AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY, MAY 7

11:00 a.m. Opening Keynote Address

Anne O’Brien, Associate Professor in the School of Humanities and Languages, and the Global Irish Studies Centre at the University of New South Wales

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Session 1

Panel #1

Transnational Temptations: Entering and Leaving Religious Life in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries
Deirdre Raftery, University College Dublin

Before the Council
Carmen Mangion, Birkbeck College, University of London

Social Change and Renewal of the Church in Italy Towards the Second Vatican Council: The Role of Religious Congregations
Giovanni Gregorini, Catholic University of Milan
Panel #2  
**RCC as a Transnational Actor of Leiturgia in Global History Through the Mission of Women Religious of C.M.C.**

**Maryann Madhavathu, C.M.C.,** Katholiek Universiteit Leuven  
Gaudium et spes and Catholic Sisters' Activism in Apartheid South Africa, 1976-1985  
**Catherine Higgs, University of Tennessee, Knoxville**  
“Radicalized Women Religious” or Women Accompanying the Poor?: Nuns’ Challenge to Ronald Reagan’s Central America Policy  
**Theresa Keeley, Georgetown University**

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.  
**Session 2**

Panel #3  
**Prospects and Challenges of Revised Missionary Activity for African Women Religious**

**Caroline Mbonu, H.H.C.J.,** University of Port Harcourt  
International Sisters in the U.S.: Building on History  
**Mary Johnson, S.N.D.deN.,** Trinity Washington University

Panel #4  
**Identity and Memory**

**M. Finbarr Coffey, C.S.C.,** St. John's Seminary  
Claiming Our Prophetic Voice As Women  
**Ryan Murphy, Temple University**  
From the Local to the Transnational: Religious Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Strasbourg after the Second Vatican Council  
**Catherine Maurer, University of Strasbourg**

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
**Stand Up Reception**

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
**Keynote Address**

Sisters of the Third Sector: Working Identities, Constructs and Relationships in the 20th Century: A Case Study from Britain  
**Susan O'Brien, Senior Member of St Edmund's College, University of Cambridge**
FRIDAY, MAY 8

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.  Session 3

Panel #5  The Road to Justice Runs Through Selma: American Catholic Sisters, Vatican II, and Transnational Activism
Carol Coburn, Avila University

American Religious of the Sacred Heart in an International Context: The Vatican II Years
Patricia Byrne, C.S.J., Trinity College

My Way to God and the New Catechetics: Australian Teaching Sisters Embrace the World
Katharine Massam, University of Divinity

Panel #6  Prophets on the Bus? Women Religious in a Post-Vatican II Church
Mary Anne Foley, C.N.D., University of Scranton

Resident Aliens in Which 'Holy Nation'? Differential Responses to the LCWR's Model of Critically-Engaged Belonging in the Church and the U.S. Nation
Joel Schmidt, Salve Regina University

Aggiornamento and the Liturgy of the Hours: Implications for Two Australian Monastic Communities
Peter Lynch, University of Tasmania

11:00 a.m.  Session 4

Panel #7  Class and the “Bond of Love”: Stratification and Resistance in Women’s Religious Congregations
Margaret Susan Thompson, Syracuse University

Liberation is Our First Priority: Black Nuns, Soul Politics, and the Formation of the National Black Sisters’ Conference
Shannen Dee Williams, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Reverse Education: The Role of Local Experience in the Development of a Congregation's Communitarian Ecclesiology
Christine Baudin Hernandez, St. Louis University

Panel #8  Breaking Boundaries: Nuns, Archives, and the Digital Humanities
Mary Ellen Lennon, Marian University

Radical Sister: Lucy Freibert as Feminist Nun, Activist, and Educator
Jessica Whitish, University of Louisville
Hearing the Call in Popular Film
Maureen Sabine, University of Hong Kong

12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Lunch

2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Keynote Address

Nuns and the Significance of the “In-out Marginal”
Linda Woodhead M.B.E., Professor in the Sociology of Religion in the Department of Politics, Philosophy & Religion at Lancaster University

4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Session 5

Panel #9
Our Lady of the Missions (RNDM) in Peru from the Late 1960s: Repositioning the Understanding of Mission and Constructing Identities Within a New Set of Historical Conditions and Configurations
Rosa Bruno-Jofré, Queens’ University

“I Never Intended to Leave”: How One Woman Religious Left Her Congregation but Continued Her Mission
Heidi MacDonald, University of Lethbridge

Loret(t)o Education and Identity in North America: Transatlantic Pushes and Pulls, 1847-2003
Elizabeth Smyth, University of Toronto

Panel #10
New Generations of Catholic Sisters

Mary Johnson, S.N.D.deN., Trinity Washington University
Patricia Wittberg, S.C., Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis
Mary L. Gautier, Georgetown University
SATURDAY, MAY 9

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.  **Session 6**

**Panel #11**  *Vatican II and Medical Missions in a Transnational Context*

*Barbra Mann Wall*, University of Pennsylvania

*Rethinking Mission in the Post-Conciliar Age: Society of the Holy Child Jesus in the Global South*

*Jillian Plummer*, University of Notre Dame

**Panel #12**  *Françoise Vandermeersch’s Commitment: From Intimate Issues to International Issues, 1966-1978*

*Sabine Rousseau*, University of Clermont-Ferrand

*The Evolution of the Affirmation of the Person as the Responsible Subject in the Little Sisters of the Assumption During the Chapter of Aggiornamento in 1968-1969*

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

*Navigating Transnational Change in the Wake of a Conciliar Church in the Process of Renewal: Lessons on Mission, Formation, and Leadership from Mother Sabine de Valon and the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus between 1958 and 1967*

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

---

**The Religious Life Vitality Project: Final Presentation**

*Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University*

*Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, Cambridge*

*Religious Life Institute, Heythrop College, London*

With support from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

---

**11:00 a.m.  Keynote Address**

*Where Do We Go from Here? Signs of Vitality in a Much-Changed World*

*Gemma Simmonds, C.J.*, Religious Life Institute, Heythrop College, University of London

**12:00 p.m.  Lunch**
1:00 p.m. **Plenary Discussion**

*The Story, Aims, and Approach of the Religious Life Vitality Project*

Paul D. Murray, Dean and Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies, Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University  
Rosemarie Nassif, S.S.N.D, Director of the Catholic Sisters Initiative, The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Los Angeles  
Catherine Sexton, Margaret Beaufort Institute for Theology, Cambridge

1:45 p.m. **Introduction to Group Discussions**

*The Big Themes Emerging from the Data and Their Significance*

Catherine Sexton, Margaret Beaufort Institute for Theology, Cambridge

Further Thoughts  
Gemma Simmonds, C.J., Religious Life Institute, Heythrop College, University of London

*Initial Questions & Comments*

2:30 p.m. **Group Discussions** (tea and coffee served in groups)

3:15 p.m. **Plenary Discussion**

Gemma Simmonds, C.J. (Chair/Facilitator)  
Catherine Sexton (co-respondent)  
Paul D. Murray (scribe and co-respondent)

4:00 p.m. **Close**
Find More Information and Registration at
www.cushwa.nd.edu

Please direct registration questions to the Cushwa Center:

email: cushwa@nd.edu | Phone (USA): 574-631-5441

General Information

Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism

407 Geddes Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556 USA

Phone: 574-631-5441
Fax: 574-631-8471
Email: cushwa@nd.edu
Web: cushwa.nd.edu

Religious Life Vitality Project Office

c/o Theresa Phillips, CCS Administrator
Dept. of Theology and Religion
Abbey House, Palace Green
Durham DH1 3RS

Phone: +44 191 334 1656
Email: ccs.vitality@durham.ac.uk
Web: www.centreforcatholicstudies.co.uk

Associate Project Directors:

Sr Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ, Director, Religious Life Institute
Email: g.simmonds@heythrop.ac.uk

Ms Catherine Sexton, Researcher, Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology
Email: catherine@catherinesexton.co.uk

Prof Paul D. Murray, Director, Centre for Catholic Studies
Email: paul.murray@durham.ac.uk

London Global Gateway

University of Notre Dame (U.S.A.) in England
1-4 Suffolk Street
London, SW1Y 4HG
United Kingdom