

**Twelfth Triennial
Conference on the History of Women Religious**

Diversity and Dignity Across Time and Place

**June 26–29, 2022
University of Notre Dame**

Throughout their histories, women religious have celebrated and struggled with many aspects related to diversity in their personal lives, congregational histories, and ministries. At the same time, their work has often focused on upholding the “dignity of the human person,” particularly the dignity of women. This conference explores aspects of diversity and dignity within the history of women’s religious congregations around the world.

Cosponsors:

Saint Mary’s College (Notre Dame, Indiana)
Center for Spirituality, Saint Mary’s College
Medieval Institute, University of Notre Dame

The Program Committee:

Katie Buggy | Carol Coburn | Heidi MacDonald | Margaret McGuinness
Donna Maria Moses, O.P. | Jacqueline Willy Romero

Sunday, June 26

6 p.m. **Conference Check-In Opens** | McKenna Hall Registration
(2nd Floor)

7 – 8:30 p.m. **Keynote Address** | 215–6 McKenna Hall

**“Making a Way Out of No Way’: The Oblate Sisters of
Providence Pursue Higher Education Under Jim Crow”**
Diane Batts Morrow, University of Georgia, emerita

Monday, June 27

9 – 10:30 a.m. Panel Sessions 1–3

Session 1 **Human Rights and Social Justice** | 202 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Jessica Coblentz, Saint Mary's College (Notre Dame, IN)*

“The Gift of Self: Resources within the Work of Edith Stein for Disability Theology”

Mariele Courtois, Benedictine College

“Catholic Action, Social Justice, and the Role of Sacred Heart Women's Colleges”

Christine Baudin Hernandez, Independent Scholar

“Advocating for the Dignity of Women in the Church and the World: Elizabeth Carroll, R.S.M.”

Jill Plummer, Sacred Heart University

Session 2 **Corporal Works of Mercy: The Poor, Imprisoned, and Vulnerable** | 205–7 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Kara M. French, Salisbury University*

“Ursuline Sisters Bring Dignity to ‘Country Kids’”

Dan Heckel, Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph

“Diversity in Confinement: Carceral History and the San Francisco Magdalen Asylum”

Katherine D. Moran, Saint Louis University

Session 3 **Spiritual Legacies: The Influence of Women Religious Leaders** | 215–6 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Molly Gower, Saint Mary's College (Notre Dame, IN)*

“You Will Know the Abyss of My Mercy’: Three Communities of Women Shaped by Faustina Kowalska’s Mystical Legacy”

Robert E. Alvis, Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology

“Mother Angélique Arnauld’s Reflections on Reform: Creating Unity Out of Diversity at Port-Royal”

Elissa Cutter, Georgian Court University

“The Spiritual Journey of Sister Elizabeth (Mary Mercy) Hirschboeck, M.M.”

Vivien Ng, Independent Scholar

“A Promise to Meet Life Head-On’: Benedictine Women and Their Vow of Stability through the Lens of Time and Place”

Darby A. Ratliff, Saint Louis University

10:30 – 11 a.m. Morning Break

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Panel Sessions 4–6

Session 4 Healthcare Beyond Borders | 202 McKenna Hall

Chair: Thomas Rzeznik, Seton Hall University

“The Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood and a System of Franciscan Transnational Healthcare: Ireland and Singapore, 1942–1970”

Brian Casey, Durham University

“Martyrs of Charity: Philadelphia’s Religious Sisters’ Response to the 1918 Flu Pandemic and COVID-19”

Ryan P. Murphy, Chestnut Hill College

Session 5 Dignity of Indigenous Peoples | 205–7 McKenna Hall

Chair: Jill Plummer, Sacred Heart University

“Between Huehuetenango and El Bronx: Sisters of Charity in Solidarity”

Eileen Markey, Lehman College, City University of New York

“Savage Dignity: 19th- and Early-20th-Century Women Religious and the Education of Native Americans”

Elizabethada A. Wright, University of Minnesota Duluth

Session 6 **New Directions in the Global Study of Women Religious** |
215–6 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Katie Buggy, University of Notre Dame*

“From Botanist to Advocate: Teaching Diversity”

Reba Drey Luiken, University of Wisconsin–Madison

“Globalizing Profession: The Digital Humanities as Source and Method”

Rose Luminiello, University of Aberdeen and University of Notre Dame

“Slavery and the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth”

Jacqueline Willy Romero, University of Notre Dame

12:30 – 2 p.m. **Lunch** | Morris Inn Ballroom

2 – 3:30 p.m. **Panel Sessions 7–9**

Session 7 **On the Past and Future: Reflections on Changes in Religious Life** | 202 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Carmen M. Mangion, Birkbeck University of London*

“Archives and Women’s Rights in the Province of Quebec: Reflection on Transmission”

David Bureau, Saint Joseph's Oratory (Montréal)

“Culture and Ethnicity in Vocations to Religious Life”

Thu T. Do, L.H.C., Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

“Enriching one another by our diversity’: M.S.H.R. Constitution 12”

Catherine KilBride, University College Dublin

Session 8 **1,000 Words in a Picture I: Examining Relationships
Between Inside and Outside Religious Life** | 205–7
McKenna Hall

Chair: *Peggy M. Delmas, University of South Alabama*

**“An Invitation to Mrs. Madison: ‘The Nunnery at
Georgetown’ and the Washington Elite”**

Kara M. French, Salisbury University

**“The Garden Was the Last Straw: Dominican Women in
Orvieto, Italy”**

*Agnes R. Howard, Valparaiso University Christ College (Honors
College)*

**“In Harmony with the World: The Sisters of St. Joseph of
Baden and Their Relationship with Music”**

Kathleen Washy, Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden

Session 9 **Women, War, and Revolution** | 215–6 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Sally Witt, C.S.J., Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden*

**“The Revolution Writ Small: Sisters of St. Joseph
Guillotined, 1794”**

Patricia Byrne, C.S.J., Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden

**“The Interventions of the Sisters of Social Service on
behalf of Jews in Hungary, 1920–1945”**

Eileen Groth Lyon, State University of New York at Fredonia

**“‘Alike and Different’: American Nurses and Italian Nuns
in World War One Humanitarian Work”**

Daniela Rossini, Università Roma Tre (Rome, Italy)

3:30 – 4 p.m. **Afternoon Break**

4 – 5:30 p.m. **Panel Sessions 10–12**

Session 10 **Building a Future: Challenges and Opportunity in Religious Life** | 202 McKenna Hall

Chair: *James Carroll, Iona College*

“Eco-spirituality, a Renewed Vision of Life and the Making of an Epistemic Break”

Rosa Bruno-Jofré, Queen's University

“Pretty in Pink and Blue: How Female Religious Orders in Lincoln, Nebraska Bucked National Decline”

Joshua A. Hoxmeier, University of Illinois at Chicago

“Engaging the Journalism of Ann Carey: A Scholar's Critique”

Harriet Murphy, Independent Scholar

Session 11 **Music and Art as Social Empowerment** | 205–7 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Amity Bryson, Avila University*

“Music Tells Our History: A Creative Approach to Writing a Community History through a Harmony of Voices”

Sarah Kohles, O.S.F., Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque

“Hrotsvit & the Desert Harlots: Dignity in Adaptation”

Macie Sweet, University of Notre Dame

“Mission and Musicking in Pre-War and Post-War 20th-Century Formosa: The Case of Miss Isabel Taylor, 1909–1992”

Chia-An (Victor) Tung, Emmanuel College, University of Toronto

Session 12 **After Leaving Religious Life: Post-Convent Years of Three Ex-Nuns** | 215–6 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Janet Welsh, O.P., Sinsinawa Dominican Motherhouse*

“Intimate Echoes of the Acadian Diaspora: The Self-Narration of Désirée Martin (1830–1877), Former R.S.C.J. from Louisiana”

Clint Bruce, Université Sainte-Anne, Nova Scotia

“A Media Sensation: ‘The Escaped Nun’ and the American Press”

Elisabeth C. Davis, Rosemont College

“‘The Very Interesting Case of an American Lady’: An Ex-Nun’s Successful Financial Claim Against Mexico, 1849–1852”

Joseph G. Mannard, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner | Morris Inn Ballroom

7 – 8:30 p.m. Plenary Session | Digital Visualization Theater, Jordan Hall

“Creation and Cosmos: The Universe According to Hildegard”

Margot Fassler, University of Notre Dame

Tuesday, June 28

9 – 10:30 a.m. Panel Sessions 13–15

Session 13 **Children of the Church: Chinese Women in American Congregations** | 202 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Patricia Byrne, C.S.J., Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden*

“Be Children of the Church: Oh, Thankful! The Sisters of Charity in China, 1924–1951”

Noreen Neary, S.C., Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

“The Challenges of Language, Culture, and War: Teresa Lung and the Sisters of St. Joseph, 1933–1948”

Kathleen Washy, Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden

“Sister Theresa Joseph Lung, Chinese Religious and Lay Woman, during Decades of Religious, Cultural, and Political Development”

Sally Witt, C.S.J., Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden

Session 14 **Women Religious and 1970s Social Justice Movements** | 205–207 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Elizabethada A. Wright, University of Minnesota Duluth*

“Called to Diversify: Patricia Rogers, O.P., Missionary to White Sisters”

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

“Sister Patricia Drydyk, O.S.F.: Seeking Justice for Farm Workers”

Paul T. Murray, Siena College

“Swept Up into the Struggle for Civil Rights’: Dominican Sisters’ Transforming Experience—Most Pure Heart of Mary, Mobile, Alabama”

Janet Welsh, O.P., Sinsinawa Dominican Motherhouse

Session 15 **Congregational Leaders Confronting Societal Change** |
215–6 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Monica L. Mercado, Colgate University*

**“Diversity in the Life of the Patron Saint of Racial Justice:
Writing about Katharine Drexel”**

Margaret M. McGuinness, La Salle University

**“Dowries and Diversity: Kinship, Wealth and Class in the
Loreto Motherhouse under M. Teresa Ball I.B.V.M.,
1822–1860”**

Deirdre Raftery, University College Dublin

**““What further changes are necessary or even expedient?”:
Understanding Diversity in the Leadership of Mother
Maura McGuire, C.S.J., during Times of Social and
Theological Turmoil”**

Elizabeth M. Smyth, University of Toronto (emeritus)

10:30 – 11 a.m. Break

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Panel Sessions 16–18

Session 16 **Passing the Torch: The Integrity and Preservation of
Religious Collections** | 202 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Ellen Pierce, Religious Archives Consultant*

David Bureau, Saint Joseph's Oratory (Montréal)

Mary M. McGlone, C.S.J., Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

Deirdre Raftery, University College Dublin

Session 17 **1,000 Words in a Picture II: Negotiating Community,
Charity, and Conflict** | 205–7 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Brian Casey, Durham University*

**“Mary Johnson’s Memory Book and the Archive of
Women Religious”**

Monica L. Mercado, Colgate University

“Charitable Appeal: The St. Vincent’s Hospital Campaign of 1925”

Thomas Rzeznik, Seton Hall University

“China Flags: Sisterhood in Occupied Wuhan, 1938”

Annie Stevens, S.L., Webster University

“Ellen Gates Starr: The 1916 Socialist Candidate”

Anna Wager, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Session 18

Cultural Contexts of Aging: Africa, Latin and North America | 215–6 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Judith Sutura, O.S.B., Mount St. Scholastica*

“The Care and Support of Aging and Infirm Sisters: The U.S. Context”

Thomas Gaunt, S.J., CARA, Georgetown University

Georgette Lehmuth, O.S.F., Support Our Aging Religious

“The Care and Support of Aging and Infirm Sisters: The African Context”

Candida N. Mukundi, A.S.N., Data Center, Catholic University of Eastern Africa

Bibiana Ngundo, L.S.O.S.F., Data Center, Catholic University of Eastern Africa

“The Care and Support of Aging and Infirm Sisters: The Mexican Context”

Luis Fernando Falcó, M.S.p.S., Project Cruces

Brenda Hernandez, HMIG, Project Cruces

12:30 – 2 p.m.

Lunch | Morris Inn Ballroom

2 – 3:30 p.m.

Panel Sessions 19–21

Session 19

Reparations and Reconciling: Addressing Histories of Racism | 202 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Jacqueline Willy Romero, University of Notre Dame*

“Heeding the Call to Conversion: The Adrian Dominicans Reckon with Their Past”

Arlene Bachanov, Adrian Dominican Sisters

“Retrieving the Past: The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Confront Racism within the Congregation”

Mary F. Hayes, S.N.D. de N., Trinity Washington University

“St. Rose of Lima and St. Edward the Confessor, 19th-Century Parish Schools: Diversity and Dignity Across Time and Place”

Roseanne McDougall, S.H.C.J., American Province, Society of the Holy Child Jesus

Session 20

Roundtable | **Nunspeak: What are Historians to Do?** |
205–207 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Carol Coburn, Avila University*

Patricia Byrne, C.S.J., Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden
Joseph G. Mannard, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Sally Witt, C.S.J., Sisters of St. Joseph Baden

Session 21

Diverse Needs in Education: Irish Women Religious |
215–6 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Rose Luminiello, University of Aberdeen and University of Notre Dame*

“Presentation Sisters and the Fee-paying Schools of a Religious Congregation Dedicated to Education of the Poor”

Deirdre Bennett, University College Dublin

“‘Sisters with sleeves of different materials’: Embracing Dignity and Diversity in Loreto Convents in Mauritius, 1894–1908”

Ruth Ferris, University College Dublin

“Dynamic and Diverse: The Response of the La Sainte Union Sisters to the Changing Education Needs of Girls in Ireland, c. 1860–1930”

Geraldine Noonan, University College Dublin

“A Step in a Different Direction? Mother Teresa Ball and the Loreto Free Schools, 1823–1861”

Catherine Nowlan-Roebuck, University College Dublin

3:30 – 4 p.m. Afternoon Break

4 – 5:30 p.m. Panel Sessions 22–24

Session 22 Catholic Sisters as Advocates | 202 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Eileen Markey, Lehman College, City University of New York*

“Sister Ann Ida Gannon, B.V.M.: A Woman of Vision”

Robert Aguirre, Independent Scholar

“A Life in Limbo: How Catholic Is a Former Nun Turned Human Rights Advocate?”

Theresa Keeley, University of Louisville

“The African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC): Promoting Diversity and Dignity with Reverence”

Tara Lopatofsky, African Sisters Education Collaborative

“Mother Kevin: A Model for Diversity and Dignity?”

Edelquine Shivachi, L.S.O.S.F., University of Notre Dame

Session 23 1,000 Words in a Picture III: Who Is Excluded? Dialogue on Race, Place, and Interfaith Social Justice | 205–7 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Reba Drey Luiken, University of Wisconsin–Madison*

“The St. James Project: Our Gateway to the ‘Inner City’ of Cleveland, Ohio”

Cynthia Glavac, O.S.U., Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland

**“Our Lady of North America: Diversity and Social Justice
in the Art of Sister Mary of the Compassion, O.P.”**

Fernanda H. Perrone, Rutgers University

**“Active Contemplation–Contemplative Action: Buddhist
and Christian Nuns in Dialogue”**

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

Session 24

**Displacement Project: Sisters of the Holy Cross | 215–6
McKenna Hall**

Chair: *Eileen Groth Lyon, State University of New York at
Fredonia*

**“Mission in the Archive: Researching ‘Refuge(es)’ in the
Congregational Archives and Records of the Sisters of the
Holy Cross”**

*Laura Williamson Ambrose, Saint Mary’s College (Notre Dame,
IN)*

**“Humanities Research and the Congregational Archives
and Records of the Sisters of the Holy Cross: A Student
Perspective”**

Mary E. Coleman, University of Notre Dame

**“Valuing the Humanity and Dignity of the Displaced: The
Work of Sister Paula Goettelmann on the
Thai/Cambodian Border”**

Sarah L. Noonan, Saint Mary’s College (Notre Dame, IN)

6 – 6:30 p.m.

Reception | Morris Inn Prefunction Space

6:30 p.m.

Banquet | Morris Inn Ballroom

Presentation of CHWR Awards

Wednesday, June 29

8:30 – 10 a.m. Panel Sessions 25–27

Session 25 Reflections on Religious Life Across European History |
202 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Elissa Cutter, Georgian Court University*

**“Narratives of Suppression and Refoundation: The
demoiselles of La Retraite in Post-revolutionary Europe”**
*Sarah Barthélemy, Durham University and Université Saint-Louis
(Bruxelles)*

**“Continuity or Rupture? The Canonesses of the Holy
Sepulchre in Post-revolutionary Europe”**
Cormac Begadon, Durham University

**“Queering the Dead in Communities of Women Religious
in Central Medieval England”**
Katie Buggy, University of Notre Dame

**“Diversifying English Nuns as a Useful Category for
Analysis”**
Elizabeth Marvel, Baylor University

Session 26 Lessons from Sister Madeleva Wolff, C.S.C. | 205–7
McKenna Hall

Chair: *Joseph G. Mannard, Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

**“Set Up to Burn Out: Lessons from Sister Madeleva Wolff,
C.S.C.’s Experiences of and Responses to ‘Burn Out’”**
Jessica Coblentz, Saint Mary’s College (Notre Dame, IN)

**“Art and Attention in the Theology of Sister Madeleva
Wolff, C.S.C.”**
Molly Gower, Saint Mary’s College (Notre Dame, IN)

“Sister Madeleva Wolff, C.S.C., and Crisis Communication: Responsive Leadership in the Midst of Uncertain Times”

Susan Mancino, Saint Mary’s College (Notre Dame, IN)

Session 27 **Who is Entering Religious Life Today: Recent Studies** |
215–6 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Ryan P. Murphy, Chestnut Hill College*

“Trends in the United States, Canada, France, and Australia”

Mary L. Gautier, CARA, Georgetown University

“Generational Differences in Women Religious: A Cross-National Comparison”

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

10 – 10:30 a.m. Morning Break

10:30 a.m. – 12 noon Panel Sessions 28–29

Session 28 **Education as Social Empowerment** | 205–7 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Roseanne McDougall, S.H.C.J., American Province, Society of the Holy Child Jesus*

“Catholic Sisters as Community College Faculty and Administrators in the United States: 1969–2005”

Peggy Delmas, University of South Alabama

“To ‘Make Things Happen’: Sister Thea Bowman’s Leadership of the Office of Intercultural Affairs of the Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi”

Dennis Gunn, Iona College

“The Presentation Order in Waterford, Ireland, 1798–2005: A Long Tradition of Female Education and Empowerment”

Angela Tobin, Independent Scholar

Session 29 **Nuns, Missions and Money: Transnational Missionary
Funding Networks** | 215–6 McKenna Hall

Chair: *Theresa Keeley, University of Louisville*

**“‘Maybe we should not be there’: The Sisters of Mercy
Peruvian Mission, 1962–1969”**

Mary Beth Fraser Connolly, Purdue University Northwest

**“Dignity and Disaster Relief: Seton Institute and the
Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004”**

Kristine Ashton Gunnell, University of California, Los Angeles

“Medical Missionaries and the Colonial Gaze, 1946–1966”

Carmen M. Mangion, Birkbeck University of London

12 – 1 p.m. **Lunch** | Morris Inn Ballroom