
HISTORY OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS

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NEWS AND NOTES

CONFERENCE '95

The program committee has completed screening of proposals for presentation at the third triennial conference, "Beyond Convent Walls: Women Religious in Historical Context," which will convene June 18-21, 1995, at Cardinal Stritch College in Milwaukee. It should be a very stimulating meeting judging from proposals received. Registration materials will be sent to *HWR News and Notes* subscribers once program details are confirmed (probably by March). For information contact directly Florence Deacon, OSF, HWR Conference, 6801 North Yates Road, Cardinal Stritch College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53217 (telephone 414-352-5400, ext. 287).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS, TALKS

THE RISE AND FALL OF CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS ORDERS: A SOCIAL MOVEMENT PERSPECTIVE, by Patricia Wittberg, SC (SUNY Press, Albany, New York, 1994), is an analysis of works published since 1960 in which growth and decline cycles experienced by religious orders are described. Order from the press, 607-277-2211.

THE CATHOLIC PHILANTHROPIC TRADITION IN AMERICA, by Mary Oates, CSJ (Indiana University Press, Bloomington, 1995), is an analytical history of Catholic philanthropy in the United States. The role of women religious in the development of the extensive network of orphanages, hospitals, schools and social agencies that came to represent the Catholic way of giving is amply documented. Available April, 1995; order from press 800-842-6796. E-mail iuporder@indiana.edu

THE CATHOLIC WOMAN: DIFFICULT CHOICES IN A MODERN WORLD, by Jeanne Pieper (Lowell House, 1993), is based on interviews of American lay and religious women regarding controversial issues in the Roman Catholic church.

VEIL AND COWL: WRITINGS FROM THE WORLD OF MONKS AND NUNS, ed. by James B. Simpson (Ivan R. Dee, 1994), is a collection of biographies and articles by or about Roman Catholic and Anglican religious prior to the Second Vatican Council.

HEARTS INFLAMED: THE WHEATON FRANCISCAN SISTERS, by Prudence A. Moylan (private printing, 1993), is a history of the Franciscan Sisters Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Saint Clara Province. It is available, along with a recently published 32-page booklet describing this international congregation, from province archivist, Bernadette Kirn, OSF, at Franciscan Sisters, P.O. Box 667, Wheaton, Illinois 60189.

IMMIGRANT WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES: A BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY, eds. J.B. Litoff and J. McDonnell (Garland Press, 1994), includes 39 biographical entries on women religious, many written by HWR members including Catherine Ann Curry; Grace Donovan; M. Adele Francis Gorman; Pauline Grady; Mary Laurene Hanley; Martha Ann Kirk; Margaret Quinn; Jean Marie Renfro; Barbara Stieffermann; and Karen M. Kennelly.

Religious life in the Roman Catholic tradition was well represented for the first time at the Communal Societies Association annual conference, held this year at Oneida. Regina Siegfried, ASC, presented "Bury Me at Ruma," another HWR

member, Elizabeth Milliken, presented "*The Cloister and the World: Reconciling Community and Vocation in Catholic Female Religious Orders, Rochester, New York.*" Yet another section at the conference featured two papers relating to women religious.

Laura Mellinger's paper, "*Politics in the Convent: The Election of a Fifteenth-Century Abbess,*" appears in CHURCH HISTORY 63:4 (December, 1994). The article examines evidence for the political processes of a women's Benedictine community, Saint-Georges de Rennes, in the later medieval period.

THE RESHAPING OF A TRADITION: AMERICAN BENEDICTINE WOMEN, 1852-1881, by Ephrem Höllerman, OSB (Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict press, 1994), demonstrates how Benedictine women of the Bavarian tradition reshaped their traditional way of life to fit frontier American conditions. Available from the press, St. Joseph, Minnesota, 56374 (telephone 612-363-7100).

WORK IN PROGRESS

Nadine Foley, OP, has taken up residence at the Adrian Dominican department of archives to work on the second volume of Adrian Dominican history--the Mother Mary Gerald Barry era. She is especially interested in hearing from others in the network on what she is terming "charismatic leadership."

Constance H. Berman is at Clare Hall, Cambridge, on leave from the University of Iowa, to write a book on Cistercian nuns in thirteenth-century France.

Steve Harmon, Portland State University, is beginning a project on pre-Vatican II Sisters' religious garb. Steve can be reached on his internet number: 1-800-547-8887, x4183.

Elizabeth Smyth, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, was awarded a Strategic Research Grant by the Social Sciences and Humanities

Research Council in Canada. The grant will enable her, with graduate students' assistance, to undertake research on women religious who taught in English Canada. The intent is to create a database and complete a case study of one order, the Sisters of St. Joseph, from 1891 to 1951.

Ann Thomasine Sampson, CSJ, is beginning her ninth biographical study of members of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province. A pioneer in developing oral history archives, she has been very successful in securing grant support from local foundations for her research and publication.

Elizabeth A. Lehfeltdt, Indiana University, Bloomington, is pursuing research interests in convents and religious women in early modern (sixteenth to eighteenth centuries) Spain.

Mary Celeste Pouleau, RSM, Burlingame, California, is writing on the traditions of the Mercy congregation and is very interested in networking. Trained in philosophy and spirituality, she brings this special expertise to her historical research.

Karen M. Kennelly, CSJ, is working on an article, "*Women Religious in American Catholic History,*" for *THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN CATHOLIC HISTORY* being published by The Liturgical Press, St. John's, Collegeville (which recently acquired Michael Glazier Press).

MISCELLANY

National Women's History Month (March) can afford opportunities to raise consciousness with regard to women religious and their role in United States history. The 1995 theme for the month is "*Women's History: Promises to Keep.*" Note that the 75th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote in the United States will also be celebrated throughout 1995.

The first leadership conference of Romanian Sisters was held in Bucharest November 25-26,

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1994. Several U.S. congregations have been instrumental in assisting Romanian religious in their organizational efforts. Sisters of St. Joseph of the Carondelet and Concordia congregations were present for the historic November occasion and donated money toward leadership organization expenses.

The Chambery Sisters of St. Joseph congregation is establishing a community in the Czech Republic. A core group of four sisters from the U.S., Denmark, and India is presently living together in Copenhagen and engaging in language studies preparatory to beginning the new mission early in 1995.

OPPORTUNITIES & AWARDS

Competition for 1996-1997 Fulbright scholar awards for faculty and professionals is again open, deadline August 1, 1995. Each year's grantees include professionals, independent scholars, artists, research scientists, journalists, and many others. Projects of scholarly merit pertaining to the study of religious life have been funded in the past. Information: Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 3007 Tilden Street, N.W., Suite 5M, Washington, D.C. 20008.

Marquette University will host the spring meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association April 7-8, 1995. The deadline for submission of proposals is past, but for registration information contact Steven M. Avella, Department of History, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233 (telephone 414-288-7217).

Proposals for the 1996 Berkshire Conference on the History of Women are due February 1, 1995. The conference, to be held June 7-9, 1996, at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, has as its theme "Complicating Categories: Women, Gender, and Difference." Send proposals, preferably for complete panels (maximum two papers, one commentator, and a moderator), to Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Harvard University, 1430 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138 (U.S. and Canadian topics); or (other than

North American topics) to Merry Wiesner-Hanks, Center for Women's Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

Emma Cecilia Busam, OSU, received the Society of American Archivists' 1994 Sister M. Claude Lane Award for her significant contribution to the field of religious archives. This is an annual award established in 1974 and funded by the Society of Southwest Archivists. Sister Emma Cecilia's numerous contributions to the archival field include: compilation of a Manual of Policies and Procedures for the Mount St. Joseph Archives (Kentucky Ursuline collection); the design of 21 finding aids for the archives; presentation of archive management and records retention scheduling; consulting with various religious archives on development; and authorship of several articles on the history of the Ursuline Sisters in Kentucky.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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