
HISTORY OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS

Volume 7, Number 2 June 1994

NEWS AND NOTES

CONFERENCE '95

The third triennial conference on the history of women religious will convene June 18, 1995, in Milwaukee. A call for papers is included in this newsletter. Plan now to come and share your research, ideas, questions, and experience at this unique forum. Each of the two prior conferences in St. Paul, Minnesota (1989) and Tarrytown, New York (1992) attracted over 200 participants and featured research pertaining to a wide variety of religious congregations of women. Please publicize the conference by posting the **CALL FOR PAPERS** if you have access to college and university bulletin boards, and by copying and mailing it to individuals you think might be interested in attending/or submitting a proposal for a paper or panel.

PUBLICATIONS & TALKS

Nikola Baumgarten's "*Female Education in St. Louis Before the Civil War: The Society of the Sacred Heart*," was awarded The Henry Barnard Prize for the best essay, given at the 1993 annual meeting of the History of Education Society.

Gail Porter Mandell's biographical essay on Madeleva Wolff, CSC, delivered as the 1994 Madeleva Lecture on Spirituality at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, has been published under the title *MADELEVA: ONE WOMAN'S LIFE* (Paulist Press, 1994).

Suellen Hoy and Margaret MacCurtain have brought into print the diaries of two Dominican nuns who emigrated in 1889: *FROM DUBLIN TO NEW ORLEANS, The Journey of Nora and Alice*. Prior to the U.S. publication date of October 1994, order direct from Attic Press at 4 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2; Tel.: (01) 66 16 128;

Fax: (01) 66 16 176. After October, U.S. distributors can fill orders (Inland Book Co., Connecticut & Bookpeople, California). Hoy also has an article forthcoming, "*The Journey Out: Recruitment and Emigration of Irish Religious Women to the U.S., 1812-1914*" in the quarterly, *Journal of Women's History*. She can be contacted at 1 Lupine Lane, Dune Acres, IN 46304.

Marjorie Noterman Beane, *FROM FRAMEWORK TO FREEDOM: A History of the Sister Formation Conference* (University Press of America, 1993), records the unique educational history of U.S. women religious from 1954-1964 and the place of the Sister Formation Conference within that history.

Paul Gardiner, SJ, *MARY McKILLOP: An Extraordinary Australian*, gives us a biography of the foundress of the Australian Sisters of St. Joseph, her country's first candidate for sainthood. E.J. Dwyer, 1994.

Margaret Cantwell, SSA, in her *NORTH TO SHARE: The Sisters of Saint Ann in Alaska and the Yukon Territory*, 1992, documents the history of her religious congregation in hospitals and schools. Order from Sisters of St. Ann, 720 Boston Post Road, Marlboro, MA 01752,

Diana Culbertson, OP, in *ROSE HAWTHORNE LATHROP: Selected Writings*, has edited Lathrop's letters, diaries, and essays. The volume is part of the Sources of American Spirituality Series (Paulist Press, 1994).

Deirdre Mageean has an essay on "*Catholic Sisterhoods and the Immigrant Church*," in *SEEKING COMMON GROUND: Multidisciplinary Studies of Immigrant Women in the United States*, ed. by Donna Gabaccia (Greenwood Press, 1992).

Helen Rose Fuchs Ebaugh, in *WOMEN IN THE VANISHING CLOISTER: Organizational Decline in Catholic Religious Orders in the United States*, uses a sociological perspective to assess the decline of women's religious orders (Rutgers University Press, 1993).

David J. Nygren, CM, and Miriam Ukeritis, CSJ, have produced a three-part video cassette series and a companion volume, *THE FUTURE OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS IN THE UNITED STATES: Transformation and Commitment* (Praeger Publishers, 1993) to present data gathered through studies conducted with Lilly Endowment support. Based on a general survey of nearly 10,000 women and men religious, the study examines a broad range of topics and trends.

Jeanne Schweikert, SSSF, has published *TOWARD THE NEW MILLENNIUM: A National Vision of Religious Life*, as an outcome of her involvement in Convergence, Inc. For more information, write her at 6917 N. Greeview, Chicago, IL 66626.

Mary Jean Tobin and Mary Eloise Tobin, twin sisters who are members of the Sisters of Mercy (Regional Community of Providence of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas), have collaborated in *A REFLECTION ON THE SPIRITUALITY OF VENERABLE CATHERINE McAULEY*. Order from Administrative Offices, Sisters of Mercy, Highland View Road, Cumberland, RI 02864.

Proceedings of the first Seton Legacy symposium, "*Elizabeth Seton in Dialogue with Her Times and Ours*," have been published in *VINCENTIAN HERITAGE* (vol. 14, no.2, 1993). Order from Center for Vincentian Studies, St. Mary's Seminary, 1701 West Saint Joseph Road, Perryville, MO 63775.

Irene Doyle, CSM, *THE SEARCH FOR ST. MARTHA* (Sisters of Saint Martha, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, 1993), provides a scholarly account of the scriptural and traditional sources of the evolving spirituality of this congregation.

Cecilia Murray's *OTHER WATERS* (New York: Old Brookville Books, 1993) has been published by the Newburgh Dominicans in conjunction with the opening of their 125th anniversary celebration. It traces the growth of this congregation from the emigration of four sisters from Bavaria in 1853 to the 1991 Chapter, and touches on the history of a number of other Regensburg-connected Dominican groups including Amityville, Caldwell, Blauvelt, Grand Rapids, Adrian, and Edmonds. Order from Catherine Walsh, OP, 320 Powell Avenue, Newburgh, NY 12550.

Murray has just completed her doctoral dissertation at Drew University on a particular aspect of Regensburg Dominican history, its transition from Second to Third Order status, a topic she developed briefly at the HWR Tarrytown Conference (summer, 1992).

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Laura Mellinger is writing a dissertation at Cornell on the Abbaye Saint-Georges de Rennes, a Breton Benedictine women's community, during the medieval period. Her study focuses on the active roles this community played in Breton society. She presented a related paper, "*Politics in the Convent: The Election of a Fifteenth-Century Abbess*," at the Twenty-ninth annual International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in May, and has a second paper, "*Saint-Georges and Rights of Presentation: A Study in Medieval Gender Roles*," scheduled for the 1994 biennial meeting of the Conference on Faith and History in Grantham, Pennsylvania, in October. She can be reached at 259 Goldwin Smith, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.

Joan Campbell, SL, is studying the efforts of Father Charles Nerinckx, founder of the Sisters of Loretto, to establish a community of Black sisters.

Suzy Farren, editor of the Catholic Health Association magazine, *Catholic Health World*, has been running a series of oral history interviews with elderly sisters who worked in health care. She is now seeking funding to produce a video documentary incorporating this material.

Deborah Hilzinger is researching the history of Roman Catholic sisters in Philadelphia for her dissertation in American history at Columbia. She can be reached at 807 Maple Glen Lane, Wayne, PA 19087.

Suzanne Noffke, OP, who is with the University of Wisconsin/Madison, is continuing to gather documentation on Racine Dominican history. Much of the material is from archives in Regensburg, Bavaria, regarding Kloster Heilig Kreuz and Maria Benedicta Bauer. She is entering the documentation into a Word Perfect data base, with transcriptions and translations as completed, and plans a further trip to Regensburg this July.

Archivist Genevieve Shea, SLW, reports that the Sisters of the Living Word in Arlington Heights, Illinois, are beginning an oral history project. Most current members of the group, including foundress Annamarie Cook, were among the original 90 who separated in 1975 from the Sisters of Christian Charity in Wilmette. Themes to be explored in interviews are the basic beliefs and values that led to the separation and shaped the writing of constitutions, the development of mission and spirit, and stewardship statements.

Veronica Strozak, a doctoral candidate at Drew University, would appreciate information about Sister Cecilia of Czechoslovakia, member of the Daughters of the Most Holy Saviour, last known to be in Gary, Indiana around 1965. The Daughters attempted an American branch of the order under Bishop Grutka many years ago, but Strozak has not been able to locate them. Sister Cecilia was the subject of William Brinkley's biography, *THE DELIVERANCE OF SR. CECILIA*, which was also a television movie in the '50s. Please send any leads you know of to Strozak at 86 Iler Drive, Middletown, NJ 07748.

Irene Mahoney, OSU, is continuing her work on the history of the Ursuline mission in Shantou, China, begun by three Canadian Ursulines in 1921. Her research has taken her to Quebec, to the Ursuline generalate archives in Rome, to China where the original convent and school are still in use (by the government), and to Taiwan where the Ursulines now have a province. She has been gratified to discover a treasure trove of missionaries' letters in local community archives and urges us not to destroy letters!

MEETINGS

The National Association for Women in Catholic Higher Education is sponsoring its second biennial symposium entitled "Making the Connections II: Claiming the Past, Shaping the Future: Women in Catholic Higher Education," June 24-25, 1994, at Loyola University Chicago. The program addresses ways in which women faculty and administrators can claim the rich tradition of Catholic colleges and universities while meeting the challenges of future leadership. Keynote speaker is Patricia McGuire, president of Trinity College, Washington, D.C. For registration materials contact NAWCHE, Women's Studies Program, Department of Sociology, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167, Attn Melissa Kesler Gilbert.

Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious will hold its first national conference October 13-16 (Thursday evening opening, Sunday noon closing), 1994, at St. Mary Center, Monroe, Michigan. The program addresses archival processes, archival use of computers, and historical presentations on religious women. Registration forms available from Celeste Rabaut, IHM, ACWR National Conference, 610 W. Elm, Monroe, MI 48161.

The twenty-first annual Communal Studies Conference, on the theme "The Architecture of Community: Religious, Social, and Economic Dimensions," will be held October 6-9, 1994, at the Oneida Mansion House in Oneida, New York.

For more information, contact Mark Weimer, Program Chair, E.S. Bird Library, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13244.

The biennial meeting of the Conference on Faith and History, on the theme "Religion in its Social Context," will be held October 6-8, 1994, at Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania. For more information, contact Jacob H. Dorn, Department of History, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435.

PERSONALS

Maria Fidelis Burdick, CSJ (1928-1987) received a posthumous award, named after her, in recognition of her contribution to liturgical renewal and architectural restoration of churches. Given by the diocese of Brooklyn in the form of a wooden sculpture by Yan Reiger, the award recognizes Sister Maria Fidelis' work as a member of the Brooklyn Diocesan Liturgical Commission and the International Committee on English in the Liturgy. A selection of her paintings, architectural designs, liturgical texts, literary works and photographs is on display in the Heritage Room of the motherhouse archives at Brentwood.

Margherita Marchione, RTF, was named to the New Jersey Literary Hall of Fame at its last induction ceremony, October, 1993. An international biographer and award-winning author, Marchione is Professor Emerita of Italian Language and Literature at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Since publishing her doctoral dissertation at Columbia University on the Italian poet, Clemente Rebora, she has written more than 30 books and garnered numerous awards both in the United States and Italy.

It is with deep regret that we note the death February 1, 1994, of Marie Louise Padberg, RSCJ, in St. Louis. Those who used the National Archives of the Society of the Sacred Heart in the U.S. over the past decade appreciated her capable service and archival direction. Communication for the archives may be addressed to assistant archivist, Elizabeth Farley, RSCJ.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have copy for the October issue to the editor by September 1, 1994.

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Editor: Karen M. Kennelly, CSJ
Ad hoc Conference Committee:
Kaye Ashe, OP; Barbara Brumleve, SSND;
Florence Deacon, OSF; Mary Ewens, OP;
JoAnn McNamara; Mary J. Oates, CSJ;
Judith Sutera, OSB; Peg Thompson.

**Beyond Convent Walls:
Women Religious in Historical Context
June 18-21, 1995**

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Conference on the History of Women Religious
is sponsoring a Conference called
"Beyond Convent Walls: Religious Women in Historical Context"
at Cardinal Stritch College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Sunday, June 18 through Wednesday morning, June 21, 1995.

This conference is intended to extend our knowledge of the history of Women Religious by providing a comparative context which will lead to conclusions applicable to more than one congregation, or which put internal developments within the context of the historical influences surrounding them. Sessions might deal with topics which include such variables as ethnicity, time or country of foundation, education, relations with Church hierarchy, issues of enclosure, primary ministry, or basic spiritual tradition and orientation. Complete panels are encouraged, but individual papers will also be considered.

Please submit four copies of the proposal by October 15, 1994, to the address below. Include the panel title, title and one-page abstract of each paper, and a one-page vita for each participant, including current address and phone number. Enclose a stamped self-addressed postcard for return on receipt of packet.

Conference on the History of Women Religious
Department of History
Cardinal Stritch College
Milwaukee, WI 53217-3985

Persons desiring program and registration information, please send name and address to the Conference address.

PLEASE POST