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
Carol Coburn
Heidi MacDonald
Margaret McGuinness
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

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 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
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<td>2 – 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Panel sessions 7–9</td>
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<td><strong>Session 7</strong></td>
<td>On the Past and Future: Reflections on Changes in Religious Life</td>
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<td>Chair: Carmen M. Mangion, Birkbeck University of London</td>
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<td>Archives and Women’s Rights in the Province of Quebec: Reflection on</td>
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<td>David Bureau, Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal (Montréal)</td>
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<td>Culture and Ethnicity in Vocations to Religious Life</td>
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<td>Thu T. Do, L.H.C., Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate</td>
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<td>‘Enriching One Another by our Diversity’: M.S.H.R. Constitution 12</td>
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<td>Catherine KilBride, University College Dublin</td>
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<td><strong>Session 8</strong></td>
<td>1,000 Words in a Picture I: Examining Relationships Between Inside</td>
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<td>205–207 McKenna Hall</td>
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<td>Chair: Peggy M. Delmas, University of South Alabama</td>
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<td>An Invitation to Mrs. Madison: ‘The Nunnery at Georgetown’ and the</td>
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<td>Kara M. French, Salisbury University</td>
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<td>The Garden Was the Last Straw: Dominican Women in Orvieto, Italy</td>
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<td>Agnes R. Howard, Valparaiso University Christ College–Honors College</td>
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<td>In Harmony with the World: The Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden and</td>
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<td>Their Relationship with Music</td>
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<td>Kathleen Washy, Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden</td>
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<td><strong>Session 9</strong></td>
<td>Women, War, and Revolution</td>
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<td>215–216 McKenna Hall</td>
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<td>Chair: Sally Witt, C.S.J., Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden</td>
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<td>The Revolution Writ Small: Sisters of St. Joseph Guillotined, 1794</td>
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<td>Patricia Byrne, C.S.J., Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden</td>
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<td>The Interventions of the Sisters of Social Service on Behalf of Jews</td>
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<td>in Hungary, 1920–1945</td>
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<td>Eileen Groth Lyon, State University of New York at Fredonia</td>
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<td>‘Alike and Different’: American Nurses and Italian Nuns in World</td>
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<td>War One Humanitarian Work</td>
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<td>Daniela Rossini, Università Roma Tre (Rome, Italy)</td>
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<td>3:30 – 4 p.m.</td>
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<td>4 – 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Panel sessions 10–12</td>
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<td><strong>Session 10</strong></td>
<td>Building a Future: Challenges and Opportunity in Religious Life</td>
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<td>Chair: James Carroll, Iona College</td>
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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

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<td>9 – 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Panel sessions 13–15</td>
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**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  
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  
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
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<td>2 – 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Panel sessions 19–21</td>
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<td>Session 19</td>
<td>Reparations and Reconciling: Addressing Histories of Racism</td>
<td>202 McKenna Hall</td>
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<td>Chair: Jacqueline Willy Romero, University of Notre Dame</td>
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<td>Heeding the Call to Conversion: The Adrian Dominicans Reckon with their Past</td>
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<td>Arlene Bachanov, Adrian Dominican Sisters</td>
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<td>Retrieving the Past: The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Confront Racism Within the Congregation</td>
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<td>Mary F. Hayes, S.N.D. de N., Trinity Washington University</td>
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<td>St. Rose of Lima and St. Edward the Confessor, 19th-Century Parish Schools: Diversity and Dignity Across Time and Place</td>
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<td>Roseanne McDougall, S.H.C.J., American Province, Society of the Holy Child Jesus</td>
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<td>Session 20</td>
<td>Roundtable</td>
<td>Nunspeak: What are Historians to Do?</td>
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<td>Chair: Carol Coburn, Avila University</td>
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<td>Joseph G. Mannard, Indiana University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Sally Witt, C.S.J., Sisters of St. Joseph Baden</td>
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<td>Session 21</td>
<td>Diverse Needs in Education: Irish Women Religious</td>
<td>215–216 McKenna Hall</td>
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<td>Chair: Rose Luminiello, University of Aberdeen and University of Notre Dame</td>
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<td>Presentation Sisters and the Fee-Paying Schools of a Religious Congregation Dedicated to Education of the Poor</td>
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<td>Deirdre Bennett, University College Dublin</td>
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<td>‘Sisters with Sleeves of Different Materials’: Embracing Dignity and Diversity in Loreto Convents in Mauritius, 1894–1908</td>
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<td>Ruth Ferris, University College Dublin</td>
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<td>Dynamic and Diverse: The Response of the La Sainte Union Sisters to the Changing Education Needs of Girls in Ireland, c. 1860–1930</td>
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<td>Geraldine Noonan, University College Dublin</td>
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<td>A Step in a Different Direction? Mother Teresa Ball and the Loreto Free Schools, 1823–1861</td>
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<td>Catherine Nowlan-Roebuck, University College Dublin</td>
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<td>3:30 – 4 p.m.</td>
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<td>4 – 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Panel sessions 22–24</td>
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<td>Session 22</td>
<td>Catholic Sisters as Advocates</td>
<td>202 McKenna Hall</td>
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<td>Chair: Stephen M. Koeth, C.S.C., University of Notre Dame</td>
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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 Sutera, 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 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**  | 215–216 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.