



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear ACWR Members,

As I write this letter, the hope of spring is in the air. It is hard to believe that the long and endless winter is coming to a close and we may be able to look forward to sunshine, flowers, and fresh breezes again. We also are moving through Lent to the blessed season of Resurrection. It is my hope that each of you has experienced the support and consolation of our loving Lord in these rich and powerful seasons.



Members of the Board of Directors of ACWR have been working diligently to prepare a lively and informative program for the upcoming 6th Triennial Convention in Milwaukee, WI in September, 2009. The theme of the meeting is "Trailblazers: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."

The dates are September 17-20, 2009. The Convention will be held in the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center and the accommodations there are lovely. We hope that many of you can join us to learn some new skills and to network with one another. If you are a new member, please try to arrive early on the 17th so that you can attend the meeting for new members.

Therese Burns, SC, the Treasurer, has helped the Board develop a budget for the Convention which allows us to keep the cost of the meetings at the same level as three years ago. Due to these hard economic times, the Board members feel that it is more important to have the opportunity to meet together than to try to gain any profit on the meeting. It is hoped that this will allow more of our members to attend.

As Archivists of Religious Congregations are meeting or preparing to meet many new and exciting challenges with the merging of Provinces and Congregations, the withdrawal from many ministries and the establishment of new ones, and the sale of Motherhouses and moves to smaller venues, it seems more important than ever to share our gifts, insights, and visions. Our mission to preserve our history for those who will follow calls forth our best thinking and our boundless energy.

As we move from spring to summer, you will be receiving a detailed brochure of the upcoming meeting. It is my hope that you have some time to relax and be restored during the months ahead. I look forward to renewing acquaintance with many of you and meeting those of you whom I have not yet met.

May God hold you close and bless the work you do for your sisters and for the Church.

Sincerely,
Louise Grundish, SC, lgrundish@scsh.org

Conference 2009
TRAILBLAZERS: YESTERDAY,
TODAY AND TOMORROW
SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2009
CLARION HOTEL AND
CONFERENCE CENTER
MILWAUKEE, WI 53207

Plans are still proceeding toward making a most exciting and worthwhile conference. Many speakers are in place and the Board members have made every effort to provide the programming which was suggested by

members following the 2006 Conference. It is hoped that in spite of the difficult economy many members can attend. There should be something for everyone.

One of the greatest advantages during a Triennial Conference is the ability to network with so many others who are experiencing similar obstacles, challenges, and opportunities. Hopefully, all the attendees will return to their own communities with new ideas and answers to some questions.

It is hoped that new members will be able to arrive early on the 17th so that they can attend the Orientation for New Members to be held from 4:30 to 5:30 PM that afternoon. It will be an opportunity to meet the Board members and to understand how the organization functions. There will also be time for questions and suggestions.

Sister Gertrude Foley, SC, a member of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill in Greensburg, PA and a former superior of her Congregation will give the Keynote address on Thursday evening. Sister Gertrude is well known for her planning and organizational study as well as her interest in facilitation of groups, the future of religious life, and her scholarship. An inveterate teacher her talks are always interesting, motivating, and refreshing. We welcome her to speak to us on the Ministry of Archives as a service to the Congregation and to the future.

There will be three other plenary sessions. One will be on Preservation of Machine-Based Audio Visual Collections by Allan Lewis and another on the History of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Tanya Zanish-Belcher will speak on the Care of Photographs.

Breakout sessions will be available on the topics of Merging, Moving, and Closing Archives, DACS (Descriptive Archival Catalog Standards), History Displays and Projects,

and Archon- Websites. There will also be sessions on Journals, Preservation of Paper Documents, and the Involvement of Archives in Planning and Celebrating Congregational Anniversaries and other Major Events.

A PowerPoint presentation honoring our ACWR Founders is in the planning stage. On the final day the business meeting with installation of new officers is planned. If any Congregation members wish to have space provided to meet in a special group, please notify the ACWR Office and rooms will be arranged.

The brochure for the Conference will be available in late May. This will also include information on the site of the Conference, availability of rooms, and the costs. Please look for it in your email in the coming months.

Louise Grundish, SC, president, ACWR
lgrundish@scsh.org

CINCINNATI AREA ARCHIVISTS PREPARE FOR LOCAL PORTION OF LCWR EXHIBIT



Archivists met twice to plan their local portion of the LCWR "Women and Spirit" exhibit opening in Cincinnati May 15.

With the LCWR national traveling exhibit "Women and Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America" opening at the Cincinnati Museum Center in May, archivists from the religious congregations in Greater Cincinnati have been invited to present an exhibit on their contributions to the local church and society. Beginning with the arrival of the Sisters of Charity in 1829, there have been over twenty-

five congregations that have had a substantial impact on education, health care, and social services in our area.

The local congregations have been allotted two 4' x 9' panels and three display cases to describe their work and to display some of their treasured artifacts. Several of the items archivists have identified to demonstrate the Sisters' works in ministry are: a nursing bag used for home visits by the Dominican Sisters of the Sick Poor (Dominican Sisters of Hope); a German language pre-primer reader and penmanship book from 1874 belonging to the Sisters of the Precious Blood; and a call bell used at the desk of the Fontbonne residence for businesswomen operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph in downtown Cincinnati.

S. Judith Metz, S.C., judith.metz@srcharitycinti.org

BOOK REVIEW

Nolan, Charles E. *Waters of Transition: The Sisters of Mount Carmel of Louisiana and the Philippines (1983-2008)*. Lacombe, LA., Privately published, 2008, 333 pgs, b&w illus., index.



Charles Nolan, archivist for the Diocese of Louisiana, first became interested in the Sisters of Mount Carmel, when he wrote his doctoral dissertation on the community. *The Sisters of Mount Carmel of Louisiana (1833-1903)* was published in 1977. He wrote a second volume, in conjunction with the community's 150th anniversary, published in 1983. Nolan was asked to do this third volume that would be part of the community's 175th anniversary.

To set these last 50 years in context and to aid the reader unfamiliar with the other volumes, Nolan opens with an overview chapter covering the history of these Sisters and the roots of their founding from France to the beginning in Louisiana in 1833 to 1983, including their ministry in the Philippines

begun in 1962. Thematic chapters on personnel, administration, Carmelite spirituality, daily life, ministries in education, health care, social justice, and Lay Carmelites follow. Particular attention is given to the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, which devastated many of the Sisters' buildings and ministries, but also enable them to assist many people in the New Orleans and Gulf areas.

The primary sources for this volume come from the Sisters' own records, including the usual Chapter and executive council minutes, various annual reports and their monthly newsletter and quarterly magazine. Individual sisters are quoted extensively from these sources as well as from other written recollections. While this makes for a rich and detailed history of every event and change in the community's life, the abundance of individual names and dates does become somewhat overwhelming at times and, perhaps of greater value to the community itself rather than to the general reader.

Of interest is the story of the development of the community in deepening their Carmelite spirituality and roots, and initiating a Carmelite Spiritual Center in recent years, adding Associates in addition to the 3rd Order Carmelites, which they had for many years.

The growth and development of their Philippine missions and Philippine sisters, reflects the deepening call to ministry to meeting the needs of people as the Community slowly shifted from their primary focus on education to other ministries in pastoral care, social justice, and Carmelite spirituality.

The "water" of the title symbolically ties together the crossing of the Atlantic Ocean in the original foundation, the Mississippi river along which many of their missions were established, the journey over the Pacific Ocean to the Philippines, and the floods and hurricanes, especially the devastation suffered

under Katrina and Rita as well as the Scriptural references and the waters of God's grace which guided their lives.

An abundance of photographs enhances the book as well as an epilogue which contains personal reflections by some of the sisters as well as a list of articles and books written by the sisters.

Mary Denis Maher, CSA, smdm@srssofcharity.org

INTRODUCTORY ARCHIVES WORKSHOP FOR RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

The Catholic Library Association is pleased to announce the third introductory Archives Workshop for Religious Communities. The 5-day intensive program is directed toward individuals who are interested in learning about archival theory and practice or who wish to update their archival training.

Unlike other archival workshops, the sessions will focus on the unique types of records found in the archives of men's and women's religious communities. These records document not only the communities themselves, but also the evolution of Catholicism in the United States, and its impact on educational, social and charitable institutions that shaped the nation's history.

The program, directed by professional religious archivists, will include lectures, tours, and opportunities for sharing experiences. The workshop will be held from June 14-19, 2009 at the Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA, located in one of the Philadelphia suburbs.

Complete program and registration information and a registration form are posted on the Catholic Library Association website at www.cathla.org/preservation.phg, or contact

the CLA at cla@cathla.org or phone them at 413-443-2252.

NEARI Begins a Third Decade

The New England Archivists of Religious Institutions (NEARI) will celebrate its twentieth anniversary at its Annual Meeting, Saturday, April 25, 2009: History in Sight and Sound. After a look at the history of NEARI, its persons, development and programs, attendees will have the opportunity to consider the value of audiovisual records by considering oral history and the value of adding the visual. For more information, contact: Mary Rita Grady, CSJ, Boston CSJ Archives, 637 Cambridge Street, Brighton, MA 02135-2801.

maryrita.grady@regiscollege.edu

REQUEST FOR HELP IN SOLVING A MYSTERY!

Dorothy Dawes, OP. is requesting help from archivists, especially in the Mid-west. Several years ago, she was contacted by Donald Beagle, archivist/curator for the Ryan collection at Belmont Abbey College, NC, and co-author with Bryan Giemza of a biography of Father Abram Ryan (1838-1886), *Poet of the Lost Cause*.

Professor Beagle explained to Dorothy Dawes, OP: Over the past century, a number of researchers have tried unsuccessfully to ascertain the particular convent in or near St. Louis where Ryan's teenage friend (and romantic interest) "Ethel" received the name Sr. Mary Loretto. This lack of success has been ascribed to the lack of knowledge of Ethel's surname.

"Our research for our book has persuaded us that her surname was probably "Dallas." We made one email inquiry to the Archdiocesan Archives there, but . . . didn't receive a reply (they've probably been peppered with

repeated queries about Ryan and Ethel over the years.) . . . This is one loose end that I would very much like to tie up, some day, if at all possible.

All that we know about Ethel Dallas is that she was probably an orphan (we don't know whether "Dallas" came via birth parents or adoptive parents), she probably joined a convent in the 1858 -1860 time period, becoming Sr. Mary Loretto, and she seems to have died in August 1868. We have looked for St. Louis area death records for 1868 with no success. (It is possible that her convent was elsewhere in Missouri).

Additionally, "The Story Runneth Thus," a poem referencing Ryan's friend Ethel appears in all collections of *Father Ryan's Poems* c.1880 pp 259-283, and *Father Ryan's Poems*, PJ Kennedy and Sons, 1896, 16th edition, pp 351-381.

S. Dorothy also has a copy of a letter from a Sr. M. Vincent Conroy, a sister of St. Joseph, writing at age 94, apparently passing on her lifelong collection of memorabilia of Father Abram Ryan and Ethel / Sister Loretto to a researcher writing a Masters thesis on the life of Father Ryan, published in 1930.

It seems that Sr. Vincent entered the convent shortly before young Abram entered high school at the Vincentian seminary in Perryville, Missouri, and Ethel shortly afterward joined Sister Vincent in the Sisters of St. Joseph. At some length Sr. Vincent reminisces about their childhood play in the garden of the Ryan's back yard. The details match those in the long poem, "The Story Runneth Thus," and Sister Vincent supplies more from having been a witness to Father Ryan's later visit to the grave of Sister Loretto / Ethel, who died quite young.

S. Dorothy explained that she is hopeful this puzzle can be resolved by ACWR members."

As we all know, networking (especially among sisters) often succeeds at problem-solving when all else fails. Father Ryan was well-known to many communities, gravitating to them for opportunities to help them with fundraising from his speaking engagements and royalties," said S. Dorothy.

If you need additional details or are the community Sr. Loretto/Ethel entered, please contact: Dorothy Dawes, O.P., 580 Broadway, New Orleans, LA 70118 504-861-8155 (cellular 504-220-0589) www.dominican-sisters.net

SBS ARCHIVES MOVES TO NEW QUARTERS

The Archives of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament were recently moved to a larger area. Still on the Motherhouse grounds (neither the address nor the phone has changed), we moved from a former novitiate community room to the former Library of the junior college that had been conducted here. We now have room to expand gracefully. Our Buildings and Grounds staff relocated us safely, for which we are very grateful.

A prayer service on the Feast of St. Katharine Drexel, March 3, 2009, was based on the Prayer of the Four Directions; Sister Jeanette Kinlicheeny, our Leadership Team liaison, blessed the area with her eagle feathers. She used the warmth of an extinguished candle to bless the area, rather than water that might have stained the document cases.

The candle we used was one given to us recently by relatives of St. Katharine Drexel's family living in her grandfather's home town of Dornbirn, Austria.

We are open for business although I am still learning my way around our new floor plan!

Stephanie Morris, Ph.D., C.A., sbcarchives@aol.com

NEW ACWR VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT

Ellen Pierce, director of Maryknoll Mission Archives is the newly-elected vice-president/president elect of ACWR. She will assume office at the September ACWR conference. Ellen first came to Maryknoll Mission Archives in 1997.



Then, from 1999-2002 she worked in the corporate archives at IBM as the Assistant Archivist, learning the challenges of corporate collecting. She returned to Maryknoll in 2002 when the director resigned. Since then the Maryknoll Mission Archives has initiated several digital projects including film to DVD and audio to DVD. They were the recipient of two grants to digitize images for a website at the University of Southern California and have taken on the responsibility for millions of images in the former Photo Library of the Fathers and Brothers and are now implementing a self serve web kiosk so users can fulfill their image needs.

Ellen has a BA in Art History from Manhattanville College and a MLS from Long Island University in NY. She has been a Certified Archivist since 2001.

Her board memberships include the Archivists of Religious Institutions NY metro (ARI), the Greater Hudson Heritage Network (GHHN) and member of the advisory committee for the Documentary Heritage Program NY (DHP)

Ellen formerly provided service to the SAA in the Archivists of Religious Congregations Section (ARCS) and as a Member-at-Large.

Through the Catholic Library Association Ellen co-taught the one week "Introductory Archives Workshop for Religious Communities" in Belleville, IL in 2007, again in Malvern, PA in 2008, and this year it will take place in Malvern, PA from June 14-19. Ellen is

affiliated with SAA, MARAC, ARI, ACWR, NEA, and NEARI.

The ACWR Board is grateful for and welcomes Ellen to her position with ACWR.

PROVINCES OF HOLY NAMES OF JESUS AND MARY MERGE ARCHIVES

Since the merger of five provinces into one in 2006, the archivists for the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, U.S.–Ontario Province have been in the process of consolidating their archives from the former



Research Library

regional headquarters to their new Heritage Center in Lake Oswego, Oregon.

The Heritage Center is a 15,000 square foot building with three main functions: to house the province archives, to develop and promote educational programming reflective of the sisters' mission; and to offer a rental facility to the general public. Its archival spaces feature two storage vaults, processing rooms, and a research library. The building was designed and built prior to the merger, when its archival wing was intended to house only the archives of the former Oregon and Washington provinces. Accordingly, the larger consolidation has created a space crunch before all the material has even arrived!

The transition of material to the Heritage Center has necessitated careful coordination between the former provincial archivists and Sarah Cantor, U.S.–Ontario province archivist. Efforts are made to avoid sending duplicates of general community materials, but for the most part, regional archivists organize and pack the materials they feel are historically important. With the exception of the Windsor,

Ontario archives, Sarah visited each of the archives to look over the collections, answer questions, and generally get a sense of the materials. Over 200 boxes to date have been shipped from around the country. These contain a mixture of paper documents, photographs, textiles, artwork, audiovisual and three-dimensional materials. We use FedEx Ground for all our shipping and have had no losses or damage so far—a testament to the value of careful packing.

Because one of the former provinces is in Canada, a country with stringent guidelines for exportation of historic material, it was decided that the simpler and less expensive course of action was to have most of the Ontario archives go to the community's General Archives in Quebec. That transfer has recently begun.

Existing documentation of materials sent to Oregon varies from archive to archive, although all have been detailed enough that materials can be found when necessary. With a full time staff of one and six regular volunteers, it has not been possible to appraise and process the material as it comes in. It is unpacked carefully, keeping materials from each of the geographic areas segregated and in original order, and then shelved in the vaults for future work.



Archival Storage Vault

Collections are processed and entered into a PastPerfect cataloging system, with detailed finding aids produced for each collection. Although this is an ongoing, multi-year project, our aim is to eventually have all the archival material cataloged and available for research, while at the same time continuing to collect and process the newly created documents of the community. Joining an online consortium to advertise the collections to a wider

audience is a step we hope to take in the future.

Sarah Cantor, Director of Archival Collections
SCantor@HolyNamesheritageCenter.org

BENEDICTINE ARCHIVES IN CROOKSTON, MN

Evelyn Strei, OSB and Laurian Lasha, OSB are in charge of a very small archives for the Sisters of Saint Benedict Monastery in Crookston, MN., a Benedictine community of 80 members. It's rare that we have requests from outsiders but we do help our sisters when they need community history. Much of our material is entered into a computer program entitled PastPerfect so that is helping as we are gathering information for members who are working on our 90th anniversary celebration in May. We branched off from Duluth, MN in 1919. The celebration will close on August 15th with special days before that for our community, members of other communities and for the lay people of the area.

Laurian Lasha, OSB, laurianl@yahoo.com

CONFERENCE REMINDER

ACWR 6TH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE
"Trailblazers: Yesterday,
Today and Tomorrow"

September 17-20, 2009
Clarion Hotel and Conference Center
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**BROCHURE AND REGISTRATION
MATERIAL COMING IN MAY**

ACWR MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

ACWR welcomes six new members since our Fall 2008 Newsletter publication. You may find the addresses, phone numbers, etc. of these new members in the membership directory on our website (www.archivistsacwr.org). New members are:

- Rita Cain, OSB, Rock Island, IL
- Judith Ann Criner, OSB, Pittsburgh, PA
- Mary Mangold, Merrill, IL
- Matthew Peterson, Oshkosh, WI
- Ann Taylor, CSJP, Englewood Cliffs, NJ
- Marie Timmons, SSJ, Erie, PA

The ACWR National Office received word of the death of three members/former members. We offer our sympathy and prayers for:

- Grace McDonald, FSPA
- M. Gerald Peterson, FSSJ
- Margaret O'Rourke, SBS

Total membership in ACWR currently is 279.

Thank You

As this Newsletter goes to press, I must take time to thank Sister Mary Denis Maher on behalf of the Board of Directors and members for the many years of service she has given as Editor of the Newsletter. Without her persistence and interest, the Newsletter would not have developed into the publication we can be proud of today.

This brief word of thanks is hardly enough for a woman who has served the ACWR in so many ways and with so much energy and care. Of course, I know we will continue to call on her expertise and her wisdom in the days ahead.

We thank Sister Francis Assisi for her willingness to add this additional task as Editor of the Newsletter to her busy schedule. It is hoped that members will continue to send in articles and ideas to her as she prepares the next Newsletter.

Thank you, Sister Mary Denis for all your service. May God reward your generous heart.

Louise Grundish, SC, lgrundish@scsh.org

ACWR NEWSLETTER

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DEADLINE FOR FALL NEWSLETTER

October 15, 2009

Send articles and pictures to
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archives@oldenburgosf.com