

May 2017

Four Younger LCWR Members to Offer Reflections at 2017 Assembly

A special feature of the 2017 LCWR assembly will be a conversation among four younger LCWR members. The four will reflect on the final day of the assembly on the proceedings of the event in light of what they see for the future of religious life. The four are:

Yesenia Fernandez, MGSpS is a member of the Missionary Gualupanas of the Holy Spirit, living in Los Angeles, California. She has been part of the provincial leadership team serving as treasurer and council member.

Virginia Herbers, ASCJ is an Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She currently serves as vice-provincial for the United States province, and lives in Hamden, Connecticut.

Alba Letelier, SP is a member of the general leadership team of the Sisters of Providence. She is Chilean of origin and has been living in Montreal since first elected to leadership in 2007.

Ann Jackson, PBVM serves on the leadership team of the Sisters of the Presentation in Dubuque, Iowa.



Yesenia Fernandez,
MGSpS



Virginia Herbers,
ASCJ



Alba Letelier, SP



Ann Jackson, PBVM

Register Now
for the 2017 LCWR Assembly

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

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



From the LCWR Presidency

Leadership's Journey -- What No One Told Me

by Marcia Allen, CSJ — LCWR Past President

Someone once asked me: "If you had known what was in store for you would you have said "yes" to elected leadership?" Would I have said yes? Would you? Does it matter now that the yes has been said and there's no chance of turning back? There is only the road ahead.

A road scattered with the detritus of shattered dreams, ideas and ideals; a road strewn with the litter of thwarted plans and unexpected crises -- personal and communal; a road in the darkness of the day-to-day plodding through losses and deaths and the endless pain of letting go and planning for what yet must be let go.

The poet, David Whyte, said something about leadership in these troublous times -- at least he seemed to: [1] "No one told me/it would lead to this. No one said/ there would be secrets/ I would not want to know." Exactly! The failed personal lives of persons whom we held in reverence and respect; the underbelly of the communal realities; the reality of the really human at its worst/best -- most real. There it is -- all laid out for you, the leader, to know and to live with and through. "No one told me about seeing/seeing brought me/loss and a darkness I could not hold." [2]

There you have it! The road unfolds into the darkness of a future stark and without relief. Except for the leader who believes so fiercely that with one step in front of the other, she gropes her way, feeling for the hidden handrails along the path with which to balance herself, only to find that these rails are as treacherous as the darkness itself and her faltering



steps move along grasping the sharp edge of her experience.

Experiences, says Marianist author Quentin Hakenewerth, only live on in us in their effects. [3] The sharp edge of experience hones our awareness to its own razor-sharp perception. It cuts our lives to the bone; shears off extraneous matter; leaves only the stark reminder that here once resided a person full -- full of herself and what she could do, her goals and expectations and all the hubris that a leader wears as she sets foot upon the path of successful leader-

ship.

Success. Success is the seed dropped into the ground along the road, watered in the blood of a broken heart. Success is the leader with night vision who hopes her way along the sharp edge of experience, believing steadily that light in this night is as the Psalmist proclaimed, "Truly Your darkness is light!" [4] For the mystic/leader the future's sharp blade "cuts things together" [5] in a mysterious wholeness that only a fierce faith can comprehend: the seed's blossoming into full fruit on some Resurrection morning!



Success is the seed dropped into the ground along the road ...

Endnotes

1. David Whyte. "No One Told Me" in *Fire in the Earth*. Many Rivers Press: Langley, Washington, 1992, p. 51.
2. Ibid.
3. Quentin Hakenewerth, S.M. *The Prayer of Faith*. Maryhurst Press: St. Louis, MO, 1969, p. 7.
4. Psalm 139, vs. 12.
5. Whyte.

LCWR Members Explore Elements of Spiritual Leadership

Approximately 100 LCWR members attended the 2017 LCWR New Leaders Workshop held at St. Mary of the Lake University Conference Center in Mundelein, Illinois from March 30 to April 2. The workshop was situated in the context of spiritual leadership and dealt with a range of topics including canon and civil law, team-building, and working with congregation members. Through processes that included presentations, role-playing, reflection, journaling, and small and large group interaction, the participants increased their knowledge about religious leadership today and their competencies to work with its many challenges and opportunities.



Presenters and resource persons for the workshop included Donna Miller; Nancy Schreck, OSF; Sharon Euart, RSM; Mary Hughes, OP; Lynn Levo, CSJ; Marie McCarthy, SP; and Joan Marie Steadman, CSC



Leading from Within Retreat

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



January 14 -- 19, 2018

Redemptorist Renewal Center -- Tucson, Arizona
desertrenewal.org

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

The days will include input, contemplative space, a variety of ritual experiences and some opportunity for individual spiritual direction and sharing in small wisdom circles for those who choose.

Retreat Directors



Marie McCarthy, SP



Janet Mock, CSJ

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

Help Make 2017 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.

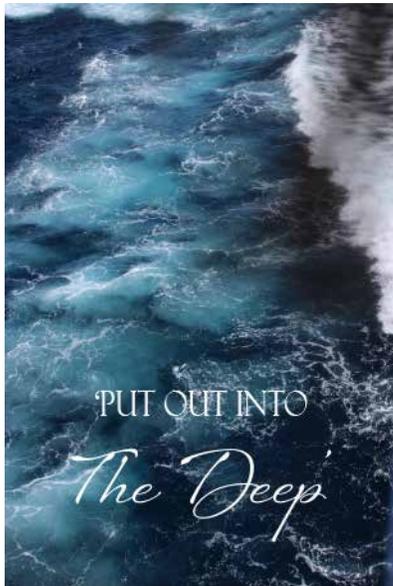
Any congregation that wishes to attend the conference, but needs assistance is also asked to contact Grace (ghartzog@lcwr.org) to request a partial scholarship. Partial assistance with registration and/or hotel accommodations is available through the LCWR scholarship fund.

Position Open at LCWR National Office in Maryland

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

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

The full job description for this position and application instructions are available at lcwr.org/media/news/lcwr-seeks-associate-director-business-and-finance. **The deadline for application for this position is May 22.** Questions about the position may be directed to Joan Marie Steadman, CSC, LCWR executive director at jsteadman@lcwr.org.



Order LCWR's Occasional Papers by May 19

The Summer 2017 issue of *Occasional Papers* will take the theme, "Put Out into the Deep," (Luke 5:4). Through a variety of approaches, this issue will explore the call that comes through the complexities of these times – globally, nationally, and within religious life realities. Fragile global economies, acts of terrorism, enormous growths in science, rapidly evolving technologies, as well as seismic changes in religious communities create conditions that urge religious toward deep thought and reflection in ways perhaps not required by earlier times.

These times elicit questions that require the best of one's thinking, prayer, and discernment. Articles will explore how religious are being called to live with a depth of engagement with reality that transforms at one's deepest core and leads to action for the common good.

Included will be an interview with Richard Rohr, OFM, who, for many years, has been teaching practices of contemplation that express themselves in radical compassion, especially for the socially marginalized, and an interview with Otto Scharmer, well-known for his work with Theory U, presencing, and leadership.

Orders may be placed at lcwr.org/item/occasional-papers-summer-2017 and must be received with payment by May 19, 2017.



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

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

Embracing the Mystery: Living Transformation

- We are called to engage in staying faithful to the silence hollowing out. Trusting the darkness. Going in to go out.
- As leaders we are called: To be a hollowed space. To redirect the energy away from outcomes. To acknowledge the journey. To step back to reflect before stepping forward over and over again.
- When we have commitment to contemplation we can be transformed into bearers of love in community and in a suffering world.



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Looking for Information on How to Help Immigrants?

The Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) has prepared a discernment guide (www.cliniclegal.org/welcome) to assist those who are discerning ways to respond to the current immigration situation in the United States. The material highlights the various ways to support those who are suffering in the current climate toward immigrants. Information about the implications and potential consequences of various responses are included. These resources will be helpful to leadership teams as they discern choices before them.

The guide is divided into three parts:

- Discernment
- Ways to help
- How welcoming is your community? (Pop Quiz)

Many, although not all, Catholic Charities offices provide legal services to immigrants. The contact information for the offices that do have these services is available in the members' area of the LCWR website.

Additional resources available on the following websites are also helpful.

- www.justiceforimmigrants.org (USCCB)
- cliniclegal.org/resources (CLINIC)
- www.interfaithimmigration.org

Personal letters to senators and representatives continue to be an important way to raise up concerns about immigration policies and practices. Since local situations vary greatly there is no one response that fits all situations.



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

LCWR Officers Make Annual Visit to Rome

LCWR president Mary Pellegrino, CSJ; president-elect Teresa Maya, CCVI; past president Marcia Allen, CSJ; and executive director Joan Marie Steadman, CSC will be in Rome from April 23 to May 4 for LCWR's annual meetings with representatives of various Vatican offices, as well as with other religious and officials.

They also plan to attend the general audience in St. Peter's Square and meet with the chargé d'affaires to the US embassy to the Holy See, the leadership of the International Union of Superiors General, and the leaders of religious institutes with members in the United States.

Occasional Papers Article Available in Spanish

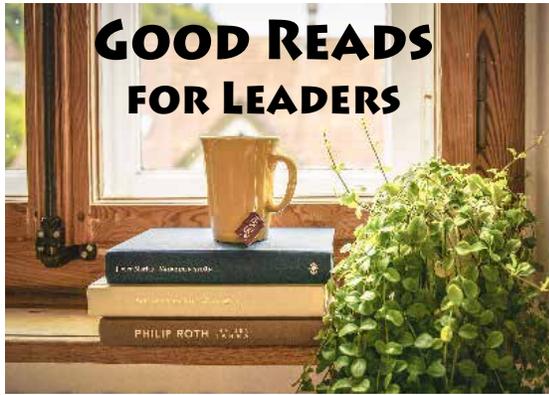
A Spanish translation of "Contemplative Reflections of 'Younger' Members," by Ted Dunn, published in the Winter 2017 edition of *Occasional Papers* is now available at lcwr.org/sites/default/files/page/files/transformation_of_religious_life_-_ted_dunn_-_spanish.pdf.

The translation was provided through the generosity of the Sisters of Charity of New York.

Congregations that translate articles or reflections from any LCWR publications are encouraged to share the translations with LCWR so that others can benefit as well.

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.



The Virtue of Resilience

by James and Evelyn Whitehead

Recommended by Rosemary Brennan, CSJ

In the book *The Virtue of Resilience* by James and Evelyn Whitehead there is a line which says: “Pentecost is for the Church the central feast of resilience.” Personally I experienced a Pentecost moment when I read this gem of a book. Resilience is a much needed and valued human quality for living life and I would also say a much needed quality for those in religious leadership.

The Whiteheads are masterful in sharing how we can cultivate resilience in ourselves, in our congregations and local communities, as well as, in parishes, schools, and civic groups. The areas covered in the book are Personal Resilience-Role of the Emotions, Spiritual Resilience -- The Transformation of Adversity, Resilience and the Faces of Power, Resilience in Suffering, Developing Resilience -- Mindfulness and Humor, Practicing Resilience-Hope and Gratitude, Resilience in Aging.

In the prologue to the book the Whiteheads state, “The human capacity of resilience allows us to rally our psychological and spiritual resources to withstand crises, weather repeated difficulties, and survive adversity. Personal resilience arises in a mix of loyalty and flexibility. We survive by recruiting companions, reframing our troubles, and resolving to endure.”

I appreciated how the Whiteheads blended the spiritual and the psychological along with presenting meaningful examples. The book is a quick read (134 pages) but gifts you with many great nuggets to ponder as well as some much appreciated and valued life strategies. May reading this book be a Pentecost resilient moment for you too.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Assembly
Orlando, Florida
August 8 — 12, 2017

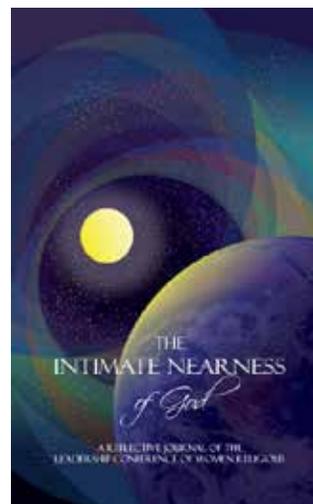
Leading from Within Retreat
Redemptorist Renewal Center
Tucson, Arizona
January 14 – 19, 2018

Imagining Justice Workshop
Redemptorist Renewal Center
Tucson, Arizona
March 12 – 18, 2018

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

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

LCWR Assembly
Scottsdale, Arizona
August 13 — 17, 2019



LCWR Reflective Journal

A limited number of copies of the 2017 LCWR reflective journal, *The Intimate Nearness of God*, are still available at lcwr.org/item/intimate-nearness-god-daily-reflection-book.

National Religious Retirement Office

March was a busy time at the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO). During March, dioceses send in their donations from the Religious Retirement Fund collection in December and religious institutes send in their applications for direct care assistance.

There is an obvious tie between these two, as the money which comes in is very quickly allocated for needs and rolls out of the office to qualifying institutes in June. NRRO is very grateful to the US Catholics who continue to give so generously for the needs of men and women religious. A special thank you to the bishops and the diocesan coordinators who support and make possible the collection in the parishes.

NRRO offers other educational, financial, and consultative services and hopes that leaders will become familiar with them. One resource is the quarterly, free webinar on an eldercare topic. The next one is Forgiveness: Essential to the Healing Process on May 16. Information and registration is available at usccb.org/about/national-religious-retirement-office under the Resources listing.

May 1, 2017 Marks Religious Brothers Day

The first-ever Religious Brothers Day will be held May 1, 2017, on the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker. This an opportunity to recognize all religious brothers during this national virtual event hosted on yearforconsecratedlife.com. The website has resources to assist in marking this day.

On March 25, more than 225 people attended a brothers symposium held at the University of Notre Dame, and sponsored by the Brothers Think Tank. The symposium consisted of speakers, panels, and breakout sessions with a number of brothers who represented more than 750 years as vowed religious in more than 15 communities/institutes. The Brothers Think Tank is a group of religious who address issues related to brothers and promote this lay religious vocation for men. The think tank is comprised of members from the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, Religious Brothers Conference, National Religious Vocations Conference, and Religious Formation Conference.



NRVC is offering resources to celebrate Religious Brothers Day on May 1 and World Day of Prayer for Vocations on May 7. More information and downloadable materials are available at NRVC.net.

The purpose of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to celebrate publicly vocations to ordained ministry and consecrated life. Many parishes and religious institutes commemorate this day with prayer for vocations and vocation promotion events. Considering that 73% of women and men professing final vows participated in one or more parish activities and 88% served in one or more parish ministries before entering religious life, presence and participation in activities that mark this special day makes sense. Leaders are encouraged to ask parishes for opportunities to speak, pray, provide bulletin inserts, prayer cards, and conversation before and after masses, as well as at religious education and formation programs.

NRVC Summer Institute Workshops

The annual NRVC Summer Institute will offer four workshops in Chicago, July 10-25, 2017. Workshops are open to NRVC members at the rate of \$150 per day per member and for non-members at \$225 per day per person. Workshops are designed from the NRVC curriculum for those who wish to deepen their understanding of the complex theological, spiritual, psycho-sexual, ethical, and diversity issues often present in contemporary vocation ministry. This summer, NRVC will be offering:

- Behavioral Assessment I, July 10-12, 2017
- Ethical Issues in Vocation Ministry and Formation Ministry, July 14-15, 2017
- Understanding, Assessing, and Fostering Psycho-sexual Integration, July 17-20, 2017
- Orientation Program for New Vocation Directors, July 21-25, 2017



Life Commitment Program

Designed for women and men religious approaching final profession, the Life Commitment Program offers participants a sacred space and a community of peers and skilled presenters with whom to deepen their commitment to religious life and mission.

Space is still available in the 2017 program which will be offered July 5-13 at Marillac Center, Leavenworth, Kansas. More detailed information is available at www.relforcon.org.

Upcoming Webinar

Praying with the Arts: Blessed are the eyes that see what you see ...

May 22, 2017, 1:00 PM CST

Presenters: Glynis Mary McManamon, RGS and Mark Dean, OMI

Congress 2017

Registration for Congress 2017, *Grace in the Now: The Gospel of Encounter*, will open May 11, 2017; materials are available at www.relforcon.org.



COMMUNICATORS FOR
WOMEN RELIGIOUS
CONFERENCE 2017
NIAGARA FALLS, CANADA

CWR Conference Set for October in Niagara Falls

The Communicators for Women Religious (CWR) will host its 23rd annual conference October 3-6, 2017 in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. This is the first year the organization will hold its conference outside the United States. The theme is "One Voice: Charged by the Current" / "Voix Unies: Courant Puissant."

Presenters and topics include: Dr. Moira McQueen (Catholic social teaching and communications); Heather Mansfield (social media); Nuala Kenny, SC (ethics of communication); Blayne Haggart (copyright); and Kateri Mitchell, SSA (spirituality of communications).

More information is available www.c4wr.org. Online registration will be available soon.

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.



by Joan Mumaw, IHM
President
www.solidarityfriends.org

The Sun Emerging from Behind the Clouds?

This was the image early on Easter morning as some friends gathered at sunrise in a local park. Perhaps it is also a good image for what is happening in so many areas of our world and especially in South Sudan. While the horrific violence continues to terrify people in many parts of the country, compassionate hands are reaching out to assist those who have fled their homes to neighboring countries or gather in parishes seeking safety in numbers.

As we celebrate this Easter season, let me share with you a few glimpses of Resurrection life as lived by those who are actively ministering to the crucified body of Christ.

Solidarity remains focused on building the capacity of the people as teachers, nurses, midwives, and farmers. The colleges are full and students are engaged in studies, albeit, at times, frightened by what is happening around them. They appreciate the listening ear, the compassionate understanding of Solidarity staff. At the same time, with your help, Solidarity continues to respond to those in need who are often at the door or on their compounds.

The 6000+ internally displaced (IDPS) residing in the parish at Riimenze are being encouraged to return to their plots of land to prepare fields for the rains. Often they go during the day and return to the security of the parish at night. The threat of violence from the military and rebels is ongoing. The new borehole and water tank is nearly completed. This should ensure sufficient clean water for those in the IDP camp and the community long term. (Thanks go especially to Bon Secours Hospital System for funding this much needed initiative.) Solidarity provides porridge and milk to the elderly and vulnerable as well as fruit from the farm. The agricultural training project has resumed even though some are unable to return to their plots of land. The primary school continues to operate although it lacks much needed funding for qualified teachers.

In Wau, the site of the Catholic Health Training Institute, there has been more ethnic violence in this, the second largest city in South Sudan. While it has not yet threatened the Institute, Solidarity, with the help of CRS, is reaching out to assist parishes helping people to return to their homes and rebuild. Cooking pots and basic supplies are given to those courageous enough to return home. In addition, trauma healing workshops are being provided in parishes for children affected by the war.

“Random acts of kindness” occur in Juba where Solidarity staff reside across from a large area inhabited by poor women and children. Their salaries, if they are working, no longer cover basic food supplies. 900% inflation rate makes local currency worthless. We thank you for your support which enables Friends in Solidarity to support this compassionate outreach of religious men and women in South Sudan while at the same time they continue to build the capacity of South Sudanese through education. (www.solidarityfriends.org)