
HISTORY OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS

Volume 4 Number 2 June 1991

NEWS AND NOTES

CONFERENCE NEWS

The theme of the second conference on the history of women religious, scheduled for June 28 to July 1, 1992, at Marymount College in Tarrytown, New York, will be "Women Religious and the Social Fabric." A call for papers is included with this issue. Please share it with interested colleagues.

A correction: the notice carried in the February issue regarding the Neylan Commission Conference preceding ours, to be held June 26-27 at Mount St. Vincent's College, referred to the Neylan Commission as representing women's colleges. In fact, it represents colleges founded by women religious. Of the 120 Neylan colleges, nearly half are coeducational.

Selected papers from the first, 1989 History of Women Religious Conference, will appear in the Summer, 1991 issue of the U.S. CATHOLIC HISTORIAN. If you are not yet a subscriber, or desire more information, contact Christopher J. Kauffman, Editor, P.O. Box 16229, Baltimore, MD 21210.

PUBLICATIONS

Ann Colette Wolf, SP has completed the research noted in the June 1990 issue on the missions of the Sisters of Providence in China and Taiwan. **AGAINST ALL ODDS: SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE MISSION TO THE CHINESE**, available for \$12.75 from Providence Center, Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876, reflects mission activities from 1920 to 1990.

James Kenneally's **THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN CATHOLIC WOMEN** (Crossroad, 1990) devotes one chapter to nuns, "Ladylike' Nuns: Nineteenth-Century Activists" in his chronological treatment of the general subject of women as Catholics in the United States.

Carlan Kraman, SSF is the author of **ODYSSEY IN FAITH** a biography of Mother Alfred Moes, foundress of the Sisters of St. Francis of Rochester. The book is available for \$8.45 (postage included) from Assisi Heights, Box 4900, Rochester, MN 55903, checks payable to Sisters of St. Francis.

Catherine M. Mooney, RSCJ, is the author of **PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE: A WOMAN WITH THE POOR** (Paulist Press, 1990), a biography of the saintly pioneer educator in Missouri, Louisiana, and Kansas.

Another biography, by Mary C. Darrah, **SISTER IGNATIA: ANGEL OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** (Loyola University Press), recounts the story of the co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Radegunde Flaxman, **A WOMAN STYLED BOLD: THE LIFE OF CORNELIA CONNELLY 1809-1879** (London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1991; available from SHCJ Publications, 4724 Cedar Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19143, \$35 prepaid).

Kathryn Kish Sklar and Thomas Dublin are the editors of **WOMEN AND POWER: A READER** (2 vols. Prentice Hall, forthcoming). This is the first anthology in U.S. women's history to include an article on women religious.

Ephrem Hollermann, OSB recently defended her dissertation, "The Reshaping of a Tradition: American Benedictine Women, 1852-1881," in fulfillment of the requirement for a Ph.D. in historical theology from Marquette University. Paper copies of the microfilmed manuscript will be available from University Microfilms International, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

One of our members, Barbara Hevira, calls our attention to the journal, HISTORY OF EDUCATION, published at the School of Education, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405 (\$15 students, \$25 others) which has published articles and book reviews useful for context, comparison and methodology for the history of women religious.

BOOK REVIEW

PEACE PAYS A PRICE: A STUDY OF MARGARET ANNA CUSACK, THE NUN OF KENMARE, by Dorothy A. Vidulich, CSPJ (Washington DC: Published by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, 1990). 86 pages.

PEACE PAYS A PRICE is the initial statement of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace to reclaim their controversial foundress from the oblivion she chose 104 years ago so that the congregation might survive. It is a tantalizing book about an incredibly courageous woman. It is tantalizing because it merely introduces Margaret Anna Cusack, known for almost 30 years as Sister Frances Clare.

Born in Dublin (1829), educated in England, a member of an Anglican order of women, she followed her call to Catholicism and Ireland where she became a Poor Clare, working, writing, and politicking for the poor. When her public stances for justice in County Kerry catapulted her into international prominence, threatened ecclesiastical hierarchs sought to confine her to the convent "where she belonged" or to destroy her mission.

But she pursued her call to work for women and peace. She moved from Ireland back to England, to America, and back again to London. And she followed her conscience back to the Church of England and to a painful, lonely old age.

The author's concise references to the confrontations which marked Cusack's life send you rummaging through your historical memory bank to dredge up details of the Oxford Movement, Parnell, the Women's Land League in Ireland, the Americanist Controversy, the founding of Catholic University, the excommunication of Edward McGlynn, the miracles at Knock, and the struggles over infallibility at Vatican I.

The bibliography of her so-far recovered 47 published works amazes you with the breadth of her interests and the volume of her output. The prophetic content of her thought (revealed in brief quotations from her works) amaze even more.

Dorothy Vidulich's blending of history, biography, social analysis and personal reflection conceal elements of a feminist biographer's dream. Cusack's commitment to peace, her reliance on her own experience, her devotion to causes of women's rights and dignity, her network of longstanding friendships, her unbelievably shabby treatment by bishops on both sides of the Atlantic, her courage in the face of it--all point to a woman whose life when presented on her own terms will acclaim her as Catholicism's own Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

We can look forward to the treatment of Margaret Anna Cusack in Veronica Strozak's forthcoming social history (see HWR News and Notes February, 1991) and hope that Dorothy Vidulich or another member of her order is already working to bring us the Cusack story in greater depth.

--Mary DeCock, BVM, Chicago, IL--

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Janice Farnham, RJM and Patricia Byrne, CSJ, will be in France this summer conducting the initial phase of a research project encompassing the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph in North America (24 independent congregations in the U.S. and 7 in Canada). Their itinerary includes the National Archives in Paris and departmental and diocesan archives in areas where the congregation, which originated in Le Puy around 1650, was most active. Private congregational archives in Le Puy, Lyon, Bourg, and Chambéry will also be examined. A travel grant from Trinity, Hartford will partially support this phase of the project.

Relocation of archives is delaying work by Edna Marie LeRoux, RSM (Detroit) on hospitals for lumberjacks in the nineteenth century conducted by the Sisters of Mercy. We hope that even as we write she will have been able to resume work on this intriguing topic.

Ann Thomasine Sampson, CSJ is currently involved in researching and writing the life and work of Julianne Foley, a woman whose life as a Sister of St. Joseph spanned a ministry among Mexican-Americans in St. Paul; pioneer work in the creation of visual aids for the field of religious education; and authorship of biblical maps and charts which still enjoy worldwide use among army chaplains, missionaries, and organizations of various kinds.

Sandra Jull notes that she has received a \$5,000 grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women to carry out the project, "UNKNOWN PIONEERS: NINETEENTH-CENTURY NUNS IN KENTUCKY AND INDIANA" (see HWR News and Notes February, 1991).

Annabelle Raiche, CSJ likewise reports receiving a grant, to support the Shared Story Project she is co-directing (HWR News and Notes June, 1990). The grant of \$4,448 from the Minnesota Historical Society goes to co-directors to help underwrite research and writing costs involved in composing a history of Sisters' contribution to education in Minnesota through their teaching in parochial schools. Ann Marie Biermaier, OSB, the other co-director, has received a related grant from the Blandin Foundation.

Debra Campbell, Colby College, is working on a centennial history of the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, the oldest Catholic women's college in the country.

Canice Werner, CPPS shares some interesting reflections as she pursues the history of the Sisters of the Precious Blood during its 1936-1948 phase. One factual and emotional specific of the World War II was Registrations: in 1938, 102 foreign-born members of the congregation were not naturalized and therefore were obliged to register, be finger printed, and begin study for naturalization; they were further required to have "witness observers" for a six-month period. Such requirements, repeated for many congregations with foreign-born members, had an emotional toll and implications which Canice is assessing.

Michael Engh, SJ is currently researching Brownson House, 1901 to 1919, the first Catholic settlement house in Los Angeles. He anticipates publication of his study on frontier religion in Los Angeles 1848 to 1885 by the University of New Mexico Press in spring, 1992. This work contains a chapter on the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent

de Paul who arrived in Los Angeles in 1856.

Mary Elizabeth Brown, Kirktown University, is writing a centennial history of Our Lady of Pompeii parish in Greenwich Village. Three communities of women religious have been involved in the parish since its beginning in 1892: the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart were early catechists; the Italian Pallottine Sisters of Charity staffed a "kindergarten" or day care center; and the Apostles of the Sacred Heart provided principals and faculty for the parochial school. Please refer to Mary Elizabeth any contributions you may have. She has made contact with the three communities mentioned here.

Joan Glisky, IHM, continues to coordinate the work of a task force which is developing a plan for a history of the Immaculate Heart of Mary congregation in Monroe, Michigan. As History/Heritage Liaison person for this congregation, Joan has been convening the task force and will be arranging for some consultation as a plan takes shape. The desire is to recover their congregational history from a feminist perspective.

Cynthia Glavac, OSU, a third year doctoral student in literature at Bowling Green, is in the midst of dissertation research on contemporary women's biography, theory and practice. She intends to write a biography of Dorothy Kazel, OSU, who was murdered in El Salvador in 1980, as the last section of the dissertation which will review theory of women's biography from 1974-1988 and analyze four biographies of women written in 1989 and 1990.

Mary Lenore Martin, SC is researching the contributions of Irish-born sisters to the life and ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.

Kathleen McDonagh, CCVI is translating and editing the correspondence of Jeanne Chezard de Matel who founded the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and the Blessed Sacrament in France in the seventeenth century. U.S. houses of this congregation are located in Texas and Ohio.

ARCHIVES NEWS

Mary Linus Bax, CPPS, collaborated with Brother Denis Sennett in presenting an archival workshop to religious in Canada in April. She handled the portion dealing with conservation, annals or chronicles, and policy making. Her previous such involvement was in connection with LCWR workshops under the sponsorship of recently deceased Evangeline Thomas, CSJ. It is good to see the tradition carried on.

Rosalie McQuaide, CSJP, reports that about 175-200 archivists have joined the newly formed group, Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR). A Roundtable is planned for September 27, 1991, in Philadelphia, as part of the Society of American Archivists annual meeting. Some formal participation of the group in the June, 1992 Marymount Conference is anticipated.

Barbara Misner, SCSC will be available for work as a consultant regarding the organization or further development of religious archives after November 1, 1991. Contact her before September 1 at Institut Ingenbohl, CH-6440 Ingenbohl-Brunnen, Switzerland; after that date at Holy Cross Sisters, 700 East Riverside Avenue, Merrill, WI 54452, if you are interested in consultation or in-service training of a non-professional in the organization and day-to-day work in a religious archive.

ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITS

The Kentucky Ursulines are celebrating the 450th anniversary of the death of their foundress, St. Angela Merici, with a series of talks, publications, awards and other special events. Publications include a prayer guide and a biographical piece by Martha Buser, OSU, evoking the spirit of Angela Merici in contemporary times. For more information contact M. Concetta Waller, OSU archivist, 3105 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40206.

Elizabeth Wittman, Director for Archives, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, notes that a traveling photo-history exhibit on women in that denomination, prepared by the ELCA archives, includes material on the history of American Lutheran Deaconesses. Begun in Europe, the office of Deaconess was instituted in this country in the late nineteenth century. A series of motherhouses were established by various Lutheran denominations. Rev. Frederick Weiser, 55 Kohler School Rd, New Oxford, PA, 17350, is currently documenting each Deaconess connected with the ELCA with the aim of developing as complete as possible a biographical and photographic collection. For more information contact him or Elizabeth who can be reached at 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631.

The Glenmary Sisters who are celebrating the fiftieth year of their existence serving the home missions in rural Appalachia, the South and Southwest, are moving their headquarters from Cincinnati, Ohio to the mission diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky. The relocation is intended to keep administrators of this small congregation, as well as their other active and retired members, close to their ministry. We wish them well in their move and in their future work at their present missions in Kentucky, Georgia, and Texas and wherever else they may go.

CONFERENCES, OPPORTUNITIES

The tenth annual Holy Cross Conference, this time commemorating the sesquicentennials of the American mission and the founding of the Holy Cross Sisters, will convene July 5-7, 1991 at the Holy Cross Brothers' Center in Notre Dame, IN. More information can be obtained from Br. Donald Stabrowski, University of Portland, Portland, OR 97203.

The Conference on the History of Christianity, to be held March 26-28 at Notre Dame University, has a June 15, 1991 deadline for the submission of papers. Send a 1- or 2-page proposal and a c.v. to History Conference, Cushwa Center, 614 Hesburgh Library, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556. Papers should relate to the history of evangelization in North or South America since 1492.

"Women, Mission, and the Episcopal Church," a conference sponsored by the Episcopal Women's History Project, will be held October 10-12, 1991. Contact Joan Gunderson, CSU San Marcos, 820 West Los Vallecitos, San Marcos, CA 92069.

The local Benedictine community and the College of Saint Benedict are holding an international conference, "500 Years of Catholic Women Religious in the Americas," April 27-29, 1992. Those desiring to make presentations may submit proposals for any topic that fits this theme, including the contribution of women to the arts, health care and social services, scholarship, education and economic life. Send proposals to Carol Berg, OSB, Saint Benedict's Convent, St. Joseph, MN 56374.

Dissertation fellowships in the history of U.S. Hispanic Catholics are being offered by the Cushwa Center. To apply for the fellowships, three of which are available for \$11,000 each, for academic year 1992-1993, request application forms by December 1, 1991 and submit them by January 1, 1992. The contact person is Dr. Jaine R. Vidal, Assistant Director, Cushwa Center, 614 Hesburgh Library, Notre Dame, IN 46556.

Newsletter Deadline Please have copy for the October issue to the editor by September 1, 1991.

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CONFERENCE ON WOMEN RELIGIOUS AND THE SOCIAL FABRIC June 28 - July 1, 1992

**The History of Women Religious Network
is sponsoring a Conference on Women Religious and the Social Fabric
at Marymount College, Tarrytown, New York,
Sunday, June 28 through Wednesday morning, July 1, 1991.**

Plenary and concurrent sessions are planned to allow time for participants to share particular research interests as well as to explore and plan together regarding desirable future directions in this field.

CALL FOR PAPERS A limited number of papers illustrative of contemporary research and use of sources unique to the field will be accepted for presentation at the two concurrent sessions; shorter papers describing research in progress will also be accepted for presentation at panel and magnet group sessions.

Persons desiring the next circular with program and registration information should send their name and address to the Conference address as given below.

Persons who wish to present papers of either type should send their proposal in the form of a one-page abstract, accompanied by a one-page vita, by January 10, 1992, to the same address:

CONFERENCE ON WOMEN RELIGIOUS AND THE SOCIAL FABRIC
12001 Chalon Road
Los Angeles, CA 90049

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