

October 2020

LCWR Adjusts Member Services for 2020-2021 in Light of Pandemic

by Carol Zinn, SSJ

LCWR's mission is to promote a developing understanding and living of religious life by:

- assisting its members personally and communally to carry out more collaboratively their service of leadership in order to accomplish furthering the mission of Christ in today's world.
- fostering dialogue and collaboration among religious congregations within the church and in larger society.
- developing models for initiating and strengthening relationships concerned with the needs of society, thereby maximizing the potential of the conference for effecting change.

-- LCWR Mission Statement

Living this mission in a time replete with serious challenges requires the conference to adjust its services. We anticipate the fall and winter to be much like the spring and summer of 2020 as we continue learning to live with the presence of COVID-19 and its unexpected, unpredictable future impact while also experiencing the ongoing social unrest and racial uprising of these times. Additionally, we have the challenge of the 2020 election season and all the new questions its results may bring. On top of this, we ache for the economic struggles made more and more intense for countless people due to the pandemic.

Religious life leaders today have an enormous responsibility to attend to the life of their own institutes while maintaining attention on the multiple needs of the world around them. As we experience our country's racial unrest, our engagement in our work

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LCWR Offers 2020 Election Resources

LCWR initiated a new effort to provide reflective materials for all leaders, as well their members, associates, coworkers, and others during the election season. The materials, which will be emailed to LCWR members and associates weekly and are available on the LCWR website, attempt to create communion in the face of a diverse climate in a polarized society. They attempt to answer the questions: "How do we enter into dialogue when so much of the public conversation about policy and politics, the direction of our country, and the 2020 election is filled with anger and disrespect? How can we possibly contribute to the work of building 'a more perfect union'?"

With the belief that LCWR's challenge to contemplative dialogue, deep listening, and mutual respect are critical prophetic actions, the conference hopes that members will enter collectively into this effort that explores principles of faith and the ideals of democracy by participating in three ways:

1. **Praying with the weekly reflections.**
2. **Gathering groups** of sisters, friends, colleagues, or neighbors for virtual conversation about the state of US democracy – striving for diversity within the

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From the LCWR Presidency

Embarking on Our Spirit Journey

by Elise D. García, OP — LCWR President

As summer ends and schools reopen, LCWR enters a new year following our annual culminating gathering at the August assembly. Like so many other things in this age of pandemic, the 2020 assembly was like none other in our 64-year history. More than 1000 gathered in virtual space, experiencing both the bane (technology glitches) and the gift (safe togetherness) of that medium.

At the Assembly, we shared three distinct but interrelated initiatives that LCWR is centering on as we enter this new year:

- **A Spirit Call within a Call**—committing to a five-year journey to address systemic racism and white privilege in ourselves, our institutes, conference, church, and nation.
- **A National Discernment on the Emerging Future of Religious Life**—taking a “long loving look” at our dramatically changing demographic realities in a national conversation with one another.
- **A Designated Fund for the Future of Religious Life**—dedicating resources to invest in the future of vowed religious life.

Each of these initiatives engages existential questions about our lives as US women religious that interconnect in profound ways.

The first, a Spirit call within a call, goes to the heart of our identity as US women religious and our authenticity as disciples of the One who called us “to love one another as I have loved you.” (John 15:12) At this pivotal time in history, the cumulative impact of more than 400 years of race-based violence and oppression on our continent—originating in a papal sanction of slavery in 1452—is inbreaking on our consciousness and uprising in our streets. We are called to join in carving a new evolutionary path for our human species from the depths of what we know to be true about our God’s unfolding universe, giving one origin to all peoples, and a “radical empathy”—as



Isabel Wilkerson writes in her newest book, *Caste*—that is actually the way of Jesus.

It is a prophetic call. In her words to the LCWR assembly in 2017, Constance FitzGerald, OCD captured a sense of the sacred and cosmic scale of the task before us. We are called to make “our own evolutionary contribution toward laying down permanent capabilities for creative communion and cutting deep cosmic tendencies for transforming love and relationality into the universe.”

We are called to do this profound soul work at a time when our rapidly changing demographics raise existential questions about our very lives—and the lives of our congregations. Our national discernment on the emerging future of religious life invites us to join with one another in facing painful truths about the limited time horizons of many of our beloved communities—and in finding Spirit-filled pathways through the Paschal mystery to new life.

The creative imaginings and engagement that will be needed to birth that new life will find support through the designated fund for the future of religious life. LCWR is initiating it with \$1 million from the proceeds of the sale of our former office building. This major investment in the future of religious life belongs to all of us—a collective trust in God’s plans for a future full of hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

As we endeavor through our Spirit journey of healing the soul sickness of racism to cut deep cosmic tendencies for transforming love and relationality in our world, we can lean on our newer and younger members and God’s promise of new life. Though fewer in number, our younger sisters are richer in racial and ethnic diversity—and many have already embarked on the anti-racism journey. The new pathways for transforming love that we carve together today will be deepened and widened as these women live deeply into religious life and minister into the future.

Let us begin.

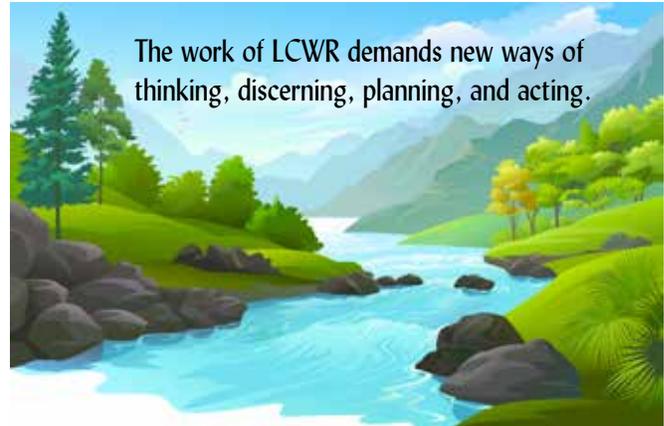
LCWR Adjusts Member Services for 2020-2021 in Light of Pandemic

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of dismantling our complicity in racism and white privilege must be serious. And as we exercise our religious life leadership, our national conversation and discernment of the future emergence of religious life must also claim our time, energy, and commitment.

The need for LCWR's services is acute right now, but we also know that travel and in-person group gatherings remain unsafe especially for our members who live and work in close proximity to senior sisters. In order to meet the needs of the members and respect health and travel restrictions, LCWR's services for the next few months will be quite different than previous years. The following details some of the plans for these upcoming months:

- All in-person LCWR activities through March 2021 will be held virtually. We continue to follow the data of health professionals regarding in-person gatherings. Depending on how COVID-19 and the flu season interact, we will determine in-person activities beyond March 2021.
- The Leading from within Retreat for January 2021 and the New Leader Workshop for March 2021 have been suspended.
- The national discernment on the emergence of the future religious life will continue at the fall region meetings as well as through other opportunities. Since this is a discernment process, each step of the process informs the next step as we move forward, together. The national discernment planning group shared an overview of this year's work at the assembly which is available on the [LCWR website](#) (see page 18).
- LCWR's commitment to the work of dismantling racism and white privilege continues in its early planning stages. The conference has reached out to professionals who work with organizations on this challenging task, engaged in conversations with women and men of color about the work that we as LCWR need to do, and plan to seek the internal and external resources we need so that we can begin well this journey together. The 2019-2022 assembly resolution continues to invite and challenge us as we deepen our understanding of the intersection of racism, migration, and climate crisis.



- LCWR's services and support for newly elected leaders continues in new and creative ways this year. Please see the information in this newsletter regarding these plans on page 9.
- LCWR's online program, Leadership Pathways, continues this year with a selection of programs responsive to these times in which we find ourselves. Please see the information in this newsletter regarding this program on page 9.

The work of LCWR demands new ways of thinking, discerning, planning, and acting. We are highly aware of how much responsibility our members carry in these times. Our promise is to support you in any way we can, provide services and programs that refresh and renew you in your leadership ministry, prepare opportunities for you to engage with one another in meaningful conversations and contemplative dialogue, prompt creativity and imagination as we look to the future of religious life, and promote the depth of fidelity and hope to which we are called as women religious in service of the life of the world. We look forward to serving you this year. It is a blessing and privilege for us to do so.

LCWR Offers 2020 Election Resources

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- conversation groups.
3. **Capturing stories** of what occurs through these conversations. How is the conversation impacting the lives of those participating? What change has occurred within a local area or city as a result of the dialogue?

Further information on this effort as well as other election resources are available on [the LCWR website](#).

LCWR Virtual Assembly Explores Impact of the Global Crises

LCWR's first-ever virtual assembly brought together approximately 900 people from across the United States and at least 13 other countries for a three-day gathering, held August 12-14.

Centered on the topic of "God's Infinite Vision: Our Journey to the Borders and Beyond," the participants explored together the impact of COVID-19 and new understandings of racism on the mission and lives of Catholic sisters. Recognizing that the world has been irrevocably changed through the experiences of recent months, the assembly provided an opportunity for LCWR members to explore how they may individually and collectively respond to the needs of these times. Through presentations, prayer, and small group conversations, the members shared insights on how to lead in such an uncertain time and how they might learn from and support one another as leaders.

The participants included women religious serving in leadership in their own institutes as well as LCWR associates, guests, staff, and professional facilitators working with communities of Catholic sisters. Presentations included the LCWR presidential address by Jayne Helmlinger; a panel on "Grief as a Catalyst for Transformation and Hope" with LCWR members Maureen Geary, OP; Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP; and Antoinette Gutzler, MM; an evening prayer with reflections on the call to meaning-making by Alicia Costa, SSF; Jean Marie Fernandez, RGS; Jennifer Mechtild Horner, OSB; Jackulin Jesu, SCN; Janice Klein, PBVM; Lourdes Leal, CDP; Jocelyn Quijano, PBVM;



and Margo Ritchie, CSJ; and a panel on "A Call to Women Religious" with three young activists Heather Malveaux, Giovana Oaxaca Najera, and Miko Vergun. Participants also had opportunities to share their own experiences and insights in small groups throughout the three days.

On the final day, the LCWR presidency – Jayne Helmlinger; Elise García, OP; and Sharlet Wagner, CSC – and LCWR executive director Carol Zinn, SSJ presented three major initiatives of the organization. Noting the challenges facing the world and religious life, they called this a "crucible moment," where the pandemic, racism, climate change, and concern for the future of religious congregations, have converged

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Staff of Nix Conference & Meeting Management working in St. Louis during the LCWR assembly





creation of a fund, available to organizations, that will support projects impacting the future of religious life and particularly the lives of young women religious. More information about contributing to the fund and applying for funds will be shared later. The LCWR national board approved the seeding of this fund with some of the proceeds (\$1 million) which came from the sale of its Silver Spring, Maryland headquarters in 2018.

A national conversation on the emerging future of religious life. The LCWR officers launched this conversation with a challenge to all those present to create new ways for the mission of religious life to thrive well into the future. Their challenge stemmed from recent data on the future capacity of LCWR member congregations to provide leadership for their own communities. The data, gathered through a survey conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) and presented to the assembly by CARA's executive director Thomas Gaunt, SJ, suggest that this is the moment for US religious congregations to find new ways to organize and administer themselves.

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to create a period of “daunting challenge.” “How are we, as women religious, to respond to the pandemic when we ourselves are the most vulnerable to it and our own sisters are falling ill and dying?” the officers asked. “How are we to respond to viral racism when we ourselves have been complicit in sustaining it? How are we to respond to global warming when we ourselves are deeply implicated in the market economics that power it? And how are we as congregations to respond to these challenges when we are already fully engaged in the epic challenge of our religious lifetimes leading the way toward the end of one era of religious life into the unknown new era?”

In response to these challenges, the LCWR officers underscored the importance of three LCWR initiatives:

A five-year commitment to work on dismantling racism. The officers invited all members to participate in LCWR's efforts to name and eradicate racism within themselves, their congregations, their ministries, and LCWR as an organization. This commitment had been announced to the members in June. Details of this commitment are being developed.

A designated fund to support the future of religious life in the United States. The officers announced the



The officers noted that the accelerated pace of change in religious communities points to an urgent need to work across religious congregations to create new sustainable structures that assure a future for religious life. They urged leaders to seriously consider the implications of the current reality of large numbers of aging members in religious communities, and the entrance into religious orders in the United States of approximately 200 women each year, noting that there is “a clear call to our generation of leaders” to create new ways to organize the body of US women religious for mission and service.

The officers shared the broad strokes of a timeline for the next 12 months for LCWR members to explore possibilities for this new era in religious life.

The assembly closed with a blessing of the LCWR presidency, national board, and 15 regional chairs.

Media Coverage of the LCWR Assembly

Global Sisters Report

Q & A with Sr. Jane Herb, new president-elect

Both warnings and witness: LCWR’s previous assemblies have been remarkably prescient

LCWR invests in the future of religious life, elevates social justice issues

LCWR’s focus on grief helps sisters find solidarity amid loss of lives, ministries

LCWR president calls assembly to fight racism, forge future of vocations

Sr. Elise García is a bridge for sisters, younger and older, as she assumes LCWR presidency

A virtual LCWR assembly aims to discern modern role of women religious

Sr. Patricia Chappell has long been a leader. Now she’s being honored for it

National Catholic Reporter

NCR – editorial on bishops should follow lead of sisters dismantling racism

Additional article of interest:

UISG helps create a unifying consciousness that can change the world - Joyce Meyer

LCWR Assembly Resources

There are many resources available on the LCWR website to assist with exploring the LCWR assembly further. These include:

Presidential Address: Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

Panel on Grief as a Catalyst for Transformation and Hope: Maureen Geary, OP; Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP; and Antoinette Gutzler, MM

Evening Prayer: Lessons on Meaning-Making: Alicia Costa, SSF; Jean Marie Fernandez, RGS; Jennifer Mechtild Horner, OSB; Jackulin Jesu, SCN; Janice Klein, PBVM; Lourdes Leal, CDP; Jocelyn Quijano, PBVM; Margo Ritchie, CSJ

A Call to Women Religious: Heather Malveaux, Giovana Oaxaca, Miko Vergun

A Short Video with Highlights of the Assembly

Assembly Program



Commentary on the 2020 Assembly

By Carol Zinn, SSJ

How often has it been said that the 2020 calendar year brought many surprises, challenges, turmoil, conflicts, learning curves, and blessings? This exclamation captures well the overarching sentiment about the LCWR 2020 assembly expressed in the more than 650 responses to the evaluation; the feedback from the facilitators of the 100 small group conversations; the reflections from the board members, region chairs, and national office ministers in the post-assembly board meetings; and the countless email messages received from LCWR members, associates, invited guests, and other assembly participants. Thank you for all the ways you engaged in the assembly as we felt drawn to *God's Infinite Vision* and committed to *Our Journey to Borders and Beyond*. We offer the following observations about the feedback received on assembly 2020:

- Deep gratitude for the opportunity to gather in assembly, and to engage in the realities of our times (COVID-19 and racism) with inspiring reflections from our own members and then to have time for conversation and contemplative dialogue about our own experiences of these times.
- Sincere appreciation for the efforts made by LCWR to convene a virtual assembly and for all the assistance provided by Nix Conference & Meeting Management, facilitators, prayer/ritual, sponsors, and exhibitors. Even with the technology challenges, there remained a sense of support, understanding, and sustained participation.
- Overwhelming affirmation for the presidential address, the panelists on Grief as Catalyst for Transformation, the ritual of meaning-making, the CARA presentation and conversation, and the three young women who invited us into a future filled with hope.
- Heartfelt recognition for the freedom with which the small group sessions provided the safe space for sharing vulnerabilities and yearnings for moving through these times with one another. There was a consistent message that many of these conversations could have been longer because of the desire to share the movements of the Spirit with one another.
- Realistic responses about the challenges with the technology, the variables in experiences of the small group conversations, and the attention to diversity (cultural, generational, music).
- Unexpected experiences of feeling more personally and intimately connected to the assembly presentations and speakers because of the virtual platform and being better able to hear and participate in the small groups because of the lack of distraction/noise that happens in the large group in-person assemblies.
- Articulated hope for LCWR's ongoing work on racism/white privilege, discernment of the future emergence of religious life, commitment to supporting the future of religious life through the designated fund, and continuing to live into the emerging orientations.

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Twenty-eight current and former LCWR presidents and executive directors met during the days of the assembly to share their insights on the work of LCWR and the needs before women religious today.

Commentary on the 2020 Assembly

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Thank you for participating in assembly 2020 and helping to make it an experience of discerning, together, God's infinite vision. As Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ invited us in her presidential address, let's find our water vehicle and move together into the future. In the words of the closing song, *Somos El Barco*, "Somos el Barco, somos el mar; Yo navego en tí, tu navegas en mí." "We are the boat, we are the sea, I sail in you, you sail in me...."

LCWR Board, Region Chairs, and Staff Meet Prior to and After LCWR Assembly

LCWR held meetings of its board, 15 regional chairs, and staff to discuss the significant challenges happening in the today's world and their impact on the lives of women religious and the conference itself.

In a series of several conversations with different configurations of this group, the participants offered ideas on:

- the impact of COVID-19
- the five-year commitment of LCWR to address racism and white privilege
- the national discernment on the emerging future of religious life
- the experience of the LCWR assembly.



Changes at the LCWR National Office

The LCWR national office staff is undergoing some transitions.

In mid-October, **Carol Glidden**, the LCWR administrative assistant/membership coordinator, will be retiring. Carol began her employment at LCWR in 2005 as the receptionist and later moved to her current position. Many LCWR members and the public have come to know Carol since she is often the person on the other end of the phone or an email exchange helping with a wide array of questions. Carol and her husband, Guy, will be moving to their new home in North Carolina.



LCWR is pleased to welcome **Bianca Louis** who began her role in LCWR as the full-time administrative assistant in late August. Although LCWR had hoped to have Bianca begin in mid-March, the onset of COVID-19 delayed the start of her employment until now.



The conference also welcomes back **Suzanne Delaney, IHM** who began her work on September 1 as the communications assistant, a one-fifth time position with a flexible schedule. Suzanne had worked at LCWR from 1992 to 2006 as the executive assistant.



As the pandemic continues, the LCWR staff will work primarily from home with staff going to the office in Silver Spring as needed. All remain available for consultation and assistance at any time.

Participants in the post-assembly meeting of the board, regional chairs, and staff

LCWR's Offers Ongoing Leadership Formation During Pandemic

Opportunities for Members

This fall three online opportunities will be available for members: Becoming the Leaders We Hope to Be, Foundations for Becoming Transformational Leaders, and A Guide to Facilitation. Each of these offerings will provide participants with the opportunity to deepen and strengthen their skills as leaders and to form a learning community with the other participants in their group.



All offerings will be completely online. Participants are placed in small groups (five-seven members, plus a group mentor); each group determines its own schedule and pace for engaging the materials. Participants meet via Zoom once every six to eight weeks to apply the material to their own life situations and to share their learnings and insights. A fuller description of each of these offerings is available on the LCWR members only section under [Leadership Pathways](#).

In the next few weeks, members will receive a constant contact message announcing registration for each offering. Directions and the deadline for registration will be included in the message.

New Leaders Initiative

Given the restraints on in-person meetings due to the pandemic, LCWR will not offer the New Leaders Workshop in 2021. Because the workshop will not have been offered for two consecutive years, LCWR would like to invite those who are new to elected leadership within the past two years to provide an opportunity to connect with other new leaders and to explore some of the gifts and challenges of elected leadership together.

All members who are new to leadership in the past two years are strongly encouraged to register and attend the online leadership course being offered by the International Union Superiors General (UISG). Registration for this course at [UISG](#) closes September 25.

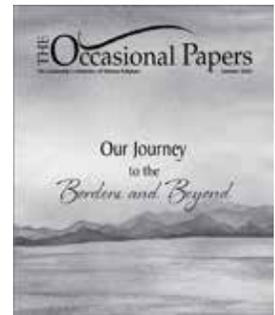
The Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) is also offering a virtual conference scheduled on three consecutive Fridays, October 23, 30 and November 6, between 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. New members may find further information about attendance for the workshops at [RCRI's website](#).

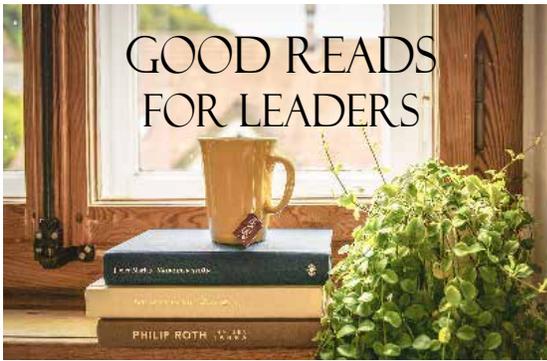
In the next few weeks LCWR will send an email invitation to all new members, with detailed information, to join in a series of Zoom conversations with other new leaders. The conversations will be hosted by LCWR and will provide an opportunity for participants to explore together in small groups some of their experiences, joys, and challenges as elected leaders in their congregations at this time in history.

Translated Articles from Summer 2020 Occasional Papers

The following articles from the Summer 2020 edition of *Occasional Papers* have been translated into Spanish and are available on the LCWR website:

- [Construyendo un nuevo mundo a través de asociaciones y alianzas](#) - Kathleen Popko
- [Vivir y dirigir desde un lugar de horizonte inmenso](#) - David Whyte
- [De pie, alma con alma](#) - Chris Koellhoffer





The Big Book of WISDOM

by Larry Culliford

Recommended by Barbara Mullen, CSJ

Larry Culliford, a former physician and psychiatrist, turned author of books and papers on the psychology of spirituality, provides an eclectic read for living a more meaningful life in a chaotic world. In the author's narrative, the search for wisdom tangles itself with human experiences over a lifetime. It culminates in a transformative process related to a deeper spiritual awareness of oneself and others who share life with us. Recognizing wisdom experiences is an ongoing process of revelation.

Culliford's definition of wisdom suggests that it "...is the knowledge of how to be and behave for the best, for all concerned, in any given situation." In our religious communities, his definition resonates with the concept of upholding the common good. The reader is invited in this small yet comprehensive book to explore the world of relationships — relationships that encourage self-reflection, consideration of those that give meaning to our lives, and that may have the potential to change us and our world. Wisdom experiences lead to an awareness of how thinking and acting together can play significant roles in personal and spiritual growth in every stage of life.

The book's content walks through three significant themes of wisdom. In particular, "things one may want to know," on to "things that invite thought processes," culminating in "things one might wish to do." This gathering of information from many sources, accompanied by deliberate processing of learnings and concluding actions, is a journey. We are encouraged to study our relationships with the world, others, and self as ongoing revelation. Perhaps the result is a more compassionate and loving engagement with all life, thus expanding wisdom itself, as it unfolds for us in leadership ministry and beyond.

The dates below are tentative due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Members will be kept up to date on plans as they progress.

At this time, all in-person LCWR regional meetings, workshops and other gatherings have been suspended through the end of 2020.

Regions will determine how they wish to gather virtually.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Assembly
Orlando, Florida
August 10 — 13, 2021

Leading from Within Retreat
Redemptorist Renewal Center | Tucson, Arizona
January 16 — 21, 2022

LCWR Assembly
St. Louis, Missouri
August 9 — 12, 2022

Catholic Health Association Launches #LoveThyNeighbor Campaign

The Catholic Health Association (CHA) has launched the #LoveThyNeighbor social media campaign to promote the simple message: wearing masks is critical to slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Information about the campaign can be found [here](#). The webpage allows anyone to download images and animated files that can be shared on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and other social media channels with the hashtag #LoveThyNeighbor.

Wearing a mask, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), is an easy, safe, and effective way for local communities and people across the country to come together to help protect one another and promote the common good.

Hope for Creation Initiative Extended

The Catholic Climate Covenant (CCC) is extending its Hope for Creation Initiative through



the *Laudato Si'* anniversary year. Members of parish, school, and religious communities are invited to submit prayers, meditations, stories, essays, statements, reflections, art, poems, songs, photos, videos, etc. that lift up love and hope for God's creation. Student submissions are especially welcome.

At the beginning of 2020, the world was preparing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and the 5th anniversary of *Laudato Si'* with a multitude of local, national, and international events. COVID-19 caused their cancellation. Yet, even in the midst of these uncertain and difficult times, the work to protect Earth continues. The Hope for Creation Initiative is chance to bring people together virtually to pave the road with hope and light.

Original work as well as inspiring or moving resources are being accepted. If not original, please give the source or attribution. Work may be submitted [here](#).

DACA Recipients Remain in Limbo

On June 18, 2020, the Supreme Court issued its ruling in, Department of Homeland Security et al. v. Regents of The University of California et al., finding that the Trump administration failed to provide an adequate explanation for the termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) immigration program and ruling that DACA, therefore, should remain.

DACA is the Obama administration's 2012 program which protects certain undocumented individuals who entered the United States as children from removal for a period of up to two years if they meet certain eligibility requirements. DACA recipients are also eligible for work authorization, a social security number and, various federal benefits.

In 2017, the Trump administration announced its decision to rescind DACA. This decision was met

with several lawsuits, which made their way to the Supreme Court. While a final decision on the matter was pending, those who had DACA approvals could continue to work and apply for renewal; however, no new applications could be filed.

In June, the Supreme Court ruled that the Trump administration's rescission did not include a proper explanation as required by the Administrative Procedure Act. The DACA program would continue, at least for now.

After a month of government inaction, a Maryland federal judge ordered the government to immediately comply with the Supreme Court's decision and reinstated DACA as it was before the program was rescinded, which included accepting new DACA applications.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Acting Secretary Chad Wolf, then issued a [memo](#) limiting the DACA program. The memo requires US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to reject all new DACA requests, to reject advance parole requests from DACA recipients unless there are "exceptional circumstances," and to limit DACA renewals and the accompanying work authorization to one, rather than two years. Clearly the actions of the DHS acting secretary will negatively affect the pending DACA applications and those individuals who are eligible but unable to apply.

Litigation continues. All the cases that were before the Supreme Court have been returned to the lower courts and additional suits challenging Acting Secretary Wolf's memo have been filed. DACA advocates hope to persuade the courts to issue an injunction staying the acting secretary's orders. The litigants are employing a number of options including arguing that Wolf was not legally appointed to his position and so could not issue the memo. A comprehensive list of all current DACA court cases may be found [here](#).

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.

UN Issues Report on Using the Sustainable Development Goals to Build Back Better After COVID-19

This year's [Sustainable Development Report \(SDR\)](#) 2020 focuses on the short-term fight to stop COVID-19, emphasizing the importance of public health strategies, and on the long-term transformations which can guide global recovery. In the report, lead author Jeffrey Sachs concludes:

“The sustainable development goals are needed more than ever. Their bedrock principles of social inclusion, universal access to public services, and global cooperation are the guideposts for fighting COVID-19 as well as for the investment-led recovery the world should adopt to overcome the economic crisis caused by the pandemic.”



The report, which outlines the likely short-term impacts of COVID-19 on the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and describes how the SDGs can frame the recovery, also tracks progress by countries towards the SDGs. As an unofficial monitoring tool, the SDR is complementary to official efforts to monitor the SDGs. The report finds that between 2015 and 2019, the global community made significant progress on the SDGs even though it varies across SDGs, regions, and countries.

COVID-19 gravely amplifies income and other forms of inequalities and is likely to have severe short-term negative impacts on most SDGs -- in particular, on SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (No Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). One bright spot in the otherwise troubling picture is the reduced environmental impacts as a result of the decline in economic activity. A key objective must be to restore economic activity without simply restoring the old patterns of environmental degradation.

No country will be safe from the pandemic unless all countries bring the virus under control. The report presents a detailed framework for how countries can build back better using the SDGs and the [Six SDG Transformations](#).

Roses in December 40th Anniversary Celebration Goes Local

December 2 marks the 40th anniversary of the martyrdom of the four churchwomen, Dorothy Kazel, OSU; Maura Clarke, MM; Ita Ford, MM; and Jean Donovan who were brutally murdered by the US-supported Salvadoran military for their ministry and for their dedication to those living in poverty. They were called “subversives” because they were accompanying refugee families who had fallen victim to the escalating violence and oppression that eventually led to civil war.

LCWR and [SHARE El Salvador](#) invite women religious especially to celebrate the gift of these four women and remember all of those who dedicated their lives to working for justice in El Salvador and throughout the world. The anniversary is an opportunity to offer their story to a new generation hungry for a share of their love, selflessness, and courage.

LCWR and SHARE ask people to host a prayer vigil, evening of conversation and story-telling, retreat, or other gathering in communities, parishes, or educational institutions to honor the memory of Ita, Maura, Dorothy, and Jean and those who continue to follow in their footsteps. This is an opportunity to invite searchers and seekers to hear the story of these missionaries' lives and be inspired to follow their example of faith in action.

Organizers hope to commemorate the lives of the Roses in December martyrs by hosting 40 remembrances in 40 cities to mark the 40th anniversary. SHARE El Salvador is collecting brief descriptions of local events. Details may be sent to (jose@share-elsalvador.org) to be counted among the 40.

A toolkit to help with local organizing will be available in the coming weeks and will include the story of the four church women, background on El Salvador, ideas for the celebration, a prayer service, ideas for action and advocacy, media suggestions, and a list of resources. More information will be on the [SHARE El Salvador website](#).

The Roses in December delegation to El Salvador and Honduras originally scheduled for November 29 to December 7, 2020 will be rescheduled for 2021.



LCWR exercised its voice in the public square through the following actions:

- Joint statement thanking Speaker Pelosi and Chairwomen Lowey and Waters for their support of the Robust International Response to Pandemic Act and urging them to include it in the next COVID-19 relief package. LCWR (8/1/20)
- Letter to acting secretary of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Chad Wolf requesting an 18-month extension and re-designation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for South Sudan. LCWR (8/4/20)
- Letter to Speaker Pelosi urging her to strongly support the inclusion of a minimum of \$20 billion for foreign assistance, the issuance of \$2 trillion in IMF Special Drawing Rights, and expanded debt relief in the next COVID-19 supplemental spending bill. LCWR (8/7/20)
- Comments submitted regarding proposed rule on Security Bars and Processing which would effectively ban all those seeking to exercise their right under both US and international law to pursue a claim to asylum in the United States on the specious public health grounds that adults and children seeking safety from torture and violence pose a health risk to the people of the United States. LCWR (8/8/20)
- Letter to House and Senate leadership urging Congress to craft a COVID-19 relief package to address three critical, interconnected issues: the disproportionate suffering and exclusion of food, farm, and seafood system workers and small-scale producers from relief; a collapsing economy, and increasing food supply disruptions; and the urgent need for healthcare and economic assistance for marginalized communities. LCWR (8/11/20)
- Signed the 2021 Immigration Action Plan which calls for a rebuilt immigration system focused on human dignity, family unity, community well-being. LCWR (8/13/20)
- Letter to Vice President Joe Biden urging him to commit to extending Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for over 2.2 million people on day one of his presidency. LCWR (8/20/20)
- Letter to President Donald J. Trump urging him to commit to extending Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for over 2.2 million people on day one of his second term. LCWR (8/20/20)
- Letter to members of Congress urging them to protect their constituents and our democracy by providing funding and oversight of the US Postal Service. Ann Scholz, SSND (8/24/20)
- Letter to the US president and secretary of state urging support for a robust US refugee resettlement program and a refugee resettlement goal of 95,000 for FY2021. LCWR (8/25/20)
- Letter to President Trump and Acting Secretary of Homeland Secretary Chad Wolf calling for an immediate 18-month designation of Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) or Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Lebanon in light of the recent Beirut explosions compounded by civil and political unrest, economic and humanitarian crisis, and COVID-19. LCWR (9/9/20)
- Letter to members of the US House of Representatives urging them to pass the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (HR 2694) which would ensure that pregnant workers can continue safely working to support their families during a pregnancy. LCWR (9/11/20)
- Letter to senators asking them to co-sponsor S 4139, the Support for Global Financial Institution Pandemic Response Act, and to ensure its provisions of Special Drawing Rights move forward alongside a funding package that includes \$20 billion for foreign assistance. LCWR (9/11/20)



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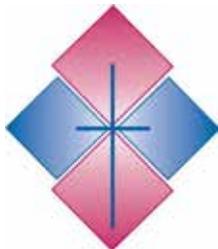
JFI is Celebrating its 15th Anniversary with a Webinar Series

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Justice for Immigrants* (JFI) campaign. In honor of this moment, JFI will be hosting a series of webinars this fall that will explore some of the current challenges confronting efforts to shape migration policy in a way that is consistent with Catholic social teaching and identify some of the challenges faced in trying to do so. These webinars will also consider the election in November the outcome of which will shape work for immigration justice going forward.

The webinars are scheduled for each Wednesday at 2:00 PM (ET) from September 30 through November 11. More information including descriptions of each webinar in the series is available on the [webinar series](#) flyer. Registration for the series is [here](#).

Updates from NRRO

The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) has a variety of educational opportunities planned for the fall. It is pleased to participate in the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) virtual national conference, scheduled for October 23, October 30, and November 6. As part of a panel presentation on governance and collaboration, the NRRO executive director Stephanie Still, PBVM, will provide a brief overview of the demographics of religious life today. The NRRO will also offer a session that explores the impact COVID-19 continues to have on religious institutes, particularly as it relates to member care.



The NRRO's quarterly webinar, *The COVID-19 Crisis: The Lessons We Are Learning*, will also focus on the coronavirus pandemic. Scheduled for November 10, at 1:00 PM (Eastern), the 60-minute presentation will feature congregational leaders and health-care coordinators sharing insights, new approaches, and lessons learned in responding to the many eldercare challenges caused by COVID-19.



NRVC will host a virtual convocation October 28-31, 2020 with the theme: *2020 Vision: Focus on Hope*. This biennial convocation is known for its keynote presentations, communal prayer, and networking with all those who support vocations. On most days, sessions will be offered from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM and 4:00 - 7:00 PM (Eastern). Participants will be able to:

- Attend keynote presentations by Linh Hoang, OFM; Dave Kelly, CPPS; and Addie Lorraine Walker, SSND
- Pray together bilingually led by composer Jaime Cortez, entitled *La esperanza nos rodea*/Hope is all around us
- Share experiences and ask questions in three breakout groups
- Listen to newer entrant insights from those who entered consecrated life after 2002
- Participate in the NRVC business meeting with a welcome by the NRVC episcopal liaison Archbishop Charles Thompson and the USCCB-CCLV executive director Rev. Luke Ballman
- Recognize eight individuals for outstanding contributions to vocation ministry

Three workshops will also be offered to enhance professional skills on the following topics:

- Candidate Issues in Immigration Law presented by Miguel Naranjo
- Communicating Key Messages of Hope presented by Maxine Kollasch, IHM
- The Impact of the Consumption of Gaming and Pornography presented by David Songy, OFM Cap

Every NRVC member can invite one guest to fully participate for free on October 29-30, who is currently serving in elected congregational leadership or a newer entrant (entered consecrated life after 2002, not a postulant, candidate, novice, or associate). More information and registration are available on the [NRVC website](#).



Religious Formation CONFERENCE

Orientation to Formation

October 9-11; 12

Zoom Video Conferencing

Facilitators: Maco Casseta, CND & Paul English, CSB

The changing and hope-filled realities of religious life today raise challenging questions regarding the present and future life of the global church. These questions are especially relevant to formators who are engaged in the sacred ministry of accompanying new members. The critical questions most often raised by formation directors focus on how to be with new members as they discern their call to vowed religious life.

Orientation to Formation is specifically designed for formators, mentors and persons in elected leadership who attend to new members as they make their sacred journey. On October 12, an additional day or stand-alone day workshop, will be held virtually for congregation and province leaders with formation liaison/oversight responsibilities. Members may find additional information and registration at [RFC's website](#).

Resource Center for Religious Institutes 2020 Virtual National Conference



October 23, 30, November 6 -- 12:00 – 4:00 PM (ET)
Joy of the Gospel: A Path for Renewal During Uncertain Times

Conference includes 18 webinars during the three days – two sessions each Friday with three webinar offerings in each session: the webinars will cover topics related to finance, canon and civil law, and planning for institutes in transition. A webinar on eldercare sponsored by NRRO will also be offered.

Webinars will be recorded and posted for 10 days, after November 6 for registered attendees.

[Additional information and registration can be found here..](#)

Preparing Emerging Leaders

The Collaborative Leadership Development Program (CLDP) is a program sponsored by the Leadership Collaborative (LC). It is a 15-month integrative process with an intercultural perspective, designed to prepare participants with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to assume leadership positions in community and ministry. The CLDP blends contemplative practices and building relationships with self-growth and spiritual development, through prayerful study and interaction, online forums, mentoring, and coaching.

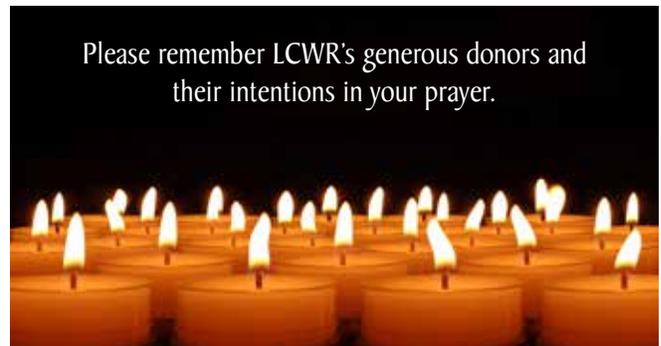


Eligible applicants are:

- Vowed members, co-members, associates of congregations based in the United States with ministries outside the United States
- No older than 60 years of age as of January 1, 2021
- Able to commit to three 4-day sessions: **May 23-28, 2021; October 10-15, 2021 and March 12-17, 2022**
- Recommended by congregational leadership

Krista Clements, FSPA affiliate, the LC's program director, continues to offer programming for both CLDP and Ongoing Leadership Development Program (OLDP). Anyone interested in more information may [email Krista](#). Application and overview can be found on the LC [website](#). Applications are due **November 25, 2020**.

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





by Joan Mumaw, IHM
 President
jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com

Friends in Solidarity is pleased to announce the addition of Barbara Buckley, RSM to the staff as associate administrative officer. Barbara hails from the Sisters of Mercy Mid-Atlantic Community. Born in Philadelphia and raised in its suburbs, Barbara has ministered primarily in secondary education for girls as an English teacher; then moved on to advancement work culminating as the head of school for an all-girls, Catholic independent school. Barbara sees her work with Friends in Solidarity as an opportunity to use her fundraising, writing, and administrative skills assisting Friends in Solidarity in building capacity among the people in South Sudan, a country with poor infrastructure, corrupt government officials, and extreme poverty.

Barbara will focus on increasing the number of donors to support the work of Solidarity with South Sudan. Congregations may hear from her in the coming months. bbuckley@mercymidatlantic.org

Solidarity is poised to re-open its institutions since the government has recently announced the re-opening of schools and institutions of higher learning. It has, however, left the date and parameters for re-opening to the Ministries of Education. Since traditionally the school year is January to November, it will be difficult to open for October and November and then close again until January.

The Solidarity Teacher Training College (STTC) has continued teaching and learning via smart phones with staff members teaching from Italy, Ireland, and England. Solidarity expresses gratitude to all who responded to the call for funds to purchase phones for the use of students who did not have access to a smart phone. Thirty smart phones were purchased for the STTC to lend to those who need them to further their studies. An evaluation of this initiative will take place, the first of its kind in South Sudan.

We also express appreciation all who visited Solidarity virtually during the LCWR assembly. What a challenging and exciting way to meet up with friends, old and new!

Please continue to pray for the people of South Sudan who are experiencing not only COVID-19, but also ongoing ethnic strife, flooding, and a plague of locusts.

News from the UN

October 2—International Day of Nonviolence marks the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. The day is an opportunity to reaffirm the universal relevance of the principle of nonviolence and the desire to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding, and nonviolence.



October 11—International Day of the Girl Child is celebrated annually to highlight issues concerning the gender inequality facing girls and focus attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights.

October 16—World Food Day 2020 will focus on the impact of COVID-19 on achieving #ZeroHunger by 2030. Zero hunger means working together to ensure everyone, everywhere, has access to the safe, healthy, and nutritious food they need.

October 17—International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2020 will address the challenge of achieving social and environmental justice for all. The growing recognition of the multi-dimensionality of poverty means that social and environmental justice are inseparably intertwined. Social justice cannot be fully realized without aggressively rectifying environmental injustices at the same time.

October 24—United Nations Day 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the United Nations Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being.