

OPENN ARCHIVISTS

“How wonderful - many of us are from western Pennsylvania!”

“Why not get together and share ideas on a regular basis!”

“Networking is a great idea!”

These were some of the enthusiastic comments from archivists attending the ACWR Triennial Conference in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, September 28 – 30, 2006.

Shortly after the conference, Sandra DiNardis, CDP, archivist for the Sisters of Divine Providence, Mother Marie de la Roche Province, Allison Park, Pennsylvania, contacted the archivists who had attended the conference and others from the area and the “OPENN Archivists” was born. The initial group of 15 met November 8, 2006 for sharing and an organizing meeting. The rest is history.

The group, now numbering 20 members, meets at various motherhouses in April and October of each year. The meeting chair rotates according to the site. An archives tour is always on the agenda along with group input on a topic agreed upon in advance. Issues already discussed include “Medical Records,” “Preservation of Films and Photos,” and “Access for the Prospective Researcher.” The group generously shares forms, protocols, information from conferences and workshops and in return each member benefits from this wonderful opportunity for networking.

Members include archivists of these women’s and men’s congregations: School Sisters of St. Francis; Sisters of St. Francis of Mt. Alvernia; Franciscans of the Third Order Regular - Saint Bernardine Monastery; Sisters of Divine Providence; Sisters of the Humility of Mary; Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill; Congregation of St. Joseph, Cleveland; Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, Carrollton OH; Sisters of the Divine Redeemer; Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh; Sisters of Mercy of the Americas; Sacred Heart Province, Third Order Regular of Saint Francis of Penance; Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown; Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth; Sisters of St. Joseph of Erie; and Benedictine Sisters of Erie.

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OPENN Archivists at the April meeting in Erie, PA. Standing, left to right: Sr. Florence Brandt, OSF; Sr. Joanne Gardner, HM; Sr. Noemi Tereszkievicz, CSFN; Sr. Marilyn Joyce, OSF; Sr. Rebecca Sullivan, CSFN; Sr. June Hanson, CSJ; Sr. Bridget Nolan, OSU; Petra Knapp; Sr. Sandra DeNardis, CDP; and Sr. Marie Timmons, SSJ. Seated, left to right: Sr. Mary-Joanna Huegle, HM; Sr. Magdalene Lovrich, OSF and Sr. Marietta Bankos, OSF.