12th Triennial Conference on the History of Women Religious

DIVERSITY AND DIGNITY ACROSS TIME AND PLACE

JUNE 26–29, 2022

University of Notre Dame | McKenna Hall Conference Center
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.

CO-SPONSORS

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

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Katie Bugyis
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Donna Maria Moses, O.P.
Jacqueline Willy Romero

Cover image: The Martyrs Memorial, by Rudolph (Rudy) Torrini, honors the five members of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ killed in Liberia on Oct. 20 and 23, 1992, and all women who have worked for justice. The sculpture was dedicated on June 24, 1994, in Ruma, Illinois.
# DIVERSITY AND DIGNITY ACROSS TIME AND PLACE

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

## Sunday, June 26

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Conference check-in opens</td>
<td>McKenna Hall Registration (2nd Floor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Keynote address</td>
<td>215–216 McKenna Hall</td>
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**Monumental Women: Remembering Catholic Sisters at Notre Dame and in America**

*Kathleen Sprows Cummings, University of Notre Dame*

## Monday, June 27

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<tr>
<td>9 – 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Panel sessions 1–3</td>
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### 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 | 205–207 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 | 215–216 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

‘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. Break**

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

**Session 4** Health Care Beyond Borders | 202 McKenna Hall
Chair: Thomas Rzeznik, Seton Hall University

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 | 205–207 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 | 215–216 McKenna Hall
Chair: Katie Bugyis, 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 of Mount Royal (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**  |  205–207 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**  |  215–216 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. 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-Jofrén, 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  | 205–207 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  | 215–216 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

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9 – 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Panel sessions 13–15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Session 13</strong></td>
<td>Children of the Church: Chinese Women in American Congregations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Patricia Byrne, C.S.J., Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Be Children of the Church: Oh, Thankful! The Sisters of Charity in China, 1924–1951</td>
<td>Norreen Neary, S.C., Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session 14</strong></td>
<td>Women Religious and 1970s Social Justice Movements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Elizabethada A. Wright, University of Minnesota Duluth</td>
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<td>Called to Diversify: Patricia Rogers, O.P., Missionary to White Sisters</td>
<td>Mary Ewens, O.P., Sinsinawa Dominican Research Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sister Patricia Drydyk, O.S.F.: Seeking Justice for Farm Workers</td>
<td>Paul T. Murray, Siena College</td>
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<td>‘Swept Up into the Struggle for Civil Rights’: Dominican Sisters’ Transforming Experience—Most Pure Heart of Mary, Mobile, Alabama</td>
<td>Janet Welsh, O.P., Sinsinawa Dominican Motherhouse</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session 15</strong></td>
<td>Congregational Leaders Confronting Societal Change</td>
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<td>Chair: Monica L. Mercado, Colgate University</td>
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<td>Diversity in the Life of the Patron Saint of Racial Justice: Writing about Katharine Drexel</td>
<td>Margaret M. McGuinness, La Salle University</td>
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<tr>
<td>‘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</td>
<td>Elizabeth M. Smyth, emerita, University of Toronto</td>
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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 of Mount Royal (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** | 205–207 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

**Session 18**  
**Cultural Contexts of Aging: Africa, Latin and North America** | 215–216 McKenna Hall  
Chair: Judith Sutera, 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, The Catholic University of Eastern Africa  
Bibiana Ngundo, L.S.O.S.F., Data Center, The Catholic University of Eastern Africa  
The Care and Support of Aging and Infirm Sisters: The Mexican Context  
Luis Fernando Falcó Pliego, M.S.p.S., Proyecto Cruces  
Brenda Hernandez, HMIG, Proyecto 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  |  215–216 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.  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
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 | 205–207 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 Suter, O.S.B., Mount St. Scholastica

Session 24
Displacement Project: Sisters of the Holy Cross | 215–216 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
Kaitlin Emmett, Saint Mary’s College

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 | Outside Morris Inn Ballroom
6:30 p.m. | Banquet | Morris Inn Ballroom

Presentation of Conference on the History of Women Religious Awards
**Wednesday, June 29**

*For those checking out of hotels on Wednesday morning, luggage may be stored in 204 McKenna Hall.*

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Chair/Presenter(s)</th>
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| 8:30 – 10 a.m. | Panel sessions 25–27 | 202 McKenna Hall | **Reflections on Religious Life Across European History**  
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 Bugyis, University of Notre Dame  
Diversifying English Nuns as a Useful Category for Analysis  
Elizabeth Marvel, Baylor University |
|            |                     | 205–207 McKenna Hall | **Lessons from Sister Madeleva Wolff, C.S.C.**  
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) |
|            |                     | 215–216 McKenna Hall | **Who is Entering Religious Life Today: Recent Studies**  
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. | Break               |                |                                                                                   |
# 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Panel sessions 28–29

## Session 28

**Education as Social Empowerment** | 205–207 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** | 215–216 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.

**Boxed Lunch** | Outside of 215–216 McKenna Hall
The Conference on the History of Women Religious (CHWR) was established in 1988 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 includes scholars and archivists from the fields of history, religious studies, women’s studies and sociology. Since 2012, the CHWR has been administered by the University of Notre Dame’s Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism.

cushwa.nd.edu

Interpreting the American Catholic experience