



*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

 **Cushwa Center**
for the Study of American Catholicism

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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.

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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

6 p.m. Conference check-in opens | McKenna Hall Registration (2nd Floor)

7 – 8:30 p.m. Keynote address | 215–216 McKenna Hall

Monumental Women: Remembering Catholic Sisters at Notre Dame and in America
Kathleen Sprows Cummings, University of Notre Dame

Monday, June 27

9 – 10:30 a.m. Panel sessions 1–3

Session 1

Human Rights and Social Justice | 202 McKenna Hall

Chair: Jessica Coblenz, 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

The Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood and a System of Franciscan Transnational Health Care: 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 | 205–207 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 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 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-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 | 205–207 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

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: Theresa Lung and the Sisters of St. Joseph, 1927–1948

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 | 215–216 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, emerita, University of Toronto

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

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 | 205–207 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 Sutura, 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.

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 Bugyis, 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. | 205–207 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 Coblenz, 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 | 215–216 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. 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

