The Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism

Presents

The Nun in the World

Catholic Sisters & Vatican II

An International Symposium

7–9 May 2015
University of Notre Dame
London Global Gateway
FEATURED SPEAKERS

Anne O’Brien
University of New South Wales
‘Leaping Over Walls’: Reflections on Histories of ‘The Nun in the World’

Susan O’Brien
St. Edmund’s College, University of Cambridge
“Sisters of the Third Sector: Working Identities, Constructs and Relationships in the 20th Century: A Case Study from Britain.”

Linda Woodhead, M.B.E.
Lancaster University
“Nuns and the Significance of the “In-out Marginal”

Gemma Simmonds, C.J.
Heythrop College, University of London
“Where Do We Go From Here? Signs of Vitality in a Much-Changed World”

For registration, complete program, and additional conference details:

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PRESENTERS

Rosa Bruno-Jofré  
*Queens’ University*

Maryann Madhavathu, C.M.C.  
*Katholieke Universiteit Leuven*

Patricia Byrne, C.S.J.  
*Trinity College*

Carmen Mangion  
*Birkbeck College, University of London*

Maria Cimperman, R.S.C.J.  
*Catholic Theological Union*

Katharine Massam  
*University of Divinity*

Carol Coburn  
*Avila University*

Catherine Maurer  
*University of Strasbourg*

M. Finbarr Coffey, C.S.C.  
*St. John’s Seminary*

Caroline Mbonu, H.H.C.J.  
*University of Port Harcourt*

Kathleen Sprows Cummings  
*University of Notre Dame*

Ryan Murphy  
*Temple University*

Marie-Thérèse Desouche, xaviere  
*Catholic Institute of Toulouse*

Jillian Plummer  
*University of Notre Dame*

Mary Anne Foley, C.N.D.  
*University of Scranton*

Deirdre Raftery  
*University College Dublin*

Mary L. Gautier  
*Georgetown University*

Olivier Rota  
*University of Artois*

Giovanni Gregorini  
*Catholic University of Milan*

Sabine Rousseau  
*University of Clermont-Ferrand*

Christine Baudin Hernandez  
*St. Louis University*

Maureen Sabine  
*University of Hong Kong*

Catherine Higgs  
*University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

Joel Schmidt  
*Salve Regina University*

Theresa Keeley  
*Georgetown University*

Elizabeth Smyth  
*University of Toronto*

Mary Johnson, S.N.D.deN.  
*Trinity Washington University*

Margaret Susan Thompson  
*Syracuse University*

Katrin Langewiesche  
*University of Mainz*

Barbra Mann Wall  
*University of Pennsylvania*

Mary Ellen Lennon  
*Marian University*

Patricia Wittberg, S.C.  
*Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis*

Peter Lynch  
*University of Tasmania*

Jessica Whitish  
*University of Louisville*

Heidi MacDonald  
*University of Lethbridge*

Shannen Dee Williams  
*University of Tennessee, Knoxville*
ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

This symposium unites three burgeoning areas of scholarship in religious history: the examination of the “lived history” of the Second Vatican Council; an analysis of the Roman Catholic Church as an transnational actor in global history; and efforts to develop a comprehensive understanding of Catholic women’s religious institutes through the lens of the history of gender and voluntarism during one of the most transformative moments in their collective history. How did women religious make sense of the changes in religious life, and how did local and global circumstances shape the lives of women religious within and across congregations?

Invited by the Council to renew their lives and examine their founding charisms, women religious found the experience alternating exhilarating and agonizing; they worked out their aggiornamento in a world simultaneously rocked by the disintegration of empires and a revolution in gender roles. At this symposium, presenters from ten countries will use focused studies to describe the experience of sisters in disparate sites ranging from cloistered communities in Australia to activist outposts in Central America. The complexity of transnational relationships within far-flung networks of women religious appear in studies of European and American women’s experience of mission sites in Africa and Asia, while other speakers investigate African sisters’ experience as they now immigrate to the global north. Theological and governance debates at a range of “renewal chapters” shed light on how women religious felt their way towards new understandings of key topics like liturgy, authority, prayer, and mission.

In concert with the Cushwa Center’s ongoing project on the Lived History of Vatican II, this symposium establishes new territory in the study of the international history of a church now open and receptive to “the joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties” of the age.

FUNDING FOR THIS CONFERENCE HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY THE CENTRE FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES, DURHAM UNIVERSITY

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