



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,



S.. Rose Marie

As I write this letter, we are having frequent downpours of rain along with strong winds. Fall has arrived and the leaves are beginning to change colors. The national weatherman this morning announced wet snow for the Great Lakes; however, the local forecaster reassured us it was not for the Western part of Michigan.

Just as the seasons change, the nature of our archives change and evolve. Our college is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. To commemorate the event, one of the professors at the college has written a book entitled, *Aquinas College: The First 125 years*, which details the history of the college from its beginning to the present day. The archives of the college and the Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids, played an important role in his research for the book. I am sure that many of you are involved in similar projects of support as well as other aspects of archival work.

Please save the dates of September 6-9, 2012 for our triennial conference in New Orleans, Louisiana at the Double Tree Hotel on Canal Street. The board met in May 2011 at the hotel for preliminary planning for the event, and will continue the planning process with meetings here in Grand Rapids in October 2011 and April 2012. We hope you will join us in New Orleans for this important time for learning from the speakers and one another.

As we face the challenges and evolution of our work in religious congregation archives, I invite you to remember the words of the archivist's prayer: "Lord, let your Spirit spur us to tell the pulse of our work in our quest for the best."

Sincerely,
Rose Marie Martin, O.P., rmmartin@grdominicans.org

IHM CONGREGATION ARCHIVIST PROJECT

During the past year S. Anitra Nemetko, IHM, Congregation Archivist of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scranton, PA wrote a series of four reflections about the IHM community patrons. The meditations included a short biography of each Saint's life and an appropriate quotation. The topics for the reflections included Saint Teresa of Avila, the Blessed Mother under the title of the Immaculate



Conception, Saint Joseph and Saint Alphonsus Liguori. The meditations along with images of the saints were sent via email and regular mail to all of the IHM Sisters. Mailing dates were near the calendar dates of the official

church celebrations of each Feast Day: namely, October 15th, December 8th, March 19th and August 1st. Responses from the Sisters were very positive stating that the meditations were used on Feast Days, other community celebrations, Mission Group meetings and IHM Associate gatherings.

Anitra Nemetko, IHM, nemetkoa@sistersofihm.org

INFORMATION FOR ACWR ARCHIVISTS AND A REQUEST

CREATING ACCESS TO RARE AND UNIQUE CATHOLIC RESEARCH MATERIALS

Founded in 2008, the Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRA) is a collaborative effort of Catholic college, university, seminary and diocesan archives to share their resources electronically with scholars, students and others interested in the Catholic experience. To that end, we have developed a freely available, online portal of descriptions of Catholic resources. The portal contains descriptions of resources held by its 27 member institutions. The current collecting focus is on creating access to those rare, unique and uncommon Catholic research materials relating to every aspect of the Catholic experience. Today, there are over 250,000 records in the portal to items held by member institutions. We have identified twelve primary collecting themes of particular interest and importance, including Catholic education, Catholic social action, Diocesan collections, Women's religious orders and Men's religious orders, and Vatican II. We invite you to search the portal, please see: <http://www.catholicresearch.net>.

The mission of the Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRA) is to provide enduring global access to Catholic research resources. Our goal is to make discoverable the wealth of resources hidden in our archives and libraries. Although most of the 27 members are college and university libraries and archives, we understand the importance of the rich and unique collections held in seminary, religious and diocesan archives, and are beginning to reach out to them through their professional associations.

We thank you for the opportunity to communicate through the ACWR Newsletter. We welcome your interest and look forward to future collaboration with you to advance shared interests.

Please contact Pat Lawton plawton@nd.edu or Jennifer Younger younger.1@nd.edu with questions, comments, or suggestions for enriching the world of Catholic scholarship.

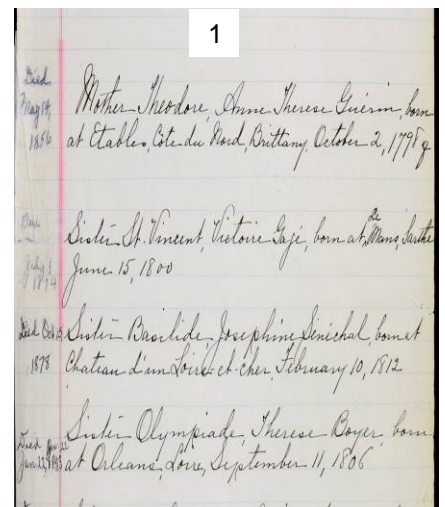


SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE DIGITIZE ENTRANCE BOOK

The staff members of the Sisters of Providence Archives are making sure that all people, wherever they are located in this world, can have access to many of the Congregation's records by digitizing them.. The staff members are also trying to protect the Congregation's historical treasures from – heaven forbid – natural disasters or even a fire that could destroy or seriously damage journals, photographs, records, etc.

Thanks to the assistance of the Indiana Historical Society's Historic Document Preservation Program and the Preservation Imaging Lab, the first of two entrance books that record the entry of all women into the Congregation has been digitized. Three years ago, the journal of the foundress of the Sisters of Providence, Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, was digitized.

On Page 1 of the first entrance book is a list that includes Saint Mother Theodore Guerin as well as the five sisters who came from France with her. They are Sister St.



Vincent Ferrer Gage, Sister Basilide Seneschal, Sister Olympiade Boyer, Sister Mary Xavier Leree and Sister Mary Liguori Tiercin. On Page 2, the list of women who came after this initial group begins. It starts

with Sister Louis Gonzaga's entrance on November 9, 1840. Born in Baltimore, her birth name was Marie Doyle. She was sent home February 4, 1842.

The first entrance book concludes with number 3,306 – Sister Evelyn Theresa – on page 300. Her birth name was Catherine Hickey and she was born October 3, 1918, in Chicago.

The entries not only include the woman's religious name, but, in most cases, birth name, date of birth, place of birth and parents' names. Entries include the date of the sister's death. Some indicate that the woman left voluntarily, while a few indicate that a woman was "sent" home.

Connie McCammon, Office of Congregational Advancement, Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN (Submitted by ACWR member S. Mary Ryan, Archivist)

SOME IDEAS IN PLANNING THE ARCHIVES OF THE FUTURE FROM THE SISTERS OF MERCY AND THE SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH

Mercy Heritage Center Receives Collections of Cincinnati Regional Community

Situated in Belmont, a quiet suburb of Charlotte, North Carolina, Mercy Heritage Center is buzzing with activity as records of Mercy communities arrive from across the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. Mercy Heritage Center, located near the order's South Central Community headquarters, was created in 2010 to house the records of Mercy communities in one location. Meticulous planning and renovation of a former college library yielded a state-of-the-art archival facility with more than 5,700 linear feet of compact shelving awaiting the arrival of historical records and artifacts.

Deliveries began in early 2011, with records arriving from the Institute office in Silver Spring, Maryland in February and the Pittsburgh community in April.

This fall Mercy Heritage Center continues to forge ahead toward the goal of housing the history of the Sisters of Mercy under one roof. The first delivery of the season recently



S. Mary Andrew Ray, Archivist and Assistant Archivist Betsy Johnson discuss newly arrived records outside the Mercy Heritage Center.

arrived from the former Cincinnati region, and included records from Fremont, as well as Cincinnati's province and community. After being carefully moved and unpacked, the collection, comprising approximately 300 linear feet, was placed in its permanent home in the climate controlled stacks of Mercy Heritage Center. Additions to this group of records will continue with the delivery of material from Nashville, Knoxville and Louisville.

"We're just thrilled," says Archivist Grant Gerlich. "To be able to house and care for these records in such a wonderful facility is a great privilege."



Mercy Heritage Center Archivist Grant Gerlich adjusts shelving for Cincinnati records

Mercy Heritage Center will continue to receive collections from Mercy communities across the country during the next two years and will open to researchers after the transfers are completed. Additional space has been allocated for exhibitions and programming. Be on the lookout for updates as Mercy Heritage Center continues to grow!

Betsy Johnson, ejohnson@sistersofmercy.org

Cleveland Archives

In 2007 seven groups of the Sisters of St. Joseph reconfigured as one Congregation of St. Joseph. Since that time the archivists of the Congregation have met and video-conferenced, working together to plan for the changes to be met in the future.

In September they met at the CSJ center in La Grange, Illinois. Malachy McCarthy was consultant for the group and led discussion and offered valuable input on the agenda items listed below.



From left to right: Mary Lou Pleitner - La Grange, Malachy McCarthy, Arlys McDonald Wichita, Marty McEntee - Tipton, Romona Seidl - Wichita, Judi Keehnen - Medaille, June Hansen - Cleveland, Mary Palmer - Wheeling

1. A succession plan - a job description, what training is required.
2. Downsizing - stamp and coin collections, undocumented relics, duplicates.
3. Former member files - legal issues, availability to classmates, fund-raisers
4. What is kept in local archives and what is kept congregationally?
5. When should we combine archives?

6. Looking to the future – common policies, procedures, one finding aid.

This successful meeting has set these archivists on track as they look to the future and the probable moving of archives and the necessity of establishing a common finding aid.

Judi Keehnen has been named as archivist for the newly established Congregational Archives, which is a separate archives for the government and history of the new Congregation.

June Hansen, jhansen@csjoseph.org

Thank You



S. Louise

Special thanks from the ACWR board and members to S. Louise Grundish, SC, who served on the ACWR board for the past four years and continues to serve as Newsletter Editor. Blessings and gratitude to Louise.



The current ACWR Board always welcomes communication from members. If you wish to be in touch with a Board member the officers for 2011-2012 are as follows:

- Rose Marie Martin, OP, President
rmmartin@grdominicans.org
- Ellen Pierce, Past President
epierce@maryknoll.org
- Mary Ann Gschwind, FSPA, Vice President/President Elect
mgschwind@fspa.org
- Kathy Hertel-Baker, Secretary
khertelbaker@scnky.org
- Virginia Dowd, Treasurer
archivist@csjbrentwood.org

OH-PENN ARCHIVISTS CELEBRATE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Five years ago the triennial ACWR conference at Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky spawned in part the formation of the OH-PENN Archivists, according to the historical overview report given by S. Louise Grundish, SC at the October 12, 2011 meeting of the group.

Nineteen (pictured below) of the now 25 members gathered for their semi-annual meeting at the Central Convent of the Felician Sisters in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. S. Virginia Marie Klonowski, CSSF, led the meeting and the anniversary celebration.



The group held its first meeting in the fall of 2006 following the triennial ACWR conference at Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky. In her unscripted overview Sr. Louise Grundish, noted the interest expressed by several members to come together in the area prior to the conference. During the orientation for new members of ACWR given by Sister Mary Dennis at the Conference Sister pointed to the success of several local groups who met on a regular basis to share with one another and gain support in their activities. After returning from the conference Sr. Sandra DiNardis, CDP took the lead inviting all area archivists to an introductory meeting at Providence Villa in Gibsonia, Pennsylvania. Since then the group has met every April and October at the locations of the various archives.

The members represent 18 congregations of both women and men religious in Ohio and

Pennsylvania. As its name implies, the group is open to new members at any time. While the group has lost some members as positions changed and gained new members the meetings have been well attended throughout the five years and several members have shared expertise in particular areas. All who joined in the 5 year anniversary agreed that the time spent has been valuable and each has gained from the support of the group.

Joanne Gardner, HM, jgardner@humilityofmary.org

EMMA CECILIA BUSAM, OSU, RETIRES

It seems fitting that on her official retirement as the Diocesan Archivist of the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky the ACWR newsletter should give special attention to one of our Founders. Emma Cecilia Busam, OSU, wrote to ACWR in April, 2011 announcing her retirement.

Many who attended the last Triennial Conference in Milwaukee will remember S. Emma Cecilia who spoke to the group as the Founders for ACWR were honored. Her interest in the organization never waned and she enthusiastically attended all of the sessions ready to meet new people and learn new things.

S. Emma Cecilia entered the Ursuline Sisters at age 21 in 1942 and began a journey with God and her sisters in religion through many and varied experiences. Beginning with her first assignment to teach the first four grades at St. Joseph School in Central City, KY in 1945 until 1982 when she decided to leave teaching art and history at Catholic High School, S. Emma Cecilia taught at every level of education and used her organizational and people skills as principal for several years. After teaching adult students in the morning

and at Mount Saint Joseph Academy in the afternoon during 1982, she was asked to consider the job of archivist.

In 1983 S. Emma Cecilia accepted the position of archivist and museum curator for Mount Saint Joseph and began to learn and build her new career. She became a member of the Society of American Archivists in 1983, became a certified archivist, and in 1994 the Society honored her with the Sister M. Claude Lane Award for her significant contribution in the field of religious archives. In 1990 she became a founding member of the Archivist for Congregations of Women Religious.

In 1991 S. Emma Cecilia began serving as the Diocesan Archivist for the Diocese of Owensboro. She wrote:

“Since 1991 I have been working as our Diocesan Archivist for a stipend in order to bring the holding of the Diocese of Owensboro up-to-date. It has been a labor of love because I do enjoy the work even as a volunteer. However, I officially retired as archivist on February 16th of this year.

At the age of 75 all Bishops must submit a resignation to Our Holy Father, however, they may continue on, year by year, if health permits. Our former Bishop John J. McRaith wanted me to ‘stay as long as he was bishop.’ He received an early retirement because of his health. Reverend J. Michael Clark, who became the Administrator until a new Bishop could be appointed, indicated he would like for me to stay until a new Bishop was appointed. Reverend William Francis Medley became our new Bishop on February 10, 2010 and said he didn’t want to change anything for a year. Because of my age I feel it only right that someone

younger pick up where I left off. The Diocesan archives will be in good hands. It was truly a grateful surprise to have the archives named for me.”

Congratulations to S. Emma Cecilia Busam. Your life and work stand as an inspiration to all. May you continue to have opportunities to enjoy your art, woodworking, and a good card game. Thanks for all your contributions to the Archival Profession and especially to the Archivists of Congregations of Women Religious.



Louise Grundish, SC, (left) turns over the microphone to Emma Cecilia Busam, OSU, at the 2009 Triennial Conference where S. Emma Cecilia was honored as a founding member of ACWR.

To read more about the life of this extraordinary woman go to the Ursuline web site.

http://www.ursulinesmsj.org/Archive_Stories/s_r_emma_cecilia.php

HELP NEEDED

A new member of ACWR is seeking a place to stay in Washington, DC while attending the two week Archive Program there from January 23 to February 5, 2012. If possible, she is most interested in staying with a religious community which is located close to the Metro. Can any member help suggest a place to stay? If so, please contact S. Caritas Strodthoff, scaritas@fsc-calledtobe.org. I am sure S. Caritas would appreciate any help you can offer.

2012 Conference

7th ACWR Triennial Conference
*Meeting the Challenges of the Present:
Shaping Our Future Now*
September 6-9, 2012
Doubletree Hotel in New Orleans, LA

The ACWR Board hopes you are planning to attend this wonderful gathering of archivists. More details will be coming soon.

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There is still time to be a committee member for our 2012 Conference. Listed here are the volunteers we have at this point. If you would like to sign up please email Jan Harvey, at acwr@juno.com. Many thanks!

Hospitality

Kathy Hertel-Baker, Chair
Mary Herbert
Marty McEntee, CSJ
Kathleen O'Connor
Mary Palmer, CSJ
Edwina Pope, ASC – Pass out programs
Marylu Stueber, FSM

Liturgy

Virginia Dowd, Chair
Mary Palmer, CSJ – Reader or
Edwina Pope, ASC – Eucharistic Minister

Local Arrangements/Tours

Louise Grundish, SC, Chair

Program

Rose Marie Martin, OP, Chair
Mary Ann Gschwind, FSPA
Kathleen O'Connor

Scholarship

Ellen Pierce, Chair
Constance Brennan, SCNY
Winifred Doyle, CSJ
Eva Sankey

ACWR MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

ACWR welcomes 17 new or returning members since our Spring 2011 Newsletter publication. Address, phone numbers, email addresses, etc. for these new members are available in the membership directory on our website (www.archivistsacwr.org) New members are:

- Rose Ann Bacak, SSND, Chatawa, MS
- Maryellen Blumlein, SC, Bronx, NY
- Veronica Buchanan, Cincinnati, OH
- Marguerite Connors, SHSP, San Antonio, TX
- Eleanor Craig, SL, Kansas City, MO
- Kathleen Daly, Aberdeen, SD
- Eleanor Desaulniers, IHM, Scranton, PA
- Mary Lucia Dudzinski, SC, Mt St Joseph, OH
- Jeanine Heath, CSSF, Chicago, IL
- Marie Janesch, MSC, Reading, PA
- Elizabeth Johnson, Belmont, NC
- Mary Anne Lenk, Ossining, NY
- Joan Terese Niklas, SND, Covington, KY
- Sarah Patterson, Maple Mount, KY
- Barbara Payne, CPPS, O'Fallon, MO
- Maureen Skorupa, Merion Station, PA
- Caritas Strodthoff, OSF, Manitowoc, WI

The ACWR National Office received word of the death of two Archivists. Our sympathy and prayers are with their congregations and families:

- Alice Rohn, FSPA
- Aquin Gilles, SDS

Current membership in ACWR is 256.

ACWR NEWSLETTER

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DEADLINE FOR SPRING

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 15, 2012

Send articles and pictures to
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