

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

As I sit on Fatima Hill looking beyond Mary and the three children of Fatima to a sky as blue as Mary's dress in many other shrines and churches, I ponder what I should say to you who are beginning as archivists and to those of you about to pass on your sacred documents to your successors.



S. Francis Assisi

The black-eyed Susans, miniature mums and begonias are still flourishing as trees nearby don orange, gold and deep red.

I was stopped on my way up this hill by red-topped woodpeckers and a variety of other feathered friends. It is an idyllic setting for a troubled world.

It is also a tribute to the Wolfrum family of the mid-twentieth century who paid tribute to their mother by creating this beautiful spot to rest with God and reflect on both the women who came to this sacred ground long before us and to pray for those who will continue God's work long after us.

Certainly I would be remiss were I to neglect pointing out the inspiration of Sister Gertrude Foley's inspiring address at the conference in Milwaukee.

I also encourage all of you to consider carefully the success of our foundresses, the French Revolution, desperate famine and diseases that called many of them to this blessed land.

Then ask yourself what changes have impacted the older convents on these shores and the newer ones? How many changes has the Church in America seen since its early

beginnings? How many new congregations of religious men and women do you represent? I began writing this on the birthday of Vatican II. What of the Church of today with all the special actions or events that have affected it? Can they be found in your archives?

Are those holdings accessible, in good condition, and used to tell our story?

Do they challenge or strengthen the Church of today?

Are we creative in using these documents as warnings or guidance for the future of our congregations?

The challenge is here now in these troubled times. Is there something that we need to flee from?

To which wise predecessors can we look for guidance? Whose support is needed to help us see far into the future and continue to make our contributions from the wisdom of the past to strengthen the foundations of the future?

Much of my time at our recent conference in Milwaukee was spent with those Sisters preparing for mergers or facing dissolution. Their hope, their stamina, inspired hope, faith and trust in me.

Now that the laity have fully accepted their responsibility for not only the buildings that house their churches, but also for the spirit of their congregations and the needs of the less fortunate in and even beyond their parishes, we need to be sure to give credit to the sacrifices and gifts of these men, women and children of this time just as surely as we sing the praises of their predecessors from the 17th to the 19th century.

God may not need the numbers of new religious that were needed in those centuries, but God certainly still seeks the faith and works of all of us together in this century.

I encourage you to honor the clergy of the last hundred years who honored their calling by a deep prayer life, a real Christ-like love of little children, compassion and concern for the poor and respect for the laity and religious women who worked with them to show the love of God to all whom they served.

Let us not get so buried in the papers and photos that fill your workrooms that we fail to show eager researchers the kindness, warmth, and interest that Sisters showered upon the children of this country from kindergarten through college.

Open also the pages of accounts of their ministries today in homeless shelters, parish schools, nursing homes, hospitals, colleges and to migrants seeking admission to this country.

We have already enjoyed displays throughout the United States, but there is still much to do to improve our times. Although our predecessors may have set the pace, it is still ours to "follow in the footsteps of Jesus." Walk on my Sisters and Brothers! Walk on!

Sincerely,
Francis Assisi Kennedy, OSF, archives@oldenburg.org

ACWR BOARD MEMBERS 2009-2010



Winifred Doyle, CSJ, secretary; Therese Burns, SC, treasurer;
Francis Assisi Kennedy, OSF, president; Louise Grundish, SC, past president; Ellen Pierce, vice president/president elect.

CALLING ALL AUTHORS!

The Sisters of Bon Secours USA seek the talents of a writer to develop an update of their history from 1981 to 2010. The historic publication being commissioned will describe the activities and personalities of a small but dynamic religious community located in the mid-Atlantic region of the east coast.

The Sisters of Bon Secours is an international congregation of Catholic women who bring to the world "Good Help to Those in Need." We participate in Jesus' mission by revealing God's compassion, healing and liberation to all whom we meet and serve. We are a vowed community of progressive women of the Church, practicing our healing and spiritual ministry through varied health care services.

In 1981 the Sisters of Bon Secours celebrated a centennial of ministry in the United States with a 320 page history book. As good stewards, we intend to bring our U.S. history current with a publication of our ministries for the years 1981-2010. Our aim is to record our work in the United States through the reconfiguration of our Congregation's international governance.

We ask you to prayerfully consider writing our historical update, or to invite someone you know with the gift of authorship to consider this undertaking. We would be pleased to send our RFP/project needs to any ACWR member or any editor/author an ACWR member identifies. For further information please contact Sr. Mary Shimo, CBS by December 15, 2009.

Mary Shimo, cbsarchives@bshsi.org; 410-442-3111

***How did you celebrate
American Archives Month
last October?***

We'll be waiting to hear next year!

FROM THE ARCHIVES AT DOMINICAN SISTERS ~ GRAND RAPIDS

We at the Dominican Sisters at Grand Rapids are fortunate this fall to have an intern working with us from nearby Aquinas College. Stephanie DeFouw, works in the Marywood Archives about 10-12 hours a week, for which she will receive three college credit hours toward her bachelor's degree.



Stephanie DeFouw

She is majoring in math with a minor in history. Stephanie was working as a Campus Ministry Student Assistant when she heard that there was a for-credit internship available here working with Sisters Rose Marie Martin and Michael Ellen Carling. Her job in Archives involves a great deal of computer work, inputting information using the archiving software program "Past Perfect."

Our intern chose Aquinas College in Grand Rapids because of the class offerings, small class size, and because, "It was calm without the feeling of a large, hectic campus. It just seemed right."

Since she began her internship with us, she has become very interested in the field of archives as a possible life career, and is looking at several schools in hopes of pursuing an M.A. in Library Science with a Certificate in Archives. Stephanie keeps busy with a full-time schedule of classes and continues to work part-time at Aquinas in addition to her internship at Marywood. On rainy days, she enjoys reading a good mystery or an historical fiction novel; on sunny days, a good game of golf—that is, when she has a few minutes to spare.

Grand Rapids Dominican archives director, Sister Rose Marie Martin, says, "We appreciate having her here and feel this is a good opportunity to help Stephanie make

necessary decisions regarding graduate schools."

Providing internships for college-age students not only provides extra hands to achieve our objectives, but it is also a wonderful way to foster positive relationships and understanding between our religious community and the lay community.

Rose Marie Martin, OP, mmartin@grdominicans.org

FAQS ABOUT HOSTING THE LCWR "WOMEN AND SPIRIT" EXHIBITION

Who did the local work of organizing the exhibit?

In Cincinnati there was a local committee of LCWR representatives who worked with Cincinnati Museum Center staff on publicity, fundraising for the local portion of the exhibit, and hosting special events before and during the run of the exhibit. In addition, the local archivists met several times to plan and organize an exhibit that would showcase the contributions of local congregations. All of this was done in coordination with the staff at the Museum Center, who made the final decisions on what would be in the exhibit based on space availability and interest to the public.

How did you produce the final materials for the local exhibit?

Our local committee contracted with a graphic designer who helped to decide what our local panels would contain and then produced the layout and final design.



S. Barbara Hagedorn, SC, member of the local committee, standing in front of local panels at the exhibit.

The graphic designer worked very closely with Seruto, the company who designed the national exhibit, since her design, color schemes, and overall presentation had to match those of the national exhibit. When she completed her work, she sent her design to the national company who then printed the panels.

Were there particular things you did to help visitors understand and appreciate the exhibit? We did two things in particular.

- We produced a two-sided "Fact Sheet" for each Congregation from our local area as a take-away from the exhibit. It was set up as a timeline that contained small photos and write-ups depicting important events in each Congregations' history. These were available in a rack where people could choose the ones in which they were interested. We chose this instead of producing a booklet.
- Each local congregation was invited to have Sisters serve as docents during the exhibit. These Sisters were given training at the Museum Center and were free to sign up as their schedules allowed. This was a very popular feature with visitors who had the opportunity to meet with a Sister, express their reactions to the exhibit, share their experiences of Sisters with a Sister, and to get their questions answered by an "expert."

What was your overall feeling about hosting the exhibit?

Our overall experience was very positive. The staff of the Cincinnati Museum Center was very helpful and supportive of the exhibit and our contributions to it. Because Cincinnati hosted the opening of the exhibit, there were many details and some "kinks" in the process, but most of these were worked out smoothly. The Museum was very happy with the attendance at the exhibit and enjoyed working with the Sisters. Their staff had many positive comments about the contribution that the docents made to the overall experience of visitors to the exhibit. Everyone who was

involved with the exhibit was proud to have been a part of it and was very excited that we were able to host it here.

The exhibit opens on January 14, 2010 at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. In May it will move to Cleveland, Ohio.

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

Conference 2009

FIRST TIME CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

S. Alberta Novosad, and S. Amata Hollas, new members of ACWR, attended the 6th Triennial Conference in Milwaukee in September this year. S. Amata said "We came away enriched by so many new insights and by meeting so many archivists who are on the same journey as we are."



Standing: Louise Smith, SSMN, Dymna Lyons, CVI, Brenda Thompson, IWBS, Alberta Novosad, IWBS. **Seated:** Brendan O'Donnell, CVI, Dorothy Anhauser, IWBS, and Amata Hollas, IWBS

While at the Conference they took several pictures, mostly of sisters from their home state of Texas, one of which is pictured above.

SOME COMMENTS FROM ATTENDEES:

- The plenary sessions were excellent and the conversations valuable.
- Tanya was excellent and practical.

- The Conference was well-planned and well-organized and the location and hotel were excellent. Congratulations!
- A great experience and chance to mingle with and learn from other archivists.
- S. Gertrude Foley's address was so inspiring.



Gertrude Foley, SC, gave keynote address

- The Conference was very good. Enjoyed all the topics I attended. Food was excellent. Eucharist was beautiful. Keep up the good work for our organization.

- Thank you to everyone who gave of themselves

- to make this a most enjoyable, inspiring, hospitable, educational event.
- Excellent program, wonderful opportunity to meet others in the same ministry.
- Accommodations very good. Thanks for all!
- I was very pleased with the variety offered for this meeting. I found it very helpful.
- The entire conference environment seemed truly upbeat. Every aspect moved along smoothly. No confusion
- Very smooth. Nice pace. High quality of speakers.
- Thank you so much for a great time. I really enjoyed the sessions and great company. Blessings on your continued service to all of us.

- Allan Lewis's talk - awesome, practical understandable info.
- I felt that the talk by Allan Lewis was quite theoretical.
- Session by Allan Lewis was rather sophisticated. I was seeking more practical information.
- Allan Lewis's topic was very detailed and informative. Handout was great.



Allan Lewis presented "Preservation Management of Machine-Based Audio Visual Collections."

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES FROM ATTENDEES:

- Continue with talks on mergers – a definite need at this time.

- More in-depth from Tanya.
- Preservation of congregational art work
- Workshop on legal aspects of where to donate records when closing archives.
- Marketing and Public Relations to enhance image of and use of the archives.
- Digitization and preservation of digital records and websites/web records.
- Care of videotapes, audiotape, CDs, DVDs.



Tanya Zanish-Belcher, presented "History and Care of Photographs"

EVALUATIONS RECEIVED AT CONFERENCE

The 2009 ACWR Conference had 142 registered participants and 137 attended the Conference at the Clarion Hotel in Milwaukee. We received 105 evaluations. One item on the evaluation asked for the "Overall Quality of the Conference." We are pleased to say that our rating was as follows: 82 rated the Conference "very good"; 18 rated "good" and 8 did not indicate a rating.

The meals and snack breaks at the Conference received a "very good" from 94 participants with some saying the portions were rather large and would have liked more protein for breakfast.



Participants enjoying a meal at the 2009 Conference in Milwaukee



Louise Grundish, SC and Emma Cecilia Busam, OSU, with microphone - one of the founders of ACWR

The closing session at the Conference given by S. Louise Grundish, SC, honored the founders of ACWR. Those who were able to stay for this presentation said "it was a wonderful history" and rated it "very good."

Thanks to all attendees for their input.

ACWR MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

ACWR welcomes 39 new members since our Spring 2009 Newsletter publication. Addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, etc., of these new members are available in the membership directory on our website (www.archivistsacwr.org). New members are:

- Amadori, Eva, SSJ, Clarence, NY
- Bankos, Marietta, OSF, Pittsburgh, PA
- Batres, Catalina, CSSF, Rio Rancho, NM
- Biache, Mary Auguste, CSSF, Lodi, NJ
- Braun, Claudia Rae, OSB, Cottonwood, ID
- Breenen, Angela, SCRH, Rancho Palos Berdes, CA
- Carr, Deanna Marie, BVM, Dubuque, IA
- De Mars, Jacqueline, RSM. Buffalo, NY
- Dowd, Virginia, Brentwood, NY
- Doyle, Mary Jacinta, SFP, Cincinnati, OH
- Eck, Gail, Springfield, IL
- Enserro, Sherry, Holyoke, MA
- Fetting, Jeanette, CSC, Notre Dame, IN
- Glisky, Joan, IHM, Monroe, MI
- Hertel-Baker, Kathy, Nazareth, KY
- Hollas, Amata, Victoria, TX
- Izer, Kathy, SSND, St. Louise, MO
- Kelly, Mary Karen, GNSH, Yardley, PA
- Kniffen, Monte, Omaha, NE
- Krebs, Carolyn, OP, Upper Darby, PA
- MacCarthy, Esther, SNDdeN, Ipswich, MA
- McEntee, Marty, CSJ, Tipton, IN
- McGovern, Harry, OSFS, Wilmington, DE

- McGoldrick, Eliz., SSL, Woodland Hills, CA
- Miller, Judy, OP, Sinsinawa, WI
- Novosad, Alberta, IWBS, Victoria, TX
- O'Brien, Mary Alice, RDC, White Plains, NY
- O'Keefe, Mary Ellen, SNDdeN, Windsor, CT
- Osiek, Carolyn, RSCJ, St. Louis, MO
- Pereira, Lois Ann, FMM, Bronx, NY
- Smith, Kathy, OP, Sinsinawa, WI
- Smith, Louise, SSMN, Fort Worth, TX
- Struck, Celia, OSF, St. Francis, WI
- Brenda Thompson, IWBS, Corpus Christi, TX
- Utecht, Joan, OSB, Maplewood, MN
- Vagnozzi, Julianna, CSSF, Rio Rancho, NM
- Ward, Jeanne, RSM. Omaha, NE
- Welle, Judi, Little Falls, MN
- Witt, Sally, CSJ, Baden, PA

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

- Grace Donovan, SUSC
- Mary Immaculate Doyle, OP
- Constance Sonnen, OSB
- Rosemary Winkeljohann, OSU
- Rose Dolores Costello, SSMO

Total membership in ACWR currently is 267. We have members from 38 states in the U.S. and one member from Canada.

Jan Harvey, Executive Secretary, acwr@juno.com

ACWR NEWSLETTER

Content Editor: Francis Assisi Kennedy, OSF

Production Editor: Jan Harvey

Webmaster: Joyce Richter, SC

**DEADLINE FOR SPRING NEWSLETTER
MARCH 15, 2010**

Send articles and pictures to
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