

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of ACWR,

In an effort for you to know all the Board Members for 2004-2005, a picture has been provided so that you will recognize us at the annual meeting in New Orleans, LA. **S. Pauline Ingram, OP**, is completing her term as Treasurer 2001-2005 at the annual meeting in New Orleans. Look for the article regarding her many contributions to ACWR. **S. Katherine Misbauer, SC**, will also be leaving the



Front Row - Left to Right
S. Pauline Ingram, OP, S. Katherine Misbauer, SL, and S. Judith Metz, SC.

Back Row - Left to Right
S. Vickie Cravens, OSU and S. Mary Jeremy Buckman, RSM

Board after serving as Vice President 2002-03, President 2003-04 and Past President 2004-05. **S. Judith Metz, SC**, began her term as Vice President 2004-05, President 2005-06 and Past President 2006-2007. S. Judy, S. Katherine and I welcome your help with the 2006 Conference that will be held in Fort Mitchell, KY, which is very near Cincinnati, OH.

completing the first year of her second term as secretary of ACWR. S. Vickie has provided outstanding service for ACWR during the past three years. Also in the second row is **S. Mary Jeremy Buckman, RSM**, Current President 2004-2005.

As promised, the Board met in November 2004 in St. Louis to discuss the Conference in 2006. The theme will be: Religious Archivists: Our Quest for the Best. S. Regina Bechtle, SC, will deliver the keynote address on "Spirituality for Archivists". We have listened to you and are providing longer sessions for two outstanding speakers.

William Maher, Director of Archives, University of Illinois, will have all of Friday morning, September 29, 2006 to present "Copyright Laws". Lisa Fox, Senior Conservator, Missouri State Archives, will

have all of Saturday morning, September 30, 2006 to present "Disaster Planning." Multiple sessions will be provided on Friday afternoon so you will have an opportunity to make choices regarding which session you wish to attend. You will have a choice of which tour you wish to take on Saturday afternoon. Mass is scheduled for Saturday evening. A panel presentation on merger of archives, business meeting and the installation of new officers are scheduled for Sunday morning. Please mark you calendars now and plan to attend the ACWR Conference September 28- October 1, 2006 in the Cincinnati area. More news about the conference will be coming your way in 2005 and 2006.

Please remember that ACWR will have our 2005 annual meeting in beautiful New Orleans, Louisiana on Wednesday, August 17, 2005 from 9-11 a.m. at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the 69th Annual Society of American Archivists (SAA) Meeting, Aug. 14-21, 2005. For those who would like an excuse to visit New Orleans and the famous "Bourbon Street", this is your opportunity for new knowledge and a fun time.

During the first part of the ACWR meeting on August 17, 2005 a program session is being planned. During the second hour of our meeting together, you will have an opportunity to meet the Executive Secretary, Elaine Stein as well as other members of ACWR. This is your opportunity to ask questions and/or provide information. At the end of the Business meeting, the new officers of the ACWR will take the oath of office.

Each of you are encouraged to start thinking about serving as an elected officer of ACWR. In 2006, we will be electing a Vice President/President Elect/Past President for a three year term **and** a secretary for a two year term

May God continue to bless your work as archivists. Your bulging shelves are the memory of your congregation. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Mary Jeremy Buckman, RSM
President 2004-2005



S. Pauline Ingram, OP
ACWR Treasurer

The office of treasurer for ACWR is an appointed office without a specified length of term. This arrangement has worked well for ACWR in providing stability of the finances.

S. Pauline Ingram, OP took the oath of office as treasure of ACWR at the November 2001 Board meeting. She immediately began to share her financial expertise by establishing professional accounting procedures for ACWR. She consistently provided detailed financial reports at each Board meeting and gave a report to the membership at the annual meetings.

S. Pauline completed a six year term on the election committee in 2004. From 2002-04, in the absence of an executive secretary, she took on additional responsibilities of collecting membership dues, preparing the membership directory, collecting registration fees for the 2003 conference, developing a registration list and preparing a hard copy of updated Board Procedures.

In September 2004, she went to Washington, DC to assist with the orientation of the new Executive Secretary, Elaine Stein. She returned the membership activities, which included preparation of the membership directory to the executive secretary at the ACWR Office housed at Trinity College and assisted with the purchase of new software for the computer in the ACWR office. She explained the accounting procedures that would be the responsibility of the Executive Secretary and those duties that would remain with the treasurer.

S. Pauline worked with quiet efficiency and meticulous care in fulfilling the many roles she so generously assumed. She turned over a book with all the details of the 2003 Conference to S. Judy Metz, SC, President 2005-2006 and Chairwoman of 2006 Conference. It is anticipated that she will provide equally detailed information for her replacement as ACWR Treasurer, S. Mary Louise Mutch, FSPA.

S. Pauline has been a joy and a privilege to have as an ACWR Board Member. She will be missed. May God bless her in her new endeavors.

ACWR ARCHIVES RESOURCES

ACWR members are a particularly generous and sharing group, which is especially evident at the Triennial Conference. Here's your chance to ASK a question- simple or complex- and to learn about successful solutions and resources, tips, ideas. Each issue will contain this column where you can request help or share an idea. Send your question or idea; e-mail or snail-mail address, and short question or idea to S. Mary Denis , smdm@srssofcharity.org or 5232 Broadview Rd., Richfield, OH 44286.

- Joan Goulden, CSJ, a new part-time archivist is looking for good ideas on sorting and filing loose pictures. joancsj@hotmail.com
- Joanne Kessler, OSU, says she always buys her archival supplies from Metal Edge, www.metaledgeinc.com because they have supported our conferences, especially in Cleveland, OH.

When I started as archivist 11 years ago, I discovered how much our Sisters were interested in the history of our community. As soon as I felt comfortable with that history, I started giving presentations to the Sisters and displayed many pictures and artifacts that had been "put away" for safekeeping. Over the years, that has developed into the Heritage-Display room and other display areas throughout our Motherhouse. In addition, I have been asked to give presentations on our history to groups and organizations affiliated with us, and others who just have an interest in Ursuline history. All of this has developed into a small booklet that I wrote about the few Cleveland Ursulines who thought I had a significant influence on our community. I tell this story to encourage you to do likewise. You will be amazed to discover the abilities you have in these areas and the interest others have in learning more. Don't be afraid to present you history to others!" Joanne Kessler, OSU, jkessler@ursulinessisters.org

When the hurricanes struck during this past year, what did you do to preserve your archives or how did you deal with the destruction? If you had a disaster plan, where you able to follow it? What changes did you make on the basis of your experience? If you didn't have one, what might be the three most important things to do ASAP when a hurricane strikes your archival area? Send ideas to smdm@srssofcharity.org for a forthcoming article.

SPOTLIGHT ON SISTER. PATRICIA HODGE, RSM

The first Executive Secretary of ACWR,(1993-97), S. Patricia Hodge, RSM, has been an active member of ACWR as well as filling multiple roles as archivist for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.



With a certification in archives administration from the University of Pittsburgh as well as background in Library Science and English, S. Pat has combined her many skills to minister as teacher on several levels, librarian, and archivist.

“As Executive Secretary,” S. Patricia explained, “I did everything from physically setting up the first national office, then in Pittsburgh, incorporating the organization, to developing by-laws, organizing a membership list and dues structure, and creating a letterhead.” During that time, S. Pat was also a Board member of ACWR, and later a Board Member at Large from 1999-2002. She also served as interim Assistant Treasurer, and content editor for ACWR News as well as being part of the planning committee for the ACWR conference in Cleveland in 2000.

As S. Dolores Liptak, RSM, the first president of ACWR, recalled, “S. Pat was sent from heaven! We, the first officers, had no organizational plan, no dues plan, no newsletter, no secretary, no office, no money to do anything with. We all agreed that anyone who took this job on was heroic...and she said YES.”

S. Pat managed in her own steady, patient, efficient way to accomplish all these things with hundreds of phone calls and her trusty 50+ year old typewriter. “Without her, S. Dolores noted, “those first years of ACWR might have been much, much rockier, but because of her, they never were. She was our guardian angel from the start and ACWR owes her so much.”

Known for her work in 1992 in initiating and coordinating the first conference of archivists for the newly formed [1991] Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, which united 25 Mercy communities, S. Pat has been archivist for the Pittsburgh Regional area Mercies from 1989-2004. Since 2000, she works as the part-time area archivist for the five Mercy communities which form the geographical area named NyPPaW., which includes Western New York, Western Pennsylvania, and now the Philippines. In that position she insures that the records and minutes are gathered from the group as they plan the future of Mercy life.

Involved as consultant for many groups ranging from hospitals to religious communities, S. Pat cited a particular interesting project assisting a former journalist who covered the Tiananmen Square situation in her doctoral research in the Mercy archives. In addition, working with the Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh , setting up an exhibit on the Ten Outstanding Women of Pittsburgh, which included Mother Frances Warde, who founded the Sisters of Mercy in Pittsburgh in 1843, was a rewarding and exciting project.

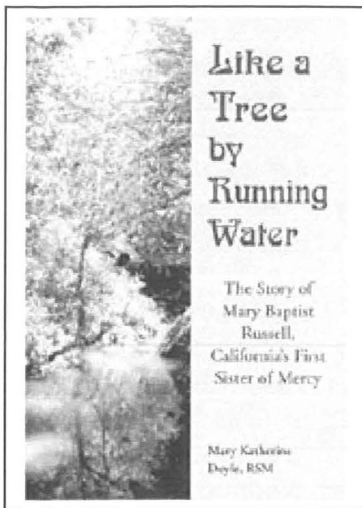
She also weathered moving the archives three times from 1997-1999 as the Mercy Motherhouse was renovated, an experience many religious archivists can relate to. S. Pat has given talks, written articles, and willingly shares various policies and procedures with other archivists.

With all her experience and involvement with ACWR, S. Patricia offered a challenge to ACWR members, “The board and varied membership of ACWR consists of over 300 highly educated and experienced professionals. May we share such gifts and talents generously with each other, with the religious communities which we serve, and with the researchers who come to us seeking competent and high quality informational services. Let us not hide “our light” under some non-descript basket!” And indeed, Sr. Pat is one whose own light shines forth!

Like a Tree by Running Water BOOK REVIEW

She did it all! These words summarize the story of Katherine Russell better known to Californians as Mother Mary Baptist Russell, pioneer founder of the Sisters of Mercy in California. *Like A Tree by Running Water* is the story of this remarkable woman, a story that speaks of courage in the face of opposition and hardship, of dedication to those whom society has forgotten, of ingenuity and creativity in responding to the crises and needs of post Gold Rush California.

The biography of Mary Baptist Russell is divided into two parts. The first segment introduces readers to her life, works and contributions to the Church of California. These elements are examined within the context of the religious, economic and political realities of the period. In the midst of all her activity, Mary Baptist found time to write lengthy letters to friends, family and governmental agencies. Her extant letters, collected in this work, range from brisk business letters to “chatty” family correspondence. They number almost 100 written between 1857 and 1898.



The initial chapters of the book address the formative factors shaping the life of this California pioneer. Born in pre-famine Ireland, Mary Baptist learned about hardship and poverty through the experience of the Irish people. She was born into a family that was not typical of the period. Her brother, Matthew Russell, SJ, was founder and editor of the *Irish Monthly* while her younger brother Charles became the first Catholic since the Reformation to hold the post of Lord

Chief Justice under Gladstone. Three sisters were also religious. The success of the family is more remarkable in the light of penal laws, famine and the challenges faced by Catholics in mid nineteenth century Ireland.

Mary Baptist, moved by an urgent longing to be of service to the poor and by a desire to dedicate her life to God, entered the Sisters of Mercy in Kinsale, Co. Cork, Ireland in 1848. Just six years later she set out with seven of her sisters on a journey that would demand a constant adaptation of the Mercy mission to the new cultural setting of Northern California.

Arriving in San Francisco in 1854, Mary Baptist started the first Catholic Hospital in California, and negotiated with the State to care for its young women delinquents, its indigent sick and its aged. Still there was more to do. The Sisters quickly responded to the health care needs of the city during the cholera epidemic of 1855 and again in the small pox epidemic of 1868. Mary Baptist built a House of Mercy to shelter domestic servants and protect them from exploitation, ministered to women caught in the web of prostitution and addiction, set up elementary schools and academies. She was the first woman to be given permission to visit prisoners in San Quentin. Her work did not end there. She established a registry office to find jobs for willing workers, provided food for the unemployed during California's severe depressions, and found time to set up natural history museums and educational displays.

Mary Baptist did not confine her work to San Francisco. She established a convent and school in Sacramento in 1857 where her sisters quickly became an integral part of the city. They were its first visiting nurses and opened St. Joseph Academy where generations of women were educated for leadership and service. During the great flood of 1861, with the city under water for almost six months, the sisters ministered by boat to those in need. In 1863 Mary Baptist extended the Mercy mission to Grass Valley, concentrating on education and care for orphans. For forty-five years, Mary Baptist tended the Mercy mission in California, collaborated with others in extending its work throughout the State. At the time of her death on August 6, 1898, she was considered to be the “best known charitable worker on the Pacific Coast.”

HOW THE BOOK WAS CREATED by Sr. Katherine Doyle, RSM

Writing the life of a founder happens by two paths: commission or passion. For me, writing about Mary Baptist Russell, founder of the Sisters of Mercy in California, was all about passion. She had fascinated me since my novitiate days. Her life was intriguing and puzzling, a combination that left me wanting more. I read everything I could find about her. That amounted to four sources: *The Life of Mother Mary Baptist Russell* written by her brother Matthew in 1902; *The Three Sisters of Lord Russell of Killowen and Their Convent Life* published by Matthew in 1915; *California's Pioneer Sister of Mercy*, written by Sister Mary Aurelia McArdle in 1954 and the excerpts on her life found in *Leaves from the Annals of the Sisters of Mercy, Vol. 3 and 4*, written by Mother Mary Austin Carroll. The second source proved not to be new at all. It was a republication of Father Russell's earlier book augmented by materials on Mary Baptist's two sisters, Mother Mary Emmanuel Russell and Sister Mary Aquin Russell.



Katherine Doyle, RSM

I came to know Catherine McAuley, in her own words, through her letters. I wanted to know Mary Baptist in the same way. I began to look for any extant letters but not in a formal way. Only when I accidentally discovered four of her unpublished letters in the archives of the Holy Family Sisters in Fremont, California did I make up my mind to write an interpretive biography of Mary Baptist and bring together her writings in one collection.

The process I used involved placing Mary Baptist within the context of her time. As an historian I wanted to examine the currents and cross currents that shaped her vision and action. I explored materials retained in religious depositories but also looked at the historical events occurring around her such as nativism, economic depressions and ecclesial currents. Uncovering the context of her life and work heightened the significance of her achievements. Background on family and mid-nineteenth century Ireland helped to explain how Mary Baptist and her companions gained the skills to address the

issues and situations that faced them in a new and unfamiliar society.

Matthew Russell, S.J. complained in 1902 that many of Mary Baptist's letters were lost, especially those written in the early years. None is dated before 1857. In searching for her letters, I discovered, however, that Mary Baptist wrote many of her important letters into the community annals, thus preserving them. Others, dealing with funding for ministries, were found in the California State archives. About a dozen letters were preserved in the archives of the Jesuits in Dublin while others were preserved in Mercy archives of St. Joseph's, Kinsale, Mercy Convent, Newry, as well as in the archives of the Sisters of Mercy in Burlingame and Sacramento, California. Many of her letters were found, quoted in whole or part, in the books of Mother Austin Carroll and Matthew Russell. Since the book has been published, three more letters have surfaced.

As I researched the book, I looked in the normal sources, newspaper accounts, books, letters. I found that I didn't always know what to ask for when visiting archives. I could ask for files or papers but that would never have led me to the letters found in community annals. As an archivist myself, I came to recognize the vital role of connecting researchers to sources unknown to them. Small details, easily overlooked, sometimes led to new discoveries and new lines of exploration. In retrospect I feel there is still more that can be discovered. All work is limited by the constraints of time, energy and funding. That was true for this work. It was written to highlight the paradigms and patterns bequeathed to us through Mary Baptist, a bias that shaped its form. It was meant as another step in discovery, not a definitive end to her story.

If you would like to order this book, please use the website
www.bluedolphinpublishing.com/LikeaTree.html.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL ACWR MEETING

Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2005

Place: New Orleans, Louisiana

Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel

Time: 9 – 11 a.m.

Meeting will be in conjunction with SAA meeting.

2005-2006 National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions

NEH Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions help small and mid-size institutions, such as libraries, museums, and historical societies, archival repositories, town and country records offices and colleges, improve their ability to preserve and care for their humanities collections. These may include special collections of books and journals, archives and manuscripts, prints and photographs and historical objects.

Awards of up to \$5000 provide support for consultant fees, workshop registration fees, travel and per diem expenses, and the costs of purchasing and shipping preservation supplies and equipment. All grants are awarded for an eighteen month period.

Application materials and instructions are available at
<http://www.neh.gov/grants/guideleines/pag.html>

The receipt deadline is May 16, 2005 for projects beginning in January 2006.

For more information contact
Preservations Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions
Division of Preservation and Access, Room 411
National Endowment for the Humanities
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20506
Telephone: (202) 606-8570
Email: preservation@neh.gov

The deadline is very close, but this is good opportunity for you to think ahead and apply next year.

Women Artists Archives National Directory Call for Participation

All Archival Repositories holding primary source material about women visual artists active in the U.S. since 1945 are invited to be included in WAAND-the Women Artists Archives National Directory.- an innovative Web directory under development at Rutgers University Libraries.

Participating Repositories will be asked to complete an online survey form for each artist in their collections. The website for this project is <http://waand.rutgers.edu>.

For further information contact :
Nicole Plett, WAAND Project Manager
Mabel Smith Douglass Library
Rutgers – The State University of New Jersey
8 Chapel Drive
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8527
Phone: 732-932-9407, ext. 27
Email: waand@rci.rutgers.edu



UPCOMING CONFERENCES

**ACWR Conference
September 28-October 1, 2006
Drawbridge Inn, Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky**

**The Seventh Triennial Conference on the
History of Women Religious
June 24-27, 2007
University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana**

Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious
July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006

_____Renewal Membership
_____New Membership

Name: _____
Last Name First Name Cong. Initials

Position Title: _____

Address: _____
Name of Archives/Institution

Street

City State Nine digit Zip Code

Telephone: _____ Ext. _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Congregation: _____

Annual Membership Fee: *(Please check one. Use a separate form for each individual.)*

Regular Member \$40.00 _____

Retired Member \$25.00 _____

Donation\$ _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Regular member: Person 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 member: Person who has retired from active archival ministry.

All members have voting privileges.

Please complete and mail this form with a check made out to **ACWR** by **August 1, 2005** to:

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Trinity University
125 Michigan Avenue, N.E.
Washington, DC 20017

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

ACWR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Congratulations are in order for S. Mary Denis Maher, CSA, who was elected as our new Vice President/President Elect 2005-2006, President 2006-2007 and Past President 2007-2008. S. Mary Denis is also a member of SAA, Midwest Archives Conference and the Cleveland Diocesan Museum Committee. Some of you will remember that S. Mary Denis gave the keynote address at the 2003 ACWR Conference.

Congratulations are also in order for S. Mary Louise Mutch, FSPA, who has accepted an appointment as treasurer for ACWR. S. Mary Louise is currently being orientated to the duties of treasurer by S. Pauline Ingram, OP. Sisters Mary Denis and Mary Louise will assume their duties following their induction to their respective offices at the August 17, 2005 annual business meeting in New Orleans.

**CONTENT EDITOR
SISTER MARY DENIS MAHER, CSA, PHD.**

**PRODUCTION EDITOR, ELAINE STEIN
TECHNOLOGY, HAL STEIN (VOLUNTEER)**

Please direct any questions and comments to:

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