



March 2020

LCWR to Honor Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN

This year's LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award will be given to one of its members, Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN.



Patricia has spent nearly 30 years committed to anti-racism training and dismantling white privilege, where she modeled inclusivity and witnessed to the truth of the dignity of the human person. During her nine-year tenure as executive director of Pax Christi USA she promoted a spirituality of nonviolence and asked each bishop in the United States to affirm active nonviolence as a core Christian principle. She has worked with countless religious congregations and lay groups on diversity-racism issues. At the 2019 LCWR assembly Patricia was one of three panelists who helped members explore the connections among three critical justice issues which LCWR members identified in their discernment of the 2019-2022 assembly resolution: the intersection of systemic racism, forced migration, and the climate crisis.

Patricia also served the National Black Sisters Conference as its president from 1996-2001.

A member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Patricia served on the provincial leadership team. Recently she was elected to the leadership team of the East-West unit based in Baltimore, Maryland.



*God's Infinite Vision:
Our Journey to the Borders and Beyond*

Registration materials will be sent within a few weeks to all LCWR members for the 2020 LCWR assembly.

This year's assembly promises to offer leaders input and inspiration on matters impacting religious life, as well as many opportunities for significant conversations as the conference continues its national discernment about possible creative collaboration among communities regarding leadership.

Keynoter Mercedes Leticia Casas Sánchez, FSPS of Mexico will provide insights from her long-time association with the Confederation of Latin American Religious and her current ministry at the Vatican's dicastery on religious life about what religious are learning as they make the journey into understandings of God and God's vision for the world. To what borders are religious being invited today? What are religious seeing as they attempt to view the world with the vision of God?

More information on this exciting assembly will be included with the registration materials.

From the LCWR Presidency

'An Attitude of Being'

Sharlet Wagner, CSC — LCWR Past President

Giving the presidential address at the 2019 LCWR national assembly was a privilege and a memory I will treasure. A particular line from that address has been quoted back to me a number of times: “We can thank God that our task as elected leaders is not to create a plan for the new to emerge; it is to create a space for the new to emerge.” I am thankful that nobody, in quoting that line to me, has voiced the follow up question: “How do we create a space for the new to emerge?”

I’m thankful the question hasn’t been voiced to me because the truth is, I don’t know. I doubt that anybody really does. This is one of those situations in which we will have to, as the poet Rainer Maria Rilke says, “Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.”

While we may not now have clear answers, creating spaces for the new to emerge is something women religious leaders have been dealing with for some time, perhaps without fully articulating that this is what we have been about. I believe we are well along in the journey of living our way into the answer.

As I consider how we create spaces for the new to emerge, the LCWR emerging orientations come to mind.

The orientations were developed through an 18-month process that involved a design team, the national board, the national office, and conversations with stakeholders around the country, including LCWR members, past LCWR presidents, younger women religious, leaders of organizations serving women religious, and members of various cultural groups. The resulting orientations were introduced at the 2019 national assembly and the board thoughtfully engaged with feedback from the assembly at its subsequent meeting. The result is a document that outlines attitudes that will serve as a guide for LCWR as we create spaces for the future to emerge.



The orientations call us to global consciousness, porous borders, integrative partnerships, mission in the public square, and technological astuteness. Of course, undergirding and running through all of the orientations is our rootedness in the Gospel and the call to contemplative listening. As the board reflected on the orientations post-assembly, we came to the realization that these orientations are less a “strategic plan” for LCWR and more an “attitude of being” for each of us and for the organization as a whole. The attitudes outlined in the LCWR emerging orientations can serve as touchstones for leaders as we make decisions and plan for the future.

I am daily reminded of this “attitude of being” and ways women religious are living into answers as I minister at Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas. As part of my sabbatical I am spending some time volunteering at this border shelter for migrants. Women religious have given and continue to give of their time, talent, and treasure serving in this place that provides migrants with a hot meal, a safe place to sleep, a clean change of clothes, and an empathetic ear.

It strikes me that the response of women religious to our government’s actions at the border is just one example of ways we are creating spaces for the new to emerge. Our borders become porous as we join efforts with religious of other congregations, with the young people giving a year of their lives (and simultaneously giving us hope), with the associates and married couples giving of themselves in this place. Global consciousness becomes more than a catchphrase as we listen to the stories of Annunciation House guests and raise our awareness of our interconnectedness around the globe. Our work becomes our voice, raised in the public square, as by our actions we repudiate our government’s attitude of inhumanity and we stand together, arms linked, proclaiming a different Word.



Women and Men Religious Invited to Participate in Pilot Program

LCWR members are reminded to send to the national office by April 1 names of any members fluent in both English and Spanish who would benefit from attending a pilot program for women and men religious currently serving the Latino population in the United States. This one-week gathering, entitled Rios de Esperanza/Rivers of Hope, will provide 25 religious the space and time for deep reflection on the challenging ministry of accompaniment of the Latino people who often are living with trauma and fear. Rios de Esperanza is for religious who wish to find ways to continue ministering with hope and with strength in these difficult times, and to learn ways in which they may assist those they serve to cope with the challenges they face. Participants will pray with and reflect on their own ministry experiences and learn skills and processes that they can use themselves and with those they serve.

Rios de Esperanza is a collaborative effort of the Association of Latin American Missionary Sisters (AHLMA), the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), the Mexican American Catholic College (MACC), and the Religious Brothers Conference (RBC) and is funded by a grant. Costs for registration, the program, housing, and food will be covered by the grant. Participants will be asked to pay for their travel expenses.

The one-week program will be offered two times, each to a different group of 25 religious. The sessions will be:

- July 5-11, 2020 -- Bon Secours Conference and Retreat Center, Marriottsville, Maryland
- October 18-24, 2020 -- Mexican American Catholic College, San Antonio, Texas

Participants will be selected through a lottery process from the names submitted by LCWR members and those selected will be notified by April 15.

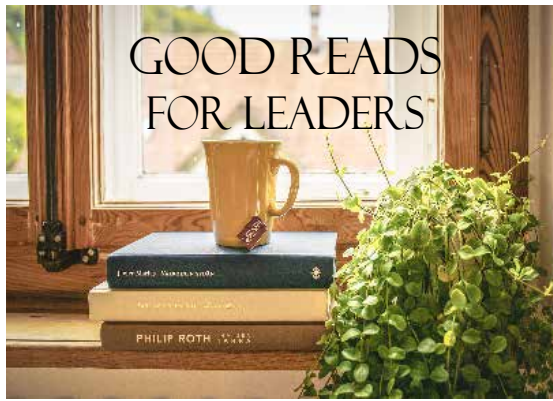


Order LCWR 2020 Reflection Books Now

LCWR is accepting orders for its new 2020 reflection book, *You Will Have Light for Your First Steps*. This collection of reflections written by more than 40 LCWR members builds on a line from the poem "Trasna" by Raphael Considine, PBVM cited by Pat Murray, IBVM in her 2019 LCWR assembly keynote address. The poem challenges us to view this historic moment in life as a crossing place - a place where we come to the end of what we have always known and move forward toward something that will be quite different from what we may have ever imagined.

In their reflections, the writers share their experiences of crossroads, of following their heart's longing, of stepping into the dark, and of trusting the lead of their inner knowing. Artwork by Catholic sisters, as well as questions and suggestions for deepening the reader's own prayer, accompany the reflections.

All LCWR members and associates will receive a copy of the book. Many leaders order additional copies for their members, associates, boards, staff, and others. The cost of each book is \$6.00, plus shipping and handling. Discounted prices are available for orders larger than 10 copies. Revenue from this LCWR project helps defray the costs of the resources and programs the conference provides its members. Questions about orders may be directed to LCWR's administrative assistant, [Carol Glidden](#). LCWR will only print the number of copies that are pre-ordered. **Orders must be received by March 1, 2020. Orders may be placed [here](#).**



Ambiguous Loss: Learning to Live with Unresolved Grief

by Pauline Boss

Reviewed by Celeste Reinhart, SSND

"KEN, DAVID AND DAN KLEIN, Missing since Nov 10, 1951. We are still waiting to hear from you.... Mom and Dad. (The notice ends with two telephone numbers.)"

This heart-wrenching plea (p. 81) is but a sampling of the list of ambiguous losses cited by Pauline Boss, losses that are prevalent in our contemporary experience. The term "ambiguous loss" describes unresolved grief; frozen grief; loss without closure. In chapter after chapter, Ms. Boss describes the many losses that families and whole societies are suffering in our challenging times: leaving without goodbyes, goodbyes without leaving, family separation, immigration, migration, war, missing persons, Alzheimer's, floods, fires, predators.

Two final chapters focus on the process for healing ambiguous loss in family and community relationships. Without this healing, Ms. Boss reminds us that the trauma (the ambiguity) continues to exist in the present; eventually the survivor will be unable to act.

Why do I recommend *Ambiguous Loss* to LCWR members? First, because our religious communities are experiencing tremendous loss in this time of transition in religious life. Leaders need to explore ways to be fully present to their members as a healing practice for their communities. Second, as religious communities plan for the future of our mission, we are empowering lay leaders to live our charisms in ministries that transform our society. Our ministry formation processes

with these leaders need to be grounded in a spirituality of hope, a spirituality that prepares us for the inevitable ambiguous losses of life.

New Religious Congregation Archive Resources Available

The working committee charged with gathering, reflecting upon, and synthesizing the presentations and input from the Boston College Conference "Envisioning the Future of Catholic Religious Archives" is pleased to announce the release of a working paper titled, "Preserving the Past, Building for the Future."

The paper provides a broad outline of the major areas of concern for Catholic religious leaders, scholars, and archivists who are invested in the long-term preservation and use of these valuable collections as well as suggestions on ways all can move forward together in this important work. The committee recommends that this paper be used as a framework for considering possible solutions to specific challenges faced by each religious community and as a tool to encourage cooperation and collaboration among the three constituencies.

The working paper can be found [online](#) along with the video recordings of conference presentations. [In printing booklet format of the working paper, use landscape option and back to back printing.]

As ongoing dialogue is critical to this initiative, a Google group, Archival Resources for Catholic Collections (ARCC), has been formed to facilitate connection among the three primary constituencies. Anyone wishing to join the conversation may send an email to archivalrcc@gmail.com.

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.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR New Leader Workshop

Conference Center
University of St. Mary of the Lake | Mundelein, Illinois
March 26 — 29, 2020

Imagining Justice

Bon Secours Retreat & Conference Center
Marriottsville, MD
April 20 — 23, 2020

LCWR Geographic Gathering

Hyatt Recency Dallas DFW
DFW Airport, Texas
April 21— 22, 2020

LCWR Practicing Leadership: How to Embrace a Vital and Vibrant Future Workshop

Mater Dolorosa Retreat House | Sierra Madre, CA
May 11 — 13, 2020

LCWR Geographic Gathering

Sheraton BWI
Linthicum Heights, Maryland
May 20 — 21, 2020

LCWR Geographic Gathering

Sheraton Westport Chalet St. Louis
St. Louis, Missouri
June 1—2, 2020

LCWR Geographic Gathering

Crowne Plaza O'Hare
Rosemont, Illinois
June 3 — 4, 2020

LCWR Geographic Gathering

Sheraton BWI
Linthicum Heights, Maryland
June 16—17, 2020

LCWR Assembly

Dallas, Texas
August 11 — 15, 2020

LCWR Practicing Leadership: How to Embrace a Vital and Vibrant Future Workshop

Bethany Center | Lutz, Florida
September 14 — 16, 2020

Leading from Within Retreat

San Pedro Retreat Center
Winter Park, Florida
January 10 – 15, 2021

LCWR New Leader Workshop

Conference Center
University of St. Mary of the Lake | Mundelein, Illinois
March 25 — 28, 2021

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

Spaces Still Available for Upcoming LCWR Workshop

“Practicing Leadership:
How To Embrace a Vital and Vibrant Future”
Registration is now open and a limited number of spaces
are still available.

May 11-13, 2020

Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center
Sierra Madre, California.

[Registration materials are available online.](#)





- Comment to EPA in support of the addition of all per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) manufactured and used in the United States to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI). LCWR (1/31/20)
- Amicus brief challenging the administration's rule permitting indefinite detention of families. LCWR (2/1/20)
- Letter to Rep. Linda Sanchez, chair, Immigration and Border Issues Task Force of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus opposing a points-based immigration system that necessarily commodifies immigrants, plays into the anti-family and anti-immigrant framework, and would send a message of exclusion. LCWR (2/7/20)
- Letter to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex M. Azar II asking him to undo an Obama-era regulation and restore access to benefits under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. LCWR (2/28/20)

Women Religious Invited to Join the Roses in December 40th Anniversary Celebration

LCWR and the SHARE Foundation invite women religious, and members of the broader community, to join the "The Roses in December" delegation to El Salvador and Honduras (Nov. 29-Dec. 7) commemorating the 40th anniversary of the martyrdom of the four US churchwomen: Ita Ford, MM; Maura Clarke, MM; Dorothy Kazel, OSU; and Jean Donovan. Organizers hope that each of LCWR's 15 regions will be able to send at least one delegate on the pilgrimage.



LCWR is also encouraging religious communities to host local gatherings and prayer vigils to honor the memory of Ita, Maura, Dorothy, and Jean and to share their story with the broader community. The goal is to log 40 vigils in 40 cities to mark the 40th anniversary. Anyone who is able to hold an event, is asked to send a brief description of the event to [Janette Cahill](mailto:Janette.Cahill@share-elsalvador.org).

More information about "The Roses in December 40th Anniversary Celebration," and registration information for the pilgrimage can be obtained on [SHARE's website](http://share-elsalvador.org) by contacting Jose@share-elsalvador.org, telephone +1 510 848 8487.

LCWR Resource Sharing Forum Now Operative

LCWR has launched a new listserv using Google groups. All LCWR members will be automatically subscribed to the listserv allowing any member to post a message that goes to all the other listserv participants. The purpose of the listserv -- called Resource Sharing -- is to provide members with a platform to pose questions to one another or share helpful resources. Questions might pertain to recommendations for speakers and facilitators, processes, policies, programs, and other matters.

Anyone who does not wish to receive the forum messages can unsubscribe at any time by clicking on the link at the bottom of a message received.

The current LCWR Resource Sharing Forum listserv through Yahoo groups will be discontinued once LCWR is sure that the new listserv is operating smoothly.

USCIS Publishes Public Charge Guidance

On January 27, the Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision to lift a nationwide injunction against the administration's "public charge" final rule. With the court's ruling, US Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) lists February 24 as the first day of implementation in every state except Illinois where a preliminary injunction remains in place. Despite the injunction's removal, lower courts will continue to determine the legality of the law on its merits.



Under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), an individual may be denied admission into the United States or adjustment to lawful permanent resident (LPR) status if he or she is likely at any time to become a public charge. The new rule makes radical changes to the current interpretation of this ground of inadmissibility. At present, and for the last 20 years, applicants have been able to overcome public charge by submitting an affidavit of support from the petitioner or a joint sponsor that shows evidence of income of at least 125 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. This new rule turns the focus on the applicant and requires the USCIS to balance a list of factors, classifying them as positive or negative before reaching a determination. Negative factors could include the applicant's age (under 18 or over 61), income below 125 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, job skills, work history, high school education, English proficiency, credit rating, health, health insurance coverage, financial liabilities, assets and other resources. See the backgrounder on the new rule [here](#).

LCWR joined other faith-based organizations in registering its objections to the ruling.

"We are deeply disappointed by the Supreme Court's decision to lift the temporary injunction and allow the administration to implement a regulation solely designed to restrict immigration and punish immigrant families. The rule could dissuade parents from obtaining benefits for which their children qualify. It will increase poverty,

hunger, homelessness, and decrease children's well-being. This targeting of the most vulnerable within our community violates the tenets of our faith and threatens the values of our nation. If we want our communities to thrive, all families in those communities have to have access to the care and services they need and to which they are entitled," said executive director Carol Zinn, SSJ.

President Trump Expands Travel Ban

Late last month President Trump issued a [proclamation](#) restricting the issuance of immigrant visas to people from Burma (Myanmar), Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, and Nigeria. People from Sudan and Tanzania will no longer be eligible for certain visas to come to the United States, commonly called "Diversity Visas."



This recent proclamation is an expansion of the administration's 2017 "Muslim Ban" which threatened the country's founding principle of religious freedom. Over the last three years, waivers to allow visas from current travel ban nations based on undue hardship, such as family illness, were supposed to be available but were almost never authorized. President Trump's latest move to limit legal immigration undermines family reunification efforts and will make ensuring support for forced migrants in the designated countries more difficult.

Recently the House of Representatives reported out of committee HR 2214, the NO BAN Act, legislation that would terminate the administration's refugee, Muslim, and asylum bans and ensure that no one is banned from the United States based on religion or nationality. All are encouraged to call upon every member of Congress to cosponsor and pass the NO BAN Act (S 1123 / HR 2214) and stop the new expansion of the Muslim Ban.

Labeling for Lent Campaign Calls for Supply Chain Transparency

This Lent, Catholic anti-trafficking organizations are once again turning their energy toward eliminating labor trafficking in the seafood industry. LCWR, in partnership with US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking (USCSAHT), is joining the Coalition of Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking (CCOAHT) in the *Labeling for Lent* Campaign. This year they are reaching out to [Sysco Corporation](#), a wholesale company that provides food services, including the sale of seafood, to more 650,000 schools, health care facilities, and restaurants around the world. In the United States, many of the schools and hospitals that purchase from Sysco are Catholic.



The campaign seeks to flood Sysco's offices with postcards which read: "Sysco, we kindly urge you to better inform your customers (schools, hospitals, restaurants) about your efforts to ensure your supply chain is free of forced labor so they can make ethical purchasing decisions."

Participating organizations can order "Labeling for Lent Postcards," by completing the [Labeling for Lent Post Card Order Form](#). CCOAHT will ship postcards out each Wednesday via priority mail flat rate option, which is guaranteed to arrive within 1-3 business days.



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Editor: Annmarie Sanders, IHM
8737 Colesville Road, Suite 610
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: 301-588-4955 Fax: 301-587-4575
E-mail: asanders@lcwr.org Website: lcwr.org

A Year of 'Remain in Mexico' is a Year of Tragedy

On Wednesday, January 29, groups across the United States gathered in prayer and action to mark the one-year anniversary of the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) also known as the "Remain in Mexico" policy. They demanded an end to this program that endangers the lives of asylum-seekers.



LCWR joined other members of the Interfaith Immigration Coalition in a vigil on the steps of the United Methodist Building in Washington, DC. The vigil included prayer and testimony from asylum recipients including Church World Service staff member Bilal Askaryar who told the crowd that asylum saved his family who fled Afghanistan.

HOPE Border Institute marked the anniversary by publishing a report documenting the dangerous conditions created by the program which forces asylum seekers to wait in Mexico while their cases are considered in the United States. According to HOPE's [Remain in Mexico Situation Report](#) there are approximately 1,274 spots in shelters for migrants in Ciudad Juarez, but the population of returned migrants has "surged to well over 10,000 and possibly as high as 19,000." The report also states that "kidnappings of migrants are rampant" and many of the border states in Mexico where asylees are being sent are under travel advisories from the US State Department. The program has cut off most asylum seekers from possible legal counsel. Less than three percent of asylum seekers in Juarez have an attorney.

The campaign to protect asylum and asylum seekers, [#Faith4Asylum](#) will continue.

Cardinal Cupich Challenges Catholic Social Ministry Gathering 2020

Cardinal Blase Cupich of the Archdiocese of Chicago officiated at the opening mass of the 2020 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG) in Washington DC and provided the keynote address, [Promoting Human Dignity is Our Baptismal Call](#). In his address Cardinal Cupich reminded those present that the call to holiness is inexorably linked to the transformation of the world.



“The proper task of a Christian, then, as the Council tells us, is to work with everyone in building a more human world (cf., *Gaudium et Spes* 55). This is about taking a stand toward reality in which neither our spiritual lives nor religion can be understood without social commitment. Nor can salvation be understood without the need to transform history. They are linked together.”

He went on to point to the teaching of Pope Francis in *Gaudete et Exultate* which challenges those who would fragment or reduce Catholic Social Teaching.

“Such an approach also subverts any attempt to fragment our Catholic social teaching, pretending to offer so-called non-negotiables, which ends up reducing our moral tradition to a single set of issues. In *Gaudete et Exultate*, Pope Francis warns against such an ‘ideological error found in those who find suspect the social engagement of others, seeing it as superficial, worldly, secular, materialist, communist, or populist. Or they relativize it, as if there are other more important matters, or the only thing that counts is one particular ethical issue or cause that they themselves defend.’ He goes on to say, [O]ur defense of the innocent unborn, for example, needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development. Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of

human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection’ (*Gaudete et Exultate* 101).”

Cardinal Cupich concluded by reminding all those who long for justice of the need to be evangelized by those on the margins. It is in this mutually enriching encounter, he said, that Christians respond to the call to holiness and take up the social ministry of the church.

On the last day of the conference, participants went to Capitol Hill to educate their members of Congress on important issues facing the Catholic community, including responding to gun violence, extending the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, protecting Dreamers, and promoting programs that support people who are poor and vulnerable.

CSMG brought together more than 500 social ministry leaders from around the country to network and explore this year’s theme, “Bearing Witness: Life and Justice for All.”

News from the UN

March 8—International Women’s Day is a day when women are recognized for their achievements

without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political.

The theme for 2020, *I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women’s Rights*, aligns with the [Generation Equality](#) campaign which marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.



March 21—International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is the day when all eyes should be focused on racism.

On that day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa against the apartheid “pass laws.” Proclaiming the day in 1966, the General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination. The rights to equality and non-discrimination are cornerstones of human rights law and enshrined in Articles 1 and 2 of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#).

Updates from NRRO

Applications for [Direct Care Assistance](#) are due to the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) by Tuesday, March 31. Made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious collection, Direct Care Assistance is an annual financial distribution to religious institutes. It can be used for immediate eldercare expenses or invested for future retirement needs. Anyone in need of assistance in completing the application may contact NRRO grants specialist Monica Glover, (mglover@uscgb.org) or (202-541-3216). Whether or not an institute is eligible for or requests funding, every religious institute is urged to complete the application. Each community's information helps the NRRO develop a more complete picture of retirement needs and assets among US religious institutes.



The [latest NRRO newsletter](#), which provides an overview of the financial and educational resources planned for 2020, is available online.

Consider Participating in LCWR's Cartridge Recycling Program and Contribute to its Scholarship Fund

LCWR and many of its member congregations participate in an ink cartridge recycling program that helps protect the environment and conserve non-renewable resources.

LCWR works with a recycling company, Empties-4-Cash, an organization that rewards those who recycle by paying for each usable empty ink jet cartridge. LCWR applies the earnings received to the scholarship fund that assists LCWR members who wish to attend the LCWR national assembly but cannot afford to do so.

LCWR congregations are invited to assist in building the scholarship fund by sending their cartridges directly to Empties-4-Cash and having their earnings applied directly to the scholarship fund. Anyone interested in the program is asked to contact Carol Glidden at 301-588-4955 or cglidden@lcwr.org and provide a contact person, email, phone number, and address where labels can be sent.



2020 Study of Newer Entrants

This new study of sisters, brothers and priests who entered between 2003-2018 will be released on March 25. Every religious institute will receive a booklet and special issue of the NRVC Horizon journal that will provide help with disseminating the information. This research found that the majority (84%) of religious institutes have had at least one serious discerner since 2003. The majority (88%) are accepting new members and the majority (89%) are promoting vocations to religious life. Most religious institutes (75%) report that they have one or more vocation directors or a vocation team. NRVC looks forward to sharing this report with all LCWR members through the generosity of the GHR Foundation.

NRVC Summer Institute

[Registration for NRVC's annual Summer Institute:](#)

- Orientation Program for New Vocation Directors, July 8-12, 2020
- Ethical Issues in Vocation and Formation Ministry, July 13-14, 2020
- Behavioral Assessment 1, July 16-18, 2020
- Is it Generational, Cultural, Personality or Pathology? July 16-18, 2020
- Understanding, Assessing, and Fostering Psycho-Sexual Integration, July 20-23, 2020

National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (NFCRV)

The [National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations](#) will accept applications from NRVC members until April 15, 2020. Since its inception, 42 candidates have received grants. For more information on how the NFCRV can financially assist your religious institute in accepting candidates with college debt, please contact Mr. Phil Loftus at 773-595-4028.



by Joan Mumaw, IHM
 President
www.solidarityfriends.org

Yet Again...

Yet again, we are coming to you requesting that you hold the people of South Sudan in prayer. In November, while I was in South Sudan, the leaders of the government and the opposition postponed the installation of the Transitional Government of National Unity because they had not implemented the peace plan agreed to in September 2019. They granted themselves another 100 days. The sigh of relief was palpable. The deadline for deciding on the number of states, security for the vice president, Riek Machar, to return to Juba, resolution of border issues with Sudan and the demobilization of armed militias and creation of an integrated army is February 22. This deadline is only days away and the issues are still unresolved in spite of pressure from international actors including the nations surrounding South Sudan and the Troika (US, UK, and Norway), nations which helped to “birth” South Sudan. Whether the leaders meet the deadline or return to civil war, either way, prayers for the people and for peace are urgently needed. [Prayer for Peace](#)

Solidarity with South Sudan continues to add new staff and welcome new students. Sixty new students are expected at the Solidarity Teacher Training College which will be implementing a new curriculum mandated by the ministry of education. This curriculum is “outcomes-based” focusing on skills as well as knowledge. It is very different from the “rote learning” of the past and demands new methods of teaching and new textbooks for teachers and students. The government has yet to make the materials available. Solidarity, in an effort to prepare teachers able to implement this curriculum, has received permission to print the books and teacher manuals at great cost to the college. This is an **urgent need** as the school year has begun. If you are able to assist with the costs involved, Solidarity would be grateful for your assistance. Please

contact the office for more information. jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com

As always, thank you for your support of this collaborative ministry among the poorest of the poor and people seeking to rebuild their lives after years of civil war.



Fall Together Community Now Forming

Religious congregation leaders are invited to consider the *Together* program for their newer members. Together is a collaborative for theological education, formation, and community cosponsored by the Religious Formation Conference (RFC) and Catholic Theological Union (CTU).

Together offers a cohort-based, residential theology program for religious sisters and brothers in temporary vows and for newly perpetually professed religious who commit to participation in the three program components: theological education, formation, and community.

The program consists of at least one full year of study that would lead to a certificate in an area of theology/spirituality, or two-three years of study that would lead participants to earn a master’s degree in theology, pastoral studies, or divinity.

Virtual Information Sessions

On **Monday, February 24 from 6:00 - 7:00 PM EST** or **Thursday, March 5 from 1:30 - 2:30 PM EST** those interested in the Together program will have the opportunity to learn more about the program through a webinar. [Webinar registration information](#)

[More information about the program](#), including the application, can be accessed online.