

# ACWR NEWS

Vol. 2, No. 2

August 1992

## ARCHIVISTS FOR CONGREGATIONS OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS

### ACWR MEMBERS ELECT FIRST OFFICERS

In early 1992, the initial election of officers for Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR) was held. Following a nomination process in late 1991, there were three candidates for each of the four positions--president, vice-president/president-elect, secretary, and treasurer.

The results of this first election are:

President..... Dolores Liptak, RSM  
Vice-President/President-Elect.. Mary Serbacki, OSF  
Secretary..... Beatrice Weisner, SNJM  
Treasurer..... Celeste Rabaut, SSIHM

These sisters will serve as the executive board of ACWR during 1992-1993 with their installation scheduled for September 15, 1992, during the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Montreal, Canada.

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### ASSESSMENT MANIFESTS MEMBERS' NEEDS

A recent survey by ACWR to assess the educational needs of its members was conducted and successfully completed. Nine categories were listed in the assessment and the members' priorities are as follows:

Category Eight: Using Computers and Micrographs in the Archives

Category One: The Basics of Archival Organization (Policies, Plans, Procedures, Budgets)

Category Four: Arrangement and Description

Category Seven: Conservation

Category Two: Acquisition and Appraisal

Category Three: Accessioning

Category Five: Finding Aids

Category Nine: Other

Category Six: Access and Reference

These results will serve as a tool enabling ACWR in developing workshops and other programs of instruction designed to meet the members' needs as expressed through the assessment.

A preliminary presentation on computerization will take place at the ACWR Roundtable meeting in Montreal next month.

#### IMPORTANT DATES AND PLACES TO REMEMBER

September 6-11, 1992	International Congress on Archives Palais des congres Montreal, Canada
September 11-16, 1992	Society of American Archivists Le Centre Sheraton Montreal, Canada
	ACWR meeting is scheduled during the SAA Conference being held in Montreal, Canada
September 2-5, 1993	Society of American Archivists Sheraton Hotel New Orleans, Louisiana



## ACWR REPORTS TO LCWR MEMBERS

Because vital support and seed money were given by member congregations of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in helping launch ACWR, an "account of stewardship" was made to LCWR members earlier this summer.

In addition to listing the accomplishments of ACWR, Rosalie McQuaide, CSJP, ACWR Committee Chairperson, wrote as follows:

"Without your enthusiastic support and, most of all, your trust, our efforts would have come to nothing. Our hope is that ACWR can serve ever more effectively the needs of religious women's congregations through

- a structured program of internships in established congregational archives for beginning archivists
- mainstreaming of ACWR members in regional and national professional archival organizations
- promotion of ACWR members for positions of responsibility in regional and national professional archival organizations and recognition of their contributions to the profession through nominations for professional awards and commendations
- continuing close collaboration with HWR in the pursuit of the historical record of women religious
- long-range planning, in collaboration with leaders of women's religious congregations, for the disposition of archives of congregations that are merging or that have inadequate resources to maintain an archival program
- establishment of a national ACWR office and central religious archives resource center.

Our vision is large, our dreams are heady, but if the past is any indication, both our dreams and our vision will find expression in the reality of religious life in the 21st century."

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## ACWR ANNOUNCES DUES POLICY

A dues schedule is finally in place. ACWR members will be asked to submit twenty-five dollars (\$25), payable annually. Besides paying for the newsletter, the dues will be used toward developing the programs recommended by the membership. Dues and new applications should be sent for the coming year (October 1, 1992 to September 30, 1993) to: Celeste Rabaut, SSIHM, 610 West Elm Avenue, Monroe, Michigan 4861-2884. Those ACWR members paying dues before mid-September, please send them to: Rosalie McQuaide, CSJP, ACWR Committee Chairperson, 10319K Malcolm Circle, Cockeysville, Maryland 21030.

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## PERMANENT OFFICE SOUGHT FOR ACWR

ACWR is in dialogue with several congregations concerning the donation of an office where ACWR records can be stored and the regular business of the organization conducted. Preference will be given to sites suggested in the



midwest. While it is not planned that the materials of the office will be too extensive, it is intended that the office be large enough to include reference collections received from members that could prove valuable to both archivists and historians. On deposit there, for example, should be the updated guides or manuals of the archives of religious congregations represented in ACWR as well as copies of those historical books or literature that reveal the history of these congregations. Once the office has been set up, it is hoped that a part-time executive director can be hired to conduct the business of the office. Grants are being investigated to pursue funding for this position; donations of necessary equipment and supplies will also be solicited.

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### ACWR MEMBERS WILL MEET AT SAA CONFERENCE IN MONTREAL

The annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists will also include a session for its Roundtable of Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious. The ACWR meeting is slated for Tuesday, September 15, 1992, at Le Centre Sheraton in Montreal. The SAA program will provide further details of time and room location.

The program will begin with the installation of officers for 1992-1993: Dolores Liptak, RSM, president; Mary Serbacki, OSF, vice-president/president-elect; Beatrice Weisner, SNJM, secretary; and Celeste Rabaut, IHM, treasurer.

Rosalie McQuaide, CSJP, ACWR Committee chairperson, will summarize the progress of the organization and suggest some of the immediate goals that are under consideration.

Due to the high interest in computerization, the major presentation will be devoted to explaining and demonstrating the fundamental steps in which software can be used to meet the needs of congregational archives. Negotiations for the main speaker are now in progress.

ACWR members are encouraged to attend this important meeting and become acquainted with the first officers of the organization.

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### SECOND HWR CONFERENCE STIMULATES RESEARCH INTEREST

Twenty or more archivists from across the country joined many historians in attending the History of Women Religious Conference held in late June on the campus of Marymount College in Tarrytown, New York. Also in attendance were Martha Mary McGaw, CSJ, co-editor, THE SOONER CATHOLIC, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Christopher Kauffman, editor, U.S. CATHOLIC HISTORIAN, Baltimore, Maryland. Other participants came from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, United Kingdom, Australia, and the Philippine Islands as well as from numerous states within the United States.

This conference featured twenty-seven research papers, three sessions linking archivists and historians, five topical panels and a keynote address in addition to plenary and magnet sessions.

History of Women Religious (HWR) sponsors conferences every three years and the next gathering is scheduled for the summer of 1995. Dates and location will be announced in the future.

The following three articles appeared in the July 19, 1992, issue of THE SOONER CATHOLIC. ACWR is grateful to Martha Mary for consenting to share her efforts with its members.







A general editor from outside the congregation will prepare these essays for publication. It was the general opinion of those at the conference that such a history would be highly original and of great value.

While history is being written, more research needs to be done on the contribution women religious have made in the education of other women in academies, boarding schools, and colleges for women. These schools were established by women religious in the 19th century (some earlier) and 20th century when higher education, with few exceptions, was for males only. But the Sisters obtained graduate degrees and educated other women. Research is being done now on the effect this educational experience of women had on the women themselves, on the church, and on society as a whole.

Oral history methodology and the identification and preservation of photographs were discussed. And perhaps a common archives located at Notre Dame University or Marquette University.

Focus was put on family history, feminist spirituality, and the different effects women might feel from having their motherhouse in rural versus urban areas. Talks were given on Anglican foundresses and their religious life in the 19th century.

Sister Patricia Byrne, a Sister of St. Joseph of Baden, Pennsylvania, gave a very complete history of the Sisters of St. Joseph from 1650 on. Histories of the Social Service Sisters and also Mother Cabrini's community were given.

It seems a bit disappointing that graduate students who were doing research on aspects of religious life were spending time on topics which were peripheral: sociological implications of the habit of a Canadian order of Sisters; the vault fresco at SS. Domenico e Sisto in Rome as a reflection of the life and vocation of nuns of the 17th century; and Maria Monk and the shape of 19th century anti-Catholicism. These graduate students presented excellent reports on their research. Their very talent made one wish their topics had been of greater substance.

Mercy Sister Ann Miriam Gallagher presented an interesting account of the life of Catherine Seton (1800-1891), the daughter of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Catherine Seton attended St. Joseph's School which her mother had established. She became her mother's secretary. And when her mother was in her last illness it was Catherine who cared for her.

Probably in the back of her mind, Catherine intended to become a religious, but she did not join the order her mother established, the Sisters of Charity. Instead at age 46 when the Irish Mercy Sisters came to New York and established themselves, she became the first New Yorker to join them. As a Sister she became very well-known for her work with prisoners. She was a frequent visitor at the Tombs. She became known as the Prison Sister. She died of pneumonia at age 90.

One of the greatest values of this conference was the definite focus on women religious and how their spirituality and works have affected the world today. For this contribution to continue, others need to know how it came to be in the first place. This is what history is and why it needs to be written.

--Martha Mary McGaw, CSJ  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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## ON RECORDING ORAL HISTORY

In a group of women with wide backgrounds and fascinating experience, Maryknoll Sister Joana Chan stood out. A playwright and founder of the Four Seas Players in New York City, Sister spoke of the oral history program carried on by the Maryknoll priests and Sisters in the early 1980s.

Maryknoll priests and Sisters as well as Chinese persons were interviewed on tape in order to better understand the work of the Maryknolls in China.

Sister Chan brought to the project many advantages. She speaks and writes English and Chinese. She grew up in Canton, China. She could view the work of the missionaries from the standpoint of one who learned of the Catholic faith and now is a missionary Sister herself.

Her special message to all interviewers taking oral history is to recognize the difficulties and to take precautions: listen without any preconceived notions; endeavor to interpret language as mutually understood as well as gestures, actions, emotional reactions, and to record them all separately along with the transcripts; listen carefully with open mind when you hear what you did not expect to hear and perhaps do not want to hear, Authentic history will result. History can be built on in the future.

Though she spoke only a short time, Sister Chan's thoughts on oral history were deeply appreciated.

--Martha Mary McGaw, CSJ  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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### MANY BECAME SISTERS IN SPITE OF PERSECUTION

What happened to the Sisters during the communist regime? We are just beginning to get word. Sinsinawa Dominican Sister Mary McEwen who went to Europe to find out described the situation.

It wasn't the same everywhere. It depended on location and how much hate and fear there was in the hearts of those imposing the law.

There were Polish Sisters in Eastern Ukraine who never wore the habit. They had a school. Often they hid people who had done nothing wrong but whose arrest the government sought. Eventually this was found out, and the nuns were sent to Siberia.

After World War II in Poland people clung to the church. Eight schools were allowed to have Sisters to give the impression freedom reigned. It did not.

In Croatia nuns could wear habits. In Bosnia not.

Oppression of the Sisters was very severe in Albania, Romania, and Czechoslovakia. Convents were broken into at night and the nuns taken away in trucks. In Czechoslovakia the Sisters were taken to abandoned buildings in remote places away from people and their friends. Many Sisters died of TB and starvation. Those who lived were made to work for the government in fields and factories.

In one town 400 elderly Sisters were brought in from 15 different congregations.

In Hungary 500 Sisters were put in a place built for 70. In Hungary to try to stop the terrible treatment the Sisters were receiving, the bishops agreed





"Photographs: Identification and Preservation" was facilitated by Barbara Misner, SCSC, archivist/historian, Merrill, Wisconsin, with Mary Simplicia Wytrwal, CSSF, archivist, Enfield, Connecticut, and Regina Werntz, RSM, Sisters of Mercy Historical Projects, St. Louis, Missouri, as presenters.

Following the presentations of each topic, the full panel gathered together to field the many questions posed by audience members.



1) Anne Courtney, SC/Rosalie McQuaide, CSJP  
2) Regina Werntz, RSM/Barbara Misner, SCSC/  
Mary Simplicia Wytrwal CSSF  
3) Jane Mowrer, OP/Dolores Liptak. RSM/  
Joana Chan, MM



4) Mary Canice Werner, CPPS/Loretta Petit, OP/  
Mary Linus Bax, CPPS

5) Archivist-Historian Linkup Panel

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## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ANTICIPATED

Incoming ACWR officers and former committee members met at Tarrytown, New York, in June, 1992, to initiate plans to implement directions set by members in the recent needs assessment conducted by ACWR. In this survey, members listed priority needs regarding their role in archives.

Educational training goals that head the list of needs are computer education, especially adaptation to computerization, and basic training for organization and management of archives. Working with computers will be addressed in greater detail at the SAA Roundtable meeting in Montreal. Basic skills education will be met through a variety of ways.

Since structuring internship programs in established congregational archives for beginning archivists seems to be an important and desirable goal, attention will be given to informing members of programs already in place and advertising these in the ACWR NEWS.

The executive board is interested in knowing if there are congregational archivists who are personally interested in helping to train applicants. Please notify Dolores Liptak, RSM, 1700 Hampshire Green Lane, #21, Silver Spring, Maryland 20903, if you or your congregation can help us, in any way, to launch the internship program.

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## RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE FOR BEGINNING LONE ARCHIVISTS

The Midwest Archives Conference in its June, 1992, MAC NEWSLETTER is calling for proposals for MAC Basic Workshop Development in the areas of Appraisal, and Arrangement and Description. These workshops, it is hoped, will be presented in connection with the 1993 MAC meetings.

Other regional archivist groups or state groups may offer helpful assistance to beginners. Another informational source for fledgling archivists would be other archivists within one's local area as they would be familiar with the regional or state groups which are nearest in distance.

Novice archivists can also study on their own by investing in the Archival Fundamentals Series distributed by the Society of American Archivists (SAA).

Current offerings within this series are: UNDERSTANDING ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS by James M. O'Toole; ARRANGING AND DESCRIBING ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS by Fredric M. Miller; MANAGING ARCHIVAL AND MANUSCRIPT REPOSITORIES by Thomas Wilsted and William Nolte; and A GLOSSARY FOR ARCHIVISTS, MANUSCRIPT CURATORS, AND RECORDS MANAGERS by Lewis Bellardo and Lynn Lady Bellardo.

Other titles being added to this series are: PROVIDING REFERENCE SERVICES FOR ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS by Mary Jo Pugh; SELECTING AND APPRAISING ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS by F. Gerald Ham; and PRESERVING ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS by Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler. These are to be available at a later date.

Also available as basic manuals are: ARCHIVES & MANUSCRIPTS: SECURITY by Timothy Walch and ARCHIVES & MANUSCRIPTS: SURVEYS by John Fleckner.

Most volumes are nineteen dollars (\$19) for SAA members, twenty-five dollars (\$25) for non-members, plus postage and handling. Those interested in ordering may call SAA at (312) 922-0140 for further information.

-- Celeste Rabaut, SSIHM  
Monroe, Michigan

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## HWR INVITES ACWR MEMBERS TO JOIN NETWORK

History of Women Religious (HWR) is a loosely woven network of historians and researchers dedicated to promoting the histories of congregations of women religious.

Since archivists control the holdings of their respective congregations and implement access to information sought by the above-mentioned groups, the HWR newsletter published several times yearly can be a tool for keeping ACWR members up-to-date on the latest research regarding congregations of women religious. Pertinent information on various research projects whether completed or in progress appears in each issue of HWR NEWS AND NOTES.

To subscribe, send your name, affiliation, address, and telephone number to Karen Kennelly, CSJ, Editor, HWR NEWS AND NOTES, Mount St. Mary's College, 12001 Chalon Road, Los Angeles, California 90049, and enclose a check for five dollars (\$5) made payable to History of Women Religious.

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Top Photo: Dolores Liptak, RSM, ACWR President-Elect; Rosalie McQuaide, CSJP, ACWR Committee Chairperson; Karen Kennelly, CSJ, HWR Editor.  
Bottom Photo: Elizabeth McLoughlin, SC; Josephine Kennelly, CCVI; Mary Margaret Switlik, CSJ; Emma Cecilia Busam, OSU; Rosalie McQuaide, CSJP; Anne Courtney, SC; Beatrice Weisner, SNJM; Dolores Liptak, RSM; Celeste Rabaut, SSIHM. Photographer: Rita King, SC.

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## ACWR LIBRARY LISTS BOOKS RECEIVED

A request for published works dealing with religious congregations and/or their foundresses was made in the February, 1992, ACWR NEWS. There has been a good response and ACWR is grateful to those who have responded and looks forward to an even greater response in the future.

Books received by ACWR are:



- ROSE OF CANADA by Rev. Pierre Duchaussois. Translated from the French, Montreal, 1934. Life of Mother Marie Rose, foundress of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.
- SO SHORT A DAY by Sister M. Eulalia Theresa. New York, 1954. Life of Mother Marie Rose, foundress of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.
- COME NORTH! by Sister Julia Gilmore. New York, 1951. The life-story of Mother Xavier Ross, valiant pioneer and foundress of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.
- HISTORY OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS by Sister Mary Buckner. Kansas, 1898.
- SHE WHO BELIEVED IN TOMORROW: THE STORY OF THE FOUNDRESS OF THE SISTERS OF THE HOLY NAMES by Sister Frances Allison. Quebec, 1981.
- FROM VISION TO MISSION: MARIE ROSE DUROCHER 1811-1849 by Germaine Duval. Translated from the French, Longueuil, 1989.
- THE SOCIETY OF CATHOLIC MEDICAL MISSIONARIES: ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT by Sister M. Bonaventure. Master's thesis, Catholic University of America, 1955.
- IF IT MATTERS by Medical Mission Sisters. Philadelphia, 1967. Printed photo-book with text describing the work of the Medical Mission Sisters.
- IN ALL THINGS CHARITY by Sister M. Edwina Bogel and Sister Jane Marie Brach. Hamburg, New York, 1983. A biography of Mother M. Colette Hilbert, foundress of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph.
- THE THEME OF CONVERSION IN THE LIFE AND WORKS OF ABBE LOUIS BAUTAIN by Brid Long. Published doctoral dissertation, Rome, Gregorian Pontifical University, 1990. Concerns the life and work of the founder of the Sisters of St. Louis.
- BAYOU CARMEL: THE SISTERS OF MT. CARMEL IN LOUISIANA 1833-1903 by Charles Nolan. Ann Arbor, 1977.
- MOTHER CLARE COADY: HER LIFE, HER TIMES, AND HER SISTERS by Charles Nolan. New Orleans, 1983.
- LIFE OF MOTHER GAMELIN: FOUNDRESS AND FIRST SUPERIOR OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF PROVIDENCE by a Sister of her Institute. Translated from the French by Anna T. Sadlier. Montreal, 1912.
- THE BELL AND THE RIVER by Sister Mary McCrosson. Palo Alto, 1957. A biography of Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart, pioneer of the Sisters of Charity of Providence in the Northwest.
- MARYKNOLL'S FIRST LADY by Sister Jeanne Marie. New York, 1967. The life of Mother Mary Joseph, foundress of the Maryknoll Sisters.
- THE FOUNDERS OF MARYKNOLL: HISTORICAL REFLECTIONS by Robert Sheridan. New York, 1980.
- TO THE UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE EARTH: THE SPIRIT AND CHARISM OF MARY JOSEPHINE ROGERS by Camilla Kennedy. New York, 1987.
- KATHERINE DREXEL: A BIOGRAPHY by Sister Consuela Marie Duffy. Philadelphia, 1966.
- A CALL TO SANCTITY: THE FORMATION AND LIFE OF MOTHER KATHERINE DREXEL by Lou Baldwin. Philadelphia, 1988.
- A TIME FOR KEEPING...A TIME FOR LETTING GO by Sister LaVerne Frietsch. Dayton, 1990. History of the Sisters of Saint Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana, 1945-1975.



WITH THE POVERELLO: HISTORY OF THE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS, OLDENBERG, INDIANA by Mother M. Clarissa and Sister Mary Olivia. New York, 1948.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE CONVENT AND ACADEMY OF THE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS IN OLDENBURG, INDIANA, AND OF THE WORK OF THEIR COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES by Sisters of St. Francis. Oldenburg, 1901.

BENDING IN SEASON: HISTORY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCE OF THE SISTERS OF THE DIVINE SAVIOR by Sister Margaret Shekleton. Milwaukee, 1985.

A COMPASSIONATE PRESENCE by Brad Geagley. Orange, California, 1987. In celebration of the 75th year in California: The Story of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange.

PLANTED ON THE PLAINS by Sister Eileen Quinlan. Wichita, Kansas, 1984. A History of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wichita, Kansas.

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ON MAKING VITAL CONNECTIONS

If you are a professional involved in archival activities, you can make vital connections through the Society of American Archivists.

SAA is the interdisciplinary organization for those who care about records with historical value. SAA offers an inexpensive membership.

Interact with professionals from a variety of allied disciplines who share your interest in materials with historical importance, including archivists, historians, museum curators, manuscript curators, records managers, and librarians.

Participate in the SAA annual meeting, which offers a variety of educational programs and opportunities for interaction that include workshops, roundtables, open houses, exhibits, sections, and sessions.

Receive subscriptions to THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST, the Society's quarterly journal, and the bimonthly SAA NEWSLETTER.

Purchase publications at a discounted membership rate--SAA has more than 90 titles to choose from.

Become a member of the Society of American Archivists by contacting: Debra S. Mills, director of membership services, Society of American Archivists, 600 South Federal, Suite 504, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

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ACWR GIVES THANKS

... to those members who agreed to be nominees for the first ACWR election.

... to those who sent books to the ACWR library--Sisters of St. Joseph, Orange, California; Sister Monica Lietz, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Sister Wilhemina Burkemper, Oldenburg, Indiana; Sister Margaret M. O'Rourke, Bensalem, Pennsylvania; Mary Grace Krieger, Maryknoll, New York; Anne Marcelle Lemay, Spokane, Washington; Brid Long, Malibu, California; Sister M. Hyacinth Breaux, New Orleans, Louisiana; Sister Marvinna Kupiszewski, Hamburg, New York; Sister M. Edwardine Walsh, Spokane, Washington; Sister Catherine Laboure Conway, Leavenworth, Kansas; Rosemarie Kasper, Marylhurst, Oregon; Kathryn Lawlor, Dubuque, Iowa; and Eileen Quinlan, Wichita, Kansas.

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