
HISTORY OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS

Volume 2 Number 1 February 1989

NEWS AND NOTES

CONFERENCE

Planning is on schedule for the Conference on the History of Women Religious to be held at the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota, June 25 to 28. Abstracts are presently being reviewed for possible inclusion in the concurrent sessions, panels, or magnet groups which are planned; the quality of these, in addition to major addresses scheduled, promise well for a stimulating and valuable meeting. The Conference program and registration forms will be sent in early MARCH to NEWS AND NOTES subscribers as well as to all who have requested program information.

NEWS

Carlan Kraman, OSF, who contributed a chapter on the 1800-1875 period to *Pioneer Healers: The History of Women Religious in American Health Care* (Crossroads, 1989; see HWR News and Notes 1:2), writes that this research and that done on St. Labre Indian Mission in Montana in 1984 have "whetted my appetite" for more work on the history of women religious. Carlan considers herself more as a writer and story teller than an historian. The great women who have never made it into the history books excite her. Right now she's searching for a publisher for a recently completed biography of Mother Alfred Moes (1828-1899), foundress of both the Sisters of St. Francis of Joliet, Illinois, and the Sisters of St. Francis of Rochester, Minnesota. Moes was responsible for the building of St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, 100 years ago; the Doctors Mayo served as the Hospital's first staff, and Mayo Clinic doctors have since constituted the entire staff. Please pass along to Carlan at Assisi Heights Box 4900, Rochester, MN 55903 any tips you have on publishers.

Mary Daniel Turner, SNDdeN, and Lora Ann Quinonez, CDP, are investigating the forces that helped shape renewal among women religious in this country. Archives of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious are the primary source for their study which is subsidized by a grant from the Lilly Endowment.

Kathleen Connell, RSHM, is writing the history of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. In this connection, she is seeking correspondence and information pertaining to the last years of Sarah Worthington King Peter of Cincinnati (1874-1877). Please contact Kathleen at 88 Wilson Park Drive, Tarrytown, NY 10591, if you have or know of such information.

Sara Butler, MSBT, a systematic theologian (Ph.D. Fordham, 1971), is a resident this year in the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research, Collegeville, Minnesota, researching the subject "Equality is Not Identity: Implications for Women in Church and Society." Sara edited the 1978 Catholic Theological Society's Research Report on the Status of Women, and currently serves as consultant to the Bishops' Committee for writing a pastoral letter in response to women's concerns. We look forward to the results of Sara's study which has many ramifications for the history of women religious.

Initiation of the beatification process for Jeanne Chezard de Matel, foundress of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, has prompted research by Kathleen McDonagh, IWBS, in archives of France and Italy. Kathleen is now working on the history of her congregation in this country, especially in the dioceses of Corpus Christi and Brownsville, Texas; she is conducting related research on the spirituality of seventeenth-century France.

Another foundress, Emilie Tavernier Gamelin, whose beatification process was begun in 1981, has been the subject of biographical studies by members of her congregation, the Sisters of Providence. The Seattle Providence Sisters have published a series of biographical sketches featuring Gamelin, Madre Bernarda Morin who founded the congregation in Chile, and Mother Joseph Pariseau.

INTERCONGREGATIONAL NETWORKS

Rosa MacGinley, PBVM, a staff member of the Institute for Religious Studies in Sydney, Australia, writes that she has undertaken a study entitled "Women Religious in Australia." The study concentrates on groups of religious who developed their apostolate during the earlier years of the Australian Church, i.e., prior to World War II. Reference to later groups and consideration of post-war changes in the religious life will bring the study up to contemporary times. The approach will be thematic, with exploration of socio-historical aspects of congregations' growth over four phases of their existence in Australia; changing emphases in spirituality; and canonical changes which have affected women religious in that country. We of HWR News and Notes are very pleased to learn of the Institute for Religious Studies, established in 1976 by major superiors of religious congregations in Australia under the direction of a woman Dominican. We are pleased, too, that our network has been extended through Rosa MacGinley and wish her well in this monumental project.

Mary Nona McGreal, OP, notes that the Dominicans have launched a cooperative research effort known as "Project OPUS: the Story of the Order of Preachers in the United States." The research "encompasses the history of Dominican Sisters, nuns, friars and laity, beginning in 1776—and before!" according to Mary Nona who promises more information on this project for a later issue of News and Notes (or perhaps at the June Conference?).

Cooperative efforts similar in purpose are the History Association of the Congregations of the Holy Cross; and the Research Committee of the Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Undoubtedly there are others—let the editor know so their existence and purposes can be described for our readership.

ARCHIVES

Mary Carita Pendergast, SC, who served in China's southwest Hunan Province for eighteen years, is now researching community archives with a view toward writing the history of the Sisters of Charity (Convent Station, New Jersey) in China. The first Sisters went to Hunan in 1924 and engaged in missionary activities there until being expelled in 1951. The letters of the Sisters are a primary source for the history which Mary Carita hopes will be ready for publication by late 1989 or early 1990.

The Convent Station Charities have a major archival project underway as they assemble all material relating to their foreign missions. Their work in schools in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and catechetical instruction in rural areas of the Caribbean, are the subject of a brief history currently being written by Anne Gertrude Coleman, SC.

Josephine Kennelly, CCVI, Archivist for the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, is currently collecting and organizing correspondence of the founding Sisters of the congregation, 1869-1918. Another member of this congregation, Margaret Patrice Slattery, writes that she is keenly interested in recent historical studies of women religious in the U.S., having begun research on the CCVI's. She would welcome communication on this subject at 4301 Broadway, San Antonio, TX 78209.

M. Adele Francis Gorman, OSF, outstanding leader in the areas of history in the classroom and women in the curriculum (she is co-founder and co-chair of the AHA's Committee on History in the classroom, a member of the AHA's Committee on Women; past president of the Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies), is currently Historian for her congregation, the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. In this capacity she is writing the history of her congregation, treating most intensively the years from 1855 to 1918. Although hampered by the destruction of documents and discrepancies in memoirs, Sister Adele Francis is piecing together an absorbing account of the Sisters, founded by St. John Nepomucene Neumann, fourth Bishop of Philadelphia. Her account can be expected to illuminate the historical role of this and similar congregations which at first devoted themselves to serving the needs of German immigrant women, children, the aged, and the sick.

NON-PRINT MEDIA

Occasionally someone writes to note the production of video cassettes and films, and the mounting of exhibits featuring the history of women religious or art produced by them. Most recently, Patricia McHale, CSJ, notes that the Cleveland Sisters of St. Joseph have completed a large photo mural depicting their history. The Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph has produced a series of video cassettes of excellent quality taped at the International Event celebrating their sesquicentennial in the United States (1836-1986). To the extent feasible, the June Conference will make non-print media items available for viewing. Congregations are urged to contact the Conference Program Committee as promptly as possible, or at least by 15 February, with a brief description of any non-print media they have produced or exhibit they have mounted, along with the name of a contact person who can provide further information. Address your responses to HWR Program Committee, 1884 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have copy for the June issue to the editor by May 1.

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