



November 2016

Encourage Contemplation and Support LCWR

LCWR has produced a set of 10 greeting cards based on the insights of its members that were voiced at the 2016 LCWR assembly during the deepening group sessions.

Priced at just \$10.00 for the set of 10, these folded cards make great Christmas 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.

The insights on the cards (which are blank inside) came from the two sessions held during the LCWR assembly where members processed with one another the keynote addresses of author Margaret Wheatley and LCWR past-president Pat Farrell, OSF. The insights coming from LCWR members and used on the front of the cards are:

- The ground of our being is communion
- Contemplation is essential and prophetic
- Be the gentle face of God for the world
- Be still and allow the love of God to come forth
- The more we enter into the depths of Mystery through contemplation, the more we open ourselves to transformation
- We are called to be the heartbeat of contemplative love within the heartache of our realities
- Surrender to what is dying and be attentive to what is emerging
- When we suffer with others, we become more deeply aware of our oneness which is, of, and in God
- Live in contemplative space, embrace vulnerability, and we will be led to the edge
- The intersection of contemplation and vulnerability is the leaven that carries the potential to transform us and the world



Cards may be purchased online at lcwr.org/item/contemplative-greeting-cards. LCWR members are asked to promote the cards to others and consider selling them in their gift shops or in other venues. For more information, contact Carol Glidden at cglidden@lcwr.org.

From the LCWR Presidency

Be of Love...

by Marcia Allen, CSJ — LCWR Past President

“Love is the most durable power in the world. This creative force, so beautifully exemplified in the life of our Christ is the most potent instrument available to mankind’s (sic) quest for peace and security.” M. L. King, Jr.

As I write this message I am aware that my deadline for submitting it precedes the end of our national elections characterized with vitriolic speech and violent actions. As I pondered what to write when this is so much on our minds, Martin Luther King, Jr.’s continuous driving force in his speech and writing came to mind instantly: “Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend,” he said. This fundamental philosophy and commitment lay at the foundation of his nonviolent life and leadership.

This season of violence characterized by the mysterious turn of the American culture away from its highest ideals, from its pride and values that have underpinned our democracy for so long seems suddenly to have overturned us as a people. We reveal what quite possibly has been simmering here for a long time: racism of every ilk, exclusionism with privilege for some.

What can bring about a reversal of all this hatred and scurrility to which we have been subjected? Martin Luther King’s speeches and writing bear study. Consistently he calls upon his audiences to hearken back to the true meaning of being human. Even in the



face of the inhuman injustice suffered by his race for so long, the violence against them and the hatred, in it all he preaches love. Love of one’s enemies; brother/sisterhood with the neighbor whether they hate you or not; nonviolent response to violence that is personal. In all, have the one essential – love. Love that offers reconciliation; love on offer that disarms the enemy. All of this love, even when it is mocked, rejected, thrown back in one’s face, he maintains: “Love is the only force capable of turning an enemy into a friend.”

As you read this we will be in the aftermath of this tendentious election. We will know the outcome and the challenges we face. We will have to find and give voice. We will be responsible for true speech – speech that is both act and word. We will need to renew our resolution to work for the common good and we will have already understood how we are to do this, what courage we shall need, what words and actions we must

resolutely set forth, what it will cost, the stamina and encouragement for one another so that we can advance the work together. The work of love – that love that includes all and despises none; that love that is filled with compassion, the compassion that rises from contemplation and self-knowledge; love that is filled with mercy and forgiveness; love that is kindness personified; love that knows no fear. The grace that we pray for: that we may “be of love a little more careful than of anything.” (e. e. cummings)

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a reversal
of all this
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Janette Cahill

LCWR Welcomes New Staff Member

Janette Cahill began her employment at LCWR on October 3 as the executive assistant.

She says, “I am excited and feel very fortunate to have this opportunity to work for LCWR. I was born and raised in beautiful San Antonio, Texas and graduated with a BFA in Acting from Southern Methodist University. I moved to the Maryland area in 2005 and have fallen in love with the water and Maryland crabs. In addition to working in the administrative field, I also enjoy singing in my church’s choir and advocating for mental health education and awareness.”

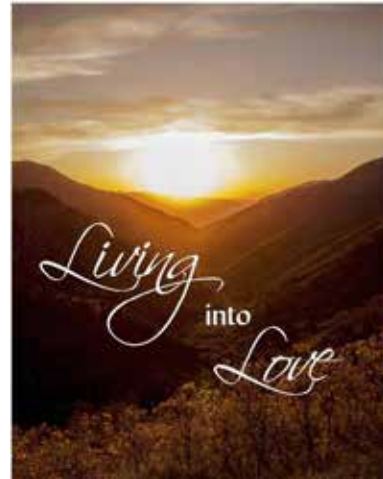
Janette may be reached at 301-588-4955 and at jcahill@lcwr.org. LCWR warmly welcomes her to its staff.

List of Facilitators Now Available

A list of persons serving as facilitators for institutes of women religious is available to all LCWR members and associates. The list is found in the “Members” section (password-protected) of the LCWR website.

The names on the list are those that were submitted by LCWR members in the spring. By publishing this list, LCWR is not endorsing or promoting these facilitators, but rather is merely sharing the names provided. Anyone seeking information about the type of work done by these individuals as well as references should contact the facilitators directly.

Order the Winter 2017 Issue of LCWR’s Occasional Papers



The Winter 2017 issue of *Occasional Papers* on “**Living into Love**” will focus on the call to explore the mystery of Love and increase our own capacity for inclusive love that compels us toward transformative action for the life of the world. Drawing on ideas and insights raised during the 2016 LCWR assembly, the articles will probe concepts on the transformation needed in the world today and the potential that a contemplative stance in life provides for unleashing the energy of inclusive love. Included in this issue will be an interview with theologian Cynthia Bourgeault based on her book, *The Holy Trinity and the Law of Three*, and findings of a survey of US Catholic sisters under the age of 50 on their vision of religious life as it goes into the future.

All LCWR members, associates, and subscribers will receive a copy of this issue. Many leaders order additional copies for their members, staff, associates, boards, and others. These orders may be placed at lcwr.org/item/winter-2017.

Subscriptions to *Occasional Papers* are also available. More information on subscribing may be found at: lcwr.org/publications/occasional-papers/subscribe.

LCWR Membership Renewals Due Now

LCWR membership renewal for 2017 is underway. The major superior from each congregation and the leaders of member organizations should have received an email concerning their renewal of membership. Any questions on this may be directed to LCWR’s membership coordinator Carol Glidden at cglidden@lcwr.org or at 301-588-4955.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

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

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 11 — 15, 2018

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



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 next year, LCWR will share 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 be vulnerable for the sake of the Reign of Love – in being vulnerable to God and one another, the “I” becomes “we.” We can be vulnerable when we understand we don’t have to be more than we are.
- Surrender to the longing to create that contemplative space in ourselves, in our teams and in our communities in service to our world.
- The contemplative dark matter challenges us to live at the edge of being. At that margin we are impelled to trust the insights we perceive and use our imaginations to move.



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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

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.

Global Catholic Climate Movement Announces Divestment by Catholic Institutions

On October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, seven Catholic institutions and communities celebrated the culmination of the month-long Season of Creation with a joint announcement of their decisions to divest from fossil fuels.



The Global Catholic
Climate Movement

Catholic communities committing to switch the management of their finances away from fossil fuel extraction include: The Jesuits in English Canada; the Federation of Christian Organizations for the International Voluntary Service (FOCSIV) in Italy; the Presentation Society of Australia and Papua New Guinea; SSM Health in the United States; the Diocese of the Holy Spirit of Umuarama in the Brazilian state of Paraná; the Missionary Society of St. Columban, based in Hong Kong; and the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco – Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in Milan and Naples (Italy). Commitments range from divesting from coal to redirecting the divested funds in clean, renewable energy investments.

The campaign to divest from fossil fuels is the fastest growing divestment campaign in history, according to a report by the University of Oxford. Nearly 600 institutions worth more than \$3.4 trillion globally have announced divestment commitments.

Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath Scheduled for December 14-18

For the fourth year places of worship across the nation will be spending the tragic anniversary of the Newtown shooting remembering those who have been lost, praying for those who have survived, and raising awareness about what can be done to change the norm of gun violence in America.

Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence will again be partnering with Newtown Foundation and States United to Prevent Gun Violence to sponsor the National Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath. The kickoff event will be the national vigil for all victims of gun violence in Washington, DC on the evening of Thursday, December 14. Between Friday and Sunday, December 15-18, places of worship across the country will participate in a variety of ways. Ideas for prayer and worship are available at www.decembersabbath.org.

More than 33,000 people are killed by guns in the United States annually. Whether its mass shootings in Newtown and Orlando, or the daily single-victim shootings on the streets of cities and towns, the nation is ravaged by death from guns. It affects all, regardless of race, age, income, religion, or place of residence. Death by guns is a frightening fact of life in the United States and it is a fact that can be changed by making voices of faith heard.



Catholic Advocacy Organizations Publish 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, "... 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 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. The guide may be downloaded at popefrancis16.com.



- Call to action to incoming US Administration and Congress urging them to prioritize investments in global education as a critical element in US foreign policy efforts. LCWR (9/15/16)
- Open letter from faith-based organizations declaring support for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and their efforts to protect their sovereignty, water, culture, lifeways, and sacred sites. LCWR (9/15/16)
- Letter to chairs and ranking members of House and Senate appropriations committees asking them to fund international humanitarian, poverty-focused development, and peacebuilding assistance programs in FY 2017 at equal or higher funding levels as those enacted in fiscal year 2016, as found in the State and Foreign Operations budget. LCWR (9/21/16)
- LCWR statement to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary's, Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest's hearing on "Oversight of the Administration's FY 2017 Refugee Resettlement Program." LCWR (9/28/16)
- Faith community letter urging Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson to end the use of private prisons to detain immigrants. LCWR (9/29/16)
- Letter to Secretary Jeh Johnson imploring him to honor this country's pledge to remain an oasis for those escaping natural disasters, physical and political calamity, and violence, by rescinding his September 22, 2016 directive to remove Haitian nationals. LCWR (9/30/16)
- Letter to presidential transition teams calling on them to embrace the common responsibility for the environment through a commitment to the principles of stewardship, sustainability, justice, and dialogue. LCWR (9/30/16)
- Letter to Shaun Donovan, Director, Office of Management and Budget urging him to advise the President to request funds in the President's fiscal

year 2018 budget to combat human trafficking and forced labor in accordance with the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2013 (TVPRA, P.L. 113-4). LCWR (10/1/16)

- Statement of faith and secular organizations calling on Secretary Jeh Johnson to implement the recommendations of DHS's Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers (ACFRC) and immediately end family detention for immigrant and refugee families with children. LCWR (10/13/16)



Vocation Awareness Week is celebrated nationally November 6-12. Information on this event may be found at: nrvc.net/335/article/national-vocation-awareness-week-november-6-12-2016-5440.

NRVC thanks everyone who supported its 15th biennial NRVC Convocation in Kansas! Nearly 300 people who support vocation ministry are expected to attend, representing 30 states and the District of Columbia as well as Belize, Canada, England, Ghana, Grenada, Mexico, Philippines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

A comprehensive Vocation Directors Manual is now available through the NRVC website for members. This digital resource contains hundreds of articles related to vocation ministry in the following topic areas: assessment and application process; candidate issues; inquirers and discerners; marketing vocations; religious life and vows; theology of call and vocation; trends, issues, and best practices; and vocation promotion. The manual can be accessed at: nrvc.net/vocation_directors_manual.

The NRVC search committee is seeking applications from vowed religious for the position of executive director until December 16. The job description and application requirements are available at: nrvc.net/305/article/seeking-new-nrvc-executive-director-12404.



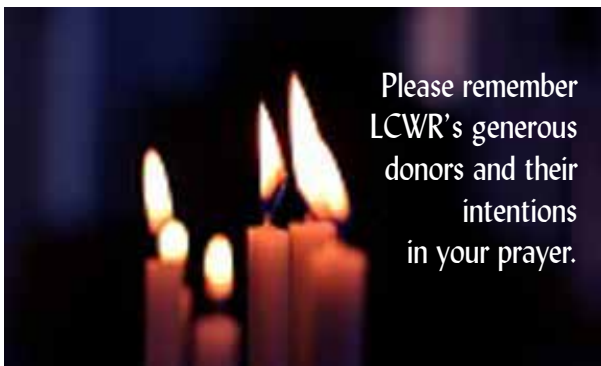
Orientation to Formation

The Religious Formation Conference will offer this annual orientation to formation workshop at Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago from December 9-11, 2016 on the topic Twenty-First Century Formation: Vision, Practical Helps, and Self-Care. Presenters are Helen Cahill, OP, a staff member at the Claret Center in Chicago, and Henry Beck, OFM, director of initial and priestly studies for friar-students at CTU.

Throughout this reflective weekend for new and seasoned formators, participants and presenters will explore the vision and context of formation today, practical helps for working with today's generation of women and men in formation, and formators' ongoing need for good self-care. Registration for this workshop is now open at www.relforcon.org.

Webinar

An advent webinar, *Mindfulness: A Window into the Sacredness of the Present Moment*, is scheduled for Monday, December 12, 2016 at 2 PM, Central Time. An ancient discipline rooted in the Christian contemplative tradition and more recently accepted as a valuable tool in the field of mental health, mindfulness helps us uncover the sacred in our everyday experience. Benjamin Williams, Ph.D., a member of the clinical staff at Southdown in Ontario, Canada, will lead this webinar.



LCWR to Participate in the Human Thread Campaign

Grocery stores offer consumers organic and fair trade items. Auto dealers sell hybrid cars. Many are calling for department stores to offer consumers the option to buy clothing that is fair trade and sustainable.



Except for a few niche clothing items sold in a few boutiques it is almost impossible for consumers to purchase clothing guaranteed to be free of slave labor. No major chain sells clothing sourced in other countries that is fair trade.

The Human Thread Campaign has launched a post card effort that seeks commitments from Macy's and Kohl's department stores to pay a living wage and improve sustainable practices in their supply chains. The campaign organizers hope to persuade Macy's and Kohl's that consumers want choices in their clothing and that if a retailer will lead, consumers will buy.

For years members of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility have engaged retailers, including Macy's and Kohl's, on supply chain issues. However, they have rejected calls to address wages at the sites where their clothing is made.

After the collapse of the Rana Plaza building in Bangladesh, Professor Jerry Davis of the Ross School of Business wrote a letter to *The New York Times*. In it he said that change never comes about from shareholder actions without an accompanying consumer effort.

Post cards can also be ordered in bulk from campaign-manager@humanthreadcampaign.org. They can also be downloaded at tinyurl.com/horj6xu. More about the issue and the campaign may be found at tinyurl.com/jqlf4zk.



The “Other” Syria

Our thoughts and prayers are reaching out to the people of Syria and especially those in Aleppo and Mosul as they try to survive in the midst of civil war and the massive destruction of their cities. Water supplies have been shut off and humanitarian assistance is blocked from reaching the people. Daily we have updates and photos of the suffering of the women and children.

What we read little about is the situation in South Sudan where a power struggle between the Vice-President and President of that country has rapidly become a civil war engulfing the entire country in ethnic conflict. Tens of thousands have been killed, women assaulted and raped, children kidnapped and sent to fight with the military and opposition militias, and homes and businesses burnt to the ground. Two million people have been displaced or have fled the country seeking safety and humanitarian assistance. Four million out of a population of twelve million are facing severe food insecurity and famine. And all because of leaders who care only about themselves and for which the nation is the “grand prize.”

Solidarity with South Sudan is reaching out to those most in need with help from Catholic Relief Service, our good neighbor next door in Juba. More importantly, Solidarity staff, 28 religious priests, brothers and sisters from 14 congregations and 17 countries, continue to train teachers, registered nurses and midwives, farmers and diocesan pastoral teams in the midst of insecurity and civil unrest. The students in our colleges are the future leaders of the country. They are living and working with people from different ethnic groups coming from all over South Sudan.

The latest venture for Solidarity is the development of The Good Shepherd Peace Center located on the outskirts of Juba. The center is a site for training programs, conferences, retreats and meetings, a site long needed in South Sudan. It was built by the religious in South Sudan with funds from the Italian bishops conference, European dioceses and organizations working in the country. Two Solidarity staff, members from the pastoral team, are now living there and working with programming for the center.

We invite you to consider supporting members of the Solidarity team. \$6500 per year per staff person will ensure their support. For more information on how you can support this initiative contact: Joan Mumaw, IHM, president of Friends in Solidarity, representing Solidarity with South Sudan in the US jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com and follow us on Facebook and on the web. www.solidarityfriends.org.

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.

News from the United Nations

Paris Climate Accord Set to Take Effect November 4

On October 5, 2016 the threshold for entry into force of the Paris Agreement was achieved. More than 75 nations have formally ratified, accepted, or approved the agreement representing 55% of global greenhouse gas emissions. That being accomplished, The Paris Agreement will enter into force on November 4, 2016. More information is available at: unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php.



UN Launches Campaign in Support of Refugees and Migrants

The UN secretary-general launched the campaign, “Together: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All,” at the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants. The campaign will highlight the positive economic, cultural, and social contributions refugees and migrants make to countries of origin, transit, and destination. It will also counter misinformation and misperceptions and encourage contact between refugees and migrants and those in destination countries. Additional information is available at: refugeesmigrants.un.org/together.

UN Hosts Summit on Migrants and Refugees

On September 19 the UN General Assembly hosted a high-level summit to address the unprecedented movement of refugees and migrants, with the aim of bringing

countries together behind a more humane and coordinated approach.

This was the first time the general assembly has called for a summit at the heads of state and government level on the movement of peoples, marking an historic opportunity to come up with a blueprint for a better international response. Organizers hoped to create a more responsible, predictable system for responding to large movements of refugees and migrants.

On September 20, President Obama hosted the leaders’ “Summit on Refugees,” alongside co-hosts Canada, Ethiopia, Germany, Jordan, Mexico, and Sweden, which appealed to governments to pledge significant new commitments on refugees.

Though the UN summit fell short of producing the outcomes hoped for by many advocates, it did result in a declaration where UN member states affirmed the benefits of migration, standardized international protection of migrants and refugees, committed to programs to counter xenophobia and discrimination, affirmed international cooperation and responsibility-sharing for refugee protection and solutions, and committed to draft a “Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration” and a “Global Compact on Refugees” by 2018. In addition, the Obama summit gathered commitments from countries to resettle 360,000 refugees and rallied an estimated \$650 million from private business leaders to empower refugees and improve their lives. More information about refugees, migrants, and the summit may be found at: [hrefugeesmigrants.un.org](http://refugeesmigrants.un.org).