

April 2003 VOL.14, NO.1 ACWR NEWS

St. Louis: Steeped in History, Proud of Catholic Heritage By Rosemary Meiman O.S.U.

The history of St. Louis is intertwined with the development of the Catholic Church in the area. Chosen by Pierre Laclede in 1764, the site for the city of St. Louis answered the needs of the French fur traders. The location close to the confluence of the Missouri and the Mississippi rivers made the site an immediate success. Rather than name the location for himself, Laclede suggested that it bear the name of the patron saint of the reigning monarch St. Louis IX.

Among the first priests to minister in the area were Father Sebastian Meurin, a Jesuit, and Father Pierre Gibault, a priest from Canada. The first resident priest of St. Louis was a Capuchin missionary, Father Valentine, who came to St. Louis in May 1772. Through the efforts of these priests and of those who followed in their footsteps, the Catholic Church began its growth in the St. Louis area that has extended to the present time.

In order to assist in the education and evangelization of this developing area, women religious were sent to the pioneer land of Missouri. The first women religious to come to the area of St. Louis were the Religious of the Sacred Heart, under the leadership of St. Philippine Duchesne. They were soon followed by other Orders and Congregations: the Sisters of Loretto, the Visitation Nuns, the Sisters of Charity from Emmitsburg, the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Ursulines, the Sisters of Mercy, the Good Shepherd Sisters. These and other groups of religious men and women continue their ministry today to the people of St. Louis in the medical, the educational, and the social services fields. In 1873 the first continuous public school kindergarten in the United States began in the Carondelet area of St. Louis. The city's commitment to education is evident in the area's

five universities and 26 colleges. St. Louis University, founded in 1818, was the first Catholic university in the Midwest. From St. Louis University and Washington University have come a dozen Nobel Prize laureates. Presently there are 15,284 students in secondary schools and 41,486 students in the elementary schools of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

In 1904 the Forest Park in St. Louis was host to the Louisiana Exposition, known as the World's Fair. This 7-month fair gave the world its first ice cream cones, hot dogs, and iced tea, as well as several buildings and the statue of St. Louis, King of France, in Forest Park. In the Education Building at the Fair, over 30 Catholic colleges had displays of student work in their exhibits. One of the architects of the Fair buildings was George D. Barnett who was also the chief architect of the New Cathedral on Lindell Boulevard.

The Old Cathedral at the Riverfront is the site of the first church in the city of St. Louis. This church served as the main house of worship for Catholics and still functions as a parish church today. The cornerstone of the New Cathedral was laid in 1907, the same date that the Vatican terminated the missionary status of the Church in the United States, marking a fresh date in the history of the Church in the West.

Today area residents are employed in retailing, finance, transportation, construction, recreation, and manufacturing. Major corporations such as Anheuser-Busch, Emerson, Monsanto, and Ralston have their headquarters in St. Louis. Catholics number about 25% of the total population of the metro St. Louis area.

Letter from the President

Dear Members of ACWR,



With the date of the Fourth Triennial Conference drawing near, the ACWR Board decided to hold the May 2003 meeting in St. Louis in order to revisit the conference site and to finalize

arrangements for our gathering in September.

Let us know if you have not received the packet of registration materials and program that was mailed to you at the end of January. If you plan to attend, you will need to send your registration forms and fees to Pauline Ingram, OP, Treasurer, by the June 20 deadline to avoid a late registration charge.

Welcoming us to St. Louis will be members of the St. Louis Area Religious Archivists (SLARA) who are eager to share the "Spirit of St. Louis" with visitors arriving at the airport and the hotel.

This promises to be an exciting time for learning, sharing, and networking around mutual archival interests. The schedule of events will allow time and space for celebrating Eucharist, meeting old friends, making new contacts, and having sheer fun as we get to see some of the interesting sights in and around St. Louis.

If you are new to ACWR, try to arrive in time for the pre-session orientation planned for new members. It will be an opportunity for you to get acquainted and to learn more about the organization.

Some of you have inquired about the status of our search for an Executive Secretary for the National Office. To date we have been unable to find someone for that position. We look to you, our members, for any assistance or suggestions you can offer.

While the Conference theme of "Sacred Trust" highlights the trust that has been given to us as

archivists for repositories of different religious congregations, it is also, I believe, one that binds us together in this organization. Membership brings with it a mutually reverent responsibility for the life of the organization from which we draw inspiration and support.

I challenge each of us to look at ways we might be able to serve one another in this community of Archivists to carry on the legacy of the founders of ACWR. Consider becoming involved as a board member, a committee member, and/or a contributor of an article for the Newsletter. Share your ideas with us. The Board would love to hear from you. We look forward to meeting you in St. Louis.

Sincerely,

Susan Nowalis, RSM President, ACWR

Election Results

The Election Committee is pleased to announce that Sister Mary Jeremy Buckman, RSM, was elected Vice-President/President Elect of ACWR. We thank her and Sister Mary Ann Gschwind, FSPA, for allowing their names to be placed on the ballot. Both candidates were well supported. Sister Mary Jeremy Buckman, RSM, will attend the ACWR May Board Meeting. She will be inducted into office at the Triennial Conference.

Conference Tour Offerings

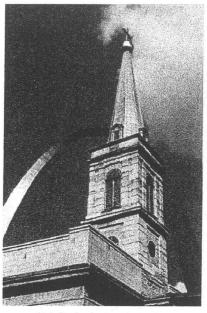
By Rosemary Meiman O.S.U.

In order to enjoy the various sites in and around St. Louis, several Saturday afternoon tours are arranged for your choosing. There is a \$15.00 charge for each tour, payable at the time of registration.

- 1. The St. Louis Riverfront, including a visit to the Old Cathedral, the Arch and the Museum under the Arch, is one of the key tourist attractions in St. Louis. The chartered bus will take the group to the Riverfront area and then each one can choose the site(s) to visit. To take the tram ride to the top of the Arch is an additional charge but there is no charge to visit the Museum under the Arch. For those who wish to take a one-hour boat ride on the river, there is an additional charge for that, too.
- 2. This tour offers a trip to the New Cathedral on Lindell Boulevard that has the largest collection of mosaics in the world under one roof. The Midwest Jesuit Archives, located several blocks from the Cathedral on West Pine Boulevard, contains the archives of the Chicago, Detroit, Missouri and Wisconsin Jesuits. Sacred Heart/Ursuline Archives, located adjacent to the Midwest Jesuit Archives, are housed in a newly renovated building that was formerly a public library. The shared facility houses the archives of the U.S. Province of the Religious of the Sacred Heart and the Central Province of the Ursuline Sisters.
- For those who wish to view the city and its environs from the comfort of a chartered bus, the ride will drive past the major attractions of the city. Several short stops at sites mutually agreeable to the group will be made.
- 4. For those who love nature and all of God's creation, a trip to Grant's Farm is

ideal. The beautiful 160-acre animal preserve is located on the grounds of the August A. Busch Estate and holds a variety of activities for all ages. One can take the coach ride through the grounds, see the display of the Busch family's renowned carriage collection with vehicles dating back to the 1700's, enjoy the elephant and bird shows, admire the Clydesdale horses, and take refreshments in the Bauernhof courtyard. There is no charge to enjoy Grant's Farm.

For those who wish to plan a trip on their own, there will be a list of *Other Suggested Sites for Trips* available. If anyone wishes to rent a car during the meeting, information on car rentals will also be available.



Old Cathedral and Arch

Spotlight on Conference 2003 Presenters By Susan Nowalis, RSM

From the conference program you have already received, you know there will be a wonderful roster of speakers on hand for the ACWR Conference 2003. You can expect lively sessions filled with information, wisdom, practical advice and humor. The schedule allows time for questions at the end of each session with opportunities for continuing conversations during the breaks and other informal settings. This article provides a brief glimpse of the backgrounds of our speakers.



Our Keynote Speaker, Mary Denis Maher, CSA, Ph.D., is a member of ACWR and the History of Women Religious Conference and has been actively involved in both groups. She is archivist for her community, the

Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, and is a member of the English faculty at Ursuline College in Cleveland, Ohio. Currently she is involved in a Diocesan Museum Project in the Cleveland Diocese. A popular speaker and author, Mary Denis is well known for the wit she injects in her presentations. Expect a thought-provoking challenge in her reflection on our sacred trust as archivists.



James Reilly, Director of the Image Permanence Institute at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY, is well known for his research on the effects of temperature and humidity on library, archives and museum collections, deterioration of

19th century photographic prints, the effectiveness of storage enclosures for imaging materials and the major cause of image deterioration. He is a consultant to many museums and government agencies, is sought after worldwide as a teacher and seminar speaker, and was a presenter at the Society of American Archivists 2001 Conference, James

has written extensively on preservation issues, and in 2002 was the recipient of the Silver Light Award given by the Association of Moving Image Archivists in recognition of his outstanding career achievement in moving image archiving. We look forward to his plenary session on "Preserving Photographs and Managing Collection Storage".



You will want to be sure to attend the plenary session on the Archdiocese of St. Louis to be presented by **John Waide**, St. Louis University Archivist. For a preview of John's gift

for historical narration, visit the History of St. Louis University web site:

http://www.slu.edu/sluhistory/index.html). John composed the text for the site. He comes to us with an M.A. in history, membership in professional archival associations, and is a member of the Academy of Certified Archivists.



"Policies Governing Archival Files" is the topic that **Dan Ward**, **OSB** will address in his plenary session. Issues of privacy, confidentiality and access are among the

important aspects to be considered. Father Ward is a monk and priest of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, MN. He has a JCL in Canon Law and a JD in Civil Law, and was formerly a professor in both areas at St. John's University, Collegeville. He is a former superior of St. Gregory's Abbey in Shawnee, OK and St. Augustine's Monastery, Nassau, Bahamas. Author and consultant to a number of religious communities, Father Ward is presently Executive Director of the Legal Resource Center for Religious located in Silver Spring, MD.



If you have difficulty deciding which concurrent sessions you want to attend, you are not alone. Fortunately some of the presentations will be repeated. Among them is a session you won't want to miss, "Preparing for

Disaster" by Lisa Fox, Senior Conservator for the Local Records Preservation Program of the Missouri State Archives. There she manages the conservation program with its three professional conservators who restore rare/historic documents from the State Archives as well as local government offices.

Prior to joining the Archives staff, Lisa worked for five years as a preservation consultant. She wrote the definitive text on preservation microfilming, published by the American Library Association in 1996. She also advised on the development of national preservation programs for groups including the Society of American Archivists, Commission on Preservation and Access, OCLC, and a broad coalition of cultural institutions in Brazil.

Lisa has taught some 200 workshops on all aspects of preservation. She has consulted and written extensively on disaster preparedness, and aided Miami libraries in the recovery from Hurricane Hugo in 1992. We welcome Lisa to ACWR.



A session closely connected to our conference theme, Religious Archives: A Sacred Trust, will be given by Jeanne Reichart, RSM. She will guide participants through significant portions of the Vatican document, "The

Pastoral Function of Church Archives". Jeanne is archivist for the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester, NY, is a member of ACWR and the Mercy Regional Archivists Network. She also keeps a hand in teaching and it is her teaching style that brings the document to life. Because of the significance of this document, Jeanne was invited to repeat her session.



In their capacities as Archivist and Associate Archivist for the Sisters of Mercy of St. Louis, Mary Jeremy Buckman, RSM, Ph.D. and Roberta Doelling will do a joint presentation on "Preservation

Basics". Both are members of ACWR, SAA, St. Louis Area Religious Archivists and St. Louis Area Archivists, and have attended professional conferences and workshops on archival subjects. Mary



Jeremy comes from a background of nursing, education and administration and has served on nursing and healthcare related boards. Roberta has an M.A. in Elementary Education and an M.S. in Computer Education. After years spent as an educator, Roberta has transferred her skills to archival work. This team will give basic guidelines for preserving treasures and will use examples from the St. Louis Mercy archives. Members' interest in the topic led us to request that it be offered twice.

For anyone who has researchers coming into the archives, you will want to hear what Barbara Baer, CSJ has to say about "What Researchers Need Available to Them in the Archives". A Sister of St. Joseph of Wichita, Barbara's background includes a doctorate in Modern European History, work as a researcher in a Public Records Office in London, educator and academic administrator. She has served on numerous boards and committees for both her religious community and the civic community. As a member of the Research Team for the Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph she is collaborating on a history project for the Federation. This has involved her in researching 20 congregational archives and several diocesan archives thus far. We look forward to the insights Barbara will bring to our members and appreciate her willingness to repeat her session.



Records manager, practicing historian and teaching historian, **Dr. Charles Nolan** is the Archivist for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. A member of the Institute of Certified Records Managers with a doctorate in church

history, he has lectured frequently on the history and records of Southern Catholicism, records management and archives management. He established a model program for incorporating records management with the traditional functions of diocesan archives administration. Dr. Nolan is the author of the text, "History of the Archdiocese of New Orleans", covering the period from 1698-2001. A supportive member of ACWR and winner of the 1998 Sister M. Claude Lane Award given by SAA in conjunction with the Society of Southwest Archivists for his contributions to the field of religious archives, he will speak on "Records Management for Religious Communities". This session will be repeated.



The 1997 recipient of the Sister M. Claude Lane Award, **Blaithin Sullivan**, **CSJ**, is archivist for her community, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, and is active

in SAA. Blaithin will present "Basic Components of Archival Management." This session will be valuable for new archivists and for anyone looking for a review of basics. Blaithin is also a member of ACWR and has been active on many boards of trustees and societies including the Archivists of Religious Collections Sections of SAA.



The expertise of Joann Kessler, OSU, will be evident to anyone wanting to explore the "Archivist's Role in Cultural Heritage". Archivist for the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, Ohio, Joann was a presenter at the 1999 Catholic

University of America Conference on "Saving Sacred Things". Joann served as ACWR treasurer for five years and was an organizing force for our memorable Conference 2000 in Cleveland.



Always generous in her service to ACWR, Therese Gregoire, O. Carm will offer two different sessions. One will be a basic "Introduction to Electronic Records;" the other, an "Introduction to the

Internet". Therese is archivist, treasurer and webmaster for her community, the Congregation of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, in Lacombe, LA. She developed and has been maintaining the ACWR web site for several years. Therese has taught computer science to high school students and with them created and developed a web site for the school. Those of you who attended her sessions during ACWR Conference 2000 will remember what an excellent teacher she is.



Under the heading of "Outreach: Marketing Archives" we will hear from former ACWR President, **Kathryn Callahan, CSC** and former ACWR Secretary, **Elvira Kelley, OSF**. Kathryn will

incorporate results from the ACWR survey she conducted last year in her presentation,

"Encouraging Sisters to Contribute to Archives". At the time that she served her three-year term, on the ACWR Board, Kathryn was also a member of her congregation's leadership team, Director of



Congregational Archives and Records for her congregation, Sisters of the Holy Cross, Notre Dame, Indiana, and participated in professional archival organizations. Elvira is archivist for the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, IA. In "Making Archives Visible" she will share some interesting insights about the Dubuque Franciscans, the ways the community is helped to appreciate its history, and the public is made aware of their works.

Continued on Page 7

Elvira's background includes congregational leadership, formation, education and Director of Pastoral Planning for the Archdiocese of Dubuque. She was ACWR Secretary for four years and a contributor to the Newsletter.



ACWR members
Stephanie Morris, Ph.D
and Kathryn Callahan,
CSC have teamed up to
give us some practical
information on
"Software Options" for
use in archives.
Stephanie, a Certified
Archivist, is presently
archivist for the Sisters

of the Blessed Sacrament, Bensalem, PA. She is a member of the Society of American Archivists and has been active in the Archivists for Religious Collections Section of SAA. She has a background in science technology and a doctorate in American social history and has given presentations on scientific archives and automation. As a consultant she has helped to develop records management programs for small and large institutions.



For the final plenary session we have four ACWR members who will take part in the Open Forum. Anita Therese Hayes, BVM has been archivist for the Sisters of Charity, BVM, Dubuque, Iowa since 1991. She earned a certificate in Archival Administration from

the University of Wisconsin in Madison and has attended archival workshops. With an MA in elementary education she has been both teacher and administrator and has worked in administrative positions in her community. Anita Therese has been serving on the ACWR election committee since 1999.



Rita King, SC is archivist for the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of New York. Rita has an MA in American history and has been an educator. Her archival training includes an internship, seminars and workshops. She holds membership in SAA, ACWR, MARAC, ARI and History of Women Religious Conference. Rita served ACWR on the original Task Force (1990-1992), as member of the Election Committee, and as Vice President and President.



Edna McKeever, CSJ, currently on the ACWR Board as Past President, has served the membership in various capacities: on the Election Committee, as Secretary, as Vice President, and President. A former educator with

an MA degree in French, she had been working in the archives of her congregation, the Sisters of St. Joseph, Brentwood, NY, since 1991. Edna has attended many archival workshops and holds a certificate in Archives Management from the Palmer School of Long Island University. She is a member of SAA, MARAC, has served on the Boards of Long Island Archives Conference and Archivists of Religious Institutions, and was a presenter for ACWR Conferences in 1997 and 2000.



Since 1980 Mary Serbacki, OSF has been Province Archivist for her congregation, the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity, Stella Niagara, New York. She holds an MA in history and archives administration and has attended workshops on archival

administration, theory and practice. A certified archivist, Mary has been an archival consultant for various congregations of women religious. A member of the founding committee of ACWR, she is also a Past President of ACWR. Her professional memberships include SAA and MARAC.

With the information provided in this brief essay about our speakers comes the hope that conference participants will be able to identify resources within the membership and beyond who might be contacted for post-conference consultation. As stated in the conference program, "we help one another".

Arriving by Plane in St. Louis?

For those arriving by plane on September 25 for the ACWR meeting in St. Louis, please note.

In the LAMBERT-ST. LOUIS Airport, there is a section called "The Meeting Place" which is right next to baggage Carousel #1. For those who wish to get transportation to the Holiday Inn/Viking Conference Center in Kirkwood on Thursday afternoon and early evening, just gather at "The Meeting Place" where there will be members of SLARA welcoming the arrivals. (SLARA=St. Louis Area Religious Archivists) When a sufficient number of persons for the hotel van have gathered, a SLARA member will assist in obtaining the van for them.

For those who may be arriving at the EAST TERMINAL, just get on one of the St. Louis Airport vans (free of charge) to transport you to the main terminal and go to "The Meeting Place" right next to baggage Carousel #1. (Southwest Airlines uses the East Terminal.)



Remembering Sister Bernarda Boner
Mount St. Benedict Monastery
Crookston, Minnesota
April 22, 1909 – November 6, 2002
Federation of St. Gertrude
While teaching at Mount St. Benedict High School,
Sister Bernarda attended a workshop on archives in
Washington, DC. With this elementary training,
she began organizing a sizeable collection of
historical documents, artifacts, and memorabilia
which she stored in the first community archives.
For her creative efforts to preserve her community's
unique Benedictine heritage, she is honored as the
founder of Mount St. Benedict Archives.

Scholarship News

Congratulations to ACWR member, Sister Frances Gimber, Society of the Sacred Heart, St. Louis Missouri, on receiving the Colonial Dames of America Scholarship to attend the Modern Archives Institute this winter. Sister Rosemary Meiman, OSU, is one of the previous recipients of this award.

The Society of American Archivists, in conjunction with the Colonial Dames of America (Chapter II, Washington, D.C.), has established two scholarship programs. The Colonial Dames Scholarship Award, established in 1974, financially assists two archivists each year to attend the National Archives Modern Archives Institute. The institute is held twice each year: January/February and June. The award covers up to \$1,200 of the total tuition, travel, and housing expenses at the institute (tuition is \$645). To be eligible, an applicant must be an employee of an archival institution or agency with a fair percentage of its holdings in a period predating 1825; have been employed less than two years as an archivist or archives trainee; and actually be working with archives or manuscripts regardless of title.

A second program, Donna Cutt Scholarship to the Modern Archives Institute, was established in 2002. It is also given in conjunction with the Colonial Dames of America (Chapter III, Washington, D.C.). This award financially assists one archivist each year to attend the institute and has the same criteria and funding as the Colonial Dames Scholarship. Complete details are posted on the Society of American Archivists web site (www.archivists.org/recognition).



Old Courthouse

Sister Dianna Ortiz, OSU, Publishes Account of Torture and Its Aftermath



Thirteen years after being abducted and tortured in Guatemala, Sister Dianna Ortiz has published an account of her experience. In The Blindfold's Eyes: My Journey from Torture to Truth, Sister Dianna describes her abduction and torture, her struggle to heal, and her continuing work to tell the world

about the others who did not escape.

"I have to let the people who were being tortured beside me know that I haven't forgotten them," she says. "As long as I'm alive, I have to use my life to work against the practice of torture."

An Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, Sister Dianna was working as a missionary among indigenous people in Guatemala when, in November 1989, she was held for 24 hours, gangraped, burned with cigarettes, and suspended over a pit filled with the bodies of men, women, and children who had been murdered. Of the estimated 47,000 people who "disappeared" in Guatemala over the last several decades, she is one of the few to escape.

Sister Dianna's case attracted attention internationally because of the charge that the man who intervened with her captors, a mysterious "Alejandro," may have had connections with the U.S. Embassy.

Since her release, Sister Dianna has gone through an excruciating struggle to heal. Only now has she been able to write this book about her "journey from torture to truth." She has spoken out against torture through lawsuits, interviews, testimony before government agencies, and vigils. She is the founding director of the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC) in Washington, D.C.

The Blindfold's Eyes, written with Patricia Davis, is published by Orbis Books. It is available at Mount Saint Joseph Book and Gift Shop, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY. 42356.

Elizabeth Bayley Seton: Collected Writings, Volume 2, co-edited by Sisters of Charity Regina Bechtle (NY) and Judith Metz (Cincinnati), and manuscript editor, Ellin Kelly, published by New City Press.

Volume 2 covers Elizabeth's correspondence and journals from 1808 to 1820, the years during which she began the Sisters of Charity in Emmitsburg, MD. This 786-page book offers new insight into the joys and struggles of the women who first planted the charism of Charity in North America.

Elizabeth Bayley Seton: Collected Writings is a projected three-volume collection with annotations, index, and some previously unpublished material, that documents the life, spirituality and extensive contributions of the first native-born American saint. Historians of religion, women and religious life will find it an invaluable and inspirational research tool.

Copies of Volume 2 may be ordered from: Vincentian Studies Institute Vincentian Heritage Dept. 2233 North Kenmore Ave. Chicago, IL 60614-3594 Phone: 773/325-4943

e-mail: VISBookstore@depaul.edu online orders: www.depaul.edu/~vstudies (click on "Bookstore")

Many thanks for your ongoing support of this scholarly project. ACWR members Betty Ann McNeil, DC, and Judith Metz, SC, who are actively involved in the scholarly project, join me, Regina Bechtle, SC, in thanking you for your support.



Grant's Farm

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

Welcome New Members!

Rita Curry, RSM, Buffalo, NY
Ann Marie Damiani, CSJB, Bronx, NY
Alberta Dieker, OSB, Mt. Angel, OR
Helen Jacobson, OSF, Aston, PA
Adele Korhummel, CSJO, Orange, CA
Gerald Peterson, FSSJ, Hamburg, NY
Cabrini Warpeha, OSF, Sylvania, OH
Donna Westley, Monroe, MI
Francis Xavier Porter, OSU, Great Falls, MT
Sue Woodruff, SNJM, Portland, OR
Mary Ann Gschwind, FSPA, La Crosse, WI
Christine Rausch, OSB, Mt. Angel, OR
Rose Marie Smiglewski, CSSF, Lodi, NJ
Mary Veronica Zacharczyk, CSSF, Enfield, CT

Correction from the November Newsletter Roberta Doelling (Not an RSM and from St. Louis MO, not Chicago, IL) 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; US mail: ACWR National Office, Trinity College, 125 Michigan Ave., NE Washington, DC 20017

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