
HISTORY OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS

Volume 5 Number 2 June 1992

NEWS AND NOTES

CONFERENCE PREVIEW

Approximately 150 registrations were received as of June 1 for the conference which features 27 papers in addition to a keynote address; 5 topical panels; and 3 sessions designed specifically for archivists. A business session will focus attention on the questions of a common archives for women's congregations and on placing Sisters' history into the historical mainstream, as well as on provisions for future newsletter editing and convening of conferences. It promises to be a very stimulating gathering for participants who will be coming principally from the United States, but also from Canada, England, Ireland, and Australia. Participants are welcome to bring copies of recent publications relating to their congregation's history. Display space will be provided. No arrangements have been made for publishers to display. We look forward to seeing many of you June 28-July 1 at Marymount, Tarrytown.

PUBLICATIONS

The recent book by Michael Engh, S.J., Frontier Faiths: Church, Temple, and Synagogue in Los Angeles, 1846-1888 (University of New Mexico Press, 1992) has a full chapter on the pioneer sisters, the Daughters of Charity.

Marguerite Vacher, a religious of the Congregation of St. Joseph of Clermont-Ferrand, France, has published a history of the Sisters of St. Joseph from the time of origins through the eighteenth century: DES "REGULIERS" DANS LE SIECLE: LES SOEURS DE SAINT-JOSEPH DU PERE MEDAILLE AUX XVIIe ET XVIIIe SIECLES (Centre Europeen de Recherches sur les Congregations et Ordres religieux, Saint Etienne, 1992; ISBN 2-86639-066-0). Copies may be obtained through ADOSA BP 467 10, Boulevard Trudaine, 63013 Clermont-Ferrand Cedex. 324 FF covers mailing; international money order to Editions ADOSA, Compte Cheque Postal Clermont-Ferrand 1818.58 D. The book offers an exemplary history of the European background of a community which became international beginning in the nineteenth century.

Catherine Ann Curry, PBVM, has an article in the April, 1992 issue of JOURNAL OF THE WEST entitled "Three Irish Women and Social Action in San Francisco: Mother Teresa Comerford, Mother Baptist Russell and Kate Kennedy." This issue on "The Irish in the West" is soon to be published as a book. The article proposes that there were female Irish politicians as well as the stereotyped Irish male politician, and that some of them lived in convents.

Joseph M. White is the editor of THE AMERICAN CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS LIFE: SELECTED HISTORICAL ESSAYS (Garland, 1988). The volume consists of a series of previously published essays by 17 U.S. Catholic historians on Catholic women religious and priests in the nineteenth century.

Christian Koontz, RSM, has edited a collection of materials by and about Thea Bowman, FSPA: THEA BOWMAN: HANDING ON HER LEGACY (Sheed and Ward, 1991).

Catherine C. Darcy, RSM, successfully defended her dissertation for a Doctorate in Canon Law at Saint Paul University in Ottawa, in December, 1991. Her dissertation was titled "The Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas: The Canonical Development of the Proposed Governance Model." The thesis sets the historical and canonical context for the formation as of July, 1991 of a single institute of Sisters of Mercy numbering over 7,100 members. For more information, contact the author at Notre Dame Convent, 681 Lawrence Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

Kathleen Healy, RSM, has authored SISTERS OF MERCY: SPIRITUALITY IN AMERICA (1843-1900), due to be published by Paulist Press in spring, 1992 as part of a series on American spirituality in the second half of the nineteenth century. For more information, contact Noreen Sheehan, RSM, Sisters of Mercy, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 14213.

Susan Marie Maloney, University of Southern California, has an article forthcoming in the NEW BLACKFRIARS, "Feminization of Poverty: U.S. Women Religious and the Catholic Church."

The 1992 FORMATION DIRECTORY (CARA, Georgetown University, P.O. Box 1601, Washington, D.C. 20057) provides a unique series of entries on formation programs maintained by over 900 institutes of women and men. A 15-page statistical analysis by Eleace King, IHM precedes the individual entries which consist of the mission statement of each group, details of its primary and diversified ministries; numbers of formally professed in the U.S. compared to those in formation; central house and novitiate location; and contact person.

Donald Stabrowski, CSC, in HOLY CROSS AND THE SOUTH BEND POLONIA (1991, Indiana Province Archives Center, Box 568, Notre Dame, IN 46556) describes the ministry of Holy Cross Brothers and Priests and the Sisters of the Holy Cross to the Polish American immigrant community in South Bend since 1877.

Margaret Susan Thompson's article, "The Place of the Sacraments in Women's Religious Life: A Brief Historical Consideration," appears as an introductory essay to the Fall, 1991 issue of NCAN, the quarterly newsletter of the National Coalition of American Nuns. Copies of the newsletter, which is devoting four issues, beginning with the above mentioned, to reflections on the topic of Eucharist, liturgy and prayer in contemporary religious life, can be obtained from the NCAN office, 7315 South Yale, Chicago, IL 60621. Annual dues including a subscription to the newsletter are \$10.

Karen M. Kennelly, CSJ, gave the keynote address at the College of St. Benedict April, 1992 conference "500 Years of Catholic Women Religious in the Americas." Entitled "Women Religious in the Americas: Contrasts and Comparisons," the talk provides a broad overview of religious life for women as it has developed in South and North America; the Benedictines plan to publish this and other conference papers, including a dinner speech by Margaret Susan Thompson on a topic similar to her above-mentioned paper. For more information, contact Carol Berg, OSB, College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN 56347.

BOOK REVIEW

THE PATH MARKED OUT: History of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, by Mary Roger Madden, SP, (Terre Haute, IN: Published by the Sisters of Providence, 1991). 636 pp. paper \$12.95.

Volume III in a series which began with the American origins of the Sisters of Providence (1840-1856) and traced the early years of expansion (1856-1890), this treatment draws on an exceptionally full collection of memoirs, diaries, correspondence, and official records to take a fresh look at the history of the Sisters of Providence in the United States from 1860 to 1928. An epilogue sketches the story through 1990.

The nineteenth and early twentieth-century experiences of this French congregation are richly illustrative of the major themes which marked the development of numerous religious communities during the same period, with unique variations induced by location, leadership, and circumstance. The French characteristics of the group were prolonged by a series of French-born novice mistresses and revived by later European contacts, yet Americanization was inexorable. An Irish-American woman, Mary Cleophas (Margaret) Foley, of exceptional intelligence, piety, and leadership ability placed an indelible stamp on the congregation first as novice mistress (1868-1886) and then as superior general (1890-1926).

Other themes pursued in this volume with enlightening results are the evolving spirituality of these religious women as reflected in their personal and communal devotions, their early library holdings, liturgical music, and art and architecture; their expanding sense of mission and ministry in rural and urban areas; and their investment in the education of women. Along with a handful of other U.S. women's congregations, they embraced missions abroad in the 1920's by sending sisters to China. This chapter in their history, while touched upon here, is the subject of another recent publication, **AGAINST ALL ODDS: Sisters of Providence Mission to the Chinese, 1920-1990**, by Ann Colette Wolf, SP (Sisters of Providence, 1990).

The usefulness of both volumes is greatly enhanced by footnotes, abundant illustrations, appendices, and good indexing.

Karen M. Kennelly, CSJ
Mount St. Mary's College

WORK IN PROGRESS

Madeleine Marie Schmidt, CHM, archivist and historian for the diocese of Davenport, is researching the story of her community, the Congregation of the Humility of Mary, from 1877 when their Sisters reached Iowa. Her projected volume will follow the already published volume by Sister Bernadine Pieper, **FOOTPRINTS**, which relates the origin and earlier history of the congregation.

Janet Welsh, OP, reports as her very tentative and general dissertation topic at the University of Notre Dame "the role women religious played in the development of frontier settlements in the Midwest, 1830-1860." Dubuque, Iowa is one possible focal point for her research. She would welcome your comments and ideas at 222 E. Bartlett St., South Bend, IN 46601.

Patricia Wittberg, SC, is currently at work on a book involving a sociological analysis, using Social Movement theory, of the various times and places when religious orders experienced rapid growth or decline. She would welcome networking with any historians who are interested in a particular order's foundation and growth, or with those working on a specific "refounding" period. Address: Indiana University (IUPUI), Sociology Department, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202.

ARCHIVES

Therese Vacher used the occasion of her extensive research on the Sisters of St. Joseph to produce a guide to French archives, **LES ARCHIVES DES CONGREGATIONS FRANCAISES DE SAINT-JOSEPH** (Lyon, 1991). If interested in ordering contact newsletter editor.

Madeleine Welch, OSU, is seeking information on foundation or government sources for archive funding. She is working on the organization and housing of the archives for the Ursulines Eastern Province. Their communities are older than the province, with consequent enhancement of the historic value of archival holdings and greater risk of loss. If you have suggestions, contact her or Irene Mahoney, archivist, at 323 East 198th Street, Bronx, NY 10458.

The International Museum of Photography at George Eastmans House in Rochester, New York, is holding a conference August 15-20 on Preservation of Photographs. The focus will be on identifying, handling, and storing. More information available from Val Johnson at (716)475-2736, or write RIT/T&E Seminar Ctr, Frank E. Gannet Memorial Bldg, PO Box 9887, Rochester, NY 14623-0887.

CONFERENCES, OPPORTUNITIES

A summer course on oral history is being sponsored July 6-24 by Wayne State University. Call (313)577-4024 or write Kathleen Schmeling, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202.

The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVMs) will conclude their conference series "Women Speak of Women" August 15 with a talk by Mary J. Oates, CSJ, "Widening Horizons: Sisters and the Higher Education of Women, 1880-1920." The series marks the centenary of the congregation's Dubuque, Iowa motherhouse which has been renovated for the occasion and features several superb museum rooms. A grant from the Iowa Historical Commission subsidized the photocopying of the congregation's most fragile records, another centenary project. The series and museum rooms tour, as well as the archives, are open to the public. For more information contact Jean Monica Lanahan, BVM, 1100 Carmel Dr., Dubuque, IA 52003.

Summer research stipends and a number of other forms of research assistance are available to qualified persons through the Cushwa Center. For information on application deadlines and forms, contact Dr. Jaime R. Vidal, Cushwa Center, 614 Hesburgh Library, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556.

The biennial conference of the American Benedictine Academy is set for St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, August 9-12, with the theme "Benedictines Discovering America: Monastic Culture in American Life." It is open to the public. Contact ABA President, Glastonbury Abbey, Hingham, MA 02043.

The Fourth Women's West Conference will be held July 23-25 in Lincoln, Nebraska. For information contact Kathleen Underwood, The University of Texas at Arlington, Box 19529, Arlington, TX 76019-0529.

ELECTRONIC NETWORKING

Anne Kearney, Asst. Professor of History, Jefferson Community College-University of Kentucky, announces a new electronic discussion group for persons interested in the history of American Catholicism: AMERCATH@UKCC. Appropriate messages for AMERCATH include feedback on research, program proposals, calls for papers, meetings, media, job announcements; information gathering questions; syllabi and bibliographies; and any issues pertinent to the study and teaching of the history of American Catholicism. To join, you need access to the electronic mail facilities of BITNET or INTERNET. Command lines, etc. are available from Kearney at JCC-UK, 109 East Broadway, Louisville, KY 40202; phone (502)584-0181, x353. BITNET: JCCANNEK@UKCC, INTERNET: JCCANNEK@UKCC.UKY.EDU

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have copy for the Fall issue to the editor by September 30, 1992.

THE HWR NEWSLETTER

Published by the Conference on History of Women Religious, 12001 Chalon Road, Los Angeles, CA 90049. ISSN: 1054-545X

Annual; Subscription: \$5.00
Editor: Karen Kennelly, CSJ

Ad hoc Conference Committee:

Kaye Ashe, OP; Barbara Brumleve, SSND; Mary Ewens, OP; JoAnn McNamara; Mary J. Oates, CSJ; Judy Sutera, OSB; Peg Thompson; Kitty Sklar; Barbara Welter