



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Ellen Pierce

Dear ACWR Colleagues:

As I write, the Spring season challenges us to manage a few more weeks of winter weather in the Northeast.

Many other challenges and opportunities are presenting themselves to fellow archivists of religious collections. Each of us is busy with our various projects, exhibits, oral histories, Heritage undertakings, merging/collaboration plans and construction endeavors. Most of us are swamped with too much to do and not enough time in the day to complete our tasks. Time management and work schemes are somehow not effective anymore.

It's time to sit back and relax and enjoy the emerging Spring and time of renewal. Often I find myself so buried in my work that I find that I am not looking up and "smelling the flowers" as life passes by. I think we all forget how much work we actually accomplish in a day, or week, or month.

I recently completed a two week trip to Nairobi for Maryknoll to look over 50 years of records and decide what should be shipped to New York for the archives. As soon as I arrived I buried myself in about 45 feet of dirty boxes, working through the weekends, at night, checking my work e-mail and making lists, etc. I never looked up to enjoy the balmy weather and blue skies. I was so afraid I would get sick and not be able to complete my task that I really did not get to enjoy the countryside and the mission itself. Eventually, as I saw progress I realized what I was doing and made a point to get out and away from the

records and see the city. It turned out to be a very rewarding experience.

Please take the time to consider and plan for the following two upcoming events:

### 2011 SAA Conference

Many of you will be able to attend the SAA Conference in Chicago this year. ACWR will hold a meeting to install new officers on Thursday, August 25, 2011 from 7:30-9:30pm. In addition the ARCS section has asked us to join them for a reception on Wednesday, August 24, 2011 from 5:30-7:30pm at St. James Episcopal Cathedral near the hotel.

### 2012 ACWR Conference

Plans are solidifying for a wonderful gathering in New Orleans September 6-9, 2012. Please make sure that you budget for this exciting and informative 7<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference, *Meeting the Challenges of the Present: Shaping our Future Now*.

*Ellen Pierce, epierce@maryknoll.org*

## **"THROUGH THE YEARS" ORAL HISTORY PROJECT OF ST. BENEDICT'S SCHOOL OF NURSING OGDEN, UT**

Over the years, the sisters of St. Benedict's Hospital, Ogden, UT, and now Mount Benedict Monastery (MBM), have enjoyed a wonderful partnership with the local educational institution, Weber State University (WSU). In the earlier years, students in healthcare sciences from WSU got their practical experience through rotations at St. Benedict's Hospital. The hospital was able, at times, to fund scholarships for students in the health sciences division. In more recent times, WSU, through Dr. Kathryn MacKay of the history department at Weber, have helped to establish the archives at Mount Benedict

Monastery. Dr. MacKay and some of her students set up a functional archives at the monastery.



St. Benedict's Hospital at 3000 Polk in Ogden, Utah

St. Benedict's Hospital had a school of nursing from 1947 through 1968. During that time, more than 350 students graduated. Now the Stewart Library Special Collections Department at WSU, in conjunction with MBM, is documenting the history of the nursing school. Graduates of the program have been interviewed about their training, instructors, and experiences at the school, and how it helped them in their careers. Sarah Langsdon, associate curator of special collections at WSU, coordinated the project. Ms Langsdon received replies from more than 50 graduates who were willing to do oral interviews with her department. While some of the graduates were local, some were in the Seattle area, and another two in Portland. Ms. Langsdon and Marci Farr, a manuscript processor in special collections, traveled to meet the group and completed the interviews.



Picnic outside on the back lawn with the Sisters and students.

It was also a grand reunion for those involved.

Other students from throughout the country who responded to the request were interviewed via telephone. Langsdon and Farr also collected photographs and documents to enhance the story of the nursing school. Some of these items were added to the University's holdings so as to be preserved. Other items were scanned and returned to the owners who did not wish to donate them permanently. Farr commented, "The sisters who taught in the school and the graduates themselves contributed a great deal to the community and to Ogden's history. For this reason, we were pleased to be able to work on this project."

The oral history project received funding from the Utah Humanities Council and the Utah State Historical Society. An open house and reception celebrating the St. Benedict's School of Nursing Oral History Project was held on April 8, 2011. Members of the local community and other interested persons welcomed the opportunity to share in the history of the sisters' contributions to healthcare in the Ogden area.

*Luke Hoschette, OSB, [lhoschette@hotmail.com](mailto:lhoschette@hotmail.com)*

## HELPFUL HINT

Recently I discovered a website that is very useful: **Windowssecrets.com**. It is a newsletter with many, many helpful articles about using Microsoft products, especially, in a more efficient way. However, there are numerous articles about other computer-related products which would be of benefit to members of ACWR. For example, as more and more laptops appear, I thought that we would all appreciate an article in the January 21, 2010, issue entitled "Extend the Life of Your Laptop's Battery," by Fred Langa.

*Louise Smith, SSMN, [smitlou@hotmail.com](mailto:smitlou@hotmail.com)*

## SPIRITED WOMEN OF LA CROSSE EXHIBIT

In La Crosse, WI, opening March 5, kicking off Women's History Month, the La Crosse County Historical Society's Swarthout Museum began hosting *Spirited Women of La Crosse*. This exhibit is a local counterpart to the LCWR exhibit on display in Dubuque, IA, concurrently. Through exhibits of artifacts from the FSPA Archives and Heritage collections, visitors can learn first hand how a group of independent American women shaped the La Crosse community in the areas of health care, education, fine arts and prayer.



Healthcare corner at exhibit at Swarthout Museum

*Spirited Women of La Crosse* will run through May 22, 2011. Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration Mary Ann Gschwind and Julie Tydrich presented *A Spirited History* during the Spotlight Speaker presentation at the Swarthout Museum on Tuesday, March 8. An encore presentation occurred on April 5 at 1 p.m.



S. Julie Tydrich (left) & S. Mary Ann Gschwind

Mary Ann Gschwind, FSPA, [mgschwind@fspa.org](mailto:mgschwind@fspa.org)

## COMMENT: THE PUBLIC FACE OF RELIGIOUS ARCHIVES: MAKING THE POOR VISIBLE

With changing structures in our religious congregations, women religious have accomplished much in adapting archives to the new realities. I would like to look at the public aspect of our archives, and the ways our restructuring and diminishment affect historians and all whose story is intertwined with ours, especially those who have been poor.

In one way, our archives are completely ours. They are records of our congregations, and, until recently, we have cared for them by ourselves. Yet, in another way, they cannot be completely ours any more than our lives are completely ours. Our congregations exist not just for the members, but, in one way or another, for the healing and holiness of all creation. The records are about the sisters, yes, but they are also about our students, patients, colleagues, companions, families. They are about the neighborhoods and institutions where people gathered for formative life experiences. Taken together, they hold essential ingredients of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century life in the U.S. Historians eager to tell the story of social, industrial, religious, and ethnic life will continue to find rich material in them. The story of the poor of our nation might never be fully known without these records.

It is important, then, for archivists of religious congregations to realize this aspect of the resources they shepherd at a time of restructuring and diminishment. If collections no longer belong to a single congregation, or if they are moved to another location, it is essential for researchers to know how to find them. We are no longer the only ones telling our story. Others will tell it, and the public will learn it. We need to be sure that researchers have access to the primary evidence.

I bring this up not knowing specifically what to recommend, or even if other archivists have already adequately handled the question. But I think our changing structures and diminishment are connected to the work of history and humanities scholars. For example, someone studying the ethnic, religious, and industrial story of Pittsburgh needs to know there are pertinent records belonging to women religious in Kentucky and Chicago. In making adjustments to our archives, we owe it to our present and future neighbors and researchers to make sure the location of our records is made public.

But more than that, we need to realize that our modifications are important to the people who care about history and the preservation of truth. They will, if we let them, share our grief at the changes, which affect their lives also. Religious archives, long hidden from view, are, in this sense, of concern not only to ourselves but to our friends and to society. Our records make the poor visible. Keeping those records well is another way for our congregations to join in solidarity with those who would otherwise be hidden. The poor call us to faithfulness beyond our present boundaries.

Sally Witt, CSJ, [archivescsj@stjoseph-baden.org](mailto:archivescsj@stjoseph-baden.org)

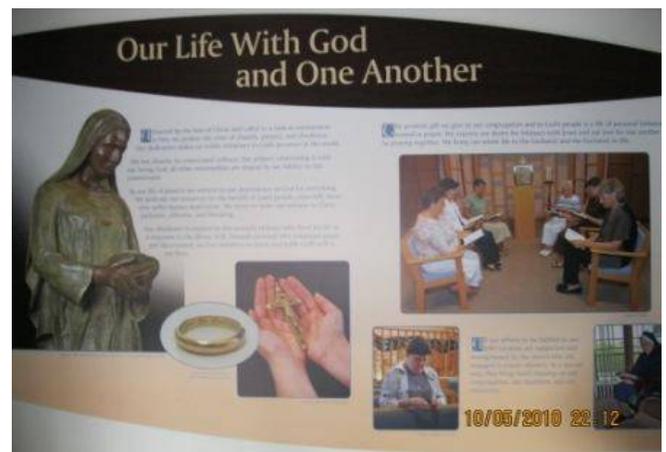
## LIGUORIAN PUBLISHES ARTICLE OF ACWR MEMBER

I wrote an article on St. Katharine Drexel for *Liguorian*. "Out of Lace & Ruffles a Saint was Born: Saint Katharine Drexel's Mission." You may read this in the March 2011 edition of *Liguorian*, pp.28 -32. Also, you may visit the Archives section of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament at our website [www.katharinedrexel.org](http://www.katharinedrexel.org) and clicking on SBSArchives. Thank you.

Stephanie Morris, [sbsarchives@verizon.net](mailto:sbsarchives@verizon.net)

## IHM HERITAGE PROJECT

The Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary completed a Heritage Project at the motherhouse in Scranton, PA. Planning for the project began two years ago and was dedicated at the July 2010 Assembly of the IHM sisters. The congregation was founded by Father Louis Gillet, C.Ss.R. and Mother Theresa Maxis Duchemin, from which three branches of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters emerged and exist today. The IHM story is understood through the Heritage Display in the motherhouse foyer and front hallway. In the foyer, there is a beautiful wood carved statue of the Blessed Mother which is surrounded by



a blue colored lighted border. The mission statement, core values and charism are written on wall panels. Also there is a DVD presentation portraying the various ministries and activities of the sisters and two curio cabinets displaying plaques of gratitude for the service of the IHM sisters throughout the years.

The hallway has 9 wall panels with images and script which includes the following topics: IHM Spiritual Heritage, IHM Ministries, Canonical Leadership, and Advocacy for Justice and Peace. Everyone is invited to view the exhibit.

Anitra Nemothko, IHM. [nemotkoa@sistersofihm.org](mailto:nemotkoa@sistersofihm.org)

## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF HOPE

The year 2011 marks the 100-year anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great to the United States. It is an anniversary built upon the dreams and hopes of a young immigrant community and a young bishop, as well as on the hope and the love of young women who chose to dedicate their lives to serving others in the name of Christ. Above all, it is an anniversary that the Sisters hope to share with those they served over the course of their history.



Pioneer Sisters from Ukraine

The story begins in 1911. At the request of Bishop Soter Ortynsky, four Sisters from Ukraine came to serve the Ukrainian Catholic Community in Philadelphia. From the start, the Sisters began to bring order to chaos, hope to the hopeless, education to the unschooled. They ministered to those in need, especially to the many orphans in the poor community they served, established a school, and worked diligently to raise funds for their good works.

In the decades that followed, more Sisters arrived from Ukraine, and young women from the Philadelphia community and beyond joined the Order. As the number of Sisters grew, the scope of their labors of love increased proportionately, taking them from their home in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to other cities in other states where Ukrainian Catholic communities had settled and evolved

and needed the prayers, the love, and the care that the Sisters could provide.

From Philadelphia to New York City to Chicago to Newark, New Jersey, to Hamtramck, Michigan, to Chesapeake City, Maryland the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great became a praying, healing, life-affirming presence to generations of Ukrainian Catholics. Serving in four Ukrainian Eparchies and more than one hundred parishes, they ministered to thousands upon thousands of children and adults whose lives were touched by their spirit, their teachings, and their love.

A yearlong celebration marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our arrival in the United States began with an opening Divine Liturgy in the Sisters' Chapel followed by a reception in the Sisters' divining room. Other plans for the year include an Open House, a Pilgrimage to the Mother of God and a Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception followed by a banquet. A Jubilee Commemorative Book and historic DVD is being prepared.

The scope of these ten decades of service is preserved in myriad details in memories and is reflected in keepsakes, documents, photographs, and letters that have a cherished place in the Sister's archives. But the greatest wish of the Sisters is to personally embrace all those who have become part of their legacy through one of the above celebrations.



St. Basil's Motherhouse, Jenkintown, PA

*Maria Panczak, archives@stbasils.com*

## ACWR ELECTS MARY ANN GSCHWIND, AS VICE PRESIDENT/ PRESIDENT ELECT FOR 2011



Mary Ann Gschwind was born and raised in La Crosse. She has been a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration for 50 years. For thirty years, Mary Ann was a junior high and high school English teacher and high school principal. She was also the diocesan superintendent of schools in Omaha, NE, and Stockton, CA. From 1974-1979 Mary Ann was Chair of the Education Department at Viterbo College in La Crosse, WI. From 1984-1991, she taught the summer Personnel Leadership course in the Private School Administration Program offered by the University of San Francisco. From 1990-1998, she served as Vice President of the Franciscan Sisters. Before moving back to La Crosse in 2002, Mary Ann taught English to speakers of other languages at the International Institute in St. Paul and during the summers of 2000 and 2001 in Olomouc, Czech Republic. In 2002, Mary Ann began her current ministry as Archivist for the Franciscan Sisters in La Crosse, WI. Mary Ann previously served a term as an ACWR officer.

She currently serves

- as chair of the Viterbo University Board of Trustees,
- on the Catholic Charities Board for the Diocese of La Crosse,
- on the Catholic Residential Services Board for the Diocese of La Crosse,
- on the Diabetes Advisory Committee at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare,
- on the Franciscan Skemp Healthcare Family & Patient Advisory Committee and
- is a Rotary member.

The ACWR Board congratulates, welcomes and is grateful to have Mary Ann return to board membership with ACWR in August.

## TEXAS CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARD GIVEN TO SISTER MARY CHRISTINE MORKOVSKY, CDP

In the presence of Sister Jane Ann Slater, Superior General of the Sisters of Divine Providence of San Antonio, Sister Mary Christine Morkovsky (center) and, through her, the Congregation receive the Paul J. Foik, CSC, Award from the Texas Catholic Historical Society' President, Rev. Bob Wright, OMI, for writing the community's latest history.



In *LIVING IN GOD'S PROVIDENCE*, Morkovsky draws on 300 oral histories of the Sisters, their co-workers, and associates along with archival materials to create the Congregation's account from 1943-2000 in what the Society recognized as "the most important recent publication relating the Catholic history of the Southwest."

Members of the Congregational Archival Staff—Sisters Charlotte Kitowski, Margeta Krchnak, Agnes Marie Marusak, Elizabeth McCullough, and Margaret Riche-- contributed to the community project by serving on the History Committee, conducting interviews, researching materials, verifying information, formatting footnotes and indexing of this 431-page history.

Charlotte Kitowski, CDP, [ckitowski@cdptexas.org](mailto:ckitowski@cdptexas.org)

## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The ACWR Membership Directory is always accessible on our website and is updated periodically as needed. Visit the membership section at [www.archivistsacwr.org](http://www.archivistsacwr.org).

## HILLS OF KENTUCKY DULCIMER CLUB TO PERFORM AT SISTERS OF CHARITY MOTHERHOUSE

The Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati are collaborating with members of the Hills of Kentucky Dulcimers to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. Members of the dulcimer club will perform for the public at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 1 in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse. The program will include the period songs such as "Oh! Susanna," "Camptown Races," "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" and "God Bless America," interspersed with readings from the Sisters of Charity Civil War journals.

The dulcimer, meaning "sweet song," is a stringed instrument first developed in the Appalachian Mountains and used in American folk music. The late Sister of Charity Sophia Gilmeyer's early 19<sup>th</sup> century hammer dulcimer will be part of the performance.

Concert guests are encouraged to visit the Motherhouse Heritage Room to view a display honoring the many Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati who played a role in ministering to wounded soldiers during the Civil War. At the request of Archbishop Purcell, S. Anthony O'Connell led nurses onto the battlefield – more than one-third of the community. S. Anthony became known as the "Angel of the Battlefield" due to her outstanding medical work as well as her dynamic personality. The Mount St. Joseph cemetery has 34 graves with special markers designating the Civil War nurses.



"Angel of the Battlefield"

The event is free and open to the public. For more information contact S. Judith Metz at (513) 347-4058

Judith Metz, SC, [judith.metz@srcharitycinti.org](mailto:judith.metz@srcharitycinti.org)

## A TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARY HERMENIA MULDRAY

A presentation given to the Association of St. Louis Area Archivists on March 22, 2011 by Roberta Doelling

"Sister Mary Hermenia Muldray, Researcher Extraordinaire And Trials, Tribulations and Treasures of Her Collection"

Sr. Mary Hermeina Muldray was a student, educator, researcher, archivist and author. But first and foremost she was a Sister of Mercy. She lived most of her life in the New Orleans area and had a deep and abiding love for all things Mercy.

Aimee Muldray, known as Sr. M. Hermenia, was born February 21, 1920 in New Orleans, Louisiana and died October 11, 2010 in St. Louis, Missouri. She entered the Sisters of Mercy on February 1, 1937 and took her vows on August 16, 1939. Her love of learning started early and continued throughout her whole life. She had a Life teacher's certificate from the state of Louisiana where she was qualified to teach English, Religion, French, Latin, History, Civics, Mathematics, Health, Physical Education, Art, and Library Science. She taught for 42 years at Sister of Mercy schools in the New Orleans area while at the same time she attended night and summer classes to receive her A.B. Degree from Loyola University. She then took graduate classes at Loyola University in New Orleans, Our Lady of the Lake in San Antonio and Tulane University in New Orleans.

During this time she was gathering all the information she could about the early Sisters of Mercy in New Orleans and the whole United States. She communicated with Mercy archivists about who, when, where and what as they tried to track down the earliest Sisters and foundations. They all had fun discovering the wanderers, those sisters who just couldn't seem to settle in one location. Her letters were full of news as to who had found whom

where and when. The work of these researchers led to a time line of the foundations of Mercy convents in the United States.

Sr. Hermenia was assigned as Archivist for the Mercy Archives in New Orleans in the late 1960's. She took this job just as seriously as all the others that she had been assigned. She joined local



S. Mary Hermenia Muldrey

archival groups as well as the Society of American Archivists to learn more about archives. She was even suggested for the Sister Mary Claude Lane Award given by SAA in 1991. She was a charter member of the History of Women Religious and received their Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004.

In 1981 she was commissioned to write a book about Sister Mary Theresa Austin Carroll, one of the members of the founding community that began the works of Mercy in New Orleans and a prolific writer, publishing many books, magazine and newspaper articles. This assignment took Sr. Hermenia to almost every Mercy Archives in the United States, England, Ireland, and many other archives including the Vatican Archives in Rome.

As a researcher, Sr. Hermenia was thorough and tireless. No detail was too small or too difficult to locate. She would scour archives for any tidbit that would lead to furthering the knowledge of the Sisters of Mercy.

When researching her book Sister visited or communicated with 19 Sister of Mercy archives in Ireland, 8 in Great Britain, 2 in Australia and 32 in the United States. She visited the Vatican Library in Rome as well as the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and the Pontifical Irish College. In

Ireland and England, as well as visiting Sisters of Mercy Archives, she went to Archdiocesan, Parish and Civil Archives in search of births, deaths and marriages. She studied microfilm of the Nationalist Newspaper for any news about Sisters. In the United States she did much the same; searching 12 different university or private collections for nineteenth century newspapers and periodicals as well as Carroll letters. She kept in touch with many of the people she met while doing research for many years after her book was published.

Sr. Hermenia's collection traveled with her from school to school and eventually resided at Mercy Hospital in New Orleans where she was stationed from 1986 to 1999. When she realized that she would be leaving Mercy Hospital for a retirement home she began to disperse her collection. Items that she thought would be of value to the New Orleans civic community she gave to the Historic New Orleans Collection. Many of the books that could be useful as resource material (24 linear feet) were donated to the Women Religious Special Collection at Avila University. (You can find information on line at the university web site. Her donation is known as the Mary Austin Carroll Collection) The rest of her materials moved with her to Our Lady of Wisdom, a facility for retired religious in New Orleans. As well as her own bedroom, she had a room she could use as an office. In August of 2005, Sr. Hermenia had to spend some time in the West Jefferson Hospital for a heart problem. During the disastrous flooding following Hurricane Katrina Sr. Hermenia was evacuated with other patients to the Louis Armstrong International Airport to lie on the tarmac. She spotted a CNN reporter and called him over to be interviewed, thus allowing the Sisters in St. Louis and her immediate family to know where she was. She eventually was moved to St. Louis to recover, but her collection was still in New

Orleans at Our Lady of Wisdom, where emergency people were staying.

When she returned to New Orleans her nieces helped her pack up her collection, trying to keep things in order, but needing to “get everything ready to go in a hurry” Arriving back in St. Louis, she had to have assistance unpacking and trying to organize a new office as well as her own room. She had hoped to organize everything so that it would be ready to come to archives. Unfortunately illness prevented her from finishing the job as she would have liked. When it became obvious she would not be able to work in an office any longer her collection was repacked and moved to storage in archives.

After her death I began to process the boxes and files. The many moves of her collection resulted in disorganization of her materials. What had been in file drawers were placed in boxes; some files vertical and some horizontal. One had to be careful when removing them that the contents didn't spill out. Not only did she have about 20 boxes of files she also had 4 boxes of books, ranging from the very rare to the latest French/English dictionary and 6 library catalog boxes filled with 3X5 note cards.

I delved in with my limited knowledge of the Sisters of Mercy in New Orleans and began what I would call a rough sort. I just wanted to have an idea what was there and organize it in some way. Fortunately most of the folders still had labels on them which made this sort much easier. When I had finished I had 14 bankers' boxes of hanging files of documents, 4 small boxes of books and several small flat boxes of “papers”.

I had learned early on to never tilt a folder when removing it from a box. Sr. Hermenia was an English teacher who collected information on 3X5 cards, all correctly referenced. So along with the 6 boxes already mentioned there were some cards in many of the folders. Also within many of the files were

small bits of paper with notes written on them. It took me awhile to realize that these bits were originally one large notebook page that she had cut apart to place in the correct subject folder. When I finished the first sort I found a variety of subjects from early history of New Orleans to most recent news of Sisters in New Orleans.

One challenge I had, came from the folders she had marked “bits and pieces” or “this and that”. These were items that she had hoped to find a proper home for in her collection. I began this stack of folders and encountered another small trial. Sr. Hermenia's hand writing was exceptionally small. But armed with a magnifying glass I worked my way through the pile. Sometimes though when only a small bit of writing appeared on a small piece of paper with many of her own abbreviations, I was at a lose. Is there an archival category called “bits and pieces”?

Other tribulations included her habit of making multiple copies. As I began shifting through the titled folders with information from the bits and pieces I would find 3 or 4 copies of the same article or clipping. In the Sister Austin Carroll letters there were copies of copies some with different notes on them. I also ran across several folders with exactly the same thing in them. Duplicates were discarded.

My favorite trial was a box about 8 ½ by 11 by 2 inches that was overflowing with newspaper articles. These news clippings were mostly from the late 1800's early 1900's. There were original news clippings that were in good condition and looked as if they had been removed from a scrapbook. There were copies of clippings that were made on some of the earliest copiers, many of which were faded making them very hard to read. Lastly there were copies made from microfilm. These were white on black and sometimes very blurred.

While this box was a trial it was also a treasure. The news clippings provided information about early Sisters' entrance,

reception, and vow ceremonies as well as happenings in the different works that the Sisters undertook.

Other treasures in Sr. Hermenia's collection are some of the rare books. While many are Sr. M. Theresa Austin Carroll's works, there are others that were published in Ireland. Other treasures include several original letters that were written by Sr. Austin and documents from her publishers. Thanks to Sr. Hermenia the Sisters of Mercy St. Louis Collection has copies of most if not all of the letters written by or to Sr. Austin as well as many that were written about her. Sister Hermenia would also make a carbon of her correspondence. Her letters to others are a delightful read, full of news and information.

The Sisters of Mercy are very grateful to Sr. M. Hermenia for her diligence in researching and collecting information and I am grateful to her for the knowledge her collection has given me.

Roberta Doelling, [rdoeffling@mercysc.org](mailto:rdoeffling@mercysc.org)

## REQUEST FOR SUGGESTIONS

As a new member of ACWR, I am very grateful for access to your collective wisdom. Before I entered in 2000 I was a professional librarian. Now I am a member of an international contemplative monastic order (Order of the Most Holy Redeemer) Redemptoristine Nuns in New York, I am the archivist for our community.

Last week one of the sisters who made this foundation in 1957 passed into the embrace of God. She was also the archivist here for a good number of years and completely reorganized the collection for which I am very grateful. I am now in the process of going through her papers. Among them are a few journal books. I am wondering how you would recommend I preserve them. None of these hard cover journal books is entirely filled with entries. Far from it. In an effort to conserve space, may I remove the pages that have been written on, mark them and dispose of the

remaining blank pages? If I save the material in this way, how do you recommend I save the pages? We use acid free file folders and file boxes for our collection. Is this adequate? I also thought about photocopying the pages on acid free paper.

Any suggestions or recommendations of resources for suggestions regarding conservation of a nun's personal papers would be greatly appreciated.

Hildegard Pleva, OSsR, [hpleva@gmail.com](mailto:hpleva@gmail.com)

## TIP FOR DISPLAYING PHOTOGRAPHS FOR COMMORATIVE EVENTS

All you Picasa 3 photo software users are probably acquainted with the collage feature in this free program [www.picasa.com, easily downloaded to your computer] but for those who aren't, here's a tip for enhancing your photographs for a special display.

Faced with displaying photographs covering 160 years of our community in a bulletin board case, 5' X 3', I was able to put together 16 collages, each containing 4 or 5 pictures from each decade. Simply scan whatever photographs you wish, save them in the Picasa program, edit them, if necessary.



Then, highlight the ones you want for a specific picture, hit the collage button, and voila!, you have several choices of the final product: mosaic, picture pile, frame mosaic, grid. It's very easy to move pictures around until you have the look you want. You can print them out in various sizes. And if you already have your photographs on your computer, it's even faster!

Mary Denis Maher, CSA, [smdm@srssofcharity.org](mailto:smdm@srssofcharity.org)

## CALL TO FRANCISCAN CHARISM

My congregation (the Dubuque Franciscans) is working on “initial formation” differently to our former model, now focusing on the call to Franciscan charism which is common to vowed members, associates, and volunteers. Different subgroups of sisters and associates are preparing modules in different areas for persons desiring to know about our congregation: not surprisingly my subgroup is charged with creating modules on community history.



At our initial meeting, we were in agreement that the best way to educate is by “telling stories”. We sent out an invitation to sisters, associates and other acquaintances to share with us a story of how a sister’s (or associate’s) living of Franciscan values had touched the respondent in some way; we purposely left the invitation somewhat vague in order to invite a variety of responses. The response was astounding: over 60 stories were shared with us, of which just a small number were not usable (because they lacked the personal element we were looking for.) The stories celebrate teachers, principals, home-makers, orphanage staff, friends; women of deep prayer and deep compassion; those who could bring laughter to others; those of great deeds and those of great heart. They range in length from three lines to a page.

Each module consists of three to six stories sharing a general theme. We put each story into context, sometimes with a little information about the sister’s life, or ministry; provided references from our four congregational histories to illustrate how the value is manifested in our history and suggested reflection questions for each module. Each module has the same opening prayer, and the same closing prayer format: a “litany of the saints” including the sisters celebrated in the stories of the particular module. At this point the charism modules (ours and those of other subgroups) are not yet in use, so we’ve had no feedback. We do

know that we as a subgroup have been enriched, touched, and awed by the recognition of God’s love shining in our sisters.

As archivist I plan to make the stories available to any sisters or associates who wish to read them – and to invite the submission of any, (and hopefully many,) more to reflect our everyday congregational history!

Veronica Bagenstos, OSF, [veronica@osfdbq.org](mailto:veronica@osfdbq.org)

## THE MURPHY LOG CABIN LOCATED ON THE ORIGINAL PROPERTY OF THE URSULINE SISTERS

Archivists have an abiding concern for the stories and history upon which the present day adventures are built. Sister

The Murphy Log Cabin - 1806



Mary Paul Walsh, Archivist of the Ursuline Sisters of Brown County, is no exception. When an opportunity presented to be in contact with the owners of the Murphy Log Cabin, an historical landmark on the original property where the foundress of the Ursuline sisters established the Congregation in 1845 she seized the opportunity.

Sister Julia Chatfield brought ten Ursuline Sisters from Boulogne and Beauleau, France to begin a school in northern Brown County at the request of Archbishop John B. Purcell in 1845. Sister Julia was an English woman from a distinguished Anglican family who as a school girl in the Ursuline Boarding School in France was so taken by the kindness and love of the Sisters that she became attracted to the Roman Catholic faith. She converted to Catholicism and this eventually caused her father to disown her. Her later entrance into the Ursuline Community caused this to be a permanent rift between herself and her family.

The land on which the new community of Ursuline Sisters settled was a property known as Soldiers' Land after the Revolutionary War and General William Lytle deeded his section to the Diocese of Cincinnati with the stipulation that it be used for education. Archbishop Purcell decided to give the property to Sister Julia and the Ursulines and since 1845 to the present, education continues to be the continued purpose for the land.

The first log cabin church was built on this property in 1830 by Father Martin Kundig the founding pastor. He named the church and the village, St. Martin.

At the time that the Ursulines came to Brown County they were located on the first road to be surveyed by the State of Ohio. The road was completed in 1806 and parts of it are still called Anderson State Road named after the man who surveyed it. The road was built to connect Cincinnati with the Capital of Ohio which at that time was Chillicothe.

When Sister Julia and her small band arrived in Brown County they found a beautiful, but rural and difficult, landscape. They set about to bring order, gentility and education to this unfettered area. From a log cabin church beginning they built an Academy and a College and moved with the times to educate generations of young people from the surrounding area and beyond.

The Murphy Log Cabin sits along the Anderson Road about a mile from the main area where the Ursuline Sisters reside. Daniel Murphy who was born in Cork, Ireland on June 8, 1808 emigrated from Ireland and raised his family in the Log Cabin Home. A daughter Catherine Murphy was professed as a lay sister in the Ursuline Community with the name Sister Louise on February 14, 1869. She died on April 5, 1926.

Currently the home is owned by Joseph and Betty Murphy Mehn. Betty is the great-granddaughter of Daniel Murphy. The home which has been in the family for more than 120 years was registered in 1982 in the National

Registry of Historic Places. Joseph Mehn has restored the home to its original design and décor. This project took seven years for completion.

The pictures which accompany this article give some idea of the look of the cabin in the past and today in its restored condition. It is a two-story structure and each floor has two rooms. The interior has bear skin and Victorian furniture. The siding and furniture are painted red and blue (commercial paint) not the former type made from berries, red okra and milk. The furniture and floor coverings are of the same vintage.

The history of the Ursuline Community founded by Sister Julia Chatfield has through the years been so entwined with the history of



The Murphy Log Cabin today

Brown County that early on they became known as the Ursulines of Brown County. It is exciting to realize that the Anderson Road continues to display a living symbol of the log cabin life of the early community and preserves that moment in history.

*Mary Paul Walsh, OSU, mpwalsh@tds.net*

## ARCHIVES PRESERVE HERITAGE

In an age when the demand for information is instantaneous, reflecting on the past may be obsolete for some. For others, it is a vital heritage on which the present and future is built. "Ministry's collections demonstrate wit, grit and devotion" and focuses on the archival and museum programs of several religious communities. The article is in the March 15, 2011 issue of Catholic Health World and can be found at:

[http://www.chausa.org/Ministrys\\_collections\\_demonstrate\\_wit\\_grit\\_and\\_devotion.aspx](http://www.chausa.org/Ministrys_collections_demonstrate_wit_grit_and_devotion.aspx).

*Loretta Zwolak Greene, archives@providence.org*

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (SCN) Archival Center is pleased to announce the launch of their new website. Located on the SCN Family website at [www.scnfamily.org/archives/](http://www.scnfamily.org/archives/), the website features a brief video introduction to the Archives Center and its collections, information about the staff, contact and researcher information, a brief history of the congregation, as well the first of our digitized collections and finding aids. One of the most exciting features available for researchers is our first digitized collection consisting of images and transcripts of the correspondence of Mother Catherine Spalding, foundress of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth.

Anna Powell,, [apowell@scnky.org](mailto:apowell@scnky.org)

## AN ARCHIVIST SHARES HER STORY

Sister Colette Livingston, OSU, Cleveland, has occupied her time in the Ursuline Sisters Archives by fulfilling requests of former students preparing for their class reunions. Other requests come in the form of information about an ancestor who attended one of many schools in Cleveland since Ursulines came there in 1850. She also gives tours of three heritage rooms to Ursuline College students who study the way women learn as a preliminary course. When Colette is 'all caught up,' she works in another area of the motherhouse making phase boxes which custom fit some very old books. One of her many long-range plans will be to transfer a good many audio and video cassette tapes to disc for posterity.

Colette Livingston, OSU, [clivingston@ursulinesisters.org](mailto:clivingston@ursulinesisters.org)

## ACWR MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

ACWR welcomes 7 new members since our Fall 2010 Newsletter publication. Addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, etc. for these new members are available in the membership directory on our website ([www.archivistsacwr.org](http://www.archivistsacwr.org)). New members are:

- Grant Gerlich, Belmont, NC
- Judi Keehnen, CSJ, Batavia, OH
- Patricia Lawton, Notre Dame, IN
- Diane Miller, OSB, Watertown, SD
- M. Teresa Stephen Pereira, O.Carm., Germantown, NY
- Hildegard Pleva, OSsR, Esopus, NY
- Rachel West, OSF, Oldenburg, IN

Current membership in ACWR is 260.

## Conference 2012

The 7<sup>th</sup> ACWR Triennial Conference will be held on September 6-9, 2012 at the Doubletree Hotel in New Orleans with the theme *Meeting the Challenges of the Present: Shaping Our Future Now*. Hope you are planning ahead to attend this event. If you have not already volunteered to be on a Committee for the Conference and you wish to be a Committee member please email the National Office Secretary, Jan Harvey, at [acwr@juno.com](mailto:acwr@juno.com). The Committees in place are: Program, Liturgy, Local Arrangements, Hospitality/Tours and Awards/Scholarships. The ACWR Board will hold its Spring Board Meeting at the Doubletree Hotel in May of this year. They will be working on the planning and details of this upcoming Conference and hope to make it exciting and informative with interesting material for all members and guests. If you have ideas you wish to share please email or call one of the officers or the ACWR office and share your wisdom. The Triennial Conference is always a magnificent time for networking and sharing new insights. Board members look forward to welcoming you to New Orleans.

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**DEADLINE FOR FALL NEWSLETTER**

**OCTOBER 15, 2011**

Send articles and pictures to Louise Grundish, SC, [lgrundish@scsh.org](mailto:lgrundish@scsh.org)