

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear ACWR Members,

I would like to welcome two new board members who were installed at our annual meeting: Sisters Mary Denis Maher, CSA, a Sister of Charity of St. Augustine from Cleveland, Ohio, who is our new Vice President/President Elect, and Mary Louise Mutch, FSPA, a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration from La Crosse, Wisconsin, our treasurer. Special congratulations are in order for Sister Mary Denis who took and passed the examination to become a Certified Archivist!

Our board and some members of ACWR gathered at the SAA Annual Conference in New Orleans in mid-August for our annual meeting. It was a rich opportunity to learn, enjoy, and expand our horizons. At the SAA meeting we were reminded by the president of our sacred trust as archivists as he noted that archives are value-laden instruments of power as well as sites for shaping public culture.

News of Hurricane Katrina shocked us all and reminded us of how fragile our hold is on things of this world. We grieve with those communities who suffered property damage and pray for them. Former board member, Rosemary Meiman, OSU, invited several of us to visit the historic archives and museum of the Ursuline Sisters in New Orleans documenting their presence there since 1727. We were treated to a wonderful tour as well as a visit to their shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor.

A nomination ballot for our 2006 elections is enclosed with this newsletter. I would encourage you to think seriously about whom you know that might be able and willing to participate as a board member for our organization. How about you??? Do you know some colleague you think would make

a good board member? Are you willing to contact her and encourage her to allow her name to be placed in nomination? We all need to work together to keep our organization strong. Please consider the nomination ballot a personal invitation to participate in our election process.

Information about our 2006 ACWR Conference is detailed in this newsletter. We believe we have a strong program to offer and hope you are considering joining us. Be sure to reserve Thursday, September 28 through Sunday, October 1 for this event.

Christ's blessing on you and on your work.

*Judith Metz, SC., President*



ACWR 2005 Board

Front Row: Pauline Ingram, OP, Mary Denis Maher, CSA, Mary Louise Mutch, FSPA, Judith Metz, SC:  
Back Row: Vickie Cravens, OSU, Elaine Stein, Katherine Misvauer, SL, Mary Jeremy Buckman, RSM.

## REPORT OF THE ACWR ANNUAL MEETING - *August 17, 2005*

As many of you are aware, for the past several years the Society of American Archivists (SAA) has graciously provided a room for ACWR to hold an annual meeting during the SAA Annual Meeting.

Meetings are held in conjunction with SAA in the years when there is not an ACWR conference. This year I wish to publicly express my deep gratitude to Nancy C. Beaumont, Executive Director of SAA, and her staff for their help in arranging for a room and providing part of the equipment for the ACWR Annual Meeting.

Twenty-two members attended the Program and Annual Meeting of ACWR on August 17, 2005. Our speaker for the day was S. Dorothy Dawes, a Dominican Sister from New Orleans, who co-founded the Religious Community Archivists Group of Greater New Orleans. This organization was cited as a model of collaboration between Religious and Archdiocesan Archives in an article published in ACWR NEWS, April 1996. Like many religious archivists, S. Dorothy had a full ministry in education and vocation work before 1993, when she started her ministry in archives.

Sister Dorothy Dawes, OP, with technical assistance from her brother Reggie, gave a 30 minute presentation on the women religious congregations in New Orleans. Her presentation focused on

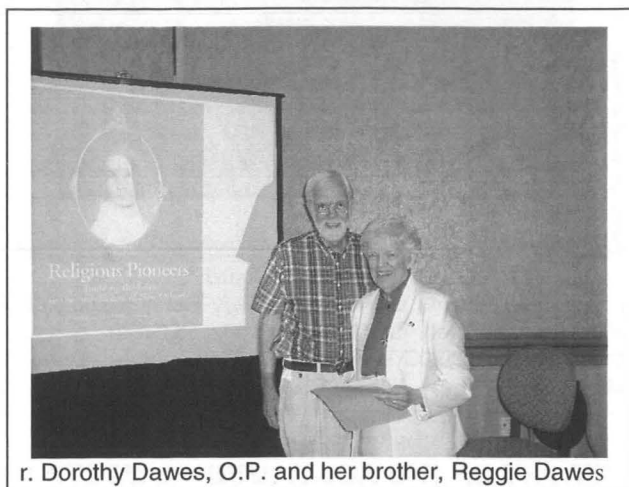
the audience a stimulating panoramic view of the New Orleans religious heritage. Following her presentation there were many questions and she had the answers. I think we could have listened to S. Dorothy for hours, but there was a time constraint.

The program presentation was followed by a short break and a business meeting. Minutes from the 2004 annual meeting held in Boston were approved and S. Pauline Ingram, OP, presented the budget for 2005-06. The budget was approved. A brief report of the Task Force on Repositories of Communities that are merging or closing was given. It was found that one Diocesan Community in New Orleans placed their archives with the Archdiocesan Archives. Other congregations which are merging are taking their archives with them to be merged with the receiving community. The Task Force is dormant at this time, but S. Kathryn Callahan, CSC, is ready to reactivate it, if and when there is sufficient interest.

The ACWR Board gave serious consideration to the suggestions given by the members on your evaluation sheets of the 2003 ACWR Conference in St. Louis. These ideas were reflected in the overview of the ACWR Conference presented by S. Mary Jeremy Buckman, RSM, and S. Judith Metz, SC. The Conference Program will be printed in the spring issue of ACWR NEWS. We hope to see each ACWR member at the 2006 Conference.

A small token of appreciation was given to the outgoing officers. S. Katherine Misbauer, SL, served a three year term (2002-2005) as our vice president, president and past president. S. Pauline Ingram, OP, served as treasurer for four years. During the tenure of these women, each accepted added duties in the absence of an Executive Secretary.

New officers installed during the meeting were: S. Judith Metz, SC, as President and S. Mary Louise Mutch,



r. Dorothy Dawes, O.P. and her brother, Reggie Dawes

excerpts from the book, Religious Pioneers, which she co-edited with Charles Nolan, archivist for Archdiocese of New Orleans.

With the aid of her power-point presentation showing pictures of outstanding women religious from multiple congregations in New Orleans, she gave

FSPA, Treasurer. S. Mary Denis Maher, CSA, had a conflict of time and will take the oath of office as Vice President/President Elect at the November 2005 Board Meeting.

*S. Mary Jeremy Buckman, RSM,  
Past President*

## **S. MARY LOUISE MUTCH, NEW ACWR TREASURER**

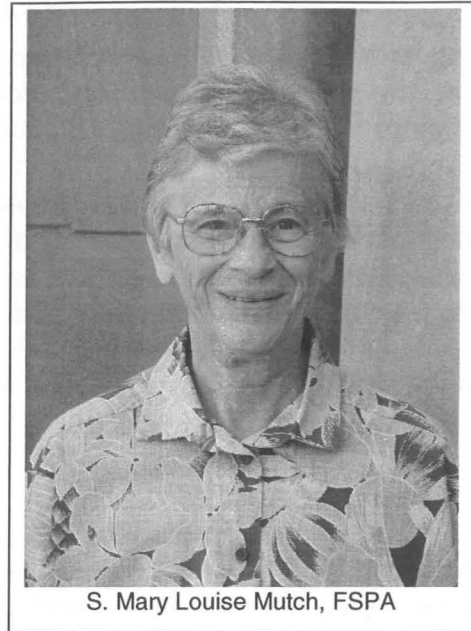
“By serving ACWR as a member and as its treasurer, I hope to enable other communities to build and maintain their archives in a manner that will inspire their members as I have been inspired,” promised S. Mary Louise Mutch, FSPA, new treasurer of ACWR.

S. Mary Louise, Associate Archivist for the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, La Crosse, Wisconsin, since 1997, noted, “Since I began working in my community's archives eight years ago, I have come to know my community's history much better. But more importantly, I have also come to know the idealism and determination with which our foundresses answered the call that they heard in Bavaria, and traveled to America to answer that call. Their courage to place the struggling community in the hands of the first American members, who were better able to deal with determined priests and bishops, inspires me to keep their ideals alive in my own life.”

A former Treasurer for both the Northern Province, and then the Eastern Region of her religious community, she has also taught music at the elementary and junior high levels in Wisconsin, Iowa and the state of Washington. She holds an M.Ed in Music Education from the University of Minnesota, and a BA in Music Education from Viterbo College in La Crosse, WI.

Sister Mary Louise is also a member of the Iowa Conference of Archivists of Catholic Institutions.

S. Mary Louise succeeds S. Pauline Ingram, OP, who assumed additional responsibilities in her community.



S. Mary Louise Mutch, FSPA

**PUBLISHING THE WRITINGS OF ELIZABETH SETON** Publishing the complete writings of Elizabeth Seton sounds like a laudable and rather clear-cut task, at least that is what it seemed back in 1993 when the Sisters of Charity Federation authorized the project. Twelve years later those working on this endeavor have celebrated the publication of the first and second volumes of this work which include the letter and journals of Elizabeth Seton. We are anticipating the publication of a third volume in early 2006 which will be issued in two separate bindings to accommodate the spiritual writings and notebooks of the saint.

To date we have located 939 letters, along with a substantial collection of meditations, instructions, reflections, copybooks, translations, poems, receipts and other miscellaneous jottings. Our ongoing search to locate and identify as many of Elizabeth's writings as possible has led us to 17 archives as well as private

collections and several printed sources. While continuing this exploration we prepared an annotated list of all holdings, arranged by archives, as a tool for researchers and a first step toward publication. These were published in five installments in *Vincentian Heritage*, beginning with volume 18, no. 1. They also appear on the web site: *famvin.org/seton*.

Sisters Regina Bechtle, SC (New York), and Judith Metz, SC (Cincinnati), were appointed co-editors of the project in the spring of 1996. With no staff and little money we plunged into the work of writing role descriptions for ourselves and the advisory committee, creating editorial guidelines, finding a publisher, writing a business plan, coordinating sales and marketing, writing grants, and directing the scholarly work of the project.

We recruited members of the advisory committee, archival support staffs, volunteers and friends to assist with research, proofreading, editing, indexing, locating illustrations, cover design, marketing and computer expertise. The completed project would not be possible without the dedicated assistance of all of these people.

Soon after we embarked on the project, it became evident that, given the massive amount of information we needed to have at our fingertips, establishing intellectual control over this data was of critical importance. To facilitate this we created an array of reference tools which included a genealogy chart, a who's who of people mentioned in Elizabeth's letters along with biographical material on each one, a detailed chronology of events in her life, a chronological list of documents along with an assigned project number for each, and a list of the first line of each document. Armed with these tools, which continue to be works in process, we launched into the work of creating footnotes and verifying our list of extant documents. Along the way we identified missing letters and discovered some new ones.

As the manuscript was taking form, the implementation of editorial guidelines and creating an ever-developing style sheet were important steps. Decisions on manner and style of presentation, punctuation, capitalization, abbreviations, and the like had to be made and carried out. Consistency over hundreds of pages of documents proved to be the biggest challenge. Fortunately, an experienced volunteer came forward to assist with this task as well as with proofreading.

The indexing has been another monumental task which required the services of helpers who are dedicated, tireless and attuned to detail. Together we decided who, what, where, and how hundreds of items would be compiled into a format which would be most helpful to the reader and within our capabilities to provide.

Despite the fact that bringing the writings of Elizabeth Bayley Seton to publication has been anything but easy, it has also been rewarding and fruitful for all those involved. We have each reaped the benefits of working with others who share our interest and been able to deepen our insights into the life and character of Elizabeth Seton. Each of us feels, also, that we are making a contribution to a scholarly work which will be a valuable resource for years to come.

*Elizabeth Bayley Seton: Collected Writings are available through the Vincentian Studies Institute at DePaul University. They can be ordered online at [www.depaul.edu/~vstudies](http://www.depaul.edu/~vstudies) (click on "bookstore") or by phone at 773-325-7348.*

*Sister Judith Metz, S.C.*



## SISTERS IN HEALTHCARE PROJECT AT SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY

Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, one of the 14 state universities comprising the State System of Higher Education of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, is creating a permanent historical exhibit showcasing the significant contributions made by sixteen orders of Roman Catholic nuns to healthcare from 1847 to the present. According to Dr. John A. Bavaro, RN, School of Business, the idea he has had years has now become a reality. Dr. Bavaro said, "The project is important because many do not know about the work of these women in healthcare, especially during a time when few were concerned about providing healthcare services. Many suffered hardships and even gave their lives in service to healthcare."



Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm and Residents and their Easter Bonnets, Garvey Manor c.1960

Targeted to open in the fall of 2006, the traveling exhibit will feature memorabilia, photos, and historical clothing worn by nurses and sisters who have worked, and continue to work in acute and long term care facilities from Erie to Altoona/Johnstown. Plans are to eventually expand to include other orders throughout the country. Bavaro explained that many are not aware of the numerous contributions made to healthcare by nuns in

Western Pennsylvania. The project will remedy this.

For example, Pittsburgh Mercy Hospital introduced aseptic surgery in the early 1900's and was the first Mercy hospital in the world. Sisters of Mercy sent 27 nursing sisters to care for soldiers during the civil war and ran military hospitals during the battle. The Sisters of Mercy from Altoona/Johnstown were the first to develop an in-patient drug rehab center in Western PA in 1954, while the Sisters of St. Joseph were instrumental in starting South Hills Healthcare System. Advancements in psychiatric treatment provided by the Sisters of St. Francis are legend in the industry. Sister Bernard Sheridan, a Sister of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, was the FIRST certified nurse anesthetist in the nation. The Vincentian Sisters of Charity were pioneers in long term care in Western Pennsylvania, while the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm helped to develop models combining various modalities such as physical, occupational, and speech into an accepted form of treatment in gerontology.

According to Bavaro, the project has been strongly endorsed by the Women's Studies Department, which plans to fold some of the exhibit's information into some of its programs and courses, including SRU's Women-in-History Month. It is also being created in collaboration with the University's History Department which plans to also include research from the exhibit into its courses. A video documentary and a resource center dedicated to the study of women religious in healthcare are also being planned as part of the project.

An advisory board representing each order has been convened and the project is well under way. The project not only honors the work done by thousands of sisters caring for hundreds of thousands of patients, but also contributes to SRU's uniqueness because it is the only project of its kind in the state of Pennsylvania and the nation.

For further information, please contact Dr. John A. Bavaro, RN, at 724.738.2265, or john.bavaro@sru.edu. He also asks that individuals and organizations consider donating objects such as nursing pins, caps, other historical artifacts, and books related to the work of Sisters in healthcare to exhibit.

### **Daughters of Charity Receive Grant to Document Catholic Education**

The Daughters of Charity Archives of the Northeast Province was awarded a Documentary Heritage Program grant by the New York State Archives to study the Daughters' role in the history of Catholic education in New York State. The grant funds will be used to locate records pertaining to the thirty-two educational institutions in New York State operated and staffed by the Daughters of Charity from the mid-nineteenth-century to the present. A complete list of the schools, orphanages and other educational organizations is available from the Daughters of Charity Archives of the Northeast Province.

While the immediate goal of the project is to inventory diocesan records, the project also aims to identify any relevant parish, community or private collections held by local parishes, schools, alumni associations, former students, and historical societies. If you know of any unpublished records related to these schools please contact John Diefenderfer, the project Director, to participate in the project at 518/462-5593 or jdiefenderfer@dc-northeast.org.

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

### **Local Cultures/Global Church: Challenge and Mission in the History of Women Religious June 24-27, 2007**

### **The seventh triennial conference on the History of Women Religious Hosted by the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana**

The Conference on the History of Women Religious invites paper and session proposals that explore how communities of women religious or their individual members have answered the challenges of interacting with peoples from different cultures and backgrounds. Studies may focus on challenges within communities as well as sisters' encounters with people of different cultures in their work. Papers on women religious from all faith traditions are welcome. Disciplinary approaches may include but are not limited to history, sociology, literature, anthropology, theology, and communication.

Send proposals for papers and/ or sessions in the form of a one-page abstract accompanied by a one-page C.V. (letter, email, fax) by July 15, 2006 to:

Prudence Moylan, HWR Program Chair  
c/o Cushwa Center for the Study of  
American Catholicism  
University of Notre Dame  
1135 Flanner Hall  
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-5611  
e-mail: cushwa.1@nd.edu  
fax: 574-631-8471

For more information or clarification on the program contact Prudence Moylan, HWR Program Chair, pmoylan@luc.edu, Phone 773-508-3082.

**5th Triennial ACWR Conference  
Conference Theme: Religious Archivists:  
Our Quest for the Best**

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

**The nearest airport is Cincinnati.  
The conference fees for members are:**

**Registration Fee - \$25.00  
Conference Fee \$125.00  
Fee for Tours \$20.00**

**On September 28, 2006 Conference  
Registration will begin at 3 P.M.**

**The Opening Plenary will be at 7 P.M.**

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

[I did respond to both of these letters, but I know they would like to hear from other ACWR members also.]

Dear Sisters,

The April 2005 ACWR News notes a plea from Joan Goulden, CSJ, a new part-time archivist looking for good ideas on sorting and filing loose pictures.

Unfortunately, I do not have solutions or tips to offer on this subject.

However, I would be MOST appreciative if you would share any suggestions that you receive on this subject!

Regards,

Mary E. Herbert, C.A.  
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Marriottsville, MD 21104  
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<http://www.bonsecours.org>

Dear S. Mary Denis,

I was wondering if the ACWR has a mentoring program? Or if such a program

does not exist formally, if there is a way I might be able to be partnered with an archivist of a religious community in the area for a little help informally. I am a new archivist for the Wheaton Franciscan Sisters. I started last November and this is a second career for me. I am fortunate to have the assistance and mentoring of our community's historian to "show me the ropes" and I have attended several workshops by SAA and MAC. But, there are always questions!

Specifically, I was wondering how you might open your archives to your congregational members and what kind of programs you institute to do that. I feel like we have such a wealth of valuable information to share with our sisters, but don't quite know the right boundaries between honoring individual privacy and letting a sister's contribution from the past shine, or in keeping safe and locked away our precious documents and artifacts vs. letting them be displayed for all to enjoy. I would appreciate any guidelines you could offer or any printed material you could direct me to which might help me with these crucial elements of archiving.

Thank you,

Jeanne

P.S. I am not a vowed member of the Wheaton Franciscans though I am an associate of the community.

Heritage Coordinator

Wheaton Franciscan Sisters

630-784-279

[jguilfoyle@wheatonfranciscan.org](mailto:jguilfoyle@wheatonfranciscan.org)

**ACWR MEMBERS! Let me know if you would be willing to be a mentor or would like a mentor and I will try to set up a list. S. Mary Denis**

Deadline for Spring ACWR  
Newsletter March 16, 2006

Send articles, letters, pictures or ideas to  
[smsm@srsfcharity.org](mailto:smsm@srsfcharity.org)

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