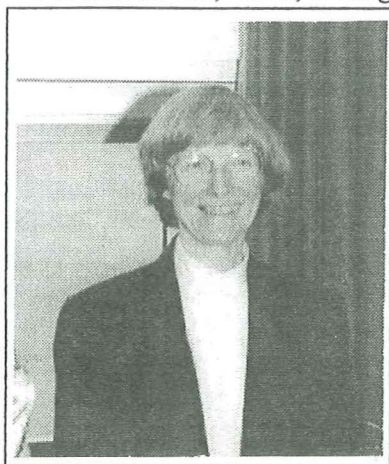


## NEW BOARD MEMBER ELECTED

The Election Committee is pleased to announce the election of Susan Nowalis, RSM to the office of Vice-President/President Elect. Sister Susan is the archivist for the Dallas Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy, a position that she has held since 1997.



Susan Nowalis, RSM, a long-standing member of the ACWR, brings a wealth of experience to this new position. She participated in the Modern Archives Institute at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC in 1998. She is a member of the Society of

American Archivists (SAA), Mid Atlantic Regional Archivists Convention (MARAC), and the Mercy Regional Archivist Network. Sister Susan has fostered the growth of the ACWR by her affiliation with the Women Religious Archivist (WRA) Roundtable of the SAA, acting as Vice-Chair in 1999 and Chair in 2000. She has attended the 1997 Sinsinawa and 2000 Cleveland ACWR Conferences.

Sister Susan earned a Ph.D. in music from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Her career includes Professor of Music and Administrator and Coordinator of Grants and Research at College Misericordia. She established the development office and network support services for her regional community for the overseas community in Guyana. Sister Susan has also worked in liturgical music at the diocesan level, in parishes, and within her own community.

The Election Committee would like to thank all those who participated in this year's election process. This is the final year of service for this Committee. The ACWR would like to thank Angela Feeney, PBVM, Pauline Ingram, OP and Anita Therese Hayes, BVM for all their work. The Committee has worked successfully to make the yearly elections an efficient and fair process.

## AVILA COLLEGE: WOMEN RELIGIOUS SPECIAL COLLECTION—TWO YEARS LATER. By Carol Coburn

In the ACWR News (April 1999), Avila College announced the creation of the Women Religious Special Collection (WRSC) begun in the fall of 1997 as a repository for books and materials focused on the experience of religious sisters. The collection was established to preserve out-of-print and current books on American sisters, making them available for researchers and others interested in the activities and experiences of nuns. In the first two years the collection was augmented by major book and materials donation by George C. Stewart, Jr. and Hermenia Muldrey, RSM. In the intervening two years the collection has continued to grow in size and scope. Besides a growing book collection that now numbers over 1300, the manuscript collection (e.g. research papers, pamphlets, constitution, formation literature) has grown to well over 1000 documents. Recent donations have come from religious orders, religious organizations, and individuals. Most notable additions have come from the Daughters of Charity (Emmitsburg), the ACWR, the History of Women Religious Conference, the Marianites of the Holy Cross (New Orleans), and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (St. Louis). Most recently, the collection directors, Martha Smith, CSJ, and Carol Coburn, Associate Professor of Religion and History, have been working with Colette Ackerman, OCD on the acquisition of Carmelite Communities Associated (CCA) archival material. Individual women religious and laypersons from across the United States have also supplemented the collection with book, manuscript, and monetary donations.

There has also been an interesting but unexpected outcome from creating the WRSC. With the website on the Internet, the collection directors have become a resource for questions about religious life. Researchers send inquiries on a variety of subjects including questions about religious orders, founders, female saints, religious habits, book titles, and bibliographic inquiries among others. One of the most interesting questions came from *National Geographic* originally addressed to the LCWR. The latter organization tried to help the magazine identify the religious habit in a photograph from 1920s Cuba. The collection has had some on-site visitors but most inquiries have come from email or the telephone.

The WRSC has received small monetary donations and is subsidized by Avila College. The directors

*Article continued on Page 7*



Dear Sisters,

These past two years have gone by quickly, and my term of office as President will be completed at our August 2001 meeting.

Following our Conference 2000, having taken into consideration the recommendation of our membership, Susan

Nowalis, RSM, who was Chair of the Women Religious Archivists Roundtable, and I wrote a joint letter to SAA indicating that there was duplication in having both WRA and ACWR meetings at the annual SAA meeting. We asked SAA if it would be possible to disband the WRA Roundtable and to schedule an ACWR session at the SAA meetings thereby eliminating duplication. We stressed that the session would be open to anyone who wanted to attend and that we would encourage our members to attend. On behalf of the SAA Council Jane Kenamore responded, "I'm pleased to report that the SAA council approved the requests of the Women's Religious Archivists Roundtable to disband and to

provide a time slot for the Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious to meet at SAA Annual Meetings."

The next SAA meeting will be held August 27 - September 2, 2001 at the Hilton and Towers in Washington, D.C., and SAA has tentatively scheduled the ACWR session in late afternoon on Thursday, August 30. The time will be confirmed in the final program. We hope many of you will be able to attend the ACWR as well as the SAA sessions.

Congratulations to Susan Nowalis, RSM, who was elected ACWR Vice-President/President Elect, and gratitude to Helen Forge, SCL who generously offered to serve if elected.

I am honored and grateful for this opportunity to have served the association in this capacity, and look forward to continuing for one more year on the Board, with Edna McKeever CSJ, President-elect, Susan Nowalis, RSM, Vice-President-elect, Joann Kessler, OSU, Treasurer, Elvira Kelley, OSF, Secretary, and Patricia Hodge, RSM, member-at-large.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Callahan, CSC  
President, ACWR

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, REMINDERS

**HISTORY OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE, MILWAUKEE, WI.** The History of Women Religious Conference will be held June 17-20 at Marquette University. Registration for housing on campus ends **May 14, 2001**. For more 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@nbet.nb.ca.

**RELIGIOUS ARCHIVES INSTITUTE, WASHINGTON, DC.** The Department of Archives of The Catholic University of America will hold the Religious Archives Institute **July 9-20, 2001**. The deadline for registration is **May 15, 2001**. For information, please contact **Mary Beth Fraser** at 202-319-5065 and 74fraser@cua.edu.

**CHANGES & CORRECTIONS TO THE DIRECTORY**  
**Sister Emma Cecilia Busam's** telephone number is 270-229-4103. Emma Cecilia Busam, OSU is the

archivist at the Mount St Joseph in Maple Mount, Kentucky.

**Helen Haigh, CSJP's** correct listing is: P.O. Box 248, Bellevue, WA 98009, 425-451-1833, fax: 425-462-9760, hhaigh@csjp-olp.org.

**Dolores Liptak, RSM's** new email address is: sdliptak@aol.com.

**GENERAL EDITOR—DOLORES LIPTAK, RSM**  
**CONTENT & PRODUCTION EDITOR—**  
**MARY BETH FRASER**

Please direct any questions and comments to:  
ACWR National Office  
Trinity College  
125 Michigan Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20017  
202-884-9441  
Fax: 202-884-9229  
acwr@juno.com  
www.homestead.com/acwr

## **THE ARCHIVIST IN COMMUNITY: PRIVATELY PUBLISHED HISTORIES OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES.** By Mary Beth Fraser

The role of the Archivist in the religious community is to maintain the history of its members. However, it is also to make that history known to the community. In recent years that history has moved beyond the community to the wider academic world. The growth in interest in the history of women religious is evident in the History of Women Religious Conference and *News and Notes*, and in the numerous articles and monographs published in the last decade. However, the privately published community history has persisted.

There are a couple reasons why a community would wish to publish its history privately. First, the cost of publishing can be high and if the community has the ability to publish, they can reduce this expense. Second, the community can have more control over the type and timing of the publication.

A recent publication from the Sisters of Charity, BVM, in Dubuque, Iowa illustrates this second point. With *Meeting Mary Frances Clarke: A Collection of Poetry about the Foundress of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary* edited by Jane McDonnell, BVM, the BVM Heritage Society calls attention to their foundress to prepare for Mother Mary Frances Clarke's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in 2003. The editor worked in conjunction with the BVM Heritage society to prepare this book. The Heritage society and the birthday committee wished to prepare for the celebration with the release of this collection of poetry.

The connection between the archivist and the community is revealed most dramatically with this example. In many cases, scholarship continues and knowledge and understanding of a community's past and thereby its future, is shared through the efforts of the archivist.

## **LOOKING AT PLACE & PRESENCE: THE RELEVANCE OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS IN AMERICAN HISTORY.** By Mary Beth Fraser

The history of women religious in the United States has revealed the significance of place and presence to American Catholic history. Two recent publications illustrate this point: Anne Butler's article, "Western Spaces, Catholic Places," (July 2000) and an essay appearing in the *Yale Bulletin & Calendar* (January 20, 2001) on the connection between the painter Georgia O'Keefe and the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs.

Anne Butler argues that place informs religious culture in her article "Western Spaces, Catholic Places." This article appears in a two-volume edition of *US Catholic Historian* and focuses on religious history in the American West. Butler recounts in this article her journey from Baltimore, Maryland to Salt Lake City, Utah where she encountered a distinctly different Catholic culture. In contrast to the East where Catholics densely populate the landscape, in Utah they are spread throughout the vast region.

On this frontier land, Butler reconnects with her Catholic culture through the scholarship of one of her Mormon students who writes a dissertation on the familial bonds within women religious communities. Butler goes on to describe how the West was isolating and inviting to Catholic missionaries in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Butler shows, through a survey of various missionary efforts—those begun by Mother Katherine Drexel and the Catholic Church Extension Society—how Catholic religious women, men and priests established a Catholic presence in the West. These missionaries met anti-Catholic sentiment from some inhabitants, yet the isolation of the terrain forged fellowship among unlikely neighbors. The resulting Catholicism was distinctly different from that of east-coast Baltimore, but it maintained a sense of connectivity to the large Catholic Church.

For Butler, place influenced the development of Catholicism and contributed to the larger Western culture. This is echoed in a recent article in the *Yale Bulletin & Calendar* (January 20, 2001). In the essay, "Nuns' Library Donation Reveals New Aspect of Artist's Life," a connection between Georgia O'Keefe and the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs Abiquia, New Mexico is brought to light. This article describes a letter written by O'Keefe in March 1971 to the head of the Dominican Sisters in Columbus, Ohio urging her not to remove the Dominican Sisters from this area.

In her letter, O'Keefe described the important role the Dominican Sisters had in the community. The sisters established a school and enrolled the children from the area. The result was that some children continued on to high school for the first time. Their mission became an important part of the community and helped bring Abiquia to the larger world. O'Keefe noted: "They [the sisters] probably get little thanks for being here, but the effect on the community has been very much to the good. Just their presence is—I might almost say, is precious."

### RECENT SCHOLARSHIP OF NOTE:

Mary Jeremy Daigler, RSM, *Through the Windows: A History of Mercy Higher Education in the United States*, (Scranton: University of Scranton Press, 2001). For more information call 800-565-9523.

Leslie L. Liedel, "Indomitable Nuns and Unruly Bishop: Property Rights and the Grey Nuns' Defense Against the Arbitrary Use of Diocesan Power in Nineteenth-Century Cleveland," *The Catholic Historical Review*, (July 200), 459-79.

Dolores Liptak, RSM, *Hartford's Catholic Legacy: Leadership*, (Hartford, CT: Archdiocese of Hartford, 1999). For more information call 800-308-3300.

-----Preface to *Through the Windows* (See above).

Jane McDonnell, BVM, ed., *Meeting Mary Frances Clarke: A Collection of Poetry about the Foundress of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, (Dubuque, Iowa: Sisters of Charity, BVM, 2001).

Rosalie McQuaide, CSJP, *Letter from Another Time: A Portrait of Mother M. Teresa Moran*, (privately printed, 2000).

Mary Dolorine Pires, SS.CC., *Shrouded in Mystery. The Marie Joseph: A Remarkable Courageous and Tragic Missionary Venture*, (Honolulu, Hawaii: Sisters of the Sacred Hearts, Pacific Province, 2000).

### ARCHIVIST AS RESEARCHER:

By Mary Hayes, SNDdeN

In 1999-2000, I had the luxury of a year's sabbatical from teaching responsibilities at Trinity College in Washington, DC, to conduct research in European archives on Julie Billiart, the foundress of the Congregation of Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. This experience tested my training as an historian, and at the same time, enabled me to appreciate the archivist's role in facilitating research.

With the exception of the last eight years of her life when she resided in Belgium, Julie Billiart lived in the *ancien regime* province of Picardy, which provides strategic access to Paris, and was one of the major corridors from Berlin to Paris in World War I and World War II. The destruction of the municipal archives in Julie's village, Cuvilly, in World War I, and the almost total obliteration of Beauvais, the diocese in which Cuvilly is located in 1940 challenged me to find sources that could substitute for records that no longer exist. Like most historians faced with this challenge, I have learned to tease evidence from the bits and pieces that have survived the German bombings, such as

fragmentary remains of parish registers and the signatures on copies of village documents that survive because they had been sent to provincial authorities. This experience of being able to construct meaning from scattered sources have strengthened my instincts as Trinity's archivist to preserve records which I see as invaluable source of social history about women that could reveal evidence about class and gender. (Student transcripts, for example, have been microfilmed, yet given the reality of finite storage space; I struggle with the issue of whether or not the accompanying material from their files should also be preserved.) As I address this question, I continue to be grateful to that unknown person who somehow managed to save three volumes of Cuvilly parish register extending from 1720 to 1778, precisely the years covering my research.

My research experience has also confirmed my archivist's understanding of the necessity of an off-site copy of the archives' holdings. I spent almost two months conducting research in the General Archives of the Sisters of Notre Dame, at our Motherhouse in Namur, Belgium which is professionally staffed and organized and thus provides a congenial research environment. Yet the holdings of the Namur Archives are incomplete. Tragically, the German Air Force leveled the Motherhouse in Spring, 1940; the destruction was almost total, including the archives, leaving great gaps in the collection. Fortunately, Julie Billiart had been beatified in 1906 and the beatification process required authentication of multiple copies of the founding documents. Several of these collections had been stored off-site and have survived. Because the original archives listing was lost in the bombing, the archivists have no way of knowing what material may have existed from the post-founding years through 1940, nor can they explain why some precious originals have survived, even though most were destroyed.

Research in European archives has also strengthened my appreciation for the existence of detailed finding aids. I had expected to find them in the uniformly organized system that characterizes French archives at all levels: municipal, departmental, and national. It was not disappointed; but I also discovered extensive finding aids in the frequently musty, sometimes poorly maintained diocesan archives of Belgium. As archivists, we understand the practical function of good finding aids. As a researcher, I discovered unanticipated treasures in those precise listings.

Finally, my two weeks' stint in the Vatican

*Continued on Page 7*

## **SISTERS OF MERCY DEDICATE GALLERIES PITTSBURGH, PA. By Patricia Hodge, RSM**

On May 24, 2000, the Sisters of Mercy of Pittsburgh, PA dedicated their newly completed Heritage Galleries at the Convent of Mercy. A year in planning, the Heritage Galleries incorporate some previously unpublished archival photographs and memorabilia dating from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, and offer a unique view of Pittsburgh and Sisters of Mercy during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The 1847 beginnings of the first hospital in Pittsburgh are represented, as are the early days of Carlow College, begun by the Sisters during the Depression. The permanent exhibit traces the Sisters' early work in elementary and secondary education, acknowledges their service in the Civil War, and recalls the days when St. Paul's Orphanage was one of their works of Mercy. It recognizes the beginnings of the Intersection in McKeesport and chronicles the community's branching out to serve the people of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Puerto Rico, and Peru.

Commissioned by our Mercy Leadership, the Heritage Galleries were planned and created by Sister Patricia A. Hodge, Mercy community archivist, Micaela Young, project director, Rob Henning, designer, and Ginny Cuninghame, writer. Artist and Mercy Sister Marie Henderson sculpted two bronze images in the exhibit. Other contributors include the Carlow College and Mercy Hospital Archives.

The Heritage Galleries exhibit is open to the public for self-guided tours every day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free.

## **A NEW HOME FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AT THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA**

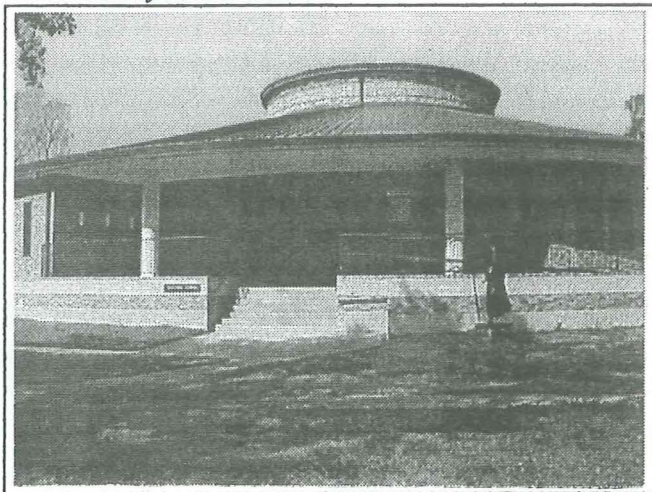
The Department of Archives, Manuscripts and Museum Collections moved from the basement of the John K. Mullen of Denver Library to the Life Cycle Institute on March 5, 2001. The move, months in the planning, took six days to complete. The Archives reopened for business in its new campus location on March 19.

The move, a positive one for the CUA Archives, was led by Timothy J. Meagher, Curator of American Catholic History and University Archivist. The various archives and manuscript collections and museum items were formerly housed in three different locations. Now, all CUA archival materials and manuscript collections are in the Life Cycle Institute; only the larger museum items remain in storage. Furthermore, the new offices provide for a spacious research reading room.

The entire staff of the Department of Archives, including ACWR Executive Secretary Mary Beth Fraser,

has happily settled into its new home and welcomes the return of researchers. The Archives is open Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. For more information about visiting the Archives, call 202-319-5065.

## **SISTERS OF CHARITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD, HOUSTON, TX DEDICATE NEW HERITAGE CENTER By Ellen Orman**



March 25, 2001, the feast of the Annunciation, dawned and unfolded bright and balmy, nature burgeoning in a symphony of color and sound as befitting Mary's "yes" to giving life and birth to the Incarnate Word. It was a day admirably suited to the dedication of the Heritage Center at their Motherhouse in Houston, Texas. The new building was completed in the Fall of 2000. The Heritage Center was dedicated on the congregation's special feast day. Many archivists from local communities joined in the celebration.

The tone of the day was set with Sister Olive Bordelon's warm welcome prefaced by a flawless *faillte* greeting. A highlight of the celebration took place when Sister Monica LaFleur, a longtime active member of the ACWR, accompanied by Sister Olive and Sister Margaret Ann Toomey, presided over the blessing of the Center. A beaming Sister Monica realized the miracle of her dream come true: magnificent housing for the archives.

Open House providing guided tours and giving an overview of the history of the congregations, was in the hands of Sister volunteers making the Exhibit Hall a very popular spot. A brief explanation of the historic furnishings and artifacts in the lobby was jointly conducted by Sisters Olive and Margaret Ann.

Ellen Orman recited her poetry dedicated to the achievements of the Incarnate Word Sisters. This was

*Continued on Page 7*

## COUSINS AND CO-ARCHIVISTS: A REPORT FROM BRENDAN O'DONNELL, CVI & DYMUNA LYONS, CVI

While the Sisters of Charity of Incarnate Word were busy constructing their new Heritage Center as reported

by Ellen Orman, their neighbors, the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament created a new archives of their own. The Congregation of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed



Sacrament was founded in Lyon, France in 1625 by Jeanne Chezard de Matel. Sister Belinda Delaney first gathered archival materials in Houston, Texas in the 1970s. Today, we are continuing the good work Sister began. This year we completed a great addition to our Motherhouse at 3400 Bradford. We have a new archives (equipped with space savers, open shelving, research space, and a workroom), Heritage Room and storeroom. The addition also includes bedrooms and a community room.

Care of the archives records and items is unfortunately not our full-time mission. We are full time in parish ministry (Sister Dymuna) and in Development of the Incarnate Word Academy (Sister Brendan). The work is done mostly on weekends. Until the new Archives became a reality, records were scattered in various closets and rooms all over the four floors of our convent. Having them now gathered in one place in the new archives and storeroom is a giant step forward.

We were fortunate to call upon our fellow ACWR member, Sister Emma Cecilia Busam, OSU, for guidance. She spent several days with us recently, assisting us as we put into place some twenty-five record groups. (Secretly we would love for Sister to stay with us permanently, as we need lots of help.) Visitors to our archives would now find marked shelves implementing these groups. However, there are many, many boxes, with record group numbers on them, still in the adjacent storeroom.

As we settle into our new building, we are blessed with the assistance of many volunteers. With their

help, we are taking steps to preserve our history. We have copied documents and newspaper articles on acid free paper, compiled files on our deceased Sisters and former members, and re-boxed the original records of our congregational houses, dating back to 1873. Another section, Old and Rare Books, while in fairly good order, still needs organization. As the saying goes: "We have miles to go before we sleep."

Since the construction of the new building, we have worked to improve our archival practices. Attendance at ACWR conferences and local archivist meetings have been very helpful in these efforts. We continue to learn so much from other Archivists.

### NEW ARCHIVES PLANNED FOR MERCY NY/PAW REGION

In the early 1990's the Mercy Communities in Buffalo, Erie, Pittsburgh, and Rochester formed a regional network which extends from Western New York State to Western Pennsylvania. Familiarly called "NY/PAW," the organization has made significant progress during the past year in planning the development of the first regional archives among the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

As a Councilor on the Rochester Mercy Leadership Team, Sister Patricia Prinzing, RSM, managed the records of the NY/PAW organization for several years. However, during the coming summer months a transfer of those documents to the Mercy Archives of the Pittsburgh Community will occur.

Invited by the four presidents of the NY/PAW Communities to serve as the first archivist of the new repository is Sister Patricia Hodge, RSM (ACWR Board member). As Director of the Pittsburgh Mercy Archives, Sister described the invitation as "both a privilege and a challenge for me in my ministry. It is not often that we archivists are given the creative opportunity to design a new archival center."

Although sharing the facilities of the Pittsburgh Mercy Archives, the NY/PAW documents will form a separate "satellite collection," owned jointly by the four-member communities of the organization.

At their March 21, 2001 meeting, the NY/PAW community presidents reviewed and discussed a detailed list of planning assumptions which Pat Hodge, RSM developed as a means of providing essential information for leadership support. In the words of Pat Prinzing, RSM, "[We] do want this project to succeed."

ACWR members who have experience in regional archives are asked to share their professional insights with Patricia A. Hodge, RSM, Sisters of Mercy Archives, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3165. Fax: 412-578-8860.

## **BROTHER DENIS SENNETT**

On November 17, 2000, Brother Denis Sennett, SA passed away and the religious archival world lost a good friend and one of its strongest supporters.

Many ACWR members had come to know Brother Denis Sennett through his work as an archival consultant and director of numerous archival institutes at Graymoor. He was an active member of professional archival associations, including the Society of American Archivists (SAA), Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) and the Archivists of Religious Institutions (ARI). Brother Denis was the archivist of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement and the archivist of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. He had also served as the archivist for Catholic Near East Welfare Association in Vatican City and New York City and produced a world-wide survey of records, including the Congregation for Oriental Churches. Brother Denis published *A Divine Legacy-Record Keeping for Religious Congregations/Orders* (1995).

Brother Denis received many honors, including the SAA's Sister M. Claude Lane Award for his distinguished contribution to religious archives.

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## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

By Joann Kessler, OSU, ACWR Treasurer

Expenses for this fiscal year, which started on July 1, 2001 are on schedule. Our budget is \$10,100 for the year. We will be over that slightly by about \$300. Our greatest expense is operating the Executive Secretary's office in Trinity College in Washington, DC where the printing of the newsletter, directories and by-laws are done. Our expenses would be much higher were it not for the consideration that Trinity College gives us. We are most grateful.

Our income is mostly from your payments of dues. We do receive a few donations and some interest on our investment. This year a few superiors have joined us as members. We appreciate their support.

If anyone in the administration of your community wishes to be a member please encourage them to do so. The dues for the archivist are \$30 for the year, but members of your staff may be enrolled for \$15 each.

Direct any questions to the ACWR National Office in Washington.

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## **WRSC UPDATE**

*Continued from Page 1*

continue to spend time applying for foundation and grant monies to help support the collection. Although acquiring books and manuscripts is the primary goal, the WRSC has considered, on a case-by-case basis, donations of other archival materials, particularly if

they are relevant, well organized, and not too large. Limited space and personnel are considerations that must be factored into each decision to accept new materials. Thus, the donation has to be "manageable." Whenever possible the WRSC wants to help with small or "closed" archival situations.

For further information about the collection and contact information see the Internet web site: [www.avila.edu/resourceswomenreligious.htm](http://www.avila.edu/resourceswomenreligious.htm).

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## **ARCHIVIST AS RESEARCHER**

*Continued from Page 4*

Archives taught me the fundamental importance of preparation. Before leaving Europe, I had spent weeks studying all the references I could find about using the Archives. Without this preparation, my visit would have been a waste of time. Yet even with it, my initial experience was frustrating. But with not a little patience, but most of all with the help of friendly assistant archivists, I realized that the Vatican's complex system is accessible and actually makes sense. Many times I thought: what would I ever have done to fulfill my research demands if I had not been an archivist?

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## **HERITAGE CENTER DEDICATED**

*Continued from Page 5*

followed by the blessing of the Angel of Mercy statue, sculpted by Sister Peter Tremonte, OP. This statue, standing as a sentinel at the Heritage entrance was a gift from the Dominican Sisters.

The Center is indeed a fitting repository for a collection of life stories and enormous accomplishments of valiant women spanning 135 years. Collectively the stories form a colorful tapestry, lovingly and painstakingly woven by the Sisters. They were the ones who in post Civil War frontier Texas, had to reinvent themselves in order to cope with a new culture and language and had to fashion and mold their new environment in order to meet the many needs of the sick and indigent for whom they so selflessly cared.

The spirit of these pioneer Sisters was not lost on the architect who captured it in its more visible form: brick, mortar, glass and especially in design which reflects the soul of the congregation. The tower, dome, circling walls, stained glass windows, light and color combine and reflect a spiritual vitality which is the quintessential characteristic of the Sisters.

It was a day to remember with gratitude to the many visitors who helped us celebrate a milestone in the history of the Incarnate Word.

ACWR NATIONAL OFFICE  
TRINITY COLLEGE  
125 MICHIGAN AVE., NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20017

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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

Helen Borkowski, RSHM, Los Angeles, CA  
Irene Burns, RSM, Cedar Rapids, IA  
Elizabeth Crehan, SMG, Perth Amboy, NJ  
Corrine Dais, OSF, Milwaukee, WI  
Janice Farnham, RJM, Belmont, MA  
Pauline Fox, RSM, Cedar Rapids, IA  
Jeanne Marie Hall, MFIC, Brighton, MA  
Jean Kielty, SH, Chicago, IL  
Jill Koepke, SSM, Broken Arrow, OK  
Barbara Kraemer, OSF, Chicago, IL  
Kathy Ludwall, SCSJA, Milwaukee, WI  
Giovanna Mapelli, OSB, Glendora, CA  
Paula Diann Marlin, RSM, Silver Spring, MD  
Sister T.J. McGoldrick, St. Augustine, FL  
Virginia Mullaly, SSND, Wilton, CT  
Martina Nicklaus, CSR, Huntingdon Valley, PA  
Dr Charles E. Nolan, New Orleans, LA  
Clotilda Omasta, SSCM, Danville, PA  
S. Gloria Petrone, ACJ, Philadelphia, PA  
Mary Virginette Reczek, Chicago, IL  
Rosaria Shina, OSF, Bethlehem, PA  
Agnesmarie Slight, OSF, Alliance, NE  
Mary Paul Walsh, OSU, St. Martin, OH

*For help contacting these new members, or any ACWR member, please call or write the National Office: telephone: 202-884-9441; email: [acwr@juno.com](mailto:acwr@juno.com); US mail: ACWR National Office, Trinity College, 125 Michigan Ave, NE, Washington, DC 20017*

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**ARCHIVIST WANTED SISTERS OF MERCY,  
CHICAGO REGIONAL COMMUNITY**

Three-state Mercy community seeks archivists to preserve and manage its historical and administrative records, assist researchers, expand computerized access, and share the historical riches of this religious congregation, established in Chicago in 1846. Qualified applicants will have a bachelor's degree in library science, history, or a related field with course work or experience in archival administration. Part-time (24-30hrs/wk.) year-round position available immediately. Send letter of inquiry and profession resume to Archivist Search, Sisters of Mercy, 10024 S. Central Park Ave., Chicago, IL 60655 or transmit same to [sjc@mercychicago.com](mailto:sjc@mercychicago.com).