

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



S. Mary Ann

Dear ACWR members,

As we look back on the triennial conference held in New Orleans from September 6-9, I hope those of you in attendance have found many ways to apply what you heard/learned at the conference to your ministry. For those of you who were unable to attend, I hope you can talk to some of your regional colleagues to glean some new ideas for your ministry. The evaluations were generally very positive. Thank you to everyone who completed an evaluation. Kudos to the board members who prepared the conference during the past couple years: Kathy Hertel-Baker, Virginia Dowd, Louise Grundish, SC, Jan Harvey, Rose Marie Martin, OP, Ellen Pierce. And special thanks to so many people who volunteered to help on-site during the conference. Be assured that evaluations and suggestions offered will be considered seriously as we start planning for the 2015 conference.

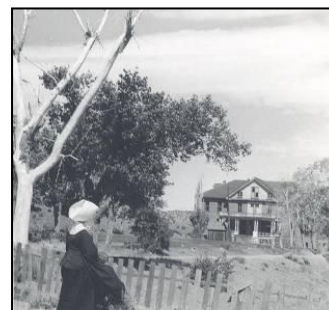
As was said at the conference, we are eager to have you think about people to nominate for the next Vice-President/President-Elect. The nomination process will begin in late winter so please start thinking now. Also, we are currently in need of an Executive Secretary because of Jan Harvey's resignation/retirement after serving us well for over five years. In spring, we will also need a new Treasurer due to Virginia Dowd's resignation after serving so well for three years. Any volunteers? Any people you can recommend? I would be happy to provide job descriptions and answer any questions re: either position. Feel free to contact me: mgschwind@fspa.org Thank you!

Blessings as you continue your vital service of preserving "the precious heritage" of your congregations.

Mary Ann Gschwind, FSPA, mgschwind@fspa.org

VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA

Three Daughters of Charity arrived in Virginia City five years after silver was first discovered and it was amid this young mining community that they founded *St. Mary's School and Orphanage* (1864) and later *St. Mary's Hospital* (1875). By the late 1890s, the silver mines were exhausted; the miners and their families moved away and the Sisters withdrew from *St. Mary's School and Orphanage* as well as from *St. Mary's Hospital*. Virginia City became as a ghost town until the 1960s when the television series *Bonanza* created renewed interest in this silver mining town of the 1800s;



Daughter of Charity facing the old *St. Mary's Hospital* where the Sisters nursed from 1875 to 1897

today Virginia City is a tourist attraction with renewed interest in its history of which the Sisters played an important part.

In 2012, the anthropology department of the University of Nevada, Reno, chose the site of the original *St. Mary's Hospital* (now *St. Mary's Art Center*) for a dig into its history, hoping to unearth artifacts that might give insight into the silver-mining community – the religion, healthcare, women's contributions and social mores of the town's early years. Over the years, there had been archeological digs near the hotels and saloons, but this was the first effort to excavate at the site of the old *St. Mary's Hospital*. Archeologists worked the

site for a month and found many chards and remnants that reflected the impact of several generations on the area. The chards found were from practical and serviceable items as contrasted with the decorative items found on other sites. Three Daughters of Charity had the opportunity to visit the site, to witness the excavations as well as to view many of the artifacts that were unearthed.

Margaret Ann Gainey, DC,
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SUCCESSFUL ESTATE SALE AND DISPOSAL OF RARE BOOKS

This past February I made a request to the ACWR members for information about and experience with estate sales. The Racine Dominicans were looking into the possibility of having an estate sale to dispose of some furniture, some of which was antique and also to dispose of items in the Archives which were really not connected with our Racine Dominican Community. Your response to my request was overwhelming and we received helpful information and many good ideas.

In May we signed a contract with Joshua Beam from ATR Estate Sales, a local family owned business. They were responsible for advertisement, set up, appraising and marking items and the running of the sale. He convinced us to put rummage sale items into the sale as well. The sale was held July 20 and July 21, 2012 in our auditorium at Siena Center. They conducted the sale very professionally and we were very pleased with the results. They took 25% of the money that was taken



Some of the Items of the Estate Sale

in. Most of the larger items sold. A few pieces of art that were left were taken by ATR Estate Sales on consignment. Some of us sisters held a one day rummage sale in August with the smaller items that didn't sell at the estate sale.

I had checked with our leadership and our historian about some old books that we had that were not connected to our foundresses. I thought maybe these could go in the estate sale as well but they suggested I contact Sister Janet Welsh who is the director of the McGreal Center in



Rare books donated to Rebecca Crown Library

River Forest, IL. She in turn connected me with the head librarian at Dominican University in River Forest and a professor who teaches in the graduate library science program and deals with rare books. Edward Valauskas came and picked up the books and worked with his summer graduate students to ascertain the rarity and value of the books. To make a long story short many of these 18th and 19th century German books could not be located in the US and none were located at Dominican University. We decided to donate 34 books to the Rebecca Crown Library at Dominican in honor of our Sesquicentennial. Donna Carroll, president of Dominican stated "such a unique collection greatly enhances the special collection of rare books housed at the Crown Library of Dominican University." Now these books can help further the education of students. What other things in our Archives or Motherhouses could be of more use elsewhere?

Shirley Kubat, OP, skubat@racinedominicans.org

OUT OF AFRICA – KARIBU! JAMBO! WELCOME! HELLO!

Mary Serbacki, OSF, Certified Archivist, and provincial archivist for the Franciscan Sisters of Penance and Christian Charity, Stella Niagara, NY, and Mary Denis Maher, CSA, Certified Archivist and community archivist for the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, Richfield, OH, presented “Religious Archives: Sacred Trust, Earthly Realities,” May 28-June 1, 2012, at the Chem-Chemi Center in Nairobi, Kenya.

It all began over a year ago when Mary Denis was approached by the Executive Director of ASEC (African Sisters Educational Collaborative), a consortium of Catholic women’s colleges in Pennsylvania, to develop a course outline for an introductory archives workshop for sisters in East Africa. The proposal was approved for funding and she was asked to do the week-long workshop and to get another sister so that they could have as many attendees as possible. Mary agreed to be the co-presenter.

Fifty-four sisters attended, primarily from Kenya, but with others from Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. They were from a variety of religious communities, largely native to Africa, as well as some whose origins were in Western Europe, US, Mexico, and Sri Lanka. Many communities were of recent origin; some had been in Africa for upwards of 70 years.

Our sessions covered topics including the Pastoral letter on Sacred Archives, developing a mission statement for archives, deciding on a collection policy, setting up an organizing system, learning preservation techniques, the care of photographs, coping with dust, bugs, monkeys, and the lack of a stable power source, and writing a short community history. The emphasis was largely on group work so that the participants were able to apply what they learned to their

individual situations and could discuss things with each other and with us as we went from group to group, helping them and answering questions. Needless to say, there were many issues raised that were different for us (note references to monkeys and lack of electricity as well as the lack of ready sources of archival supplies in “the bush!”) and this stretched our minds and archival knowledge and experience in new directions.

Generally two sisters from each community attended the workshop, although there were several who were the sole representative of their community. Those who were community secretaries had a better grasp of the documentation and records of their communities, but all learned as we went through the week. We were generous in providing a variety of handouts on the topics as well as a list of suggested web-sites for further perusal. Some short Power Point presentations were put on the computers in the center’s lab so participants could do additional work on their own. Many also took advantage of the opportunity to download these presentations for their own use at home. All the demonstration items we brought were raffled off on the last afternoon! Thus, everyone had something “special” to take home with her—and we had space in our suitcases for the souvenirs with which we were gifted!



Sisters Mary Serbacki (left) and Mary Denis Maher look on as the end-of-course cake is cut by S. Marilyn, Director of the Chemi-Chemi Center, Nairobi, Kenya.

The participants, in typical African fashion, organized a great closing party on the final afternoon! They dressed us up in Masai women's

garb, and showed off their new knowledge, before

receiving certificates

of achievement prepared by the workshop sponsors. "ARCHIVES" was the word instead of "CHEESE" for all the picture-taking.



Happy participants show off their certificates at the end of the archives course in Kenya.

Mary Serbacki, OSF, hnparchives@hotmail.com
Mary Denis Maher, CSA, smdm@srssofcharity.org

THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST

The Archives of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters of Huntington, Indiana, has benefited from a recent grant from Our Sunday Visitor Institute (OSVI). This grant makes possible the digitization of THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST, the journal that Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters published from 1924-1964.

The Victory Noll Archives is working with the Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRA) on this project. Once the digitization is complete, THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST will be freely available and searchable through a variety of venues and strategies including the websites of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters and Our Sunday Visitor, and through the Catholic Research Resources Alliance's "Catholic Portal".

With the assistance of OSVI and CRRA, the story of the Victory Noll Sisters' catechetical work in the United States will be better known. The CRRA's mission is to provide enduring global access to Catholic resources to all. OSVI's generous support makes this possible for THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST. Please look for the release of the digitized THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST by Spring 2013.

Jeff Hoffman, jhoffman@olv.org

IN THE SHADOW OF ST. ANNE'S

From June 28, 2012 to October 21, 2012, an exhibit of St. Anne Parish in Waterbury, CT is held at Mattatuck Museum to celebrate 150 years of the parish's existence. This display explores the history of the Church and the immigrant community that built it.

Founded in 1886, this French-Canadian parish was established for Catholic immigrants from Québec in a poor working-class neighborhood. A small wooden church was built in 1888. It was not long before these hard-working citizens began fund-



St. Anne Parish

raising for a larger edifice. Construction began in 1906 and was completed in 1922. St. Anne's massive gothic-style sanctuary, made of granite and marble and marked by twin spires and a dome, became one of the architectural glories of Waterbury.

Dr. Susan Glass, a consulting historian and professor at University of CT. branch in Waterbury, talked to several Daughters of the Holy Spirit in Putnam, CT.; these Sisters had graduated from the parish school where the DHS taught from 1906 till its closing in 1991. Their input and personal artifacts from the Archives helped Dr. Glasser and her committee in organizing the exhibit. The display "tells the story of the church that served Québécois newcomers who were attracted to the industrial jobs in the Brass City after their agricultural jobs disappeared at home." (1)

Panels depicting the history of French-Canadians who maintained their language and culture emphasize strong ties to their church and faith as depicted by the saying "*Qui perd sa langue, perd sa foi*" (Whoever loses their

language, loses their faith.”) From its inception, St. Anne Parish insisted on maintaining its French language and was the first non-English ethnic group to have services and priests from their own culture. To this day, there are strong ethnic ties to their culture. Numerous vocations to religious life of women and men as well as to the priesthood were the product of the strong faith life of this community.

The exhibit manifests this ethnicity with historical panels, family photos, working tools, French books for children, a packing trunk, a school double-seat, a violin, and more. During the summer, many events occurred. A musician played the violin and sang French-Canadian songs; talks on the life of this changing community took place at the museum; a bus tour and a walking tour of the South end neighborhood were planned; a panel discussion on “One Neighborhood, Many Cultures” reflected the recent changes in this neighborhood. In October, there will be a closing ceremony. St. Anne’s is truly a parish proud of its ethnic heritage.

Irene Fortier, DHS, sisirenedhs@aol.com

1. Susan Dunne, “In the Shadow of St. Anne’s”, [The Hartford Courant](#), July 20, 2012, D3-D4.

A TRIBUTE TO SISTER KATHLEEN GRIFFIN, PBVM

Sister Kathleen Griffin, PBVM, Congregational Archivist for the Sisters of Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, San Francisco archives from 1977-2002, passed away August 31, 2012.

Sister Kathleen was born in San Francisco on July 2, 1924, and became a vowed religious with the Sisters of the Presentation on July 15, 1942. She dedicated over 30 years of her ministry to elementary teaching and school administration, and taught and served as principal at schools throughout California.

In 1977, Sister Kathleen became the Archivist for the Sisters of the Presentation. During her tenure as Archivist, she formally established the archives program, and promoted

numerous outreach efforts to preserve her community’s heritage. Among her accomplishments was the implementation of a mobile shelving system, and establishing an oral history program.

Sister Kathleen was among the “First Wave” of Catholic Sisters being called to the work of preserving their community’s historical records. The Leadership Conference of



Sister Kathleen Griffin, PBVM

Women Religious (LCWR) held an Archives Program in 1978, which Sister Kathleen attended. This was the precursor of what would eventually become the present-day Archivists of Catholic Women Religious (ACWR).

Sister Kathleen’s goal was that no Sister would be forgotten in Presentation history, and she was instrumental in establishing the Biography Project, which resulted in *Presentation Women, a Legacy of Vision, Faith and Service*, a publication containing a biography of each Presentation Sister from 1854 to 2004 to mark the Sisters’ 150th anniversary of their foundation in San Francisco.

Sister Kathleen was an early member of Society of California Archivists, and served as the organization’s Treasurer from 1984 to 1986 and Secretary in 1985. She attended her first SAA meeting in 1981, demonstrating her commitment to professionalism in the archives field early on. She was instrumental in forming the Catholic Church Archives in Northern California affinity group in 1983 which lasted until 1987.

The care and passion she invested in preserving her community history is something for which her fellow sisters, colleagues, and researchers will forever be in a debt of gratitude.

Christine Doan, cdoan@pbvmsf.org

REFLECTIONS FROM 2012 CONFERENCE

FROM THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS USA ARCHIVES IN MARYLAND

Every three years the Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious holds an education conference that Sr. Mary Shimo and I attend together.

This year much of the content focused on disaster planning and recovery. The sessions were timely. The conference was in New Orleans and hurricane Isaac came through the week before our meeting. For a few days we weren't certain the conference would be held.

But meet we did! The sessions were excellent and we came away ready to tackle the development of a reasonable disaster plan. The templates I looked at previously were over 100 daunting pages long. We learned the important factors are to back up inventories of our holdings in multiple locations and to keep our contact list current. A field trip to the Jesuit Archives at Loyola University sparked conversation among attendees on providing access to archival holdings. The sessions on records management and Canon Law provided an invaluable list of "must keeps." And the networking we engaged in this year was extremely fruitful.

Sr. Mary networked with Sr. Anne Francis Campbell, OLM from Charleston, South Carolina on coordinating with area archivists to share information and get technology advice and training. I met Veronica Buchanan, an archivist for the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor and we agreed to share historical information related to our common ministries.

And since all work and no play makes the two Marys dull women, we shared some vacation time and took a relaxing ride on a paddleboat up the Mississippi to an historic site (of course!) We didn't get to the shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor but we did get to the St. Louis



Mary Herbert (left) and Mary Shimo, CBS, sharing vacation time after New Orleans 2012 Conference.

Cathedral shown during all the Saints Football games. Then we celebrated Sr. Mary's convent entrance date with a yummy meal where the staff brought a dessert plate with the words "Happy Anniversary" written in chocolate. Life and work are sweetest when education can be implemented and collaborations are formed over shared meals. ☺

Mary Herbert, CBSArchives@bshsi.org

CONFERENCE EXPERIENCES FROM ACWR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

➤ JOANNE GARDNER'S ACCOUNT

"Oh, when the arch'vists go marchin' in..." and that we did. We marched, after a fashion, into "Nawlins" on Thursday, September 6, 2012 for our 7th triennial conference. There were those in our number who drove themselves and those who flew and those who were driven by car and taxi and shuttle and bus.



S. Joanne Gardner

We located ourselves in the DoubleTree Hotel on Canal Street in the heart and soul of New Orleans. Some began their New Orleans

experience with a heaping bowl of gumbo and an extra-large portion of bread pudding from world renowned Mother's Restaurant, only a few minutes' walk from the hotel.

Ellen Pierce, our past president, welcomed us and introduced the first of three speakers to address the group in plenary sessions. Angelyn Dries, OSF, whose keynote was entitled "Mining the Archives You Mind: Potential Uses and Connections," stretched my perception of the importance of the story for which I am the curator. Thank you, Angelyn.

The presentation from New Orleans Archdiocesan Archivist Emilie Leumas was amazing as she cited the recent damage caused by Tropical Storm Isaac to reinforce her presentation on their recovery efforts after Katrina.

Deborah Cerullo, SSND provided us with invaluable information on Archives and Record Management Policies from the perspective of both canon and civil law. This is a topic that I definitely needed to hear!

The concurrent sessions were so attractive they posed a challenge to the selection process. The panel on cleaning up after Katrina grabbed some of us who are not facing the realities of merging archives. Preserving paper documents also got my attention over the disaster planning at Tulane. And since I am currently working on our records management schedule I needed to bring back more on this topic than on software comparisons.

Along with all this invaluable input we were given the opportunity to visit the city close up. So we archivists marched to busses waiting to take us to one of three destinations: 1) a tour of the city including the garden district and the lower 9th Ward; or 2) to the Loyola University and the Jesuit archives; or 3) to St. Mary's Academy run by the Sisters of the Holy Family, which was my preference. The reality of Isaac and damage done in that recent

storm meant that we were unable to visit the sisters' archives. However, as a former high school teacher, I was thrilled to tour the newly completed school rebuilt after Katrina. The school's president, Sr. Clare of Assisi Pierre, walked us around the entire building and capped off the tour with a look at the sisters' new quarters which are tucked away on the upper floor.

A highlight of the conference for me was when everyone gathered at the Old Ursuline Convent for a reception and tour of that historic building. History definitely came alive there! I definitely would have gone up to the top floor if they had permitted it! The walk back to the hotel was special in that I could experience New Orleans in the evening and have a sense of the distance to the Cathedral where we celebrated Liturgy the next evening.

I love to meet new people in my field and to become reacquainted with those I have known for a number of years. It was six years ago at Ft. Mitchell, KY that the OH-PENN archivists group was launched. This is our regional group which meets semi-annually sharing valuable information and experiences.

Sunday morning arrived and the arch'vists went marchin' out as we had come. Yet, we were different: enriched with experiences of a very special city near the Gulf and broadened by the exchanges of information and support from one another as we continue "Meeting the Challenges of the Present: Shaping Our Future Now!"

Joanne Gardner, HM, jjgardner@humilityofmary.org

➤ SARAH PATTERSON'S ACCOUNT

A First Time Attendee...

This past September was my first time attending an ACWR conference. Hired as the archivist for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph in Maple Mount,



Sarah Patterson

Kentucky one year prior, I was very excited to meet fellow archivists and hear talks pertinent to our unique archives. A major benefit received from the conference was the reminder of the important things: policies, procedures, and retention schedules. Having these foundational elements of an archives established can get lost in the day-to-day busy-ness of reference requests and the like. The plenary session on Canon and Civil Law offered many useful points to consider and guidelines to follow. I greatly appreciate the opportunities to meet, establish friendships, and eventually talk shop with other archivists. I am very grateful to ACWR for all the work that went into planning the conference and for offering scholarships to five members. It is a great blessing to have been awarded this. The conference is a worthwhile program and I highly recommend it!

Please visit the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph Archive blog at <http://ursulinesmsj.org/archives-blog>.

Sarah Patterson, sarah.patterson@maplemount.org

➤ SALLY WITT'S ACCOUNT

Even in Disaster, Archivists Are Called To Hold Sacred Memory

Meeting in New Orleans September 6-9, Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious could see how they bear the honor of preserving the record of religious life for women in the United States. The one hundred who gathered for the 7th triennial conference



S. Sally Witt

of ACWR were mostly "lone arrangers" whose daily decisions are shaping the story of religious life to be told in the future.

Disaster recovery was a major theme, and the city itself made it obvious that preparation is

essential. In 2007 the archdiocesan archives was badly affected in the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina. Archivist Emilie Leumas, PhD, was then at neighboring Baton Rouge, and she took a leading role in the New Orleans disaster recovery. Later she became the archivist for New Orleans, moving from a diocese approximately 40 years old to one with a heritage of some 300 years. Recovery of the archives was essential to local people, providing records of their births and marriages as well as chronicling the story of their spiritual life. In addition, it was essential to the nation, since the archdiocese holds records of Catholicism in North America beginning in 1718.

Dr. Leumas and a community of colleagues worked on disaster recovery for about two years. But recovery, she emphasized, will probably require ten years. While the initial response to disaster calls for swift action and decision-making, recovery demands the measured attention more common to archival work. Yet they were only mid-way into this recovery when Katrina's "nasty little brother," as Dr. Leumas characterized Hurricane Isaac, hovered over New Orleans in late August, a week before the ACWR conference. Again the New Orleans Archdiocese, which has been rebuilt after war, flood, and epidemic, suffered damage. Dr. Leumas might be its first archivist to deal with two hurricanes. Still, just days after Isaac left the area, she found the valor and kindness to share the story with the conference attendees.

Five years after directing graduate students to place blotter sheets of unbleached newsprint between pages of soaked books, Dr. Leumas was leading a new recovery. She pointed out that it is important to document which records are lost to damage, especially to provide an explanation for lack of civil records. She also advised archivists in a disaster situation to keep ruined supplies until the amount of loss can be calculated.

New Orleans is not alone in having disasters, and no place is immune to them. Sr. Julie Peak, OSB, from Yankton, SD, noted that while hurricanes are forecast, tornadoes in the plains give little warning. Other catastrophes also come unannounced. Planning for them is essential to preserving original sources of women's religious congregations. Keynote speaker Sr. Angelyn Dries, OSF, described how the archives of women religious have unique aspects of the story of U.S. Catholicism and American history as well as the Church locally and throughout the world. She told the archivists they "have a call and ministry to hold and share the sacred memory of the church that your community has helped to shape."

Sally Witt, CSJ, archivescsj@stjoseph-baden.org

➤ PAULA DIANN MARLIN'S ACCOUNT

Meeting the Challenges of the Present: Shaping Our Future Now:

I attribute my early love of history to family visits to museums, forts and historic sites throughout the Gulf coast states. Among my childhood memories are family weekend trips to New Orleans from my hometown of Mobile, Alabama. Highlights of every trip included visiting the "old smelling" Cabildo, the unique cemeteries, distinctive architecture, Mass at the old Cathedral and rides on a streetcar and the Algiers Ferry. I believe these early adventures led me to say, "Yes, I am interested," when asked would I consider becoming an archivist.



S. Paula Diann

Challenge of the Present: By the time this newsletter is distributed, I will have finished moving the Baltimore Regional Community Archives of the Sisters of Mercy for the third time to its final resting place at the Mercy

Heritage Center in Belmont, North Carolina. I have spent close to twelve years organizing and describing the Collection. My overall goal has been to prepare the collection's "Finding Aids" so that someone else can easily see the scope of the collection and find what is needed.

On September 1, 2008, the South Central Community of the Sisters of Mercy began as a reconfigured community encompassing four regional communities namely, Baltimore, Cincinnati/Jamaica, North Carolina/Guam and St. Louis. Since my main priority has been to finish the "closed" Baltimore collection, I have been unable as a "lone arranger" to spend quality time on the South Central Collection. From the beginning, I realized that the "new" community's infrastructure was very different from the "old" community structure and the archival arrangement would have to reflect this. My preliminary steps have included:

1. Collecting and tentatively arranging transition records;
2. Setting up an alphabetical system for deceased files, the fastest growing part of the collection;
3. Talking to department directors to raise awareness of the purpose of the archives and types of records that should eventually be archived;
4. Organizing a tentative Schema of Record Groups based on Departments;
5. Setting up "drop files" on broad subjects in which to save materials until a Schema is finalized.

Shaping Our Future Now: The ACWR Conference was a welcomed interruption to an on-going focus on the Baltimore Collection. It provided time to listen and absorb information and to formulate a plan for the future. I arrived at the Conference with three overriding concerns:

- 1) How can I improve the arrangement schema and retention schedules for the South Central Community archives?

Since the South Central Community has no Records Manager, each Department is responsible for its own records. I received several helpful handouts at the Conference that will help me revise my tentative schema. Based on past experience and the handouts, I will list what I think each Department should permanently archive. I will then confer with each department director about the types of records they produce and compare that with my list. Together we will determine what and when records will be scheduled for transfer to the Archives.

2) How can I assist the Finance Department with the permanent in-active records that should be archived after a pre-determined amount of time?

This concern comes from my past experience of discovering a room full of finance materials wrapped in brown paper that had been moved to a new office when our Baltimore motherhouse was sold in 1983. I discovered this in 2005 when a second room was being filled with more current finance records. I took my concerns to the President of the Community and I was given the job of shredding what was not permanent and archiving what should be kept. I don't want to see the same thing happen in the new Community with the records that were sent to the administrative center in 2008. With ideas and handouts from the Conference, I feel that I am in a better position to help with this situation.

3) How can I best handle electronic records?

My only experience in this area is to arrange CDs or DVDs by subject area. My biggest learning from the Conference is the guiding principle: "What is born digital, remains digital." I will need more education in this area to make proper decisions, to manage what has been produced, and to be sure there is adequate backup. In addition, I will learn how

to use "Sharepoint" where many records are posted by the various Departments. Overall, I believe that the Conference speakers and my interaction with other participants re-energized me so that I can begin step-by-step to do what I need to do to get the new South Central Collection on a sound basis.

Paula Diann Marlin, RSM, pdmarlin@mercyisc.org

ACWR BOARD MEMBERS 2012 - 2013



New board members were sworn into office at the Conference. They are: Rose Marie Martin, OP, past president, (1st row) (Left to right 2nd row) Kathy Hertel-Baker, secretary, Mary Ann Gschwind, FSPA, president, Louise Grundish, SC, VP/president elect, Virginia Dowd, treasurer.



CO-OPERATION WORKS !

Towards the end of August 2012 I received an e-mail from Paul O'Hara in Chicago. He got my e-mail address through a mutual friend.

Paul wanted me to help him with a little detective work. His sister in Ireland is working on putting together a family tree. Paul said that she has been asking him if he could obtain some information about one of their grand aunts who was a nun in San Antonio, Texas. Paul wrote that his mother, who is now in her mid 80's, could not recall very much except that her aunt's name was Arcadia Farrell from Dublin, Ireland and that she entered the Congregation of Incarnate Word. Arcadia lived, worked and died in San Antonio. Paul said the name Arcadia seems strange and might have been a diminutive of her real name or of a religious name. The

family did not know. Paul did remember that she returned to Ireland for a visit when he was a baby, probably sometime between 1953 - 1955. Paul's mother claims that she was the "mother superior." Paul assured me that if I would be able to find some more accurate information about his aunt the family would be most grateful. He commented that they did not even know the date of her birth.

I promised to send the information he had to the Sisters of the Incarnate Word at the University of the Incarnate Word here in San Antonio. I sent Paul's information to the Superior General suggesting their archive personnel might be able to help.

Angel Lane, the Director of Archives/Records Management of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, 4707 Broadway, San Antonio, TX 78209, who gave her phone number and e-mail address answered giving the following information: Last Name Farrell; First Name Arcadius



Angel Lane

She gave her date of birth, birth city, birth country (Ireland), death date, death city, death state, death country, where she is buried. She also gave her entrance date, Investiture date, First Profession date, Final Profession date.

MINISTRY AND SERVICE DETAILS Date
Place (Job) City/State

Arcadius was a nurse and at one time was the Director of St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Fort Worth, Texas. From 1934 to 1952 she was the superior of the hospital community in Marshall, Texas, Fort Worth, Texas and McAlester, Oklahoma. From 1952 to 1954 she was the Assistant in her community..From 1954 to 1955 she was a Consultor in her community. She died in 1958.

There was a document in Sister M. Arcadius' own hand writing giving her name in religion, secular name, place of birth, date of birth, date of entrance, Investiture, date of Temporary Profession, date of Perpetual Profession,

maiden name of mother, mother's place of birth, name of father and his place of birth. On the same document: "In case of serious illness or death notify - Name, relationship (nephew), address of niece, name and address.. "REMARKS" at the end of this document says she died on May 7, 1958 at Incarnate Word Hospital, St. Louis Missouri, after a stroke at the Provincial House.

The final document sent to me was a copy of her baptismal certificate.

Angel Lane kindly told me to feel free to send along to Paul O'Hara her information "in case he needs to get in touch with us again regarding his great aunt".

When I finally got back to Paul O'Hara he said: *"THANK YOU so much for this information. It is definitely my grand aunt. I recognize the address of my grandfather, who was to be contacted when she died. In fact, I too, grew up at the same address. So better proof than that I could not ask for.*

I will pass on the information to my sister in Dublin who is putting together the family tree. She will be very happy. I will also send her the phone number of Angel Lane in case my sister wants to get in contact with her. I would be also grateful if you could thank her for me. I will also write to her." Paul

My reply to Paul was: *"I'm glad you received the information and I rejoice with you in recognizing the truth of the information. I will certainly thank Angel for you before your 'Thank you' arrives."*

I rejoiced greatly that I was able to help Paul in his "detective work" into his family history. Had I not had a background of Archive work I might have been at a loss as to how I could help Paul.

This experience gave me great satisfaction and I very much appreciate the help which came from Angel Thank you, Angel !

Anita Janvier, SSCJ, anitajanvier@hotmail.com

SETTING UP A HERITAGE ROOM

We are in New Orleans, and we are nearing the final stages of setting up a heritage room. We would like to prepare a booklet for a self-guided tour, but we have no idea where to start... How big? How small? What to include?

Would some of you ACWR colleagues have such a booklet, and would you be willing to share it with us, to use as a sample in preparing our own? Any help will be greatly appreciated! Thank you.

Therese Gregoire, O.Carm., teegreg42@gmail.com
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



S. Louise Grundish

Let me begin by thanking all who have sent articles or ideas for articles for the Newsletter. I hope that as you read this edition of the Fall Newsletter you found these articles as interesting as I did as I prepared the paper for publication.

From the number of articles on the Triennial Conference it seems that some portion of the conference was particularly helpful to the writer who described the talk, the tour, or the networking that most appealed or met a particular need. Thanks to all who helped share the New Orleans experience with those members who were not able to participate. It is good to read the descriptions from so many different points of reference.

Soon after all had returned from New Orleans and were back at the daily work of archives, the Board received some very troubling news. Rose Marie Martin, OP, ACWR past president, suffered a serious illness, was hospitalized for surgery, and spent some weeks in rehab. Fortunately, Sister is now home and on the mend. I am sure she would appreciate a card

or note from some of our members. Her address is: *Dominican Sisters – Grand Rapids, 2025 E. Fulton Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49503*

As we move into the year 2013 we face a number of challenges but we do so with great hope. Please share the information with your archivist friends and encourage them to join ACWR. I urge you to start working on your articles for the spring newsletter. Time passes quickly and I love hearing from you. Thank you again for your support.

Louise Grundish SC, lgrundish@scsh.org

ACWR MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

ACWR welcomes 17 new member since our Spring 2012 Newsletter publication. Their address, phone number, email address, etc. can be found for them, and all ACWR members, in our membership directory on our website: www.archivistsacwr.org. Our new members are:

- Isabel Ball, CDP, San Antonio, TX
- Nancy Barthelemy, SNDdeN, Ipswich, MA
- Beverly Bobola, OP, Adrian, MI
- Norma Bryant, SSJ, Watertown, NY
- Ursula Fotovich, CSJ, Wichita, KS
- Margaret Ann Gainey, DC, Los Altos Hills, CA
- Denise Gallo, Emmitsburg, MD
- Betsy Glenn, Arlington Heights, IL
- Mary Lee Harris, New Orleans, LA
- Kathleen Hilton, SNJM, Marylhurst, OR
- Virginia Marie Klonowski, CSSF, Coraopolis, PA
- Mary Ann Kuttner, SSND, St. Louis, MO
- Christine Lacroix, SUSC, Fall River, MA
- Angelique Lane, San Antonio, TX
- Mary Mangold, Merrill, WI
- Mary Hermann Platt, PBVM, Dubuque, IA
- Ellen Winger, St. Bonaventure, NY

Our current membership in ACWR is 242.

ACWR NEWSLETTER

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**DEADLINE
FOR SPRING NEWSLETTER
MARCH 15, 2013**

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