Approximately 4,100 non-governmental representatives from more than 540 organizations participated as well, the highest number ever for one of the commission's regular annual meetings. More information is available at: www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016.



- Letter to members of Congress from communities of faith asking their support for the US pledge to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the President's FY2017 budget request of \$750 million for the GCF. LCWR (3/16/16)
- Letter from faith-based organizations calling on the Senate to fulfill their constitutional mandate to conduct hearings and consider President Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Judge Merrick Garland. LCWR (3/21/16)
- Letter to Senators from faith-based organizations urging them to support \$100 million in funding for the Complex Crisis Fund (CCF) in the FY 2017 foreign operations budget. The CCF provides flexible funding for civilian agencies to help prevent wars. LCWR (3/21/16)
- Letter to President Obama expressing deep concern regarding immigration raids and asking the administration to stop targeting Central American families, the vast majority of whom have come to the United States seeking safety. LCWR (3/21/16)
- Interfaith call to all those who are seeking the Presidency of the United States to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr and stand in solidarity with all people who are seeking to achieve racial and economic justice in our society. LCWR (4/4/16)
- Letter to members of the US House of Representatives asking them to support the bipartisan Education for All Act, HR 4481, which helps to ensure children around the world have access to quality basic education. LCWR (3/21/16)
- Letter to the leadership of House and Senate appropriations committees from faith-based organizations in support of US investments in international humanitarian and poverty-focused assistance and peacebuilding programs that alleviate suffering from hunger, extreme poverty, debilitating illness, complex emergencies, and violent conflict. LCWR (4/7/16)
- Interfaith letter to the President of the UN General

Assembly on the occasion of the UN Secretary General's high level signature ceremony for the Paris Agreement on climate. LCWR (4/18/16)

- US religious leaders letter to US Embassy in Honduras and the Honduras Embassy in the US calling for truth and justice in Honduras in the aftermath of the murder of Berta Caceres. Ann Scholz, SSND (4/18/16)



Search for Program Director

The Religious Formation Conference has opened its search for a program director who will be responsible for designing and delivering all major programs offered by the conference. The RFC offices will move to Catholic Theological Union in Chicago in June, with the expectation that the new program director will join the staff in late summer or early fall. Leaders are encouraged to share this opening with their members. The job description and additional information are available at www.relforcon.org.

Upcoming Webinar

May 18, 2016 -- 3 PM EST

Bridging the Social Media Gap: Considerations for Reflection in Religious Life

Presenter: Susan Pontz, SSCM

Registration will open on May 2

www.relforcon.org



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