



*Eleventh Triennial Conference on the
History of Women Religious*

COMMEMORATION PRESERVATION CELEBRATION

JUNE 23–26, 2019

Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana



As the centennials of women's suffrage in North America, Europe, and beyond generate renewed interest in women's history, this conference explores how the history of women religious has been commemorated, preserved, and celebrated.

The Program Committee:

Thomas Rzeznik (chair)

Mary Beth Fraser Connolly

Kara French

Deirdre Raftery

Sally Witt, C.S.J.

Kathleen Sprows Cummings

Cover image: *A group of sisters stand outside the Westminster Library opposite the Church House in Victoria, London, June 24, 1970 (photo credit: Evening Standard/Getty Images).*

COMMEMORATION, PRESERVATION, CELEBRATION

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

Sunday, June 23

11:30 a.m. **Conference Registration Opens** | Le Mans Hall

12:30–2 p.m. **Lunch** | Noble Family Dining Hall

2–4 p.m. **Panel Sessions 1–3**

Session 1

Canonized American Sisters: How Congregations Commemorate, Preserve, and Celebrate Sainted Sisters' Legacies in the 21st Century (Roundtable) | Carroll Auditorium, Madeleva Hall
Chair: *James Carroll, Iona College*

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

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

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

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

St. Marianne Cope
Margaret Susan Thompson, Syracuse University

Session 2

Preserving Stories of American Sisters Working for Racial Justice | 211 Madeleva Hall
Chair: *Carol Coburn, Avila University*

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

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

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

"'Swept up and Embracing the Struggle': Transformative Experiences of Two Dominicans in the Jim Crow South"
Janet Welsh, O.P., Dominican University

Session 3

Preserving and Telling Our Stories | 254 Madeleva Hall

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

"Preserving Sisters' Records: The International Benedictine Experience"

Rebecca Abel, O.S.B., Catholic Distance University

"The Immaculate Heart Community: Ensuring the History of Two Communities Becomes a Living Archive"

Nan Cano, I.H.M., Immaculate Heart Community of California

"Sisters of Mercy of the Americas: A Case Study in Consolidating and Preserving Women's Religious Community History"

Kathryn Oosterhuis, Mercy Heritage Center

"Lifting the Veil on Women Religious Archives: Uncovering Hidden American History"

Ellen Pierce, Archival Consultant

4:30–5 p.m. **Vespers** | Church of Our Lady of Loretto

5–5:45 p.m. **Reception** | O'Grady Center

6–7 p.m. **Dinner** | Noble Family Dining Hall

7:30–9 p.m. **Keynote Address** | Carroll Auditorium, Madeleva Hall

"Open, Vast, and Inclusive: Catholic Women's History is Early North American History"

Ann Little, Colorado State University

Monday, June 24

8–9 a.m. **Breakfast** | Noble Family Dining Hall

9–10:30 a.m. **Panel Sessions 4–6**

Session 4

New York's Women Religious and Their Archives | Carroll Auditorium

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

"Preserving the Ministry of Religious Women in the Archdiocese of New York"

Kate Feighery, Archives of the Archdiocese of New York

"The Archives of the Sisters of Charity of New York"

Mindy Gordon, Sisters of Charity of New York Archives

"The Maryknoll Sisters Collection in the Maryknoll Mission Archives: Preserving the Evidence of How They Made God's Love Visible in the World"

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*

"The Missionary Oblate Sisters: Renewal and the Tortuous Journey of the Prophetic Feminist Vision of Alice Trudeau"

Rosa Bruno-Jofré, Queen's University

"Smaller Numbers, Stronger Voices: Women Religious Reposition Themselves through the Canadian Religious Conference, 1960s–80s"

Heidi MacDonald, University of Lethbridge

"'We are not ladies in waiting. We are women for peace': Living Vatican II as Activism"

Elizabeth Smyth, University of Toronto

Session 6

Sisters in Time of War | 254 Madeleva Hall

Chair: *Kathleen Riley, Ohio Dominican University*

"Commemorating Cultural Transformation: Crimean War Nurses Recall Their Service"

Moirra Egan, Queens College, City University of New York

"Advent Wreaths and Azaleas from Dachau: 'Tarcisia' and the Ordination of Bl. Karl Leisner"

Eileen Lyon, State University of New York at Fredonia

"Angels in Arlington: Memorializing Civil War Nun-Nurses on the Eve of Women's Suffrage"

Andrew Mach, University of Notre Dame

10:30–11 a.m. Morning Break

11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Panel Sessions 7–9

Session 7

Revisiting the Boston College Conference: Lessons Learned from a Collaborative Approach to Preservation | Carroll Auditorium

Chair: *Patricia Wittberg, S.C., CARA, 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*

"The World in Cloister and Nuns in the World: Post-War British Religious Life"

Carmen Mangion, Birkbeck, University of London

"Sister Elizabeth Carroll, RSM, Sister Rose Dalle Tezze, RSM, and the Rise of an International Catholic Feminist Discourse"

Jillian Plummer, University of Notre Dame

Session 9

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

Chair: *Regina Bechtle, S.C., Sisters of Charity of New York*

"Onward to New Mexico and Colorado"

Judith Metz, S.C., Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

"Onward to California and Nevada"

Margaret Ann Gainey, D.C., Daughters of Charity Province of the West

"What is fifteen hundred miles to God?': Charity Ventures West to St. Louis"

Denise Patricia Gallo, Religious of Jesus and Mary

12:30–2 p.m.

Lunch | Noble Family Dining Hall

2–3:30 p.m.

Panel Sessions 10–12

Session 10

Legacy of Sister Formation and Renewal | Carroll Auditorium

Chair: *Fernanda Perrone, Rutgers University*

"Sixties Seedbed"

Maureen Abbott, S.P., Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods

Presented by Janet Gilligan, S.P., Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods

"Comparative Reception: Post-Vatican II Assemblies among Women Religious"

Christine Hernandez, Independent Scholar

"Education of Religious Nuns as a Legacy of Mother Anne Nasimiyu Wasike: A Response to the Globalization of Catholic History"

Edelquine Shivachi, University of Notre Dame

Session 11

Labor and Activism | 211 Madeleva Hall

Chair: *Monica Mercado, Colgate University*

"'Because we wore the habits of the Church': Catholic Nuns and the United Farm Workers Movement"

John Buchkoski, University of Oklahoma

"'What should sister do ... when the union representative calls': Catholic Hospitals and Labor Activism in 1960s New York City"

Thomas Rzeznik, Seton Hall University

"The Persevering Social Activist Work by Women Religious in the 1960s–1970s as Embodied by Sister Mary Dennis Donovan"

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*

"An Irradiant Irregularity: Making (non)Sense of the Immaculate Heart College Art Department"

Timothy Dulle, Fordham University

"Writing Rose Hawthorne: Images of Mother Mary Alphonsa in American Literary History"

Farrell O'Gorman, Belmont Abbey College

"The Poetry of Catherine McAuley (1778–1841), Founder of the Sisters of Mercy"

Mary C. Sullivan, R.S.M., Rochester Institute of Technology (professor emerita)

3:30–4 p.m.

Afternoon Break

4–5:30 p.m.

Panel Sessions 13–15

Session 13

Authority and Influences: Reconsidering the Dynamics of Antebellum Women Religious

Carroll Auditorium

Chair: *Kathleen Sprows Cummings, University of Notre Dame*

"Beyond Erasure: French Missionary Nuns in America in 19th-Century Public and Private Memory"

Gabrielle Guillerm, Northwestern University

"Bishop John Baptist Mary David and his 'Dear Daughters': Approaches and Problems to Analyzing Relationships between Superiors and Sisters"

Jacqueline Willy Romero, Arizona State University

Session 14

1,000 Words in a Picture | 211 Madeleva Hall

Chair: *Deirdre Raftery, University College Dublin*

"Remembering and 'Re-Membering': When One Religious Community Honored its Past and Committed to its Future"

Arlene Bachanov, Adrian Dominican Sisters

"The Kelly Sculpture of Mother Catharine Sacred White Buffalo"

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

"Catholic Ritual, Protestant Spectacle: Robert Weil's Taking the Veil (1863)"

Kara French, Salisbury University

"Medical Missionaries, Politics, and Conflict"

Barbra Mann Wall, University of Virginia School of Nursing

"Power in Portraiture: Catherine Spalding and the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth"

Mitchell Oxford, The College of William and Mary

"Flowers of the Desert: A Monastic Microcosm"

Judith Sutura, O.S.B., Mount St. Scholastica

Session 15

Accessing Sisters' Stories: Research and Teaching Applications for the History of Women Religious | 254 Madeleva Hall

Chair: *M. Christine Anderson, Xavier University*

"Teaching Digitally: Or How Sr. Blandina and Sr. Justina Segale Will Save My Teaching"

Mary Beth Fraser Connolly, Purdue University Northwest

"Stewardship and Oral History: Preserving the History of the Daughters of Charity Foundation"

Kristine Ashton Gunnell, University of California, Los Angeles

"'Memory Matters': The Journals of Cecilia Maria O'Conway and Rose Landry White"

Betty Ann McNeil, D.C., DePaul University

5:30–7:30 p.m. **Dinner** | Noble Family Dining Hall

Tuesday, June 25

8–9 a.m. **Breakfast** | Noble Family Dining Hall

9–10:30 a.m. **Panel Sessions 16–18**

Session 16

Sisters in Higher Education: Leadership and Charism | Carroll Auditorium

Chair: *Elizabeth Smyth, University of Toronto*

"Institutional Identity: Crisis, Charism and Adaptation"

Kevin Glauber Ahern, Manhattan College

"Parallel, Converge, Separate: Documenting the Work of Catholic Sisters in U.S. Public Higher Education Against the Backdrop of Women's History"

Peggy Delmas, University of South Alabama

Session 17

Global Perspectives | 211 Madeleva Hall

Chair: *Maira Egan, Queens College, City University of New York*

"Preserving the Records of How Convent Schools Were Financed: Account Books in 19th-Century Congregational Archives"

Deirdre Bennett, University College Dublin

"The History of Women Religious in Late Modern and Contemporary Italy: From Self-Celebration to Social Quantification"

Riccardo Semeraro and Giovanni Gregorini, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan and Brescia

"Commemoration, Preservation, Celebration: The 1914 Silver Jubilee Booklet and the History of Progressive Education"

Maria Patricia Williams, University College London

Session 18

Early and Late Modern Religious Life | 254 Madeleva Hall

Chair: *Peter Cajka, University of Notre Dame*

"Holy Indian Women: The Indigenous Nuns of the Siete Príncipes Convent, Oaxaca, Mexico, 1782–1870"

Jessica Lauren Ciales, Rutgers University

"Remembering Sacrificial Suffering in the History of Women Religious: The Case of Discalced Carmelite Nuns in the Netherlands, 1870–present"

Brian Heffernan

10:30–11 a.m. Break

11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Panel Sessions 19–21

Session 19

Research with Women Religious | Carroll Auditorium

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

"Learning and Stewarding Sisters' Stories for a New Generation"

Katie Gordon, Harvard Divinity School

"For the Sake of the Mission: Giving Birth to the 'Dominican Sisters of Peace'"

Kathleen Riley, Ohio Dominican University

"Triangulation and Listening Between the Lines: Writing History with Women Religious"

Barbara Wolf Shousha, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Session 20

1,000 Words in a Picture, II | 211 Madeleva Hall

Chair: *Thomas Rzeznik, Seton Hall University*

"Woman (Religious) With a Movie Camera"

Edel Robinson, Independent Artist

"From Mistresses to Bachelors"

Evelyn Spratt, Notre Dame of Maryland University

"Women Religious in the 1918 Flu Pandemic"

Sara Bolten, McKendree University

Mary Ann Thompson, McKendree University

"The Napkin Ring: A Symbol of Community Life"

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

Session 21

Transnational Relocation and Adjustment | 254 Madeleva Hall

Chair: *Margaret McGuinness, La Salle University*

"Maura, Ita, Dorothy, Jean, and Carla: The Spiritual Transformation of Five American Missionaries in Post-Vatican II Central America"

Edward Brett and Donna Brett, La Roche College

"Abrupt Americanization: Dominican Sisters in New York"

James Carroll, Iona College

"The Resettlement of Vietnamese Refugee Women Religious in the United States, 1975–1977"

Tuan Hoang, Pepperdine University

12:30–2 p.m. Lunch | Noble Family Dining Hall

2–3:30 p.m. Panel Sessions 22–24

Session 22

New Perspectives on Catholic Women's Education in 19th-Century America

Carroll Auditorium | Chair: *Mary Beth Fraser Connolly, Purdue University Northwest*

"Raising the Academy to the Highest Standard of the Times': Ann Gertrude Wightt as Directress of Georgetown Visitation Academy, 1826–1831"

Joseph G. Mannard, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

"Playing Catholic: Sister-Writers and Plays for Young Women in the Convent School"

Monica L. Mercado, Colgate University

"Teach poor children as much as you can': Daughters of Charity, Jesuits, and Education in the United States, 1809–1900"

Catherine O'Donnell, Arizona State University

Session 23

Sisters Crossing Borders at Home and Abroad | 211 Madeleva Hall

Chair: *Barbra Mann Wall, University of Virginia*

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

Barbara Mattick, Independent Scholar

"Dancing in the Africa Spirit Lush Land: Mother M. Charles Walker, R.S.C., Reverberating in African Sisterhood"

Margaret Mary Ibeh, H.H.C.J., Central Eastern Province of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus

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

"Staying Local: The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in Philadelphia"

Margaret McGuinness, La Salle University

Session 24

Commemoration Efforts | 254 Madeleva Hall

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

"Commemoration versus Heritage: Challenges Experienced by Mother Michael Corcoran I.B.V.M., Superior General (1888–1918)"

Ruth Ferris, University College Dublin

"Sanctuary of Sorrows: Material Culture, Congregational Memory, and the Rwandan Genocide"

Alison Fitchett Climenhaga, University of Notre Dame

"Commemorating Grief and Hope: Marking the Bicentennial of the Sisters of Charity of New York at a Time of Decline for Catholic Education"

Dennis Gunn, C.F.C., Iona College

3:30–4 p.m.

Afternoon Break

4–5:30 p.m.

Panel Sessions 25–27

Session 25

1,000 Words in a Picture, III | Carroll Auditorium

Chair: *Ellen Pierce, Archival Consultant*

“Sisters in the Wilderness”

M. C. Havey, Sisters of Service

“Sister Jean and the 2018 NCAA Men’s Final Four”

Bren Ortega Murphy, Loyola University Chicago

“Sister J: Secret Weapon”

Fernanda Perrone, Rutgers University

“Portrait of a Pioneer: Identifying a Faithful Image of Nano Nagle”

Deirdre Raftery and Catherine KilBride, University College Dublin

“The Golden Jubilee of Saint Elizabeth’s Home—Children, Friends, and Benefactors”

Amy Rosenkrans, Notre Dame of Maryland University

Session 26

Roundtable on Research Projects | 211 Madeleva Hall

Chair: *Ryan Murphy, Chestnut Hill College*

“Commemorating, Preserving, and Celebrating Women Religious in the Digital Domain”

Rosa Bruno-Jofré, Queen’s University

“‘No one ever told me these stories!’: Sharing the Histories of Women Religious with Today’s Adolescents”

Katie Bugyis, Harvard University (Radcliffe Institute)

Ann David, University of the Incarnate Word

“Intermonastic Team Researching the History of Female Convents in Poland (1971–2018)”

Agata Mirek, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin

Session 27

Sister-Teachers in Ireland and the United States | 254 Madeleva Hall

Chair: *Mary Henold, Roanoke College*

“‘We must prefer the schools to all others’: Preserving the Legacy of the Presentation Sisters’ Contribution to Second-Level Education in Ireland, 1850–1950”

Catriona Delaney, University College Dublin

“Sister Scientists: Catholic Sisters as Biological Investigators and Educators”

Reba Drey Luiken, University of Minnesota

“Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate Pioneers of African American Education”

Cecilia Venable, University of Texas at El Paso

6–6:30 p.m.

Reception | Rice Commons (Student Center)

6:30 p.m.	Banquet Noble Family Dining Hall
	"Finding What's True in the Stories of Women Religious" <i>Eileen Markey, Lehman College, CUNY</i> Presentation of CHWR Awards

Wednesday, June 26

7:30–8:30 a.m. **Breakfast | Noble Family Dining Hall**

8:30–10 a.m. **Panel Sessions 28–29**

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 | 211 Madeleva Hall**
 Chair: *Arlene Montevecchio, Saint Mary's College*

"The Theresian (Mostly True) Story: Remembering the Apostolate to Promote Sisterhood Vocations"

Mary Henold, Roanoke College

"Tradition and Transformation: The Changing Face of Tertiaries in Later Medieval Europe"

Alison More, University of St. Michael's College

"Partners in Ministry and Mission: Women Religious and Associates"

Ryan Murphy, Chestnut Hill College

"Consecrated Religious Women Forming and Inspiring American Lay Saints: The Hagiographical Record of the Impact of American Religious Women on Current Causes of Laity in the United States"

Joshua Wopata, University of Dayton

10–10:30 a.m. **Morning Break**

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. Panel Sessions 30–31

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, S.N.D. de N., Trinity Washington University

Kevin Karimi, L.S.O.S.F., Marywood University

Patricia Wittberg, S.C., CARA, Georgetown University

Discussion with Participants

Session 31

Biographies: How Sisters Tell Their Stories | 211 Madeleva Hall

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

**"Finding Nano: The Long Shadow of Hagiography and the Challenges of Writing
Commemorative Biographies of Women Religious Today"**

Deirdre Raftery, University College Dublin

"Hidden in Plain Sight: Loretto Histories and Herstories"

Annie E. Stevens, S.L., Webster University

12–1 p.m.

Lunch | Noble Family Dining Hall



Special thanks to collaborators at Saint Mary's College for supporting this conference:

- Campus and Community Events
- The Center for Spirituality
- Sisters of the Holy Cross

The Conference on the History of Women Religious was established in 1988 both to assist historians in discovering and preserving the historical record of vowed women from the Middle Ages to the present, and to integrate their stories into the larger narratives of their times and places. Today, the CHWR is a group of approximately 400 scholars and archivists from the fields of history, religious studies, women's studies, and sociology. Since 2012, the CHWR and its newsletter have been housed at Notre Dame's Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism.

cushwa.nd.edu

Interpreting the American Catholic experience

