This new grant program, launched by the Cushwa Center in spring 2018, memorializes the historic connection between Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods College and the University of Notre Dame, which celebrates the 175th anniversary of its founding in 2017–2018.

The grants are named for Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, a French missionary to Indiana who established the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, just north of Terre Haute, in 1840. When Father Edward Sorin, the priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross who founded Notre Dame, arrived in Indiana that same year from France, he and his six companions first settled near Vincennes in the southern part of the state. Facing many challenges in a foreign land, Father Sorin found in Mother Theodore a ready collaborator and friend. Guerin even sent Sorin the substantial gift of a wagon and a yoke of oxen, and thus became one of the first benefactors of Holy Cross in the earliest days of the Congregation’s arrival in America. Mother Theodore and her congregation would go on to found schools, two orphanages, and free pharmacies in Indiana and Illinois. She was beatified in 1998 by Pope John Paul II and canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2006.

The Cushwa Center has established the Mother Theodore M. Guerin Research Travel Grant Program to support scholars who seek to move Catholic women to the forefront of historical narratives.

Grants of up to $1,500 will be made to researchers in any academic discipline to defray travel and lodging expenses for visiting any research repository in or outside the United States or for conducting oral interviews, especially of women religious, for purposes of historical, sociological, theological, and peace studies research.

visit cushwa.nd.edu to apply

Go to cushwa.nd.edu/grant-opportunities/guerin for the application form and complete instructions. Applicants must submit the following materials to cushwa@nd.edu:

1. completed application form;
2. current curriculum vitae;
3. 1,000-word project description including a research plan detailing any repositories or oral history subjects you plan to visit and any advance contact you have made with relevant archivists or others;
4. proposed budget estimating travel, lodging, and research expenses.

All materials must be submitted by May 1, 2018, for the first round of grants. The next application deadline will be December 31, 2018.