

NORTH AMERICAN REGION CONFERENCE

WORLD UNION OF CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS



FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, USA

29-30 SEPTEMBER 2013



WUCWO NORTH AMERICAN REGION MEETING 2013
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA USA

PROGRAM

SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2013

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

**OPENING PRAYER : ADAPTED FROM THE WUCWO DAY OF PRAYER
SERVICE 2013**

We gather united as Catholic women from the North American Region of WUCWO praying this service together. We focus our prayer on our WUCWO priority of Peace in Action. We offer our prayers that we might receive the grace to advocate and work effectively to end the poverties of hunger, violence, intolerance, and complacency. We pray that our efforts will lead to a world of peace and equality. A world that delights the Creator and lives according to His will. We pray for unfailing hope to sustain us as we pursue His work and ask that we always feel His love flow to and from our hearts as we strive to love our neighbor as ourselves. Amen.

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

The Poverty of Hunger

“If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,” but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it?” (James 2:15-16).

In this day of instant global communication, all of us are acutely aware that in many countries thousands upon thousands of our sisters and brothers are suffering from unrelenting hunger. Every day, too many mothers’ hearts break as they hold a child dying from starvation, now too weak to cry, and surviving children suffer in mental and physical progress from a lack of proper nutrition.

This is poverty. And we are aware.

The reading from James says faith is not enough, words are not enough. Faith without action is meaningless. Stop and think what your actions are, what they could be: Are you willing to pray; to give your time to make others more aware that this is not happening someplace far away to people we don't know but to our fellow sisters and brothers in Christ; to give your money sacrificially; or your presence and talent to help stop this heartbreak?

You are aware of this poverty; what can, what will you do for these, your brothers?

The Poverty of Violence

"The wicked flee when no man gives chase, but the righteous are as bold as lions." (Proverbs 28:1)

Each day, the wonders of technology alert us instantly to the violence and suffering of our fellow sojourners on this Earth as they flee or are made to endure the horrors of war and lawless unprincipled leaders. We also learn the plight of women and children abused and of young persons trafficked and subjected to a life of terror and slavery; Young people growing up much too soon, torn from those who love them and thrust into a world of difficult unending work and no love. Babies killed before their birth through abortion. A violent world.

This is poverty. And we are aware.

This powerful message in the Book of Proverbs alerts us that we need to be as bold as lions. Complacency permits evil to flourish but steady courage and action can and must end these situations. Alert your government that injustice cannot, will not be tolerated and pray for our sisters and brothers caught in the crossfire of conflicts and corrupt leaders they do not understand or wish. Work to end abuse and trafficking and the horror and despair of these despicable actions. Assist in the establishment of safe havens to help reintroduce care, love, and purpose into the lives of those escaping these situations. Give hope, support and assistance to mothers so that they do not feel that aborting their child is their only option.

We must find the courage of a lion to speak out in national and international fora for those who do not have a voice. Let the end of wars and all kinds of violence be our goal and our prayer.

You are aware of this poverty; what can, what will you do for these, your brothers?

The Poverty of Intolerance to Migrants

“When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. (Leviticus 19:33-34)

People fear change. They fear those not like themselves coming to their land and introducing new customs and speaking a different language. They forget in their fear that we are all God’s children; each of us loved dearly and uniquely by our Father. They fail to see His delight in our differences and they work to place legal and social obstacles in the lives of migrants. Most persons do not want to leave their home and family. They are forced to do so by reasons beyond their control: climate change making their land useless for harvest, a government persecuting them for their ethnicity or religion, outbreaks of war and civil unrest. The reasons are many and true. These migrants come to us hoping for a better life; in some cases, hoping for life itself. Yet, they are met with hostility, barriers, and sometimes acts of violence against their person. They take menial work or they subsist in tent cities and deeply feel a lack of dignity or acceptance. They are made to feel apart, alone, threatened and unwanted.

This is poverty. And we are aware.

We are the children of God living by the message of the Christ. We know that we are to help, not hinder our brothers and sisters seeking a new and better life among us. No matter where we live, we all need to feel loved and accepted. It is our responsibility to assist those in need in our own land just as much as in places far

away. Let us pray and work that migrants can experience life free from fear of reprisal; free from hatred and free from the poverty they sacrifice so dearly to escape. Work actively to advocate for justice and eliminate the barriers placed in their lives.

You are aware of this poverty; what can, what will you do for these, your brothers?

The Poverty of Complacency

“I hate to see complacency prevail in our lives when it's so directly contrary to the teaching of Christ.” (Former USA President, Jimmy Carter)

In “developed countries”, too many wander homeless and too many children go to school hungry while others suffer from a poverty of family life, failing to learn morality and what is truly important in this life. Exposure to media depictions of what is “glamorous” separate young people from the true core values of a life lived with God. The relentless drive to accumulate more and more possessions and live in ever larger houses and to do whatever you wish, even at the expense of your family, because you can afford it creates a false God of money and selfish entitlement.

This is poverty. And we are aware.

A spirit of complacency to the poor and to the decline of the morals and values that made civilizations walk in the way of the Lord is a great and destructive poverty. It is a poverty that closes our eyes to our responsibilities and makes justification of bad choices easy. It is an insidious poverty and a true threat to our lives as children of God.

You are aware of this poverty; what can, what will you do for these, your brothers?

Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously; defend the rights of the poor and needy. (Proverbs 31: 8-9)

All these poverties add up to millions of persons never reaching their potential, never being able to make their unique contribution to our world before they die. It is a terrible cycle of despair that continues unbroken and all that might be, that which should be, in and through these lives, is lost.

All this is poverty. And yes, we are aware. We are aware of this terrible evil and how much suffering it causes. But, as followers of Christ, we do not despair for we know that we are called to action. Each act of righting a wrong is made in His name for we are doing it for Him. Our actions may be quite small or they may play out on the world stage. It doesn't matter; what matters is that we do all we can to make this a better world for each other. As Catholics, we know it is our privilege and our responsibility to hope and to act; to change a world of poverty to a world free from hunger, free from oppression, violence, and evil. Hope is our anchor –our lifeline to the world that is meant to be. It is our hope and our faith in the goodness of God that allows us to dare to believe that this world can become God's kingdom of love on Earth. We know that it is up to each one of us to make this world what it can be, what it is meant to be. To move from the bounds of selfishness to a spirit of solidarity with all who live on this beautiful planet, the home given to us by our God for this life. To understand and believe wholeheartedly that we are one people, together, responsible to and for each other, as Christ taught us and as the Church reminds us.

**“Interdependence must be transformed into solidarity, based upon the principle that the goods of creation are meant for all....Solidarity helps us to see the ‘other’ whether a person, people or nation, not just as some kind of instrument, with a work capacity and physical strength to be exploited at low cost and then discarded when no longer useful, but as our neighbor...”
(Sollicitudo Rei Socialis #39)**

These words of solidarity bear the message of Christ that binds us together.

Let us each one examine our conscience in the light of the message of Christ and ask ourselves if we are trying to go beyond our selfishness to see the good in everyone; to see the potential in all

peoples around the globe, to be one with them, and to do all we can to make break the cycle of poverty in all its evil aspects.

We pray, Lord, that we be ever aware of the injustices in this world and strive to renew our world as one of peace and equality. Keep us mindful of the needs of our fellow sisters and brothers on this beautiful planet you have given us as our home and let our faith and actions unite to make this the world You envision for us and for Your glory. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: We offer our prayers to God, confident in His loving attention:

Response: We pray to the Lord

Leader: That we will have the courage and hope required to work to make a world free from the poverties of hunger, violence, intolerance, and complacency. **R/**

Leader: That all people will have access to the fundamental items required for a dignified and fulfilling life: shelter, food, clothing, medicine, education appropriate to their abilities, meaningful work, and loving acceptance **R/**

Leader: That governments will listen to the voice of the people and shape policy to promote social equality, justice, environmental stewardship, and peace **R/**

Leader: That all people will be free to know and worship God **R/**

Leader: That all who are wounded by life will know the healing and gracious power of our loving God that they may once again live in hope **R/**

Leader: That all people will receive what they need to accomplish the unique mission for which they were created **R/**

Leader: That we embrace the privilege and responsibility granted to us to be our brother's keeper **R/**

Leader: That we remain faithful and grow ever stronger in our prayer and action for justice and the elimination of poverty and violence in this world as taught by Christ and fostered by the Church **R/**

Leader: That Catholic women of the world, lay and consecrated, will have the strength, courage and ability to demonstrate their unique feminine understanding and love of God and compassion and care for all His creation **R/**

Leader: That all mothers will receive the grace to accept and embrace the extraordinary blessing and responsibility given them in a culture of Life and will instill in their children a love of God and their fellow men **R/**

Leader: That families will remain strong units of society with husband and wife cherishing each other and guiding their children in love **R/**

Leader: For our Holy Mother, the Church on Earth: the Pope, bishops, clergy, religious, and lay persons, that together we may spread the love of Christ to all in the New Evangelization **R/**

Leader: That we always remember and live Jesus' command to love our neighbor as ourselves **R/**

Leader: That Rev. Lawrence Conley and all WUCWO members who died this year may enjoy eternal rest. **R/**

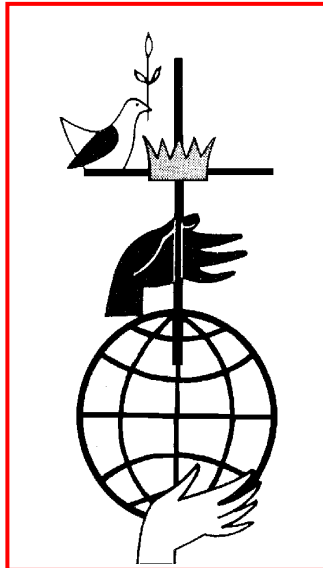
Those who instruct many unto justice will shine as stars for all eternity. (Proverbs 10:7)

Lord, grant they we may shine, carrying the light of justice, as we work and speak for the poor and the oppressed. Let us carry your words in our mouths and in our hearts. Please grant that, in doing so, we may gain the shining loving light of eternity with you. Amen.

This year of Peace in Action causes us to think especially of Our Lady, Our Queen of Peace. We pray that she will ask her divine Son to bestow the graces needed to advocate and act for peace, to end the poverties of hunger, violence, intolerance, and complacency. We ask these things confident in her great maternal love and feel the warmth of her embrace as we pray: The Hail Mary.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen

We conclude our Prayer Service, cognizant that we come together now to pray and work for a world of peace; a world in which all of our brothers and sisters will live lives of dignity, free from all forms of poverty, with souls filled with the love that our Saviour taught us as we follow His command to love our neighbour as ourselves.



PRESENTATION OF OUR FLAGS AND OUR NATIONAL ANTHEMS



FLAG CEREMONY : Broward Sheriff's Office
Division of Fire Rescue/Emergency Services
Everglades Regional Operations Honor Guard
Captain David Lindsay

O CANADA

O Canada!

Our home and native land!

True patriot love in all thy sons command.

With glowing hearts we see thee rise,

The True North strong and free!

From far and wide,

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

God keep our land glorious and free!

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light

What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?

Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,

O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?

And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,

Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.

Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

SPEAKER ON POVERTY: Alexie Torres-Fleming



Growing up in the Bronx, Alexie Torres-Fleming watched her borough burn. She left her home in the South Bronx in her 20s to start a very successful corporate career. One day, she felt called to return to help the youth of that area. When her parish organized an anti-drug rally, local drug dealers attempted to burn down the church in an attempt to intimidate the activists. Rather than retreating from the threat of danger, Alexie realized that she had the power to make a real difference. This is her story of confronting poverty on many different levels and how she has brought hope to youth who live on the edge, giving them faith and life skills to achieve the place in this world for which they were created.

SPEAKER ON VIOLENCE: Dawn Eden



Born into a Jewish family in New York City, Dawn lost her faith as a teenager and became agnostic. During her twenties, in the 1990s, she was a rock journalist in New York City, interviewing performers such as Elton John and Brian Wilson. She went on to work on the editorial staff of the *New York Post* and the *Daily News*. From childhood, Dawn suffered a form of violence all too common at all levels of society, domestic abuse. When Dawn was thirty-one, she experienced a dramatic conversion to Christianity that ultimately led her to enter the Catholic Church. Her first book, *The Thrill of the Chaste* (2006), became a surprise hit, published in four languages and earning her speaking invitations throughout North America, Europe, and Australia. In her new book *My Peace I Give You*, which carries an Imprimatur from Donald Cardinal Wuerl, Dawn offers a Catholic spirituality of healing for adult victims of childhood sexual abuse. She has shared the message of *My Peace I Give You* on numerous television and radio programs, including EWTN's "The Journey Home," "Faith and Culture," and "Women of Grace." In May 2013, Dawn earned an STB which she received with honors from the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception.

SPEAKER ON TRAFFICKING: Kateriina Rosenblatt



Kateriina is here to share her sobering yet uplifting story with us. Not many of us can imagine the horror of human trafficking occurring in our own home towns; we usually think of it as happening elsewhere in other countries to people we would never know. Today, we shall learn that this is far from the truth. At the age of 13, Kateriina was lured from a hotel pool into a life of being sold. The experience so shattered this young woman that even when she was rescued, she went back to this terrible world through a middle school friend. Throughout this ordeal, one glimmer of faith sustained her and when she finally escaped, she worked extremely hard to recover her sense of self worth, aided by faith. But Kateriina has not simply survived this experience that robbed her of childhood and so much more. She is dedicated to helping other survivors of human trafficking. To that end, she has completed her Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution, works with the FBI, speaks at universities, jails, foster care homes, schools, and to groups such as ours to alert everyone to this danger in our own backyard. She has also founded an organisation, There is H.O.P.E .for Me to assist survivors of trafficking.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Poverty Violence Human Trafficking

CLOSING PRAYER

PRAYER TO MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE, PATRONESS OF WUCWO

O Loving God, your Son, Jesus, came into this world to do your will and leave us His peace. Through the intercession and example of our Blessed Mother Mary, Queen of Peace, grant us the wisdom and humility to reflect that peace to the world. Inspire our thoughts, words and deeds to bear witness to your presence in our hearts. May your Holy Spirit fill us with every grace and blessing so that we may pursue what leads to peace for all humanity. Amen.

(Karen Hurley, WUCWO President-General 2006-2010)

MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2013

OPENING PRAYER

Our opening prayer will be led by Luba Kowalczyk, WUCWO Board Member from Canada. Luba has brought a beautiful Prayer Service to Our Lady that will be done in the Ukrainian Rite.

SPEAKER ON SUPPORT FOR MIGRANTS: Archbishop Thomas Wenski



Archbishop Wenski was born in West Palm Beach and grew up in Lake Worth, Florida. He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Miami on May 15, 1976 and has earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy, Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Sociology from Fordham University in New York. He has also taken summer courses at the Catholic University of Lublin (Poland). Appointed auxiliary Bishop of Miami on June 24, 1997, he was ordained to the episcopacy on September 3, 1997. Bishop Wenski assumed the role of the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Orlando on November 13, 2004. On April 20, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI appointed him the fourth Archbishop of Miami and Metropolitan of the Province of Miami (which includes the seven dioceses of the State of Florida). On June 1, 2010, Bishop Thomas Wenski was installed as Archbishop of Miami. Besides his duties in the Archdiocese of Miami, where he served on numerous boards including Catholic Hospice, Catholic Charities, Catholic Charities Legal Services, and St. Thomas University, he also served as chair of CLINIC (Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.) (1998-2001), chair of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops' Committee on Migration (2001-2004); and chair of the conference's Committee on International Policy (2004-2008) and currently he continues as a consultant to the Committee on Migration, and a member of the Conference's Secretariat for the Church in Latin America, the committee for International Justice and Peace, and CLINIC (Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.).

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP: Jane Carter



Jane is a long-time member of the National Council of Catholic Women, serving in many positions for this US member organization of WUCWO. Jane taught religion and served as Director of Religious Education for 5 years. After completing a 3 year formation program, she was commissioned as a Lay Pastoral Minister. Always active in her parish Council of Catholic Women, Jane became

the first Knoxville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) Board Legislation Commission Chair and was appointed to the National Board in this capacity in 1995. Her work in social justice earned a service award from the Knoxville Diocesan Office of Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation. She served on the Knoxville Vocations Promotion Council for 5 years.

Jane has served on the KDCCW Training Team, has prepared and presented workshops, written programs, prepared educational materials and displays. She has presented workshops at two of the Knoxville Diocesan Ministries Day Programs, and Leadership Sessions at the NCCW General Assemblies in 2004 and 2006. Appointed by NCCW President Ellen Bachman to help create the Leadership Training Development Program in 2005, Jane is most proud to be a part of this team of dedicated Council Women. She is a dynamic, fun, and faith-filled woman!

WUCWO PRESIDENT GENERAL: Maria Giovanna Ruggieri



Maria Giovanna Ruggieri has lived a call to service throughout her life. A teacher, she is dedicated to bringing young people to enthusiasm and knowledge. A long-time member of Azione Cattolica Italia, Maria Giovanna has served as an officer of the adult division of that association. A member of the WUCWO Board and Vice President from Europe, she was elected WUCWO President-General in 2010. We are honored to have her with us



CLOSING MASS
MEMORIAL OF SAINT JEROME
PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

OPENING HYMN: Prayer of Saint Francis
Adapted by: Johann Sebastian von Tempelhoff

1. Make me a channel of your peace:
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
Where there is injury, your power Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

2. Make me a channel of your peace:
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, - only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

3. O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul - .

4. Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all men that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

GREETING

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and
the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And with your spirit.**

THE CONFITEOR

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

Strike breast and say:

Through my fault, through my fault, Through my most grievous fault;
Therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

OFFERTORY HYMN: The Servant's Song -Richard Gillard

1. Will you let me be your servant?

Let me be as Christ to you.

Pray that I might have the grace

To let you be my servant, too.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey.

We are brothers on the road.

We are here to help each other

Walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you

In the night time of your fear.

I will hold my hand out to you;

Speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping.

When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.

I will share your joy and sorrow

Till we've seen this journey through.

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Priest: Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

People: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

PREFACE DIALOGUE

Priest: The Lord be with you

People: **And with you spirit**

Priest: Lift up your hearts

People: **We lift them up to the Lord**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: **It is right and just**

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth
are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Priest: The mystery of faith,
People: **We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
And profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins
of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the
Lamb.
People: **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my
roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

COMMUNION HYMN: Whatsoever You Do To The Least of My
Brothers -Rev. Willard Jabusch

Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto
Me.
When I was hungry, you gave me to eat;
When I was thirsty, you gave me to drink.
Now enter into the home of My Father.

Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto
Me.
When I was homeless, you opened your door;
When I was naked, you gave me your coat.
Now enter into the home of My Father.

Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto
Me.

When I was weary, you helped me find rest.
When I was anxious, you calmed all my fears.

Now enter into the home of My Father.
Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto Me.

When in a prison you came to my cell.
When on a sick bed you cared for my needs.
Now enter into the home of My Father

Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto Me.

When I was laughed at you stood by my side.
When I was happy you shared in my joy.
Now enter into the home of My Father.
Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto Me.

DISMISSAL

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: **And with your spirit.**

CLOSING HYMN: HYMN TO MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE
Sung to the tune of Amazing Grace

Most gracious Mary, Queen of Peace
Embrace us with your love;
May our desires sincerely be
To praise our God above.

Implore for us the Spirit's gifts
To follow in your way;
Let wisdom and humility
Guide all we do and say.

In confidence we witness Christ
Whose truth has set us free
May we pursue what leads to peace
For all humanity.

Words: Karen Hurley
WUCWO President-General 2006-2010



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are thankful to so many who worked to make this meeting a success. Our heartfelt gratitude is extended to:

Maria Giovanna for traveling from her home in Italy to be with us

Father Stembler for kindly offering to provide spiritual guidance and celebrate Mass

All our priests present for the gifts of their time, expertise, and willingness to concelebrate our Closing Mass.

Luba Kowalczyk, WUCWO Board representative from Canada, for bringing us the beautiful Ukrainian Prayer Service to Our Lady

Captain David Lindsay and The Honor Guard from the Broward Sheriff's Office Division of Fire and Rescue Emergency Services

Rosa Maria Capaccioni of the WUCWO Secretariat in Paris and Liliane Stevenson, immediate past WUCWO Secretary-General for countless acts of encouragement as well as provision of information

Our wonderful speakers for sharing their inspiring stories with us to help educate us on these important topics

Jane Carter for the fabulous interactive workshop she graciously designed and led for us

The Friends of NCCW for WUCWO for their generous and unflagging support of WUCWO and this meeting.

Joann Hillebrand for handling the entire registration process

The core planning team who made this all possible:

Joann Hillebrand	Karen Hurley	Rose Martinet
Joan McGrath	Rev. James Stembler	Maribeth Stewart

All of our wonderful attendees -----Thank you and Safe Home

WUCWO AT A GLANCE

The World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) was founded in 1910 and now represents 100 Catholic women's organizations worldwide, active in 66 countries including all inhabited continents and some island states, representing more than five (5) million Catholic women of every walk of life.

WUCWO's aim is to promote the presence, participation and co-responsibility of Catholic women in society and the Church, in order to enable them to fulfill their mission of evangelization and to work for human development, particularly in increasing educational opportunities, reducing poverty, and the advancing human rights beginning with the fundamental right to life.

In 2006, WUCWO was erected by the Holy See as a Public International Association of the Faithful.

WUCWO unites Catholic women in the world to give them a voice on the international platform. WUCWO has held Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Human Rights Council (Geneva), the FAO (Rome), participatory status at the Council of Europe (Strasbourg) and has been an official partner of UNESCO (Paris) since those bodies were formed.

WUCWO examines the critical issues that have an impact on the lives of women internationally and defends the dignity and the rights of all by coordinating the activities of Catholic women's organizations worldwide, serving as a necessary link between them and the network of international organizations and faith communities.

The latest WUCWO information can be found at www.wucwo.org

Maribeth is happy to address any questions concerning WUCWO or if you would like to contact the Secretariat in Paris directly, please use the following information:

Maribeth Stewart
jastewart01@att.net

WUCWO Secretariat
wucwoparis@wanadoo.fr

Women's Voice

3 issues/ year of **WUCWO's official newsletter**

To keep informed of our activities, important issues for women and related news of the Church. \$20 US

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WUCWO RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JERUSALEM IN 2010

End the Use of Information Technology in the Sexual Exploitation of
Children

Promote a Covenant between Human Beings and the Environment

Rescue the Children of the Street

Campaign for a Culture of Life

Work to Abolish Forced Marriage

Strengthen the Training of Catholic Leaders

Defend and Support Migrants

Commit to Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogue

Produce a Statistical Evaluation of Poverty According to Sex

Prevent Inappropriate Sexualization of Children

Mobilize to Halt Infanticide

Reaffirm the Family Unit

WUCWO OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FROM NORTH AMERICA

Joann Hillebrand	Treasurer-General
Luba Kowalczyk	Board Member for Canada
Maribeth Stewart	USA; VP for North America

PAST OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FROM NORTH AMERICA

Karen Hurley	President-General 2006-2010
CANADA	UNITED STATES
Agnes Bedard	Joan McGrath
Claire Heron	Winkie LeFils
H. Ardis Beaudry	Mary Kay Horsell†



ANNOUNCING THE 2014 WUCWO GENERAL ASSEMBLY



FATIMA, PORTUGAL OCTOBER 22-27, 2014

**Hold the dates and plan to participate with WUCWO
friends from around the globe at this holy site.**

**The 2014 General Assembly Theme is
Women of WUCWO: Sowers of Hope
Based Upon
"I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit"
(John 15:16)**



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2013

9:30am	Welcome and Introductions
9:45am	Opening Prayer Service
10:15am	Presentation of Colors and National Anthems
11:00am	Speaker on Poverty: Alexie Torres-Fleming
Noon	Luncheon
1:30pm	Speaker on Violence: Dawn Eden
2:30pm	Speaker on Human Trafficking: Katariina Rosenblatt
3:30pm	Break
4:00pm	Discussion Groups
5:00pm	Reports from Discussion Groups
6:00pm	Closing Prayer

MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2013

8:00am	Continental Breakfast
9:00am	Opening Ukrainian Prayer Service
9:30am	Speaker on Migrants: Archbishop Thomas Wenski
10:30am	Break
11:00am	Interactive Workshop: Leader -Jane Carter
12:30pm	Words from WUCWO President-General: Maria Giovanna Ruggieri
1:00PM	Closing Mass





NOTES





This program belongs to

