



ACWR NEWS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear ACWR members,

Happy springtime! I hope you had a blessed Lenten season, a happy Easter and will now continue to enjoy the blessings of this special season.



S. Mary Ann

I am happy to congratulate and thank the new officers of ACWR: Vice- President/President Elect Francis Assisi Kennedy, OSF, Oldenburg, IN, and Secretary Winifred Doyle, CSJ, Brentwood, NY. Our next Treasurer will be Therese Burns, Sister of Charity of Seton Hill from Greensburg, PA. (Once again, the President and Treasurer will be from the same congregation.) We all extend our thanks to everyone who was a nominee. Thank you to everyone who voted! Thanks are also due to our Past President, Mary Denis Maher, CSA, who will complete her three-year term in August. We are grateful, also, to Mary Louise Mutch, FSPA who will conclude her service as Treasurer in mid-May. ACWR has been blessed with marvelous and generous women who have served as officers through the years. We trust more of you are willing to be nominated in the future.



S. Francis Assisi



S. Winifred



S. Therese

All the work of the Election Committee --- Jane Behlmann, CSJ, and Marylu Stueber, FSM--- needs to be acknowledged with our gratitude. Assisting them was our outstanding Executive Secretary, Jan Harvey. Thank you all!

Hopefully, you check the ACWR website regularly. Joyce Richter, SC, of Cincinnati, is doing the marvelous work of maintaining our website. We are especially grateful the newsletter can now be distributed electronically to most members. That way we not only save trees but also money.

Our ACWR board is continuing to plan for the 2009 ACWR triennial conference which will be held in Milwaukee, WI, September 17-20. Before we finalize the program, please let us know if you have suggestions for topics and/or speakers. Any suggestions would be appreciated prior to our May 16-18 board meeting. Please call or email me, Louise Grundish, SC or Mary Denis Maher, CSA

Blessings on your continued ministry as keepers of the tradition in your respective congregations.

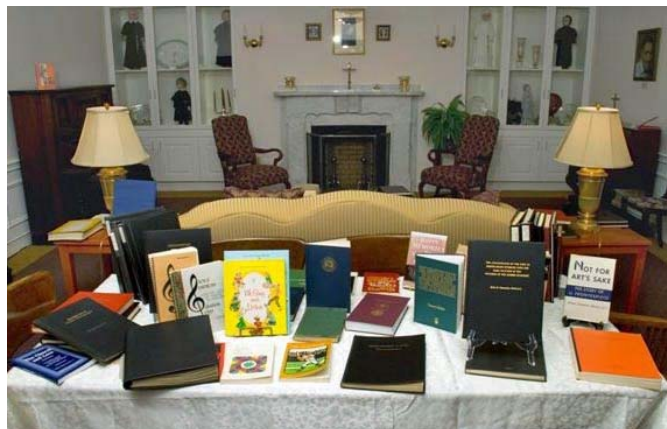
Peace and all good,
Mary Ann Gschwind, FSPA, ACWR President

DISPLAYS OPEN THE ARCHIVES TO ADVENTURE

Many times the Archives are viewed as a mysterious and complicated world. Many of our Sisters are reluctant to come and see. In an effort to open the possibilities of the Archives to the sisters and also to provide some idea of what types of papers, manuscripts, and other items should be preserved, displays at the Sisters of Charity, Seton Hill archives have been set up at intervals. Every effort is made to make the displays interesting, attractive, and inviting.

The first display held in Archives Month consisted of plaques and honors received by several sisters, both living and deceased.

Since it is not the custom of sisters to tell of their achievements, the large display of honors received was a revelation to many who visited. Sisters spent time browsing and commenting that they were amazed at the accomplishments of so many of the sisters.



Display table in the Seton Hill Archives

The second display which was available from the beginning of February until the first week of March was of books, doctoral dissertations, and manuscripts written by our sisters. Once again there was a renewed interest in the writings of individual sisters and many sisters spent time in the Heritage room just sitting and reading excerpts from the books and documents available.

It appears that this is one way of opening the Archives to the sisters and helping them have a sense of history. The archives staff has also noticed an increase in the number of sisters who come to the archives for assistance or send valuable items. These often arrive with a note saying, "I didn't think you would be interested."

Louise Grundish, SC, Seton Hill, lgrundish@scsh.org

ACWR BOARD AUTHORIZES TWO DONATIONS

At the October 26-27, 2007, ACWR Board meeting, officers agreed to send a \$1000 donation to the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans. On June 30, 2005, the Sisters

had dedicated the Mother Henriette Delille Museum to exhibit archival materials related to their foundress. In late August, 2005, Hurricane Katrina destroyed most of the museum. The ACWR donation is being used to restore exhibit cases and other furniture damaged by water, mold, mildew and mud.

In thanking ACWR, Doris Goudeaux, SSF, Director of the Henriette Delille Commission Office, said, "In spite of all the loss and heartache, our Congregation has received many blessings for which we are grateful. We pray daily for our friends and benefactors. We are getting our lives together and restoring our ministries. "

A \$500 donation was also sent to Dr. John Bavaro at Slippery Rock University to assist with the major exhibit "Sisters in Healthcare History" which focuses on the healthcare ministries of Sisters in western Pennsylvania. ACWR Vice-President Louise Grundish, SC, is involved with this project. Dr. Bavaro also sent a "thank you" letter to ACWR. As the project develops, detailed information is available at www.srshistoryproject.org.

GET A GRANT!

The Library of Congress and the Foundation Center have published "[Foundation Grants for Preservation in Libraries, Archives, and Museums](#)." This guide lists 1,725 grants of \$5,000 or more awarded by 474 foundations from 2003 through 2007. The publication includes hotlinks to free online grant-writing tutorials, a statistical analysis of grant funding, state-by-state descriptions of projects funded in preservation, indexes of recipients, and a list of all foundations that have donated to preservation. For more information, go to:

<http://www.loc.gov/preserv/>.

ROBERTA DOELLING'S JOURNEY TO BECOMING A CERTIFIED ARCHIVIST



Roberta

I often tell people that I fell into the job of being an archivist. I really had no plans to become an archivist, but when opportunity knocked, I flung wide the door. I had been an elementary/junior high teacher for 27 years.

When in college I had minored in history and it was in this area I taught. I loved sharing all the "life stories" of the historic figures students called boring.

After retiring from education, I looked around for a part time position just to have a little extra spending money. In 2002 I saw a notice that the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas St. Louis Regional Community Archives were looking for a part time secretary. I applied, but was hired as an associate archivist. Thus began my journey to becoming a certified archivist.

It started with tiny steps. I learned about the Sisters of Mercy. What a wonderful and interesting history! I still remember the awe and reverence I felt at finding my first treasure, the hand written final vows of one of the Sisters from 1889. I was hooked. Now I needed to learn more about these fascinating records and how to best care for them.

I read the fundamental books published by the Society of American Archivists. I traveled to Washington, DC to take the Religious Archives Institute at Catholic University. I attended meetings of the local archives groups in St. Louis, and national Society of the American Archivists and ACWR conferences.

While attending the SAA conference in Boston, I first saw the Academy of Certified Archivists booth. My first thought was "I'm too old to worry about that. By the time I learn

enough to pass the exam I will be ready to retire." I, also, felt I had too many other commitments at home which kept me from dedicating the time necessary for study for such a test. I did continue to study about archives through the meetings of the local archives groups and workshops.

My responsibilities at work changed. I became the archivist for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas St. Louis Regional Community Archives. My co-worker, S. Mary Jeremy Buckman encouraged me to "look into taking the exam." Thus encouraged and with the support of the Sisters of Mercy, St. Louis Regional Leadership Team, I decided it was time for me to take the Archival Certification Examination.

I began at the ACA (Academy of Certified Archivists) website, www.certifiedarchivists.org, where I found the helpful "Handbook for Archival Certification." This online resource aided my understanding of the Academy and the application process for the test. It explained the Role Delineation within the archives profession, provided a study guide, sample test, and a listing of selected readings.

I asked at the local archives groups if any one was interested in taking the Archival Certification Exam in August of 2007. There were several interested parties and a wonderful Certified Archivist, Sonya Rooney, who volunteered to help us set up a study group. E-mail addresses were exchanged. In January 2007 our group was formed. At our first meeting we discussed our study schedule and the best way for us to cover as much material as possible. Realizing that speed reading was not a talent we shared, we decided to "split" the readings. Notes and questions would be provided for each reading by the person volunteering to do that reading. These notes and questions including the page numbers would be e-mailed to the other members of the group prior to our meeting on that domain. At the meeting we would discuss

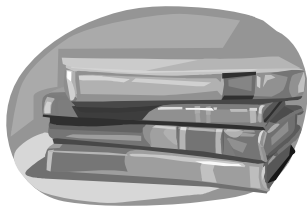
the notes, questions and answers. Thus we made our way through the seven domains and background information. Fortunately, we had started our journey together early enough that we had nine meetings before the exam.

On August 28, 2007 at sites throughout the United States nervous, eager archivists took the 2007 Archival Certification Examination. Anxiety remained high until we received our results in October.

*Roberta Doelling, CA, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
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NUNS AND RACIAL JUSTICE --- a book review

The New Nuns: Racial Justice and Religious Reform in the 1960s. By Amy L. Koehlinger. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007. Pp. x, 304. \$45.00 cloth.)



This study is a comprehensive and insightful account of the work of Catholic women religious in the racial justice movement of the 1960s. The author has fulfilled her purpose of tracing the historical origins of the racial apostolate, outlining some of its dominant features, and discussing the effect racial-justice activism had on the individual women who engaged in it. The author notes that while “The New Nuns” did not substantially impact the civil rights movement, the civil rights movement had a dramatic impact on not only the individuals who directly worked in it, but on many other Catholic Sisters. The book documents how Sisters’ involvement in the “racial apostolate” affected them, using Sisters’ letters and interviews to tell the story from their perspective. The bibliography is exhaustive, including many records from the files of the Sister Formation Conference and the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice. This book is a fascinating

and thorough account of how ecclesial, gender and racial outlooks within church and society during the 1950s and 1960s intersected to produce a profound change in Catholic women religious.

The first three chapters chart the quiet transformation taking place in women’s religious congregations beginning as early as the 1940s. Through a series of conferences and at the urging of the Vatican, Sisters saw the need to become more professionally competent, broaden their awareness of social issues, and be prepared to move beyond their traditional boundaries. In response to this growing awareness, new organizations such as the Sister Formation Conference provided theological and intellectual resources that enabled women religious to gradually change their outlook on their place in the world. Sisters began to leave the relative insularity of their convents and Catholic institutions to become involved in outreach to the broader world, including involvement in the civil rights movement. Although over time the Department of Educational Services (DES) of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice took over from the Sisters Formation Conference in coordinating the Sisters’ involvement in the racial apostolate, the Sisters’ public activism contributed to their own personal transformation. These “New Nuns” came to see themselves and their role in church and society differently.

The second half of the book is devoted to three case studies of Sisters’ involvement in the racial apostolate. “Sisters in Selma: Working Under Jim Crow” discusses the work, beginning in 1940, of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester, New York, whose Good Samaritan Hospital in Selma was the only one which treated African Americans. In 1965 these Sisters found themselves in the middle of the maelstrom of the Selma to Montgomery Civil Rights March. This chapter recounts the work of these Sisters as they related to and supported the marchers while continuing their hospital ministry. Another chapter recounts the work of Sisters at Project Cabrini, a summer

school they conducted at the Cabrini Green housing project in Chicago. The last chapter documents the work coordinated through the National Placement Bureau of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice. This account contains excerpts of numerous letters from Sisters seeking to be involved in the racial apostolate. Simultaneously they were coming to realize that with the changes occurring in the civil rights movement and the rise of Black Power, their involvement was no longer desired or appropriate.

This book is a fascinating study of a unique historical period when changes in the Catholic Church, American race relations, and feminist consciousness coincided to produce profound changes in the outlooks and lives of American women religious. The Sisters' experience in the racial apostolate raised their consciousness on several levels and resulted in profound personal transformations. The author allows the reader to share the Sisters' experiences and to understand on a deep level what these experiences have meant in the subsequent life of women religious – "The New Nuns."

Judith Metz, SC, Archivist
Judith.Metz@srcharitycinti.org

Ed. Note: This review first appeared in the *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*

SAVE THESE DATES

6th Triennial ACWR Conference
"Trailblazers:
Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow"

SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2009

National ACWR Conference
Clarion Hotel and Conference Center
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

USING BULLETIN BOARDS TO SHOWCASE COMMUNITY HISTORY

The Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon have started a practice a year ago which has proved to be interesting and well accepted.

They prepare a bulletin board with historical information about the Sisters, and these bulletin boards are put up for the month of March in our High School, Grade School, Nursing Home and Convent. They have pictures and stories that tell about happenings of the past.

The first Board had pictures and stories of the important happenings in our history – building of the first Convent, the Nursing Home, the new High School, the Day Care, the addition of boys to our Academy, and other fascinating bits of history. These boards are left up for the entire month and we find that those reading them are fascinated and eager for the next year's bit of history.

The Board this year has pictures and stories of ten special Sisters of the past, who exemplified "living valiantly."

The one being prepared for next year will show all the various ministries our Sisters have undertaken through the years – the Orphanage, teaching in Public Schools before the Garb Bill, the Academy, the Music program, Our Missionary endeavors in Peru, the Boarding School, the Day Care, Foreign Students, Prison Ministry, Taking charge of CYO, Nursing Home, etc. There will be pictures and stories.

This educational endeavor has benefited not only the staffs of the various ministries on campus and their visitors, but also our younger Sisters.

Rose Dolores Costello, SSMO, archives@ssmo.org

MARYLU STUEBER, FSM, RECEIVES ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Scott Grimwald, ASLAA co-chair, and S. Marylu

Marylu Stueber, FSM, has received the 2008 Association of St. Louis Archivists Association (ASLAA) *Archives Achievement Award*. Mike Everman, co-chair of ASLAA, in introducing her, said this is an award “long overdue,” citing the numerous presentations for “mission awareness” made to SSM Health Care and its hospitals, sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Mary. S. Marylu was a founder of the St. Louis Area Religious Archivists (SLARA) in 1987, served as its chairperson for ten years and continued as a very active participant in the organization. She researched and gave presentations to various groups within the Franciscan Sisters of Mary and their employees.

S. Marylu is also a member of ACWR and has presented *Introduction to Archives II* (preservation, physical condition, policies and access/use of archives) and participated in a panel on mergers of Congregations and their implications for archives. She has been chair of the ACWR election committee for many years. In 2004, she was presented with the Franciscan Federation *Peacemaker Award* for her work in archives and was honored by her Congregation as a *Prophetic Woman*.

NATIVE AMERICANS AND WOMEN RELIGIOUS- new digital collection

Marquette University's newest digital collection – *The Indian Sentinel* – includes numerous articles pertaining to Native Americans in the United States and women religious ministering to them.

Users of the digital collection, built with CONTENTdm software, may search by keyword, by year, and by state/territory. Users may also browse all issues and conduct advanced keyword searches in selected fields. The ability to search almost 10,000 pages within the 319 issues will not only serve researchers, but will also assist archivists in conducting thorough reference service when working with the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions Records, which is integrally tied to *The Indian Sentinel*. The BCIM collection contains more than 500 cubic feet of records and, includes thousands of photographic images submitted for publication, including images selected for the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions Digital Photograph Collection, one of Marquette's first digital collections.

More:

http://www.marquette.edu/library/information/news/2008/Indian_Sentinel.html

UP-COMING NEWS ON THE ACWR WEBSITE

A group of ACWR archivists from western and northwestern PA and some from Ohio are now meeting twice a year to share on topics of mutual interest and also visit each others' archives. Look for an article with pictures on this group in late April at www.archivistsacwr.org. Joanne Gardner, HM, Director of Communications & Archives, Sisters of the Humility of Mary, Villa Maria PA, offered to submit the article.

MARYKNOLL ARCHIVES RECEIVES GRANT FOR IMAGES

The Maryknoll Mission Archives in New York is the recipient of a three year grant from the Mellon Foundation to select and catalog over 4000 images of the Philippines, North Korea, Japan, and several hundred glass negatives and positives of China.

The grant, for \$36,000, is administered through the University of Southern California Center for Religion and Civic Culture in Los Angeles. The images and metadata will be uploaded to the Internet Mission Photography Archive (IMPA) hosted by USC.

The Maryknoll Mission Archives has worked with USC on a previous collaborative effort similar to this current grant. The previous grant was through the Getty Foundation and images were scanned and cataloged of the China mission work of Maryknoll. Those images are available on the USC website IMPA.

*Ellen Pierce, Maryknoll Archives
epierce@Maryknoll.org*

NEW ARCHIVIST SHARES HER FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE



S. Connie

In March 2007 I was a busy, elementary grade school teacher involved with my students and in love with teaching. Now, March 2008 finds me a busy

archivist of the Sisters of Charity of New York involved with my Congregation and in love with archival work.

I have had a wonderful introduction to archival work. I interned for two summers under a

“master archivist,” Rita King, SCNY. (I am still interning, only we call it “mentoring.”) Sister Rita organized a professional growth experience for me which included time for tours, tasks and reading in the field. In October 2007, I attended an Introductory Archival Workshop in Malvern, Pennsylvania given by the Catholic Library Association under the leadership of Executive Director, Jean R. Bostley, SSJ. The instructors, Ellen Pierce,MLS,CA, Director of Maryknoll Mission Archives, and Malachy R McCarthy, PHD, MLS, Province Archivist for the Claretian Missionary Order, laughingly but rightfully referred to the workshop as “Boot camp for Archivists.” We were introduced to every aspect of archival work, from its history to the newest digital systems. I enthusiastically recommend this workshop for any new archive personnel.

In the glow of that workshop, I returned to work. My days were filled with genealogy searches, orphanage queries, requests from researchers, quests for long lost favorite teachers, and questions about great, great aunts who could have been Sisters of Charity. In each request, my mentor, S. Rita was there not to do, but to advise. I also strongly feel that a beginning archivist should have a wisdom figure or mentor archivist as a guide. I feel this way because of the nature of archival work, as you will see as you read on.

Before my teaching days, I was a professional librarian on all levels of education. As a librarian, I ordered materials from catalogs or lists, cataloged them in the universal and well studied Dewey Decimal System, and made these bright new materials accessible to youngsters who raced to the shelves for the prize of an assigned book or video.

Now as an archivist, I receive material that is given to me from our Leadership or members, catalog it according to a Finding Aid that was set up by Sister Rita for our religious congregation archives. In some cases we have to restore the material for preservation

and store it according to its genre, size, etc. but always according to the Finding Aid. It is important to note that in our case, as is probably the case with most religious congregations, the system has been developed by the archivist, the storage boxes placed by the archivist and kept free from dust by the archivist. Is it any wonder that my respect for the archivists that preceded me has grown and continues to grow with each day?

As my first year flies by, I am becoming more aware not only of the work involved in establishing and maintaining archives, but also of the necessity of archives to religious congregations. As our ministries evolve, our sponsored institutions adapt with and for the people they serve. As our membership increases or diminishes, it is imperative that our past be preserved, and our present be recorded before it is forgotten in the rush so common in this electronic age. Lastly, I continue to be impressed with the services archives render to Congregation leadership and to all who “ask or e-mail a question.” Is it any wonder that I am pleased and proud to join the ranks of Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious?

Constance Brennan, SCNY, cbrennan@scny.org

S. ELAINE WHEELER, DC – AN INTERVIEW



S. Elaine

What was your background and experience before becoming an archivist in 1979?

I taught biology to students at Cardinal McCloskey and Bishop Maginn H.S. in Albany, NY for 21 years. I organized the H.S.

Biology teachers to help train 6th, 7th and 8th grade teachers how to better teach the

children. They are interested and want to learn, to plan classes well, to be interesting, and offering hands-on-experience.

What has been your most challenging aspect of your job as archivist?

In 1979, our Visitatrix, Sister Mary Basil Roarke, requested that I spend a year or so working to establishing our Provincial Archives. I've been at it ever since! The first challenge was to create an archival arrangement to organize the records in a unified system, i.e., administration, history correspondence, reports to various organizations. Second, to teach others, especially those new to the job, how to write reports and keep records; urging them to join a few professional organizations and see what they are doing and to learn what beginners need to know and do to succeed at the job.

In what ways do you see your position as archivist as a ministry?

I have helped several other Communities organize their Archives based on professional standards. We were always working to preserve the history and records of the Sisters and works of the Community. I have been at it 21 years, 15 years as a Certified Archivist. I have always been willing to help new comers for free.

Talk a bit about your experience in training archivists of 15 religious communities.

Initially, I spent much time working with the archivists of the hospitals administered by the Daughters of Charity, as well as the Daughters of Charity National Health System. I even traveled to England and Australia to assist the Daughters there in establishing their Archives. Through ACWR and SAA, I came in contact with many Sisters new to the job. Generally, the new archivists would travel to our Provincial House here in Albany and spend a few days working with me in the Archives. I helped them prepare an archival arrangement and discussed what to collect

and how to categorize the records. The Sisters responded very well and all worked hard. In several cases, as a follow-up, I traveled to make a consultation at their archives.

What advice would you give a beginning archivist?

Join ACWR and the Society of American Archivists. Visit established archives to get some ideas of where and how to begin.

How has ACWR been helpful to you in your work? And/or what might ACWR do to improve its services to archivists of religious communities?

ACWR helped me get my basic training in the field, i.e., what to save and how to save it; what equipment to buy, where to get good supplies and equipment at good prices, because most religious Communities have limited money.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Come visit us. We will give you a tour of our archives any time you would like - for FREE! Daughters of Charity Northeast Province, 96 Menand Rd., Albany, NY 12204 518/462-5593 <http://www.dc-northeast.org/archives>

RELIGIOUS LIFE THROUGH THE GENERATIONS” PROJECT

The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana are involved in an oral history project – “Religious Life Through the Generations.” The main emphasis of this project is to illustrate what has motivated women from each of the different generations to enter religious life and how their concept of the vows are similar or different. Additionally, this project is examining the spiritual lives of these women and how this aspect of their lives has changed through the years.

One sister from each of the following generations is being interviewed: Civic or G.I. Generation (1901-1931), Adaptive or Mediating Generation (1932-1944), Boomer Generation (1945-1963) and GenX/Diversity Generation (1964-1981). When the project is completed, the four oral histories will be part of an exhibit of photos and audio clips in the Congregation’s Heritage Museum. The digitally recorded histories along with their transcriptions will be available in Archives and will eventually appear on the Wabash Valley Visions and Voices: A Digital Memory Project (<http://visions.indstate.edu/>).

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ACWR NEWSLETTER
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DEADLINE FOR FALL NEWSLETTER
October 15, 2008
Send articles and pictures to
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