



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear ACWR Members,

I would like to welcome our two newly elected members of the Board to a more active role in our organization. We on the board are happy to have the opportunity to work with Mary Ann Gschwind, FSPA, as Vice-President-President-elect, and Mary Louise Sahn, SFP as Secretary. We would also like to thank Elizabeth O'Hara, RSM, for her willingness to be a nominee in our recent election process.



Mary Ann Gschwind, FSPA and Mary Louise Sahn, SFP

The Board members of ACWR hope that you are looking forward as eagerly as we are to our organization's Fifth Triennial Conference at the end of September. Building on the strong foundation of our past conferences, we have put together an excellent program of nationally known keynote speakers as well as practical workshops. I invite you to read the description of the program included in this newsletter and begin to make your plans to attend.

If you are new to ACWR, try to arrive in time for the pre-conference orientation for new members. It will be an opportunity for you to learn more about our organization and to get acquainted with a few people in a small setting.

The Cincinnati area warmly welcomes you, and all of our members from the Tri-State (Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, southeastern Indiana) Catholic Archivists will be on hand to make your visit as pleasant as

possible. We are offering Saturday afternoon tours that will acquaint you with our area, and the city itself will be preparing for a celebration of Tall Stacks just a few weeks later – and who knows, the Cincinnati Reds might be in the hunt for a National League Championship even as the Cincinnati Bengals are off to another exciting season!

Religious Archivists: Our Quest for the Best – this is the title for our conference and something I am sure we each strive for as we go about our daily work. Coming together with other archivists who share these same goals through our membership in ACWR and by participation in our upcoming conference is a way for each of us to enhance our quest for the best! Hope to see you at the Drawbridge Inn in September.

Judith Metz, SC President, ACWR

**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 \$150.00
Fee for Tours \$15.00**

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

The Opening Plenary will be at 7 P.M.

**Registration Material will be mailed by
June 1, 2006**

Spotlight On Conference 2006 Speakers

You will be receiving the formal conference packet shortly; however, here is a preview of speakers and their presentations. Based on your responses after the last conference, we have provided for double sessions for two of the plenary presentations as well as offering a variety in concurrent sessions, some of which will be repeated. The conference, of course, provides time for questions, opportunities for continuing conversations with participants and speakers, some field trips as well as time for religious communities to meet.

Our Keynote Speaker for the first Plenary session, **Regina Bechtle, SC**, will reflect with us on "*Stewarding the Story: A Spirituality for Archivists.*" As stewards of a congregation's sacred story, archivists play a dynamic, proactive role. Like the biblical writers, they build bridges between past and present; they remind the group of the Spirit-energy that gave it birth, and the hope to which it is called. In their ministry of service, archivists need to draw on the Spirit who empowers them to hear the deep story, to tell it with imagination, to discern wisely, and to leave room for God's surprises.

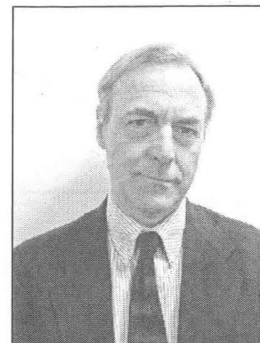


Regina Bechtle, SC

Regina, a Sister of Charity of New York since 1962, is a spiritual director, educator, writer, theologian and poet. She gives retreats and programs on Vincentian spirituality, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and the Sisters of Charity, religious life, and leadership. Currently, as Charism Resource Director for her congregation, she develops programs to deepen awareness of the Vincentian roots of the Charity heritage.

With Judith Metz, SC, she has co-edited *Elizabeth Bayley Seton: Collected Writings*, a 4-volume annotated collection of material from over fifteen archives.

William Maher, Archivist at the University of Illinois, Campaign, IL will present a double session, "*Introduction to Copyright Laws.*" This session will include copyright laws that pertain to photocopying, plagiarism, rights of authors and their heirs, rights and responsibilities of institutions.



William Maher

Bill is University Archivist and Professor of Library Administration (1995-) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). He was Assistant University Archivist at UIUC (1977-85 & 1985-95), and Program Officer at the National Endowment for the Humanities (1985-86). He was President (1997-88) and Treasurer (1991-94) of the Society of American Archivists (SAA); and President (1987-89) and Secretary-Treasurer (1981-85) of the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC).

As the author of *The Management of College and University Archives* and many articles, he is a regular speaker on archival administration and copyright law, especially as it pertains to archival and manuscript collections.

The **concurrent sessions** include the following: "*Introduction to Archives I*" will be presented by **Carol Marie Widlt, SSND**, archivist for the School Sisters of Notre Dame, St. Louis Province since 1997, chairperson of the SSND Interprovincial Archivists, and active in the St. Louis Area Religious Archivists as well as other archival

groups. A former college philosophy professor, she co-authored "The Use of



Carol Marie Widlt, SSND

Convent Archival records in Medical Research: The School Sisters of Notre Dame and the Nun Study," in *The American Archivist*. Her session will include appraisal, description, cataloging, arrangement, and finding aids.

"Introduction to Archives II" in the afternoon will cover preservation, physical conditions, policies, and access to archives presented by **Marylu Stueber, FSM**, archivist of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary in St. Louis since 1980. Founder of the St. Louis Area Religious Archivists, she belongs to SAA, MAC as well as numerous other archival organizations. Marylu has served as the chairperson of the ACWR election committee.



Marylu Stueber, FSM

A former nurse, she has presented various sessions on the heritage of healing and heritage of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary.

Trying to recapture the senior sisters' memories before they are gone? Then, you won't want to miss "Oral History," presented

by **Mary Ellen Gleason, SC**, Director of Archives, College of St. Elizabeth, Convent Station, NJ. This workshop will explore the why's and how's of an oral history program for women religious and those associated with them. An opportunity for conversation will be provided.



Mary Ellen Gleason, SC

Mary Ellen, an archivist for 30 years, is active in SAA, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference [MARAC], New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Committee, US Catholic Historical Society, serving on many committees and task forces over the years. She also served as archivist for the Sisters of Charity as well as Assistant Archivist/Historical Researcher for the American Bible Society and has written about and given presentations related to archives.

With millions of people visiting the Internet daily, you cannot afford to overlook this significant vehicle for communication and marketing. But to be effective, your website must be attractive, informative, easy-to-use, and linked. Discover what you need to know to accomplish this goal. "Developing Your Website" will be presented by **Mary Kay Gilbert** and **Sharon Foley, SC**.

Mary Kay, a communications and public relations professional, has worked with profit and nonprofit organizations for close to 30 years. Before leaving in spring 2005 to pursue freelance opportunities, Mary Kay served as communications director for the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati for more than seven years.



Mary Kay Gilbert and Sharon Foley, SC.

Sharon is a graphic designer and web developer with over eight years of professional experience in marketing and communications. Currently working for the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, she has developed and maintains the congregation's website at www.srcharitycinti.org, the Daniel Comboni Community Clinic website at www.guatemalaclinicmixco.org, and the Sisters of Charity Federation website at www.sisters-of-charity.org. Sharon also holds the Professional CIW (Certified Internet Webmaster) Certification.

Looking to find the best software for your archives? **Vickie Cravens, OSU**, in *"Approaches to Software and Hardware for Archives"* will discuss the pros and cons of commercial packages and special programs, migration of information, different pieces of hardware that can be used in the archival setting, and a general discussion of computers in the Archives.



Vickie Cravens, OSU

Vickie, active in ACWR, is completing her term as secretary for ACWR and has been Director of Archives for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, Maple Mount, KY, since 2001. In 2003, she was named Museum Curator. She spent 22 years in public and university libraries serving in many different capacities. Sister Vickie is

presently working on planning for merging of one to two Ursuline archives as well as a possible move for the Mount Saint Joseph Archives.

"Marketing Archives" will be presented by **Kathryn Callahan, CSC**, Director of Congregational Archives and Records for the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Notre Dame, Ind. since 1993. As member of SAA, and MAC, she is a former ACWR president. Her previous ministry includes nursing; nursing education and administration as well as community administration.

She will include a brief overview of the main ideas from her marketing presentation from 2003 as well as practical information that can be used by the archivist in developing guidelines. She will also offer a series of examples of guidelines that have been developed by various congregations.



Kathryn Callahan, CSC

"Care of Photos" will be presented by **Becky Ryder**, Head, Preservation Services & Manager, Preservation Reformatting Center, University of Kentucky Libraries, Lexington, KY. Becky will provide an overview of film and photographs typically found in archives. She will discuss their basic composition, their natural inclination to deteriorate, the scourge of "vinegar syndrome," and some strategies for preservation. Preservation management of digital photographs, as well as film photography, will be included in the presentation.

Ms. Ryder is an adjunct faculty member in the University's School of Library and Information Science and teaches a class on



Becky Ryder

preservation management. She is a member of the Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board and the SOLINET Preservation Advisory Council. She holds memberships in the American Library Association, the Kentucky Library Association and the Kentucky Council on Archives.

Though this session had been planned before the devastating effects of Katrina, which affected many of our members, **Lisa Fox's** double session, "*Earth, Wind, Water, and Fire: Preparing for Disasters*" is very timely. Archives are subject to all manner of collection-threatening disasters, from the routine and small scale ones like roof leaks and plumbing malfunctions to potential

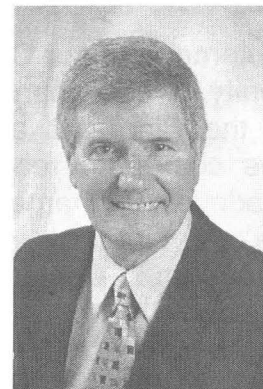


Lisa Fox

calamities like fire, hurricane, or earthquake. An effective disaster plan will help the archives reduce the likelihood of some disasters and greatly reduce the extent of damage in others. This session will outline practical steps for disaster prevention, recovery, and planning.

Lisa is the senior Conservator for the Local Records Preservation Program of the Missouri State Archives and has taught nearly 300 workshops on all aspects of preservation. Lisa also wrote the definitive text on preservation microfilming published by the American Library Association in 1996.

Roger Fortin, Academic Dean and Professor of History, Xavier University, will speak on "*The History of the Church in Cincinnati*" in an evening plenary session. Among his many presentations and publications is *Faith and Action: A History of the Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati 1821-1996*, published by OSU Press, 2002.



Roger Fortin

He has received innumerable awards for teaching as well research. In addition, he been awarded grants, many from NEH, including one to renovate the Greater Cincinnati Fire House as well as other local history and education projects. An engaging speaker, he continues to work on the history of the church in Cincinnati, begun in 1821 and the second diocese west of the Appalachians.

"*Merging Archives*" A panel of **Frances Gimber, RSCJ**, **Pauline Ingram, OP**, **Judith Metz, SC**, and **Marylou Stueber, FSM** will discuss their experiences and provide time for your questions. **Mary Jeremy Buckman, RSM**, Moderator

The purpose of this panel discussion is to show unique ways of preserving the history of religious communities. Many congregations are joining larger communities and/or centralizing archival holdings. ACWR would like to show just a

few models of saving the history of these congregations.

The past endeavors of religious women have played a vital part in the growth of the Catholic Church in the United States. Without these records, church history is without a memory.

In addition, there will be a special orientation session for new members of ACWR, coordinated by **Mary Denis Maher, CSA**, vice-president of ACWR as well as opportunities for members of the same community or region to meet. See you in Cincy!!!

CONFERENCE TOUR OFFERINGS

Saturday afternoon of our Conference offers an opportunity for participants to visit sites of interest in the Cincinnati area. There is a \$15.00 bus charge for each tour and an additional admission charge for those going to the National Underground Railroad/Freedom Center. The tours available are:

1. The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, which opened in 2004, features three pavilions, celebrating cooperation and perseverance. During the 1800s more than 100,000 enslaved people sought freedom through the Underground Railroad. The story of their quest for freedom is woven through the exhibits at the Center. In addition the Freedom Center explores a range of issues reflecting on the struggle for freedom in the past, in the present, and for the future. Group rates at the center are \$8.00 for senior citizens and \$9.50 for adults.
2. A visit to Mount St. Joseph, Ohio, the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati will include a tour of the Archives/Repository as well as the Chapel, Art Room and other display areas of the motherhouse.
3. A driving tour of Cincinnati will highlight geographical, historical and

cultural aspects of the city. Founded in 1788, Cincinnati was, during the ante-bellum period, the main metropolis west of the Appalachian Mountains. In 1821 it was named a diocese and by later in the century became the center of Reform Judaism in America. By the end of the 19th century, building on its strong German population, it became an important art and music center.

If you wish to display or sell books, cards or other items please contact Judith Metz, SC at Judith.metz@srcharitycinti.org, by July 1.

CINCINNATI: QUEEN CITY OF THE WEST by *Judith Metz, SC*

Born of the post-Revolution policy to promote the development of Western lands, Cincinnati, originally named Losantiville, was founded in 1788. Located on the Ohio River, the town became the site of Fort Washington, established to ensure the safety of early settlers and to serve as a base for establishing a firm hold on the Northwest Territory. Over the next half century Cincinnati became a Mecca for American settlers moving west as well as for immigrants from Germany and Ireland.

The Catholic diocese of Cincinnati was created in 1821 as the second diocese west of the Appalachian Mountains. It encompassed much of what was then the Northwest Territory. Bishop Edward Fenwick, OP, established St. Peter's Cathedral in 1825, followed the Athenaeum of Ohio (Seminary and College), and *The Catholic Telegraph*, the oldest continuously publishing Catholic paper in the United States. Elizabeth Seton's Sisters of Charity from Emmitsburg, Maryland were the first women religious to establish a permanent presence in the diocese, arriving in 1829 to open a school and orphanage for girls. They were followed in 1849 by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. The Sisters of the Precious Blood, Ursuline Sisters, Sisters of

the Good Shepherd, Sisters of Mercy, Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, and Little Sisters of the Poor all arrived before the Civil War. Early men's communities who ministered in the Cincinnati area included the Jesuits, Marianists, Congregation of the Most Precious Blood, and Franciscan Friars.

By 1850 Cincinnati was one of the fastest growing cities in the United States, becoming a center for trade fed by river traffic and by the extensive inland canal system. Major industries included the building and servicing of steam boats, meat slaughtering, soap and candle making, leather tanning, distilling, brewing, winemaking, printing and publishing.

In the post Civil War period Cincinnati, building on the heritage and talents of its heavily German population, became a center of the arts and music. The city became known for achievements in painting, pottery, and wood carving as well as being the home of the May Festival and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. It is also the location of the first professional baseball team, the Cincinnati Reds.

The city continued to build on its proud heritage as it moved into the 20th and 21st centuries, and it welcomes visitors to our beautiful Ohio Valley. We hope many of you will come and enjoy our area as participants in the ACWR conference.

NEW WEBSITE

The Regional Alliance for Preservation (RAP) is pleased to announce the launch of our new website at www.PreserveCollections.org. RAP, a national network of nonprofit organizations with expertise in the field of conservation and preservation, provides information and resources on preservation and conservation

for cultural institutions and the public throughout the United States.

The website includes a calendar with training and educational opportunities, list of services provided by RAP members, links to related organizations, and a searchable bibliography of texts, documents, and answers to common collection care concerns.

For Your Archival Library

The Journal of Archival Organization, published quarterly by the Haworth Information Press, www.HaworthPress.com may be of interest to you in your work as archivist, archival intern supervisor, or teacher of archives, library science, or museum studies. "The Journal of Archival Organization is an international journal encompassing all aspects of the arrangement, description, and provision of access to all forms of archival materials. Articles on processing techniques and procedures, preparation of finding aids, and cataloging of archival and manuscript collections in accordance with MARC, AACR2, and other rules, standards, and cataloging conventions are only part of what you'll find in this refereed/peer-reviewed publication." Begun in 2003, the journal offers timely articles on the Patriot Act as well as research reports on archival studies such as on-line finding aids, EAD encoding and historical background on halls of fame. The publication also solicits writers so you may have something you wish to submit.

Deadline for fall ACWR Newsletter October 15, 2006. Send materials to Mary Denis Maher, CSA at smdm@srssofcharity.org.

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