



# DIRECTIONS

A QUARTERLY REPORT FOR CATHOLIC GRANTMAKERS

Volume 31, Number 2

## Sisters Showcase International Ministries / FADICA and Hilton Fund for Sisters Hear How Work Among the Poor Gives Women Religious Powerful Impact in Shaping Global Action

Members of FADICA gathered in Los Angeles this Spring for a conference on the international service of women religious. This was the second in a three part series of discussions among philanthropists this year to understand better the present scope of ministry and the future of women religious in the United States.

“Our strength in our ministry is the intimacy we have with the community because of our presence on the ground and knowing what the issues really are,” said Sr. Carol Zinn, SSJ of the Congregation of St. Joseph, a worldwide community of 15,000 sisters serving in 57 countries. Sr. Zinn represented the Congregation of St. Joseph at the United Nations for nine years, where she advocated for human rights and social justice.

Sr. Ellen Flynn, RSM, another guest speaker, highlighted the heroic work of sisters in helping Haiti through its present recovery. Because women religious were on the ground in Haiti for years, she said, sisters knew the Haitian communities better than most large humanitarian organizations that scaled up right after the earthquake Sr. Ellen told FADICA.

Deep roots in the communities of the poor was a dominant, pervasive theme of the FADICA presenters at the May 14 meeting.

Sr. Leonore Coan, SNDdeN, representing the Mission Office of the Sisters of Notre Dame, took the members of FADICA on a virtual tour of the work of her community in Mpese, Congo, northeast Peru, and Anapu, Brazil, showing how sisters are helping the world’s poor learn sustainable agricultural practices.

Sr. Coan showed the thirty-five FADICA members present how this work is connected to the sisters’ educational ministries throughout the world. She said students in the U.S. are linked to particular agricultural projects either through the Notre Dame Virtual School program, or through “skyped” classes with individual sisters instructing students from their locations in mission areas of the globe.

“When you think about the most important problem of today, poverty,” said Sr. Carol Zinn, “and then ask what could you look for that would make a difference, I would say look to the education of women and girls.”

A complete transcript of the symposium, *Global Partnerships for Human Progress*, is available through FADICA.

## CALENDAR

**FADICA Fall Board of Directors Meeting**  
*The Leadership and Philanthropy of Women Religious: A Life of Passionate Service to the Home Missions*  
Co-sponsored by Catholic Church Extension Society and FADICA  
The Talbott Hotel  
Chicago, Illinois  
October 14-15, 2010

**FADICA 35th Annual Membership Meeting**  
*New Financial Models for Catholic Schools: The Way Forward*  
The Naples Grande  
Naples, Florida  
February 3-4, 2011



Sister Ellen Flynn, RSM describes the work of women religious in Haiti, where she served for twenty years.



Jane Leek, a philanthropic advisor from London, shares her perspective at FADICA conference May 14.



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## Catholic Schools: An Endangered Species Empty Seats and Rising Costs Taking Their Toll

Catholic dioceses and parishes around the country continue to report mounting problems in keeping their schools afloat amidst a lackluster economy, rising costs, increasing competition for students, and financing arrangements that no longer work.

Judging from a spate of news reports from older metropolitan areas of the country where Catholic populations are concentrated, the problems of sustaining parochial schools are reaching the breaking point.

This past Spring, the Archdiocese of Baltimore, where Catholic schools began in the United States, 10,000 school seats sat empty, while more than \$10 million in tuition aid and operational support was paid out by the church there. This, is according to Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien in a letter to his flock explaining the mounting crisis to parishioners across the archdiocese. Catholic schools owe the archdiocese some \$11 million for unpaid insurance, pension contributions, and payroll advances, he said, and the Catholic schools in Baltimore have at least \$20 million in deferred maintenance of school buildings.



The Archbishop has taken bold steps to consolidate 13 schools in the archdiocese and adopted a more hands-on approach to design a more vibrant school system for the future.

Meanwhile, archdioceses across the country report similar pressures keeping their schools solvent. The Archdiocese of Boston, for example, continues to reconfigure and consolidate Catholic schools there. Facing continued school closings, the archdiocese is spending time and money on new curriculum, renovated buildings, better teacher salaries, and a new model of regional schools that will mean significantly fewer schools in the future. The changes will include entirely new methods of governance with stronger lay participation on boards, dramatic improvements in academic and faith formation curricula, the integration of technology at all grade levels, better teacher compensation and professional development, and renewed facilities.

To further achieve the school reforms the archdiocese has introduced a new approach to the patchwork of parish taxes and fees to help equalize participation in archdiocesan ministries by its 291 parishes.

In the Northeastern Pennsylvania Diocese of Scranton, a Catholic stronghold for decades, parishioners, parents and students have seen 30 of their schools close since 1999 due to declining enrollment and financial stress. Since the bulk of the closures in 2007, enrollment has fallen 7 percent in the 22 diocesan schools contributing to a \$5.6 million operating deficit.

Scranton, like other Catholic school systems, is feeling the effects of national trends. According to the National Catholic Education Association, between 2000 and 2010, the number of students enrolled in Catholic schools nationwide declined by 533,697, or 20 percent.



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Meanwhile, several dioceses including Wichita, KS; Bridgeport, CT; Monterey, CA; Memphis, TN; Seattle, WA; Brooklyn, NY; and Fort Worth, TX; seem to be beating national trends by taking a more enterprising approach to their Catholic schools. The systems are experimenting with new governance and financial models and other improvements that show promise.

Yet, for the moment, the majority of the 6,000 Catholic elementary schools across the nation have no coordinated action plan to rely upon, leaving many of them vulnerable to demographic and market trends that foretell a dramatic retrenchment as the coming school year approaches.

### **Fairfield University Book Series Continues to Harvest National Awards / New Awards Bring Total for *Called to Holiness* Series to Five**

In late May the Catholic Press Association awarded national book prizes to Sidney Callahan's *Creating New Life, Nurturing Families*, and to Clare Wagner's *Awakening to Prayer*, the seventh and eighth additions in a series of books on Catholic spirituality produced by Fairfield University and St. Anthony Messenger Press, entitled: *Called to Holiness*.

The series was produced as a collaborative grantmaking effort by members of FADICA who worked together with Fairfield to produce eight new books on women's spirituality. The new awards are in addition to three CPA book awards for the series in 2009. One of the CPA book winners in this Fairfield series, *Making Sense of God*, by Joan Mueller, was chosen as the 2009 Book of the Year by the National Council of Catholic Women.

### **Haiti Donations Substantial / Rebuilding Painfully Slow**

Six months after a devastating earthquake killed 230,000 Haitians and destroyed 100,000 homes in Haiti, about 1.3 million people in that country live in 1,200 makeshift tent cities in and around Port-au-Prince. Technical obstacles to rebuilding are immense in a country that is beset by underlying extreme poverty and lack of infrastructure.



With so many landownership documents destroyed in the earthquake, just getting permission to clear land can be a long, complicated process. Nonetheless private and church-related relief agencies are demonstrating agility and creativity despite formidable roadblocks.

Catholic Relief Services has begun to move from providing survival food and shelter to longer range help in the form of simple wooden homes and the provision of healthcare services. On the horizon is CRS's rebuilding of St. Francois de Sales Hospital in Port-au-Prince, a collaborative project of CRS and the University of Maryland, Baltimore.



## Foundation News

### **Boston College Receives \$20 Million for School of Education Grant Follows Similar Amount in Early Spring**

The Lynch School of Education at Boston College received \$20 million from Peter and Carolyn Lynch in June to establish a new training program for school principals, the first in the nation to jointly train and support principals from Catholic, public and charter schools. The grant followed a \$20 million grant in May from Barbara and Patrick Roche to BC's Center for Catholic Education.



### **Indiana Catholic College Receives \$40 Million Farm**

The late Juanita K. Waugh, a former fellow at this Rensselaer, IN college, left farmland worth more than \$40 million to St. Joseph's College, a Catholic institution. The college will use income generated on the farm for scholarships in Waugh's name.

### **BP Gives One Million to New Orleans Archdiocese for Oil Spill Relief**

BP awarded the Archdiocese of New Orleans grants for case management and counseling by its charitable subsidiaries for victims of the offshore oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. In response to the disaster Catholic Charities opened five emergency centers at local churches to distribute financial aid and offer counseling to fishing families.

## Publication Resources

***The Leadership and Philanthropy of Women Religious: Global Partnerships for Human Progress.*** Edited conference proceedings highlighting today's grantmaking opportunities with women religious to promote justice and human development within developing countries. FADICA, Washington DC. \$9.95 plus shipping and handling.

***American Grace: How Religion Is Reshaping Our Civic and Political Lives.*** David Campbell and Robert D. Putnam. Simon and Shuster 2010. The result of two groundbreaking surveys on religion and public life in America and case studies of diverse congregations. \$20.00.

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