



ACWR

Third Triennial Conference

MEMORIES
MILLENNIUM
THE MESSAGE

September 28 - October 1, 2000

Holiday Inn
Independence/Cleveland, Ohio

ACWR CONFERENCE 2000 IS A SUCCESS!

The ACWR held its third Triennial Conference in Cleveland, Ohio September 28 through October 1, 2000. 208 ACWR members, LCWR leaders and friends were in attendance. The four-day conference was filled with educational and informative sessions that left both participants and organizers pleased with the experience.

Sister Sabina Collins, OSF, the out-going President of the ACWR, began the conference with a warm welcome to those gathered in the ballroom of the Holiday Inn, Independence, Ohio. Sister Kathryn Callahan, CSC, the current President, next introduced the keynote speaker, Sister Clare Fitzgerald, SSND, who spoke of the archivists' mission to preserve the history of women religious in America.

The theme of the conference, Memories, Millennium and Message was carried through the entire weekend conference. The sessions held on Friday and Saturday consisted of practical and enlightening topics designed to enhance not only archival practice but also the professional relationships between the archivist and her community. The session topics ranged from Oral History, Policies and Procedures, Disaster Preparedness, Moving an Archive to the Use of the Internet. Both the ACWR/WRA connection and the LCWR/ACWR relationship were examined.

There were many light moments that contrasted with the heavier content of the sessions. The planning committee provided enjoyable excursions to the Ursuline and the Sisters of Charity Mother houses, as well as tours around Cleveland on "Lolly the Trolley." The conference ended on Sunday with the annual business meeting, a closing address given by Dolores Liptak, RSM, and finally a liturgy. Members of the choir of St. Anthony's Church led those at the hotel. Rev. Ralph E. Wiatrowski, Chancellor of the Cleveland Diocese and Director of the Diocesan Archives, celebrated the Mass. Conference

participants left Cleveland asking: "When will the next conference be held and where?"

NEW OFFICERS SWORN IN AT TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

The membership of the ACWR took the opportunity of the Triennial Conference to have the annual business meeting of the organization. At this time the new officers were sworn in. Kathryn Callahan, CSC and Edna McKeever, CSJ took the oath to serve the ACWR as officers for the next year. Kathryn Callahan will serve one year as president. She will continue her service to the board at the end of her presidency for an additional year as Past-President. Edna McKeever became the Vice-President/ President-Elect, and will serve the Board for a total of three years. She will serve one year as Vice-President, a year as President, and then conclude her work on the Board as Past-President

As reported in the previous issue of the *ACWR News*, Elvira Kelley, OSF, was reelected as Secretary. The membership of the Board consists of Kathryn Callahan, CSC, President, Edna McKeever, CSJ, Vice President/President Elect, Elvira Kelley, OSF, Secretary, Joann Kessler, OSU, Treasurer, and Patricia Hodge, RSM, Member-at-Large.



MEMBERS OF THE ACWR BOARD, OLD AND NEW:
Back: Dolores Liptak, RSM, 1998 President, Joann Kessler, OSU, Treasurer, Edna McKeever, CSJ, Vice President. Front: Elvira Kelley, OSF, Secretary, Mary Beth Fraser, Executive Secretary, Kathryn Callahan, CSC, President, Patricia Hodge, RSM, Member-at-Large.



Kathryn Callahan, CSC

Dear Sisters,

It is with great pleasure that I begin my term as President of ACWR. The previous year's experience as the ACWR Vice President and serving with the other Board members has been instructive and rewarding. I would especially like to thank Sabina Collins, OSF, Past President who has made a valuable contribution to ACWR during these past two years. Because Sister is retiring from archival work,

she has elected to resign from the ACWR Board.

At the end of September, the ACWR held its third Triennial Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. Our thanks to

the members of the Planning and Programming Committees whose hard work and tireless efforts made the Conference a great success. A special thank you to all who attended. I hope you enjoyed the conference and came away from it with useful and insightful information for your own archives.

The success of the Cleveland Conference 2000, particularly the dialogue started with the LCWR, has inspired the Board to continue that conversation. At the recent Board Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA at the Sisters of Mercy Convent, we decided to send a copy of this newsletter to all the Major Superiors of the LCWR. We also encourage you to continue to share your newsletters with your own superiors to foster greater understanding and cooperation between archivists and leadership.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Callahan, CSC
ACWR President

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, REMINDERS

RELIGIOUS ARCHIVES INSTITUTE AT CUA



The Department of Archives of the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC will hold its Religious Archives Institute on July 9-20, 2001. If you are interested in the program for the next Institute, please contact Mary Beth Fraser at the Department of Archives,

The Catholic University of America, 5 Mullen, Washington, DC 20064. Also contact the Archives by telephone: 202-319-5065 or by email: 74fraser@cua.edu.

HISTORY OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE, MILWAUKEE, WI.

The fifth triennial conference of the History of Women Religious will be held June 17-20 at Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI. The theme of the Conference is "Individuals in Community: Women Religious and Change—Past, Present, Future." For information contact chair person Elizabeth McGahan, University of New Brunswick, PO Box 5050, Saint John, NB Canada E2L 4L5. Telephone: 506-648-5600; fax: 506-648-5799; and email: emcgahan@nbt.nb.ca.

CHANGES & CORRECTIONS TO THE DIRECTORY DECEASED MEMBERS

Mary McHugh, RSHM, Tarrytown, NY
M Bona Ney, SSM, Broken Arrow, OK

CLARIFICATIONS IN LISTINGS

Dympna Lyons, CVI and Mary Brendan O'Donnell, CVI's community is Sisters of the Incarnate Word And Blessed Sacrament and not Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. Dympna Lyons' email is dlyons@svdp.edu.org. Madeleine Sophie Hebert, MSC's email is smash00@hotmail.com.

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NANCY LUSIGNAN SCHULTZ, *FIRE & ROSES: THE BURNING OF THE CHARLESTOWN CONVENT, 1834*,

Reviewed by Mary Beth Fraser

In *Fire and Rose*, Nancy L. Schultz seeks to lift the shroud of mystery surrounding the 1834 burning of the Ursuline convent in Charlestown, MA. This new study of the notorious fire re-examines the historic case and brings to light insights that provide the reader with a better understanding of the destruction of the convent.

Schultz combines literary and historical methodologies to generate an engaging and informative narrative of the Charlestown convent fire. While opening her book with the fire, the author does not simply recount the known events of the three-night riot. Rather, Schultz rigorously researched all aspects of the catastrophe. In particular, she investigated the lives of the individuals involved in order to understand how the fire began and its aftermath. The author places the burning of the convent in the wider context of Catholic-Protestant relations in Massachusetts and the United States.

The fire was ignited by inebriated dissatisfied Protestant workers. But these men were actually encouraged by local selectmen. The subsequent trial of the rioters resulted in a not-guilty verdict for all but one youth. The verdict reveals the depth of intolerance to Catholic presence in the Boston area. Furthermore, the account of the trial and the obsessive curiosity with the daily lives of the sisters points to an apparent uneasiness among Boston's Protestant community about women who chose convent life over marriage. The sisters in the convent represented not only an elite and a foreign element as Roman Catholics, but they also seemed to defy the Victorian codes about marriage and womanhood.

With skillful use of her sources, Nancy L. Schultz engages the reader throughout the book painting vivid pictures of the convent's destruction. The author shows, in *Fire and Roses*, how the fire did not spring from one evening's drunken response to prejudice, but was the result of years of economic dissatisfaction coupled with an anti-Catholic bias that formed against the Sisters.

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE VALUE OF DOING ARCHIVES
BY A SISTER OF CHARITY, GREY NUNS

The Archives of the Sisters of Charity, Grey Nuns, was established in Lexington, Massachusetts in 1979 at the Provincial House. Since that time, the archives has been moved three times. Now that the Provincial House has been converted into a Assisted Living Residence, the new location of the Archives is hopefully its final location.

Catherine Leclair, SGM, Provincial Archivist since 1979, in a letter to the National Office writes: "The challenge of starting this project [the archives] was truly at times overwhelming, but with perseverance and community support, it has thrived. Beginning with cards identifying each document, book, photo and memorabilia and advancing to computerization in 1984, learning new programs and initiating volunteers has made these years extremely interesting and brought me to a deeper love of my community and an appreciation of the work accomplished by those who preceded me."

Sister Catherine Leclair reports that the Grey Nuns archives once again is undergoing structural changes, and she and her community are always mindful of their connection to the past. In a paper given at an April 2000 "Former Grey Nun Reunion," the link between past and present was firmly established. In particular, Camile A. Noel, SGM re-examined the life and work of St. Marguerite D'Youville and showed how this history has relevance and meaning in the Grey Nuns in the United States.

Article contributed by Catherine Leclair, SGM, Province Archivist, Lexington, MA.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Judy Eby, RSM, " 'A Little Squabble Among Nuns?': The Sister Formation Crisis and the Patterns of Authority and Obedience Among American Women Religious, 1954-1971," (Doctoral Dissertation, St. Louis University, 2000).

Paula Kane, James Kenneally, & Karen Kennelly, CSJ, *Gender Identities in American Catholicism*, (Forthcoming, Orbis Books, 2000).

Mary J. Oates, CSJ, "Gaining a Foothold: Reflections on the Catholic Dimension in *Women and Religion in America*," *US Catholic Historian*, (Spring 2000), 62-68.

FITZGERALD REMINDS ARCHIVISTS OF MISSION

By Dolores Liptak, RSM



*Kathryn Callahan, CSC and
Clare Fitzgerald, SSND*

“What you do is holy,” Clare Fitzgerald, SSND, told ACWR members at the keynote address for the 2000 Cleveland Conference. In a spirited address, Fitzgerald spoke of the historical role of women religious in the American Church. While stressing the significance of sisters’ accomplishments, she also suggested the degree to which archivists and historians can play key roles

in influencing and enriching their congregations. With picturesque and often humorous language, she spurred ACWR members on to consider the significance of their role in guarding the treasures of the past and supplying insights needed in this era of diminishment. After all, she told her audience, “You know the whole life of your congregations.” You are the ones who know the greatness and holiness of your predecessors as they took the sacred journey and sought blessings for what they did.

While recognizing that the task of every sister in the Church today—including that of the archivist—may be difficult, Fitzgerald nevertheless enlivened ACWR listeners by her constant emphasis on the privilege women religious, and especially archivists, have in providing perspective at this transitional point in American Catholic history. Those sensitive to history, she reminded her audience, see “deep-down” things. Thus, they can provide insight to renew their congregations. This simple idea resonated with ACWR members and served as a perfect backdrop for the entire conference.

THE ACWR/WRA CONNECTION

Kathryn Callahan, CSC

Kathryn Callahan, CSC presented a brief historical sketch of the relationship between the Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious and the Women Religious Archivists Roundtable of the Society of American Archivists. Considering the history of the relationship of the ACWR and the WRA, Sister Kathryn presentation sought suggestions in deciding the future of this relationship. In light of developments and experiences

over the past ten years, she stated it is time to examine this relationship and to decide on future direction.

During open microphone discussion conducted after the presentation, numerous comments and suggestions were made. The Board of Directors was asked to consider all suggestions and issues raised during the conference and to make a decision about the future relationship.

LCWR AND ACWR CONNECTIONS

Dolores Liptak, RSM

Thoughtful dialogue enhanced the session that traced the ties that continue to bind LCWR and ACWR. After Grace McDonald, FSPA and Dolores Liptak, RSM

reviewed the historical links that brought LCWR and ACWR together, Mary Serbacki, OSF led the audience in discussing the ways in which both the



*Dolores Liptak, RSM, Grace McDonald, FSPA,
and Mary Serbacki, OSF*

LCWR and ACWR could be of greater help to one another in the coming years.

The ACWR’s early financial and moral support in the late 1980s came from the generosity of the LCWR. At the conference session, this original connection was revisited in discussion and many LCWR representatives offered excellent advice that will be used by the new ACWR officers to determine new ways to improve interactions between the organizations. It was the belief of these LCWR members that archivists should find ways to represent their role before LCWR delegates present at regional or local meetings. During these meetings, members of ACWR can help clarify the key role of archivists not only in preserving records but assisting present leaders in searching directions for the renewal of their own congregations. Discussion on the expertise and vision of archivists can especially provide insight to LCWR personnel.

As members of both organizations dialogued on the way the two groups can grow more mutually beneficial, it became clear that LCWR and ACWR members valued the ties that have bound them and want to maximize the possibilities of interaction.

MEMORIES MILLENNIUM THE MESSAGE
SCENES FROM THE CLEVELAND CONFERENCE



The Registration Desk



*From Break-out
Sessions to Social
Breaks*



Trinity College Representatives



*The Hospitality
Suite*



& Coffee Breaks



The Tours: Ursuline and Charity Motherhouses



A Contingent of RSMS

MEMORIES, MILLENNIUM THE MESSAGE BEING PREPARED FOR EVERYTHING

RECORDS MANAGEMENT GUIDE

Catherine Regina Donnelly, RSM

At the session on Records Management, Catherine Regina Donnelly, RSM clarified key areas of the Guide, a culmination of the work of the Subcommittee on Records Management established in 1997. The presentation covered topics of specific interest to those present such as "sensitive materials," and what to do if records are subpoenaed. Another issue was the maintenance of audio/visual records in the face of advancing technology.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Frances Lombaer, OP

"Who has access to your archives?" was the question that opened the session on Policies and Procedures for the Archives presented by Fran Lombaer, OP. Sister demonstrated how policies and procedures provide the archivist with guidelines to various issues such as confidentiality and restriction, technological advances like scanning records, especially photographs and making finding aids available on the Internet. This presenter showed that as accessibility has become the hallmark for the archives in the 21st century, proper policies and procedures are essential to a well run archives.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND PLANNING

Anita Therese Hayes, BVM

This workshop addressed the most common hazards and disasters and the basic steps in setting up a plan for disaster. Preparedness is the key concept. Disasters come when we least expect it and usually at the most inconvenient times. Preparing ahead of time can prevent panic and reduce the amount of damage to valuable materials. Although the plan for each institution will be different, the design follows the same basic format. The plan should be simple, concise and easy to follow. Among basic steps for dealing with disasters involve: management and execution of appropriate conservative measures; proper storage and shipping of materials; and plans for area treatment and preparation.

ARCHIVES ON THE MOVE

Marjorie Buttner, OP & Patricia Hodge, RSM

Based upon their actual experience of having moved both an archives and storage areas several times, the presenters of this session shared with their audience a wide range of insights, both theoretical and practical. The

presenters placed emphasis on communication, time-management concepts, archival preservation, and security measures. In each case, they focused on specific "tips" to assist in a move. They suggested maintaining a positive and professional self-image, as well as planning in advance with staff and other departments involved in the move. The audience participated in a lively discussion following the presentation.

INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERNET FOR ARCHIVISTS & PUTTING UP A WEB SITE

Thérèse Grégoire, O.Carm and Rita King, SC

Just as the telephone and the telegraph revolutionized communications in the last century, the internet challenges us to review and redirect our energies in the search for knowledge.



Rita King, SC and Thérèse Grégoire, O.Carm

Sisters Thérèse Grégoire and Rita King gave a basic introduction to the internet at their joint session. Sister Thérèse expanded on this in her later session on web pages. The first session focused on beginners and attempted to clarify for them the "how-to's" and the "why's" of this relatively new tool. The presenters reminded those in attendance that the internet is another communication tool and encouraged participants to "learn by doing."

In her second session Sister Thérèse gave a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation took a practical approach, outlining the "how-to's" of the process of building and maintaining a web site. Although many find their first encounters with computers overwhelming, participants were challenged to relax and to look at the new technology as simply another tool in their treasure trove of resources.

A TIME TO SHARE

Rita King, SC

When in 1990 I first heard about ACWR it was in the context of sharing experience and knowledge with other new—and not so new—members of the Religious Archival community. After my own introduction to the open kindness and sharing I received, I have tried, when possible, to help those who ask. In the October 1993 *ACWR News* I wrote an article which tells the story of my first major “helping hand.” A Bernadine Franciscan learned the ropes of being a “lone arranger.” Since that time there have been many phone calls, e-mail messages and a few “consulting visits.” To these I have either given catalogs, archival books and copies of the forms, as well as plans for record grouping and other materials that I use in the Archives of the Sisters of Charity of New York.

The opportunity to share archival practices and ideas arises from time to time. On one occasion, a Marist Brother of the Esopus Province was taking an Archival course at St. John’s University and spent time studying our archives and the terminology used. More recently I had been asked by the new archivist for the Little Sisters of the Assumption to help with the set-up of their new archives. She visited us and received much help. I also referred her to others in her area and lent her books which I believe would be helpful in her particular situation.

Within the last three years two of our Sisters of Charity institutions have started formal archival collections—St. Vincent’s Hospital and Medical Center established in 1849 and the New York Foundling Hospital established in 1869. Both now have their own archivists. I realize that this would not have been possible if they did not receive my initial help.

The museum dedicated to St. Elizabeth Seton and the Sisters of Charity of New York associated with our Archives has also inspired sharing. Visitors from the Sisters of the Holy Child Community in Rosemont, PA remembered it when they formed a committee to set up a Heritage Room. They revisited us during May 2000 to consider ways to create their own historic display. At this time, I was able to “share” with a few books and suggestions useful to their project.

In the context of all an archivist must learn this sharing is a very small part but I hope it will inspire other experience veterans of archival labors to reach out and share.

For more information and “how-to’s” from the ACWR Conference 2000, please contact the Executive Secretary at the ACWR National Office. If you are interested in obtaining copies of presentations or handouts, please contact the National Office. There is not a paper available from Sister Clare Fitzgerald’s presentation. However, a copy of Sister Dolores Liptak’s paper, “Connections,” which summarizes Sister Clare’s presentation, is available.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Margaret Ahl, DC, Albany, NY
Dorothy Anhaier, IWBS, Corpus Christi, TX
Caroline Benken, CSJ, Cincinnati, OH
Mary Berding, RSM, Cincinnati, OH
Mariellen Blaser, SNJM, Albany, NY
Mary Louise Bloomingdale, RSHM, Arlington, VA
Barbara Dougherty, SND, Chardon, OH
Winifred Doyle, CSJ, Jamaica, NY
Reginald Gerdes, OSP, Baltimore, MD
Joanne Gonter, VHM Wheeling, WV
Jeanmarie Gustitus, OP Elkins Park, PA
Margaret Mary Hughes, RSM, Buffalo, NY
Martha Jacob, OSU, Louisville, KY
Judith Klei, RSM, Cincinnati, OH
Mary Lourdes Langenfeld, RGS, St. Louis, MO
Eleanor Little, RSM, North Providence, RI
Helena Mayer, SHCJ Rosemont, PA
Terisita Nolden, MSC, Reading, PA
Lois Jean Nunweiler, OSF, Williamsville, NY
M. Francesca Parana, OSF, Pittsburgh, PA
Rita Petrarca, ASCJ, Hamden, CT
Dolorita Robinson, OSU, Maple Mount, KY
Mary Ellen Ryan, SIW, Cleveland, OH
Mary Alodia Stozek, CSSF, Chicago, IL
Rosane Stump, SLW, Chicago, IL
Margaret Ann Toomey, CCVI, Houston, TX
Ms. Carol Will, Evansville, IN (Daughters of Charity).

**ACWR National Office
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Washington, DC 20017**

It is time to renew your membership! Check the expiration date on your mailing label. If it does not say **x6/01**, then you need to renew your membership. Please take this opportunity to renew by using the following form. Thank you to all who have renewed so quickly.

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Title: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____
Email: _____
Name of Congregation: _____
Annual Membership Fee:
Full Membership (\$30): _____ **Additional Staff Membership (\$15)** _____
Retired Membership (\$15) _____

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