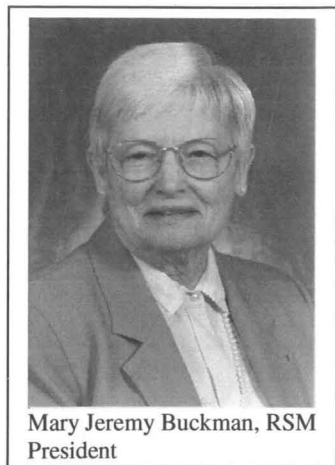


Letter from the President



Mary Jeremy Buckman, RSM
President

Dear Members of Archivists for the Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR),

I would like to thank each of you for the opportunity to serve as the new President of ACWR. In addition I wish to thank the two immediate past presidents, Katherine

Misbauer, SL and Susan Nowalis, RSM and the Board members for their excellent work done for ACWR. There was no Executive Secretary for the past two-three years and each of these women took on extra work to make our organization function. Katherine Misbauer, SL, and her secretary did an outstanding job with the newsletter for two years. Susan Nowalis, RSM retrieved and responded to voice mail. Pauline Ingram, OP has kept our membership directory updated as well as keeping our finances in order. Vicki Cravens, OSU has kept the minutes up-to-date and Rosemary Meiman, OSU was a driving force behind the wonderful conference in September 2003. Kathryn Callahan, CSC, another past president and Board member took on the task of answering and/or forwarding email messages from the National Office during the absence of an Executive Secretary.

The ACWR News (November 1997) reports "The national office of ACWR proudly calls Trinity College (University in 2004) home as the trappings of a busy administrative office slowly but surely consumes the space generously offered by the college President, Dr. Patricia McGuire." It is appropriate to again thank Dr. Patricia McGuire for allowing ACWR to continue using the space at Trinity University for the ACWR National Office. A note of appreciation is also due Mary Hayes, SNDdeN, a faculty member at Trinity University and a dedicated member to ACWR for looking after the office space during the time without an Executive Secretary. S. Mary has been extremely gracious in introducing Elaine Stein, the new

Executive Secretary, to important contacts at Trinity University.

In April, Susan Nowalis, RSM and I interviewed three candidates for the office of Executive Secretary without success. In May, Elaine Stein, a highly qualified candidate, became available and she accepted the offer by the Board. She started her new position on September 1, 2004. The Board is extremely grateful that Susan Nowalis, RSM and Pauline Ingram, OP were able to take time from their busy schedule to orientate Elaine Stein to her new position in early September.

The Board requested Susan Nowalis, RSM to be a consultant for the Executive Secretary because S. Susan now lives and works in the Washington, DC area. S. Susan spent hours working out the computer and email problems at the ACWR office and introduced Elaine to Mary Hayes, SNDdeN and Mary Denis Maher, CSA.

Other blessings for 2004 include Mary Denis Maher, CSA becoming content editor for the ACWR News and members who have contributed and/or plan to contribute articles for the newsletter.

Please look for the documentation of a dues increase for 2005-2006 in this newsletter. The rationale is discussed in the notice so I will not belabor the point other than to say that without a very large amount of contributed services from ACWR members and especially Board members, this increase would have come much sooner.

Following the meeting in Boston, August 7th, Judith Metz, SC, Vice President and President elect finalized a contract with Drawbridge Inn at 2477 Royal Drive, Ft. Mitchell, KY for the ACWR conference scheduled for Thursday, September 28- Sunday, October 1, 2006. Drawbridge Inn is near Cincinnati, Ohio and near an airport. Mark your calendars now to attend the Conference in 2006.

(Continued on page 2)

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

The Board is scheduled to meet at Loretto Center in St. Louis on Thursday evening, November 4 to Sunday November 7, 2004. These are marathon meetings with long hours.

Our agenda includes:

- Meeting our new Executive Secretary
- Developing a theme for the Conference and surfacing names for a keynote speaker and other speakers for the various sessions. The Board has reviewed the suggestions given by members after the 2003 conference and will do our best to incorporate your requests in the 2006 conference.
- Continuing the discussion of finding a repository for archival documents of communities which are closing.

It is anticipated that our agenda will grow during the weeks before the meeting.

Planning the Program for the Conference will require many hours. If you have any additional suggestions that you did not include on your evaluation from the Conference in 2003, please feel free to send them to me, any member of the Board or Elaine Stein, Executive Secretary. *May God bless you and your ministry.*

Mary Jeremy Buckman, RSM, President 2004-2005



Board Members

Seated (l-r): Mary Jeremy Buckman, RSM, Susan Nowalis, RSM

Standing (l-r): Judith Metz, SC; Katherine Misbauer, SL; Vickie Cravens, OSU; Pauline Ingram, OP, and Rosemary Meiman, OSU

Notice of Dues Increase for 2005 – 2006 Membership Year

At the April-May 2004 meeting of the ACWR Board there was a lengthy discussion regarding membership and the need to increase the dues. The classification of membership will change to reflect only two types of membership and all members will have voting privileges.

Regular members – persons whose primary ministry is the furtherance of archival and historical services to women religious as well as persons who are supportive of ACWR goals.

Retired – persons who have retired from active archival ministry.

Dues for 2005-2006 will be:

Regular members: Forty (\$40) dollars annually

Retired members: Twenty-five (\$25) dollars annually

Rationale for dues increase

The Board noted that costs have increased due to employment of a professional Executive Secretary; increased costs of printing the newsletter, updating brochures, printing the Directory; updating software and hardware in the National Office; increased postage rates; increased cost of having a website; and other costs to run our National Office. If ACWR is to maintain a positive balance sheet for the future it is necessary for a dues increase. As most of us are aware, dues to other professional organizations have been increased during the past years, but ACWR has not had a dues increase for at least the last six years.

Bylaws have been revised to reflect the changes made in membership structure.

Sr. Mary Jeremy Buckman, RSM

President

ACWR ACCOUNT SUMMARY
July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004

INCOME

Membership Dues	\$ 9,450
Donations	450
Interest Income	<u>3,251</u>

TOTAL INCOME **\$13,151**

EXPENSES

Board

Bank Charges	\$ 25
Gifts	50
Meetings	949
Miscellaneous (Ad)	51
Postage	43
Telephone	120
Travel	<u>2,296</u>

Total Board **\$ 3,534**

Executive Secretary **\$ 0**

Office Expenses

Directory Printing	\$ 477
Election Expenses	149
Equipment (Reimb)	(6)
Newsletter Printing	394
Newsletter Postage	507
Office Postage	335
Office Printing (Copier)	38
Supplies	42
Website/Internet	<u>283</u>

Total Office **\$ 2,219**

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$ 5,753**

BALANCE **\$ 7,397**

Conference Realized **\$ 4,199**

2003-2004 NET **\$11,596**

Respectfully Submitted,
 Pauline Ingram, OP
 Treasurer, ACWR

Meet Elaine Stein, New Executive Secretary for ACWR

“Being the Executive Secretary for ACWR is challenging and interesting. I am trying to learn about the organization,” said Elaine Stein, after just a few weeks as Executive Secretary at the ACWR National Office housed at Trinity College, now Trinity University. “The archivists have an amazing amount

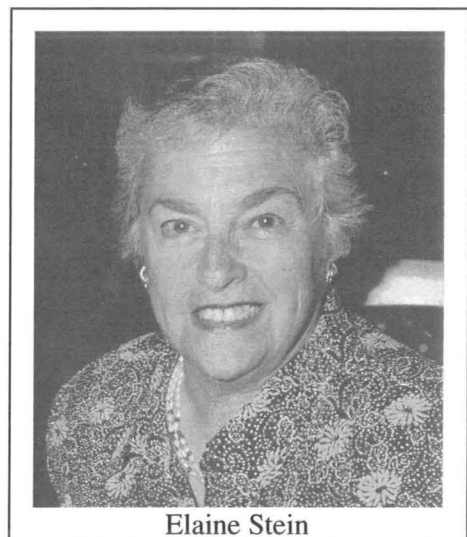
of knowledge to share.” Elaine brings to ACWR years of experience in education, office management and personnel work.

For the past twelve years Elaine served as Executive Assistant at McAuley Institute, a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy. Her responsibilities ranged from coordinating the schedule of the Executive Director to working with the investment portfolio generating loan documents and interest payments, assisting with the HUD billing, and serving as the office manager. She also served as the recording secretary to McAuley Institute’s Board of Trustees as well as assisting with special events such as the Courage in Community Award event, benefit performances held in the Washington Area, and the conference team for the Women and Housing Conferences held by the Institute.

“Some of my duties at ACWR are maintaining the office, doing the layout of the newsletter and mailing it to members, and helping to keep the membership lists current,” Elaine explained and added “just send me an email at acwr@juno.com with any of your concerns or questions.”

Elaine earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Connecticut College and a Masters’ Degree in Education from the University of Hartford. She is active in the local community, is a past president of her synagogue Shaare Tefila (Gates of Prayer) and presently serves on the Board of Directors.

Welcome, Elaine! We are delighted to have you with us.



Elaine Stein

BOOK REVIEW

Religious Pioneers: Building the Faith in the Archdiocese of New Orleans

Edited by Dorothy Dawes and Charles Nolan

Reviewed by Sr. Madeline Sophie Hebert, MSC

Religious Pioneers is a publication worthy of special recognition in the annals of the beginnings and expansion of the Roman Catholic Church in Louisiana and the influence of men and women religious in its history.

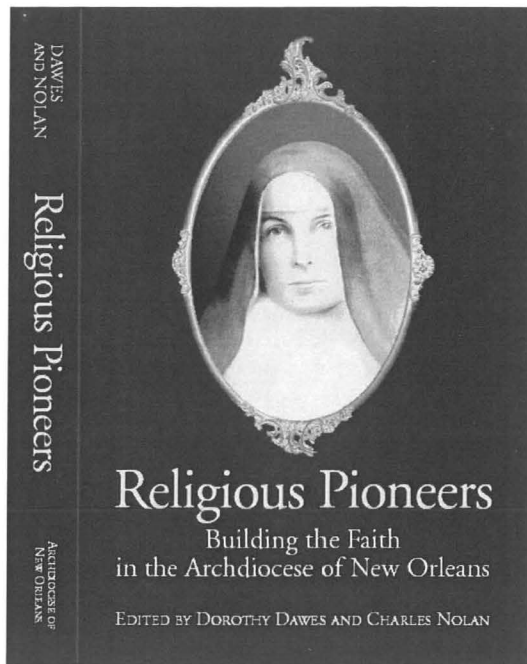
The introduction by Charles Nolan, Archdiocesan Archivist, sets the background for the stories of members of the various religious congregations who dared to face the unknown and to venture into it. Spreading the Word of God through their courage and works of charity, they influenced the development of the Church in the U.S.A. and particularly in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Beginning with the arrival of the heroic cloistered Ursulines in 1718 under Mother St. Augustin Tranchepain and continuing through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the "portraits" of some thirty-one religious carry the reader into the lives and ministries of religious organizations. Some of these women and men labored in secular and religious education, others in the care of the sick and the poor, still others in the protection of the underprivileged, especially orphans of the destructive yellow fever and cholera epidemics. Their ministries covered disturbing periods of national and international wars, of civil and political disturbances as varied as the Civil War and school integration.

The stories are told with respect for and appreciation of the dedication of the person and the topic treated. The styles are simple and correct, varied and attractive, so that the reader never tires of moving from one subject to the next. In some instances the reader could wish for more history or for even greater detail on the life and ministry of the person being presented. And perhaps the biggest regret is the absence of several well-known religious orders, who for various reasons did not include one of their pioneers in this collection.

The driving force behind **Religious Pioneers**, a project of the Religious Community Archivists of Greater New Orleans, has been Saint Mary's Dominican Sister Dorothy Dawes. Dorothy invited, cajoled, pushed,

pulled and followed through with the many details attached to such a tremendous project. She was responsible for organizing, supervising, and bringing to conclusion this invaluable undertaking. During the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase, **Religious Pioneers** seems a fitting contribution of Roman Catholic religious congregations to this historic celebration.



How we gave birth to a book

Dorothy Dawes, O.P. info@religiouspioneers.org
Dorothy Dawes and Charles Nolan, *Religious Pioneers: Building the Faith in the Archdiocese of New Orleans*. Archdiocese of New Orleans, 2004. 424 pages, 32 illustrations.

The archives of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and the Religious Community Archivists of Greater New Orleans have a working relationship since 1993. (See *ACWR News*, April 1996.) One day Dr. Nolan, archdiocesan archivist, suggested that stories of our brothers and sisters might be material for a book. In January 1997 we announced it in *Interweavings*, the local newsletter for religious. The response was enthusiastic. Nolan drew up guidelines, revising them in the ensuing years. Writers, some archivists or historians, most previously unpublished, submitted manuscripts. It was a beginning.

(Continued on page 5)

HOW WE GAVE BIRTH TO A BOOK

Dorothy Dawes, O.P

(Continued from page 5)

Dr. Nolan is in demand by the Archdiocese for extra-archival functions, and I was fairly inexperienced in publishing, so the project was languishing; two of the writers died. Another suffered memory loss, and my eyesight began to fail. When I suggested we seek a grant to hire an editor, the question was, "Who will do the work of applying for a grant?" Who indeed? I remembered the nursery rhyme, "Very well then, said the little Red Hen, I'll do it myself. And she did." Loyola University's grantsperson next door recommended Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, supplying me with a phone contact. The "contact" identified herself as a proud alumna of our Dominican High School, which gave me courage. Without the grant there would be no book.

LEH provides a maximum of \$4,000, which turned out to be seed money. The Greater New Orleans Archivists gave a modest donation. Writers and editors contributed their services, as did the graphic artist and web master of **religiouspioneers.org**. Ambassador Lindy Boggs graciously wrote the Foreword. Louisiana native Dr. Ethel Simpson, archivist at the University of Arkansas, and experienced author/editor, agreed to be copy editor. Nolan offered the Archdiocese of New Orleans as publisher. He has published volumes of baptismal records, and many other books, most through the archdiocese. With an outside publisher, you get technical services like layout, proofreading, indexing, etc., which we had either to do ourselves with volunteer help, or "farm out" to professionals. Sheridan Books, the printing firm for the archdiocese, required camera-ready copy. In the process we "hit a wall," dealing with thirty-one manuscripts, twenty-eight writers, multiple formats and various note systems following years of evolving guidelines. We hired a book designer, and indexers, never regretting either. Still, by doing so much of the work ourselves, we had better control over quality. We were also free to keep the price down, a challenge when limited to one thousand copies (Our mentor at LEH warned that 500 would *not* get us a grant.) Loyola has generously housed the books in climate-controlled archives while they are being dispatched to local outlets.

Delays were unavoidable. We reached the goal by January. We had pre-sold almost five hundred copies to our religious communities and friends, at \$20/copy hardback, by word of mouth and web site orders, raising it to \$30 by the signing event on January 25,

2004, hosted by Loyola's Center for the Study of Catholics in the South.

Many were surprised at the quality of the book, how *even* the writing is (reward for long hours spent going over each word with our copy editor, who although a cradle Catholic, warned me she was a "public school product," and not overly familiar with "the language.") My favorite short tribute from a reader, "This book is reader-friendly." Articles range from five to eighteen pages, and the brevity seems to appeal.

We regret the absence of communities that did not participate. We can publish their biographies on our web site; some have expressed interest. A second printing, in paperback is anticipated for 2005, to be accompanied by a compact disk, read mainly by the writers themselves. By then we expect to have the International Standard Book Number, delayed by complications with our publisher; the ISBN will enable us to circulate more widely on a national and international scale.

Religious Pioneers earned high praise from the Louisiana Historical Society, and has been well received by local reviewers. We hear a consensus from readers that every diocese needs such a book to document their religious pioneers. Insightful readers observe from the age of the writers, and from the stories, that it is timely to record this history before it is lost. I am confident that even more adequate grants could be found to support such a worthwhile project. The whole effort was hard, unrelenting work for an archivist, who is for the most part, a "lone arranger." My sisters and brothers kept me afloat in countless ways; the blessing of the pioneers has seen us through a labor of love.

From the Editor

Share your practical tips and ideas that have worked for you; ask questions that you would like expert advice from others working with religious archives; write an article on a special topic; suggest someone to spotlight; let me know what you would like to see in the next newsletter. Thanks

Sr. Mary Denis Maher, CSA.

smdm@srsfcharity.org

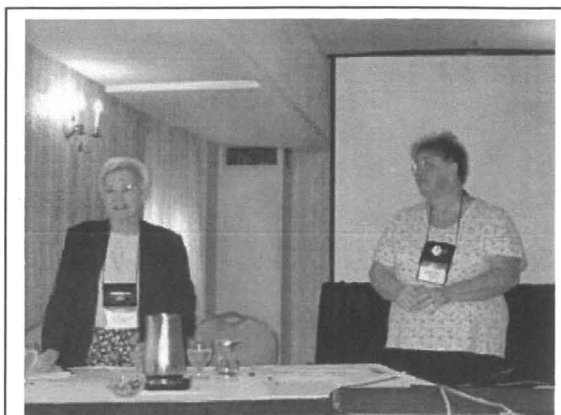
or

2351 E. 22nd St., Cleveland, OH 44115.

ACWR MEMBERS ATTEND THE SAA CONFERENCE

By Susan Nowalis, RSM

The Opening Plenary Session of the Society of American Archivists in Boston, August 4-7, 2004 featured two major presentations related to Access and Privacy. SAA President Tom Ericson gave an historic overview of the ongoing erosion of the individual's right to privacy and the US government's ongoing methods of secrecy and surveillance of citizens. Both he and keynote speaker Nadine Strosser, President of American Civil Liberties Union, spoke of the "chilling" effects of the USA Patriot Act that allows federal authorities to secretly access patron records of libraries, archives, and repositories. SAA has taken an activist role as an organization with other groups to confront the issues and is encouraging members to become activists in this matter.



Sister Mary Jeremy Buckman,(left) incoming president, with Sister Katherine Misbauer, outgoing president, (right)at the Annual ACWR business meeting.

During the Archivists of Religious Collections Section program, members dealt with the timely topic of mergers, consolidations, and closures, and the concern for what happens to archival collections in the process. Examples of collections transfers included parish records deposited at an historical society, diocesan archives deposited at a university, a religious community merger of two provinces in Washington State, religious and church archives deposited at a government facility in Canada, and the creation of a church-based historical center in the Archdiocese of Quebec that is underway to house archives of the Archdiocese, diocesan religious communities, planned to open in 2008. A lively discussion focused on the issues of custody and ownership of the records, access and liability, legal and administrative issues,

economics and budget constraints that are resulting in decisions requiring creation of new ways of caring for collections. Archivists were advised to engage historians to support the importance of archives, keep administration aware, and plan carefully.

This conversation was continued during the Annual ACWR Business Meeting. Approximately 35 members who attended the SAA conference were present for the installation of new officers, treasurer's report, and introduction of Mary Denis Maher, CSA as Content Editor for *ACWR News*.

Some of our members heard Mary Denis' brother, William Maher, give an excellent SAA session on Copyright Basics. Bill, a former SAA President, addressed important areas of the U.S. federal copyright laws most relevant for archivists and gave attendees a valuable handout containing an annotated bibliography of books and websites to access appropriate materials.



Save the Date

ACWR Conference

September 28 – October 1, 2006

Drawbridge Inn

2477 Royal Drive

Ft. Mitchell, KY

(nearest airport Cincinnati, Ohio)

**SPOTLIGHT ON....Stephanie Morris, Archivist,
Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, Bensalem, PA.**

Introducing Sister Anne Eileen Heffernan and Sister Maureen George Muldowney at the ACWR session in Boston, Stephanie Morris explained they were “the entire archival staff of the Daughters of St. Paul of the US and Toronto Province.”

Stephanie recently worked with them to develop record groups and a preliminary manual for their archives and encouraged them to come to the meeting.

The Daughters of St. Paul, located in Boston, are among many groups for whom Stephanie has provided consultation services during her 30 years of archival and historical research work. “I find the challenge of establishing programs exciting,” she said, explaining that she has been fortunate to work with a number of communities of women and men religious.

Often, Stephanie’s consultation work has come serendipitously. Bringing in a quote from Katharine Drexel on St. Francis, for example, while participating in a workshop on Sts. Francis de Sales and Jane de Chantal led to an archival consultant opportunity with the Oblates of St. Francis. Stephanie will be helping them relocate and establish their archives for the centenary of the Oblates in Child, Maryland, in 2007.

Active in her parish along with all her professional activities, Stephanie would be “happy to be of assistance to other religious communities or to give a workshop in getting such programs started.” Contact her at Sbsarchives@aol.com.



Sister Alice Veronica McCabe, Sister Gertrude Still Brown, and Stephanie Morris look over an album in the Blessed Sacrament Archives.

A charter member of the Academy of Certified Archivists, Stephanie is active in ACWR, SAA, MARAC and a frequent presenter and writer on archival matters.

Since 2000, Stephanie has been the archivist for the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament; from 1993-99, she was archivist for the medical Mission Sisters. Her PhD from Temple University is in history with additional courses in records management. Drawing on her undergraduate degree in biology, Stephanie has also worked with various science and medical collections, such as the College for Physicians of Philadelphia.



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SISTER MARY DENIS MAHER, CSA, PHD.**

**PRODUCTION EDITOR—
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**TECHNOLOGY
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ACWR Election Committee

Marylu Stueber, FSM , the chairperson of the ACWR Election Committee announces the members of the committee. Fran Gimber, RSCJ and Charline Sullivan, CSJ have agreed to serve on that important committee. You will be hearing from them in the future.

ACWR Members Retirement

We wish the following members of ACWR in 2003-2004 all the best on their retirement.

Mary T. Courtney, RSM - Rockledge, FL
Mary Innocent Dolan, RSM – Watchung, NJ
Helen Forge, SCL – Leavenworth, KS
Mary Harper, SA – Garrison, NY
Audrey Martin, OSB – Bismarck, ND

Welcome New Members

Veronica Barrientas-Carrillo, San Antonio, TX
Jane Frances Behlmann,, CSJ, St. Louis, MO
Bill Cohen, Binghamton, NY
Kathleen Connelly, SCL, Leavenworth, KS
Joan Dohmen, CDP, Melbourne, KY
Jeanne Gise, OSB, Watertown, SD
Lois Hoh, OP, Chicago, IL
Anita Janvier, CCSJ, San Antonio, TX
Irene Jasien, OSB, Lisle, IL
Margaret Ellen Johnson, SCL, Leavenworth, KS
Jane Joyce, SSND, Chicago, IL
Kathleen Kirley, SSJ, Holyoke, MA
Patricia Mirsberger, SC, Mount St. Joseph, OH
Diane F. Odette, Adrian, MI
Elizabeth O’Hara, RSM, Watchung, NJ
Rita Partyka, CSFN, Philadelphia, PA
Janet Rabideau, SL, Nerinx, KY
Frances Rooney, SA, Garrison, NY
Anastasia Sanford, SCC, Wilmette, IL
Veronica Shiells, CHF, Downey, CA
Julie Siderfin, St. Charles, MO
Rosella Wyborski, CSFN, Philadelphia, PA