Commemoration, Preservation, Celebration

11th Triennial Conference on the History of Women Religious

June 23 – 26, 2019
Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Indiana

Sunday, June 23, 2019

11:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. | Check-In

12:30 – 2:00 p.m. | Lunch

2:00 – 4:15 p.m. | Panels

Session 1 | Canonized American Sisters: How Congregations Commemorate, Preserve, and Celebrate Sainted Sisters’ Legacies in the Twenty-First Century (Roundtable) | 210 Madeleva Hall

Chair: James Carroll, Iona College

Regina Bechtle, S.C., Sisters of Charity of New York
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Jan Craven, S.P., Shrine of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin and the National Shrine of Our Lady of Providence
St. Théodore Guérin

Jane Nesmith, S.B.S., Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament
St. Katharine Drexel

Carolyn Osiek, R.S.C.J., Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
St. Philippine Duchesne

Pietrina Raccuglia, M.S.C., Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

Updated January 24, 2019 | subject to change
Margaret Susan Thompson, Syracuse University

St. Marianne Cope

Session 2 | Preserving Stories of American Sisters Working for Racial Justice | 211
Madeleva Hall

Chair: Carol Coburn, Avila University

Kim R. Harris, Loyola Marymount University
“The Ritual Gifts of Sr. Thea Bowman to Historic and Contemporary Black Catholics”

Sr. Barbara Lum, S.S.J., Sisters of St. Joseph
“Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester, New York, in Selma, Alabama”

Paul T. Murray, Siena College
“Sister Margaret Ellen Traxler: Fighting for Racial Justice”

Sr. Janet Welsh, O.P., Dominican University
“‘Swept up and Embracing the Struggle’: Transformative Experiences of Two Dominicans in the Jim Crow South”

Session 3 | Preserving and Telling Our Stories | 254 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Mary Ewens, O.P., Sinsinawa Dominican Research Center

Rebecca Abel, Catholic Distance University
“Preserving Sisters’ Records: The International Benedictine Experience”

Nan Cano, I.H.M., Immaculate Heart Community of California
“The Immaculate Heart Community: Ensuring the History of two Communities Becomes a Living Archive”

Kathryn Oosterhuis, Mercy Heritage Center
“Sisters of Mercy of the Americas: A Case Study in Consolidating and Preserving Women’s Religious Community History”

Ellen Pierce, Archival Consultant
“Lifting the Veil on Women Religious Archives: Uncovering Hidden American History”
4:30 – 5:00 p.m. | Vespers | Church of Our Lady of Loretto

5:00 – 5:45 p.m. | Reception | O’Grady Center

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Dinner | Noble Family Dining Hall (Student Center)

7:30 – 9:00 p.m. | Keynote Address | Carroll Auditorium (Madeleva Hall)

Ann Little, Colorado State University
“Open, Vast, and Inclusive: Catholic Women’s History is Early North American History”
Monday, June 24

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. | Breakfast | Noble Family Dining Hall (Student Center)

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. | Panels

Session 4 | New York’s Women Religious and their Archives | 210 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Carolyn Osiek, R.S.C.J., Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Kate Feighery, Archives of the Archdiocese of New York
“Preserving the Ministry of Religious Women in the Archdiocese of New York”

Mindy Gordon, Sisters of Charity of New York Archives
“The Archives of the Sisters of Charity of New York”

Jennifer Halloran, Maryknoll Mission Archives

Session 5 | Vatican II and Beyond, the Changing Mission and Identity of Canadian Women Religious | 211 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Maria Patricia Williams, University College London

Rosa Bruno-Jofré, Queen’s University of Canada
“The Missionary Oblate Sisters: Renewal and the Tortuous Journey of the Prophetic Feminist Vision of Alice Trudeau”

Heidi MacDonald, University of Lethbridge

Elizabeth Smyth, University of Toronto
“We are not ladies in waiting. We are women for peace: Living Vatican II as Activism”
Session 6 | Sisters in Time of War | 254 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Kathleen Riley, Ohio Dominican University

Moira Egan, Queens College, City University of New York
“Commemorating Cultural Transformation: Crimean War Nurses Recall Their Service”

Eileen Lyon, State University of New York at Fredonia
“Advent Wreaths and Azaleas from Dachau: ‘Tarcisia’ and the Ordination of Bl. Karl Leisner”

Andrew Mach, University of Notre Dame
“Angels in Arlington: Memorializing Civil War Nun-Nurses on the Eve of Women’s Suffrage”

10:30 – 11:00 a.m. | Morning break

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Panels

Session 7 | Revisiting the Boston College Conference: Lessons Learned from a Collaborative Approach to Preservation | 210 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Patricia Wittberg, Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, Georgetown University

Jennifer Head, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Malachy McCarthy, Claretian Missionaries USA-Canada Archives

Margaret McGuinness, La Salle University

Session 8 | Sisters in First and Second Wave Feminism | 211 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Margaret Susan Thompson, Syracuse University

Carmen Mangion, Birkbeck, University of London
Jillian Plummer, University of Notre Dame
“Sister Elizabeth Carroll, RSM, Sister Rose Dalle Tezze, RSM, and the Rise of an International Catholic Feminist Discourse”

Margaret Preston, Augustana University
“Commemorating the Women: Margaret Aylward, Ellen Smyly and Their Work with Dublin’s Children”

Session 9 | The Role of the Sisters and Daughters of Charity in Settling the West | 254 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Regina Bechtle, Sisters of Charity of New York

Judith Metz, S.C., Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
“Onward to New Mexico and Colorado”

Margaret Ann Gainey, D.C., Daughters of Charity Province of the West
“Onward to California and Nevada”

Denise Patricia Gallo, Religious of Jesus and Mary
“What is fifteen hundred miles to God?: Charity Ventures West to St. Louis”

Elizabeth McGahan, University of New Brunswick
“Charity in the West: Eastern Canadian Sisters Go West”

12:30 – 2:00 p.m. | Lunch | Noble Family Dining Hall (Student Center)

2:00 – 3:30 p.m. | Panels

Session 10 | Legacy of Sister Formation and Renewal | 210 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Fernanda Perrone, Rutgers University

Maureen Abbott, S.P., Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods
“Sixties Seedbed” (presented by Janet Gilligan, S.P., Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods)

Christine Hernandez, Independent Scholar
“Comparative Reception: Post-Vatican II Assemblies among Women Religious”
Edelquine Shivachi, University of Notre Dame
“Education of Religious Nuns as a Legacy of Mother Anne Nasimiyu Wasike: A Response to the Globalization of Catholic History”

Session 11 | Labor and Activism | 211 Madeleva Hall
Chair: Monica Mercado, Colgate University
John Buchkoski, University of Oklahoma
“Because We Wore the Habits of the Church: Catholic Nuns and the United Farm Workers Movement”

Thomas Rzeznik, Seton Hall University
“What Should Sister Do...When the Union Representative Calls: Catholic Hospitals and Labor Activism in 1960s New York City”

Kathleen M. Washy, Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden

Session 12 | Art and Literary Legacies | 254 Madeleva Hall
Chair: Bren Ortega Murphy, Loyola University, Chicago
Timothy Dulle, Fordham University
“An Irradiant Irregularity: Making (non)Sense of the Immaculate Heart College Art Department”

Farrell O’Gorman, Belmont Abbey College
“Writing Rose Hawthorne: Images of Mother Mary Alphonsa in American Literary History”

Elizabeth Perry, Framingham State University
“The Deathbed Portrait of Abbess Bridget of Saint Anthony (1576–1655): Commemoration and Conflict in an Exiled Community”

Mary C. Sullivan, R.S.M., Rochester Institute of Technology
“The Poetry of Catherine McAuley (1778–1841), Founder of the Sisters of Mercy”

3:30 – 4:00 p.m. | Afternoon break
4:00 – 5:30 p.m. | Panels

Session 13 | Authority and Influences: Reconsidering the Dynamics of Antebellum Women Religious | 210 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Kathleen Sprows Cummings, University of Notre Dame

Elisabeth Davis, University at Buffalo
“Torn Between the World and the Cloister: The Americanization of the Oblates and the Dominican Sisters”

Gabrielle Guillerm, Northwestern University
“Beyond Erasure: French Missionary Nuns in America in Nineteenth-Century Public and Private Memory”

Jacqueline Willy Romero, Arizona State University
“Bishop John Baptist Mary David and his ‘Dear Daughters’: Approaches and Problems to Analyzing Relationships between Superiors and Sisters”

Session 14 | 1,000 Words in a Picture, I | 211 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Deirdre Raftery, University College Dublin

Arlene Bachanov, Adrian Dominican Sisters
“Remembering and ‘Re-Membering’: When One Religious Community Honored its Past and Committed to its Future”

Mary Ewens, O.P., Sinsinawa Dominican Research Center
“The Kelly Sculpture of Mother Catharine Sacred White Buffalo”

Kara French, Salisbury University
“Catholic Ritual, Protestant Spectacle: Robert Weil’s Taking the Veil (1863)”

Barbra Mann Wall, University of Virginia School of Nursing
“Medical Missionaries, Politics, and Conflict”

Mitchell Oxford, The College of William and Mary
“Power in Portraiture: Catherine Spalding and the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth”

Judith Sutera, O.S.B., Mount St. Scholastica
“Flowers of the Desert: A Monastic Microcosm”
Session 15 | Accessing Sisters’ Stories: Research and Teaching Applications for the History of Women Religious | 254 Madeleva Hall

Chair: M. Christine Anderson, Xavier University

Mary Beth Fraser Connolly, Purdue University Northwest
“Teaching Digitally: Or How Sr. Blandina and Sr. Justina Segale Will Save My Teaching”

Kristine Ashton Gunnell, University of California, Los Angeles
“Stewardship and Oral History: Preserving the History of the Daughters of Charity Foundation”

Betty Ann McNeil, D.C., DePaul University
“Memory Matters’: The Journals of Cecilia Maria O’Conway and Rose Landry White”

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. | Dinner | Noble Family Dining Hall (Student Center)
Tuesday, June 25

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. | Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. | Panels

Session 16 | Sisters in Higher Education: Leadership and Charism | 210 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Elizabeth Smyth, University of Toronto

Kevin Glauber Ahern, Manhattan College
“Institutional Identity: Crisis, Charism and Adaptation”

Peggy Delmas, University of South Alabama
“Parallel, Converge, Separate: Documenting the Work of Catholic Sisters in U.S. Public Higher Education Against the Backdrop of Women’s History”

Katherine Greiner, Carroll College
“Rooted in Story, Oriented towards the Future: A Dynamic Theology of Charism”

Session 17 | Global Perspectives | 211 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Moira Egan, Queens College, City University of New York

Deirdre Bennett, University College Dublin
“Preserving the Records of How Convent Schools Were Financed: Account Books in Nineteenth-Century Congregational Archives”

Riccardo Semeraro and Giovanni Gregorini, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan and Brescia
“The History of Women Religious in Late Modern and Contemporary Italy: From Self-Celebration to Social Quantification”

Maria Patricia Williams, University College London
“Commemoration, Preservation, Celebration: The 1914 Silver Jubilee Booklet and the History of Progressive Education”
Session 18 | Early Modern Religious Life | 254 Madeleva Hall

Chair: TBD

Jessica Lauren Criales, Rutgers University
“Holy Indian Women: The Indigenous Nuns of the Siete Príncipes Convent, Oaxaca, Mexico, 1782–1870”

Elissa Cutter, Loyola Marymount University
“The Voices of Women Religious in Controversy: Mother Angélique Arnauld’s Theology of History in Light of Seventeenth-Century French Jansenism”

Brian Heffernan, Leiden University
“Remembering Sacrificial Suffering in the History of Women Religious: The Case of Discalced Carmelite Nuns in the Netherlands”

10:30 – 11:00 a.m. | Break

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Panels

Session 19 | Research with Women Religious | 210 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Kate Feighery, Archives of the Archdiocese of New York

Katie Gordon, Harvard Divinity School
“Learning and Stewarding Sisters’ Stories for a New Generation”

Theresa Keeley, University of Louisville
“Researcher’s Expectations vs. Archival Reality: How Documents about Sisters’ Corporate Activism Tell a Partial Story”

Kathleen Riley, Ohio Dominican University
“For the Sake of the Mission: Giving Birth to the ‘DOMINICAN SISTERS OF PEACE’”

Barbara Wolf Shousha, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
“Triangulation and Listening Between the Lines: Writing History with Women Religious”
Session 20 | 1,000 Words in a Picture, II | 211 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Thomas Rzeznik, Seton Hall University

Edel Robinson, Independent Artist
“WOMAN (Religious) with a MOVIE CAMERA”

Kelsey Salvesen, University of Pennsylvania
“Chez Les Dames Ursulines’: Julie Painchaud and Stitched Identity”

Evelyn Spratt, Notre Dame of Maryland University
“From Mistresses to Bachelors”

Mary Ann Thompson, Sara Bolten, McKendree University
“Commemorating Women Religious in Kentucky: The 1918 Flu Pandemic”

Kathleen M. Washy, Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden
“The Napkin Ring: A Symbol of Community Life”

Session 21 | Transnational Relocation and Adjustment | 254 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Heidi MacDonald, University of Lethbridge

Edward Brett and Donna Brett, La Roche College
“Maura, Ita, Dorothy, Jean, and Carla: The Spiritual Transformation of Five American Missionaries in Post-Vatican II Central America”

James Carroll, Iona College
“Abrupt Americanization: Dominican Sisters in New York”

Tuan Hoang, Pepperdine University

12:30 – 2:00 p.m. | Lunch | Noble Family Dining Hall (Student Center)
2:00 – 3:30 p.m. | Panels

Session 22 | New Perspectives on Catholic Women’s Education in 19th Century America | 210 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Mary Beth Fraser Connolly, Purdue University, Northwest

Joseph G. Mannard, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
“Raising the Academy to the Highest Standard of the Times’: Ann Gertrude Wightt as Directress of Georgetown Visitation Academy, 1826–1831”

Monica L. Mercado, Colgate University
“Playing Catholic: Sister-Writers and Plays for Young Women in the Convent School”

Catherine O’Donnell, Arizona State University
“Teach Poor Children as Much as You Can': Daughters of Charity, Jesuits, and Education in the United States, 1809–1900”

Session 23 | Sisters Crossing Borders at Home and Abroad | 211 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Barbra Mann Wall, University of Virginia

Barbara Mattick
“Dreams Realized in the Midst of Adversity: The Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine and Early 20th-Century Florida Anti-Catholicism”

Caroline Mbonu, H.H.C.J., University of Port Harcourt; and Margaret Ibe, H.H.C.J., Central Eastern Province of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus

Margaret McGuinness, La Salle University
“Staying Local: The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in Philadelphia”

Session 24 | Commemoration Efforts | 254 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Betty Ann McNeil, D.C., DePaul University

Ruth Ferris, University College Dublin
Alison Fitchett Climenhaga, University of Notre Dame
“Sanctuary of Sorrows: Material Culture, Congregational Memory, and the Rwandan Genocide”

Dennis Gunn, C.F.C., Iona College
“Commemorating Grief and Hope: Marking the Bicentennial of the Sisters of Charity of New York at a Time of Decline for Catholic Education”

Claire Halstead, Saint Mary’s University
“Sisters of the Seaport: The Commemoration, Preservation, and Celebration of the Sisters of Service Immigration Work in Atlantic Canada, 1925–2018”

3:30 – 4:00 p.m. | Afternoon break

4:00 – 5:30 p.m. | Panels

Session 25 | 1,000 Words in a Picture, III | 210 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Ellen Pierce, Archival Consultant

M. C. Havey, Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer
“Sisters in the Wilderness”

Bren Ortega Murphy, Loyola University Chicago
“Sister Jean and the 2018 NCAA Men’s Final Four”

Fernanda Perrone, Rutgers University
“Sister J: Secret Weapon”

Amy Rosenkrans, Prince George’s County Public Schools
“The Golden Jubilee of Saint Elizabeth’s Home—Children, Friends, and Benefactors”

Session 26 | Roundtable on Research Projects | 211 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Ryan Murphy, Chestnut Hill College

Rosa Bruno-Jofré, Queen’s University
Ana Jofré, SUNY Polytechnic
“Commemorating, Preserving, and Celebrating Women Religious in the Digital Domain”
Katie Bugyis, Harvard University (Radcliffe Institute)
Ann David, University of the Incarnate Word
“‘No one ever told me these stories!’: Sharing the Histories of Women Religious with Today’s Adolescents”

Christine Gervais, University of Ottawa
“Inclusivity and Inspiration: An Ethic of Methodological Sensibility in Prioritizing Women Religious’ Experiences”

Agata Mirek, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin
“Intermonastic Team Researching the History of Female Convents in Poland (1971–2018)”

Session 27  |  Sister-Teachers In Ireland and the United States  |  254 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Mary Henold, Roanoke College

Catriona Delaney, University College Dublin
“Oh must prefer the schools to all others’: Preserving the Legacy of the Presentation Sisters’ Contribution to Second-Level Education in Ireland, 1850–1950”

Reba Drey Luiken, University of Minnesota
“Sister Scientists: Catholic Sisters as Biological Investigators and Educators”

Cecilia Venable, University of Texas at El Paso
“Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate Pioneers of African American Education”

6:00 – 6:30 p.m.  |  Reception

6:30 p.m.  |  Banquet

Eileen Markey
“Finding What’s True in the Stories of Women Religious”

Presentation of CHWR Awards
Wednesday, June 26

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. | Breakfast | Noble Family Dining Hall (Student Center)

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. | Panels

Session 28 | CARA Session I | Culture and Ethnicity in Vocations to Religious Life: A Critical Discussion | Carroll Auditorium

Chairs: Thu Do, L.H.C., and Jonathon Wiggins, CARA @ Georgetown University

Presentation of Current Research

Critical Reviewers of the Research:

Deborah Borneman, SS.C.M., National Religious Vocation Conference
Ralph O’Donnell, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Elizabeth Ann Vasquez, S.S.C.J., Archdiocese of San Antonio

Discussion with Participants

Session 29 | Women Religious Relations with Lay Persons | 210 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Arlene Montevecchio, Saint Mary’s College

Mary Henold, Roanoke College
“The Theresian ( Mostly True) Story: Remembering the Apostolate to Promote Sisterhood Vocations”

Alison More, University of St. Michael’s College
“Tradition and Transformation: The Changing Face of Tertiaries in Later Medieval Europe”

Ryan Murphy, Chestnut Hill College
“Partners in Ministry and Mission: Women Religious and Associates”
Joshua Wopata, University of Dayton

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. | Morning break

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon | Panels

Session 30 | CARA Study Session II | International Religious Institutes in the United States since 1965: Changing the Cultural Context | Carroll Auditorium

Chair: Thu Do, L.H.C., and Thomas Gaunt, S.J., CARA @ Georgetown University

Presentation of Current Research

Critical Reviewers of the Research:

Mary Johnson, SN.D. de N., Trinity Washington University
Kevin Karimi, L.S.O.S.F., Marywood University
Teresa Maya, C.C.V.I., Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
Patricia Wittberg, S.C., University of Indiana – Purdue in Indianapolis emeritus

Discussion with Participants

Session 31 | Biographies: How Sisters Tell Their Stories | 210 Madeleva Hall

Chair: Janet Welsh, O.P., Dominican University

Bridget Harrison, Queen’s University, Belfast
“Biographies and Corporate Identity Formation: Ireland, 1850–1907”

Lisa Rose Lamson, Marquette University
“‘She was one of our former scholars’: St. Francis Academy Student Assignments and the History of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, 1880–1930”

Deirdre Raftery, University College Dublin
Annie E. Stevens, Webster University
“Hidden in Plain Sight: Loretto Histories and Herstories”

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch | Noble Family Dining Hall (Student Center)