

NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

The Election Committee is pleased to announce the result of the 2002 ACWR Election. Katherine Misbauer, SL has been elected to the Board as Vice President/ President-Elect and Nancy Sandleback has been elected as Secretary.

Katherine Misbauer, SL has served as Archivist for the Sisters of Loretto in Nerinx, Kentucky since 1988. Katherine has also worked as an elementary school teacher and principal, and retirement coordinator. She has served on several committees including non-profit boards dedicated to domestic violence and Hispanic Ministry. Katherine has a Bachelor's degree in elementary education from Webster College, a Master's degree in Spanish from the University of Notre Dame and has attended many SAA classes. In addition to her ACWR and SAA membership, Katherine also belongs to four regional professional organizations for archivists and historians.

Nancy Sandleback has been Collections Manager of the Archives and Records Retention Program of the Sisters of St. Benedict in Middleton, Wisconsin since 1997. In addition, she manages the community's library. Nancy has also worked for the Western Historical Manuscript Collection housed at the University of Missouri-Columbia; the Archdiocese of Chicago's Archives and Records Center; and as an editor for several publications of the Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists. Nancy has a Bachelor's degree in history from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and Master's degrees in history and library science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She also holds certificates in applied history and museum studies. In addition to her ACWR and SAA membership, Nancy belongs to several other professional organizations for archivists and librarians.

Our new officers will be inducted during the ACWR meeting at the SAA Conference in August. (See below for more information on the meeting and conference.) Katherine will serve a three year term, one as Vice President, one as President, and one as Past-President. Nancy will serve a two year term as Secretary.

The election committee would like to express its gratitude to all who participated in the 2002 ACWR nomination and election process. They

would especially like to thank those who were willing to have their names placed on the ballot; Frances Lombaer, OP, Katherine Misbauer, SL, Nancy Sandleback, and Jeanne Stack, OSF.

The ACWR thanks the Election Committee for their service. The dedication and hard work of Angela Feeney, PBVM, Anita Therese Hayes, BVM, and Pauline Ingram, OP has been a great service.

Next fall we hope you will consider running for office or nominating a fellow ACWR member.

THE MAIL IS HERE!

By Elvira Kelly, OSF

"The mail is here!" Those words can be heard daily over the P.A. at Mount St. Francis motherhouse in Dubuque, IA. This call alerts the Sister mail-sorters that their job is waiting for them.

From July 17, 2001 to January 14, 2002, this announcement took on special significance for Sister Rebecca Rosemeyer and I. We eagerly looked forward to a letter from Gwen or Dorothy Marie Hennessey, OSF, our two Dubuque Franciscans who were inmates at the Federal Prison Camp in Pekin, IL. They, along with twenty-four others, had been sentenced to six months in prison for protesting at the School of the Americas at Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia. Nine of the women protestors were serving their sentences at Pekin.



(Sisters Rebecca and Elvira eagerly reading and transcribing letters from Sisters Gwen and Dorothy)

Rebecca and I awaited the mail because we had a labor of love to perform. If there was a letter from Gwen or Dorothy, we would type it on the computer, make multiple copies and distribute them to eager readers inside and outside the convent. Of course, the archives was the first on the list!

(continued on page 8)

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members,

Since our last report to you, the Board members have been very busy. Sister Susan Nowalis, RSM and the other members of the Board, along with Sister Rosemary Meiman, OSU, and Sister Joann Kessler, OSU, have been diligently preparing for Conference 2003

in St. Louis. So far it is developing into a very interesting and exciting program, one which you won't want to miss. We have engaged informative and lively speakers on crucial topics. So, plan to come to learn, share, and socialize with your sister archivists from all over the country. You will hear more details as time goes on.

As you know from our last letter, Sister Pauline Ingram, OP has replaced Sister Joann Kessler, OSU, as treasurer of ACWR. Sr. Pauline has been busy learning and fulfilling the fiscal responsibilities of this position under Sr. Joann's tutelage. We all owe deep gratitude to Sr. Joann for the great work that she has done for us. Among other things, do you remember how smoothly the Cleveland Conference went?

Now, I am sad to say, we must say goodbye to Sister Patricia Hodge, RSM. Sr. Pat was one of the original pioneers of ACWR. As the first Executive Secretary, Sr. Pat set high professional

standards both for that position and the national position of ACWR. When the duties of her own archives demanded more time from her, Sr. Pat found it necessary to resign from the Board several years ago. After some time, however, the Board members, aware of Sr. Pat's insightful gifts and experience, asked her if she would again consider being on the Board as a member-at-large. This would be a less time consuming job but one which would give us access to her input. Thus she rejoined us in October 1999. When a person has the gifts and know-how that Sr. Pat has, she gets called upon to do more and more. So, now it is again necessary for her to donate all of her time to the Mercy archives, especially since the formation of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in 1991. I want to express my gratitude to Sr. Pat for the eight and one-half years that she has contributed to the planning and growth of our organization. She will be sorely missed.

The next Board meeting will be May 16 - 19. One day, Thursday, will be spent orientating the newly elected members by sharing our history and explaining the duties of their offices. Then Friday, Saturday and part of Sunday we will work through our agenda. We start early in the morning and continue into the evening of the first two days. Finishing touches are carried over into Sunday morning.

If ever you want to feed information or ideas to the Board, just send a letter to the national office, or to me. We appreciate your input and do our best to consider all aspects which will best serve the organization.

Sincerely,

Sister Edna McKeever, CSJ, President

Do you have any ideas for upcoming issues of the ACWR News? Would you like to contribute an article or an essay on **What's New in Archives**? Do you have suggestions for topics you would like to read about? Have you attended a conference or workshop you would like to recommend to other members? Have you heard a great speaker you'd suggest for meetings or workshops? Are you aware of upcoming events we can announce? If so, please contact the National Office so that we can pass this information along in our upcoming newsletters.

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UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST:

Meet Me In St. Louis: The ACWR Triennial Conference in 2003 will be held in St. Louis, MO, September 25th through 28th. Please mark your calendar and watch for more information coming soon!

The Society of American Archivists will hold its annual meeting August 19-25 in Birmingham, AL. **The ACWR annual meeting** will be held during this time with time and location announced in the SAA program. In addition, the SAA will present seminars on various subjects that will be presented during the meeting at no additional cost. This is a great opportunity to meet and learn from fellow archivists. We look forward to seeing you there! For more information contact the SAA at www.archivists.org.

Please note that a **membership renewal form** is included in this Newsletter. We appreciate your completing and returning it to the National Office with your dues check at your earliest convenience, no later than June, 2002. Thank you for your continued membership!

“Caring For Your Treasurers” is a workshop on photographic preservation presented by Archive Impact as part of their Archival Colloquium Series. It will be held in May, 2002 in Detroit, Michigan. For information and registration call 313-879-0044 x202, email: gbacher@archiveimpact.com, or visit www.archiveimpact.com.

The Western Archives Institute will be held at the University of Redlands in Redlands, CA July 14-26, 2002. For more information contact The Western Archives Institute, 1020 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, phone: 916-653-7715 or at ArchivesWeb@ss.ca.gov.

The XXI Conference of Church Archivists will be held in Trent, Italy, September 16-20, 2002. The theme of this meeting will be: “Forming Church archivists in view of preserving the Church’s heritage in the local area.” For more information on this event contact Sister Mary Treacy, FMA 3si@ukonline.co.uk.

“Brides of Christ: Towards A History of Women Religious in Britain and Ireland” will be held at the Centre for Religious History at St. Mary’s College, Strawberry Hill, England on October 12, 2002. For more information on this interdisciplinary symposium please contact Sr. Caroline Bowden at cbowden@sas.ac.uk or Carmen Mangion at manwag@freeuk.com.

The American Historical Association and the **American Catholic Historical Society** will hold its annual meeting in Chicago, IL, January 2-6, 2003. For more information visit the AHA website at www.theaha.org.

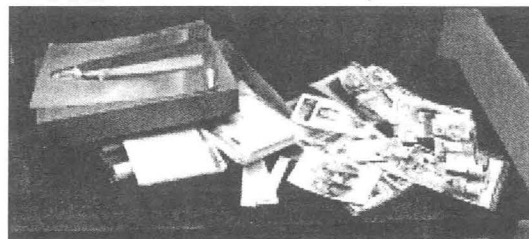
Retrieving Photographs from Archival Collections

By Frances Lombaer, OP

Do you have boxes of miscellaneous photographs? Are you frustrated when you try to find an image for publication? Ray Casey, the photographer for the Adrian Dominican Sisters, designed a database in Microsoft Access that has proved to be a lifesaver.

Each photo or group of photos is given a number and placed in a hanging file. The fields for the database are the date taken, subject, location, event, persons involved and notes. The notes include extra information such as the presence of negatives, etc. I can also list the size of a print and whether it is black and white or color. A note can be added when a photo is used in a specific publication or for display. I can search this database for specific persons or events through the queries menu by any of the fields.

Casey began this dataset in 1996 with photographs he took in his work with our congregation. In 1997 I decided to add some of the old photos to the system in order to retrieve them when needed. There are currently over 2, 500 entries in this database. The data entry work has been well worth the time and effort. Now there is a way to find the right photograph for the publication or event of the moment.



(Database helps transform boxes of miscellaneous photos into an orderly arrangement)

**A JOB AND AN EDUCATION:
ARCHIVING FOR A RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY**

By Chris Catalano

When I was invited four years ago by the archivist for the San Francisco Sisters of the Presentation congregation, Sister Kathleen Griffin, PBVM, to an informational interview at the Motherhouse, I hoped that I would prove a worthy candidate for what I deemed as an experience of a lifetime. The privilege was an honor and the opportunity intrigued me.

I continue to believe that it is an incredible experience to be associated with the culture of women religious and to be able to help foster within them a respect for their own history and roots. I constantly tend to my relationship with the community, in part because of its importance to an archives program, but also because of the rich spirit I find among the sisters, several of whom have become my mentors. I entered this work with little experience in archives and unfamiliar with the living environment or spirituality of women religious. Over the years I have accumulated a wealth of practical archival experience, and more importantly, first-hand accounts of the lives and history of American women religious. None of this would have been possible without the sisters' attention and their support in the work I do.



*(Members of the San Francisco Presentation
Biography Project Team)*

There truly is never a dull moment for me with the variety of experiences I have in the Presentation archives. In my role as an archivist I am the recipient of sisters' stories and experiences in community life. As I learn more about their congregation for archival purposes, I simultaneously grow closer to understanding what they represent and who they are. My work in this community involves three interrelated aspects of its mission; the mission itself, the history of the mission, and the preservation of the mission.

Beyond the obvious differences between myself and a member of a religious order, there is the question of how the archival work in this kind of institution differs from that in other archives. The archival tasks I perform here are, for the most part, exactly like the ones done in lay institutions, with some additional ones related to the unique characteristics of religious life. In addition, I have become responsible for recording aspects of community life and special events. As a result, I occasionally witness or become actively involved in these events. At other times I record events from a distance out of respect for aspects of community dynamics.

The vocation and history of each sister is something exclusive to them alone. However, through my own attempts or by their own initiative, I hear and witness some of their stories. Particularly, I sense my growing attachment and understanding of these women when I hear anachronistic stereotypes that still exist and need dispelling. Just mentioning the fact that I work in a convent conjures up in some minds a dark and brooding place of strictly held silence. That couldn't be farther from the truth! I even find myself referring to "our sisters" in conversation with others. Based on my experience so far, I initially interact with each individual on different levels of sensitivity, considering such factors as the era she is from. I do this out of respect for each sister, but also as a method to help me operate smoothly in a convent environment.

I have refrained from using the term "lay" in describing my position with the sisters, fully conscious of the amount of discussion it generates. I have never been referred to by a sister of this community as "lay." This term of separation goes beyond simple semantics and often has a negative connotation. Many congregations are fully aware of the increasing number of "lay" people entering their communities in positions that had been previously held by religious. I believe that the administration should educate lay employees about the sisters' history and mission and encourage all to work together. Such measures can chip away at the barrier created by the connotation of "lay."

Presentation archives is currently gearing up for 2004, the community's sesquicentennial year of foundation. I serve on the celebration planning committee, representing the Archives as an available resource. We have the archives-related goals of publishing two books: a collection of biographies of all sisters who entered the San Francisco foundation, and a previously unpublished manuscript, "With Hearts of Oak," a history from 1854-1906 written by the late M. Rose Forest, PBVM.

The archives just completed an historical exhibit that covers 66 feet of wall space depicting the history of the community's novitiate and college in Los Gatos, California, now the Presentation Center for retreats and conferences. I also serve on our so-called Artistic Décor Committee. The group plans to design the wall space of their recently renovated convent, built in 1912, and currently home to the University of San Francisco's Professional Studies Department and most of our congregational offices. We plan to exhibit the history of the building as convent, novitiate, and school and we will display the sisters' current mission and ministries in a way that will be informative to all visitors.



(From L-R, Assistant Archivist Chris Catalano, Archivist Sr. Kathleen Griffin, and Graphic Artist Diane Gatto in front of the exhibit they installed at Presentation Center in Los Gatos, CA.)

My work with the sisters' archives has been most beneficial in my professional growth. I appreciate their openness and the supportive environment I find working for the Sisters of the Presentation. I am grateful that they have extended their invitation to this "outsider" for as long as they have.

RECENT SCHOLARSHIP OF NOTE:

Daniel Bornstein. *Sister Bartolomea Ricoboni, Life and Death in a Venetian Convent: The Chronicle and Necrology of Corpus Domini, 1393-1436*. (University of Chicago Press, The Other Voices in Early Modern Europe series, 2000).

Helen M. Buss and Marlene Kadar, eds. *Working in Women's Archives: Researching Women's Private Literature and Archival Documents*. (Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2001). (See book review below)

Marie Celeste, SC. *Elizabeth Ann Seton: A Woman of Prayer, Meditations, Reflections and Poems Taken from her Writings*. (University Press of America, 2000).

Madeleine Chi, RSCJ. *Shanghai Sacred Heart: Risk*

in Faith, 1926-1952. (Privately printed, Society of the Sacred Heart, U.S. Province, 2001).

Sister Mary Bernard Deggs. Virginia Meacham Gould and Charles E. Nolan eds., *No Cross, No Crown: Black Nuns in Nineteenth-Century New Orleans*. (Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2001).

This account was written between 1894 and 1896 by Sr. Deggs, a Sister of the Holy Family, "whose mission was to evangelize slaves and free people of color and to care for the poor, sick, and elderly." This community of sisters, rich in tradition as Sr. Deggs demonstrates, continues to serve in New Orleans today.

Ann M. Harrington, BVM. "The First Women Religious in Japan: Mother Saint Mathilde Raclot and the French Connection," *The Catholic Historical Review*, October, 2001, p603-23.

Mike Harter and Parish Historians. Hildegard Varga, OSB, ed. *The Journey of the Diocese of Amarillo: 75 Years on the Llano Estacado, 1926-2001*. (Most Reverend John W. Yanto, Cutsom Printing Co., Amarillo, TX, 2001).

This work was edited by ACWR member Sr. Varga and contains contributions by many parish historians and others in preparation for the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Diocese of Amarillo. To order a copy please contact Sr. Varga at: Diocese of Amarillo, 1800 N. Spring Street, PO Box 5644, Amraillo, TX 79117-5644 or hvarga@amarillodiocese.org.

Margaret Mary Knittel, "Women Religious as Sojourners," *Human Development*, Winter, 2001.

Fernanda Perrone. "Catholic Women's Colleges in the United States: An Archival, Bibliographic and Historical Survey," in *Archival and Bibliographic Series VI*, 2000 (Newcomb College of Tulane University, New Orleans, LA).

Elizabeth Rapley. *A Social History of the Cloister: Daily Life in the Teaching Monasteries of the Old Regime*. (McGill-Queens University Press, 2001).

Diane Strevens. *In Step With Time: A History of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth, Wanganui, New Zealand*. (David Ling Publishing, Ltd., Auckland, 2001).

Margaret Walsh. *The Good Sams: Sisters of the Good Samaritans 1857-1969*. (John Garratt, Melbourne, 2001).

A VISIT TO EMMITSBURG

By Maggie Hoerl

Emmitsburg, Maryland is a town rich in history and tradition, not only because of its proximity to the Civil War battlefield of Gettysburg, but also as foundation of the first religious community native to the United States, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Joseph. This congregation of sisters was founded in 1809 by Elizabeth Ann Seton, a widowed convert from the Anglican Church who became the first American-born saint when she was canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1975. In 1850 the community based at Emmitsburg joined the French Daughters of Charity and today the historic site is headquarters for the Emmitsburg Province.

The archives of the Southeast Province of the Daughters of Charity are housed on property neighboring the school for girls founded by Mother Seton in 1810. This site is also home of the Basilica in which Mother Seton is buried and a museum which documents her life and canonization. This museum is not maintained by the archival staff, but consists of items from the archival collection and was created with assistance from the archives' staff. Bonnie Weatherly, Archives Manager, who is the only current archival staff member to have been involved in the creation of the museum, described the excitement surrounding this project and her enjoyment of it.

In addition to working with the archival collection of the community and assisting researchers, the archival staff at Emmitsburg also created two unique spaces to serve the sisters of the community and visiting retreatants. One of these areas, called the Marian room, displays Madonnas which have been donated to the community over time, beginning after the Seton canonization, with two large bequests of friends of the community. This collection of statues from around the world reflects many different cultures and spiritualities and is rotated periodically, including a change to crèches during the Christmas season. The Marian room is a contribution to historical awareness and to the spirituality of those who visit it. Another unique space is called the heritage room. It features a rotating display on the history of the Daughters of Charity and copies of books and documents about the history and members of the order which can also be found in the archives.

The archives themselves are housed in several different rooms which are organized into areas for processing, research, office space for staff, and repositories for specific types of archival material such as art, books, documents, habits, videos, pictures, etc. The collection includes holographs, manuscripts, and printed books used by the community members,

correspondence, paintings, habits, and other records and artifacts.

Perhaps the most historically significant documents within the collection are the letters, journals, translations, and personal papers of Mother Seton and of Simon Brute, a Sulpician priest who served as spiritual director to Elizabeth Ann Seton while she lived at Emmitsburg. Among the papers of Father Brute, who later became Bishop of Vincennes (Indianapolis) is a particularly interesting memorandum from 1834 in which he stated the importance of preserving the letters of Mother Seton and his hope that they would be cherished by her community and preserved for future generations.



(A framed copy of the letter is shown here in the room used for meetings and presentations which is dedicated to Simon Brute who earned the title "first archivist" for his preservation of the Seton papers after the death of the foundress. The letter is being displayed by the members of the archival staff.)

The Seton documents and some of her letters from Fr. Brute are among the most precious documents of the collection, and are stored in vaults while copies of them are available for use by researchers in order to prevent damaging the original documents. The archival team has been actively involved in preparing the Seton papers for publication by the Sisters of Charity Federation in *Elizabeth Bayley Seton Collected Writings* (3 vols. New City Press). Many researchers inquire about the large collection of records concerning the Civil War period. Written by Daughters of Charity who served as nurses at sixty sites, including nearby Gettysburg, these accounts are being transcribed and annotated for publication.

Researchers are well served by the printed finding guide produced by the archival staff and by the enthusiastic, expert assistance of Betty Ann McNeil, DC, Bonnie Weatherly, and Selim James. After a visit to the archives at Emmitsburg, it is clear that the documents and artifacts so central to the history of the Sisters of Charity Federation and the American Catholic Church are treasured as well as catalogued, restored, and available for scholarly research.

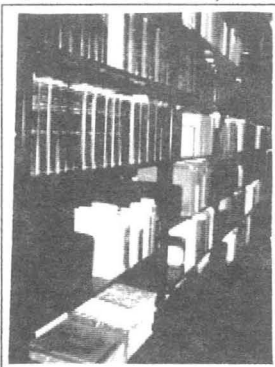
WHAT'S NEW IN ARCHIVES?

Issues involving the use of computers to process and find archival information and how to inventory, store, and use photographs are important to archivists today. ACWR members and their staff from Indiana, Cincinnati, and Adrian share with us their experience and expertise in these areas:

Archives Find Access XP User Friendly

(Contributed by Judith Rohlfers, Archivist Assistant)

In the fall of 2001, the Daughters of Charity, East Central Province, Evansville, IN started using the



Access XP program to enter our inventories on computer as well as to create other forms we use in day to day archive work. To date we have created and are using the following forms: Inventory Forms for Memorabilia, Audio/Visual, Books, and Documents, Accession Forms to record important material as it comes

in, and Request Forms to keep track of every request for archival material. With the help of a computer expert in setting up our fields, our *Archive Department* is now working with user-friendly forms in a search capacity program.

Many Uses of Access

(Contributed by Judith Metz, SC)

At the archives of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati we are using the Access database to create finding aids for our collection. In addition, we are entering our membership files and cataloguing sisters' mission assignments, publications, and degrees. We will link to this database information on all of the locales where we have had sisters, including a brief history of each mission. We now have all of our photographs on the computer and we will soon begin putting our books into a bibliographic database to replace our card catalogue.

An Archives Open House

(Contributed by Frances Lombaer, OP)

Once a year the archive is opened to the Adrian Dominican Sisters on campus. Scrapbooks of photographs from earlier days and other memorabilia are put on display for a few hours during the week that jubilarians return to Adrian, Michigan for their celebrations of 25, 50, and 60 years as a member of the Congregation. Photographs of their receptions are highlighted.



(Sr. Marie Celestine Guttman & another sister look at old scrapbooks of photos)

Some 8mm films of large groups during summers of study and other special gatherings have been transferred to video. These videos are often the favorites of those who gather to reminisce. Many sisters have not visited the archives before. This rare opportunity becomes a moment to encourage members to contribute autobiographies and photographs to our collection.

BOOK REVIEW

Working in Women's Archives: Researching Women's Private Literature and Archival Documents

Reviewed by Maggie Hoerl

This compilation of essays illustrates several "challenges and opportunities that arise from encounters with female archival subjects." The title and this theme, which is stated early in the introduction, are full of potential for archivists and for researchers who use archives.

The essays, however, deal primarily with literary criticism and the work of feminist scholars seeking to de/reconstruct the identity of women authors using archival sources. The terminology and agenda throughout is strongly feminist and because the subjects are Canadian authors there is an assumed familiarity with Canadian archives.

Any archivist who works with the documents of women can appreciate the discussion of research methods that is included. The researcher is often presented as a detective who must search many different archives and sources, with the assistance of knowledgeable and passionate archivists, in order to paint a complete picture of their subject. An appreciation of archives which include and catalog artifacts, as well as letters and other documents, is expressed. The importance of funding for acquisitions, preservation, and especially effective cataloging is also recognized by each contributor.

Despite the literary, feminist, and Canadian emphasis, this compilation of short essays addresses many of the issues faced by all archivists. Important ethical and technical issues are discussed within these well documented and illustrated narratives.

ACWR NATIONAL OFFICE
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Welcome New Members!

Joanna Andow, Sisters of Charity,
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Irene Fortier, DHS, Putnam, CT
Mary Louis Gavan, RSCJ, St. Louis, MO
Marie Gillen, SC, Halifax, Nova Scotia
Martha Gonzalez, STJ, Covington, LA
Lisa Goodwill, Franciscan Sisters,
Allegany, NY
Eileen Huckestein, OSB, Pittsburgh, PA
Kris Matthies, Diocese of Green Bay,
Green Bay, WI
Mary Janet Mazierski, CSSF, Buffalo, NY
Sylvia McElhannon, Sisters of the
Sorrowful Mother, Broken Arrow, OK
Ruth Pagano, Glastonbury, CT
Kay Schmitt, Society of the Sacred Heart,
St. Louis, MO
Marita Schweiger, OSB, Norfolk, NE
Joanne Skalski, SSJ-TOSF, Stevens Point, WI

For help contacting these new members, or any ACWR member, please call or write the National Office at (202)884-9441 or acwr@juno.com.

Thank You – From the ACWR!

The Board of the ACWR would like to thank the many members who included a donation with their membership application or membership renewal. We appreciate your continued support for the mission and activities of the ACWR.

The Mail Is Here! *(Continued from page 1)*
We felt a real closeness to Gwen and Dorothy as we read and typed their day-by-day prison log. Usually the letters had been written under adverse conditions of poor lighting, lots of noise and lack of privacy. They were always transcribed with a feeling of gratitude that we could do our little bit to further the cause of closing the School of the Americas.

Additional note: Excerpts of the letters received from Sisters Gwen and Dorothy between July, 2001 and January, 2002 can be found in the cover story of the January 25, 2002 edition of The National Catholic Reporter. The NCR has extensively covered the School of the Americas protests and the role of the Hennessey sisters in them.