
History Of Women Religious

News and Notes

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HWR NETWORK NEWS

Regina Siegfried, ASC, has accepted the position of book review editor for News and Notes, succeeding Mary Hayes, SND. Many thanks to Mary for her work in identifying books meriting review, and for her excellent reviews over the past several years. The conference is grateful, also, to members who indicated interest in being book review editor, and to others who have done reviews from time to time.

Regina has gained experience as book review editor for Review for Religious, a position from which she will be resigning in the near future. She asks that members assist with reviewing by informing her about new histories of congregations and any other books pertinent to the history of women religious. She also welcomes hearing from members interested in writing occasional reviews; please indicate specialties. Her address is Department of Theological Studies—St. Louis University, 3800 Lindell Blvd, P.O. Box 56907, St. Louis, MO 63156-0907. Email siegfr@slu.edu or ReginaSiegfried@Juno.com

PUBLICATIONS

Co-editors Regina Bechtle, SC, and Judith Metz, SC, announce the publication by New City Press of a 3-volume edition of the collected writings of St. Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton. Vol. I, Correspondence and Journals, 1793-1808, will appear in the spring of 2000. A special pre-publication discount is available to News and Notes subscribers on orders received before **October 1, 1999**. Contact Bechtle at College of Mount St. Vincent, 6301 Riverdale Ave., Bronx, NY 10471,

fax: 718-549-2603. An annotated list of Seton papers found in 15 archives can be accessed on the internet at <http://www.famvin.org/seton>.

Continuum Press is preparing to publish a collection of essays edited by Nadine Foley, OP, Journey in Faith and Fidelity: Women Shaping Religious Life for a Renewed Church. The collection is comprised of 15 essays reflecting upon influences affecting women religious in the transitions occurring from 1968 to the present. A pre-publication notice with discount offer is being sent to News and Notes subscribers.

Carol K. Coburn and Martha Smith's study of the lives of American nuns, Spirited Lives: How Nuns Shaped Catholic Culture and American Life, 1836-1920 (The University of North Carolina Press, 1999), focuses on the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, one of the largest and most diverse American sisterhoods.

Mary Peckham Magray's The Transforming Power of the Nuns: Women, Religion, and Cultural Change in Ireland, 1750-1900 (Oxford University Press, 1998), depicts women religious as reformers who played a central role in effecting religious and cultural change in nineteenth-century Ireland.

Patricia Jean Manion, SL, contributed an article entitled "The Haydens of Cahirlesh in North America," to a recent issue of The Old Kilkenny Review, a journal published by the Kilkenny (Ireland) Archeological Society. The article deals with four Hayden women who came to the U.S. in the early nineteenth century and made a major impact on women's education as Sisters of Loretto. Manion, the new archivist at the Loretto motherhouse in Nerinx, Kentucky, has been granted

\$3,000 by the Kentucky Foundation for Women to complete her study of the Sisters of Loretto in Hanyang, China.

The Biographical Dictionary of Christian Missions edited by Gerald H. Anderson (New York: Macmillan Reference USA, Simon & Schuster Macmillan, 1998) contains no names of women prior to 1800 and proportionately fewer biographies of women after that, but will be useful especially for its treatment of the modern period on a global scale.

Angelyn Dries, OSF, "The Missionary Critique of American Institutions: From Catholic Americans to Global Catholics, 1948-1976," in U.S. Catholic Historian (17:1, Winter 1999, pp. 59-72), explores the topic of how missionaries related Americanist themes by the mid-twentieth century.

Jane Tibbetts Schulenburg, Forgetful of Their Sex: Female Sanctity and Society, ca. 500-1100 (University of Chicago Press, 1998), identifies over 2,200 female and male saints (recognized as such by reason of local, popular acclaim), approximately one-seventh of whom were women. Her thematic approach allows for some perceptive analyses of gender relationships.

Marilyn Oliva, The Convent and the Community in Late Medieval England: Female Monasteries in the Diocese of Norwich, 1350-1540 (Studies in the History of Medieval Religion, number 12, Rochester, NY, Boydell, 1998), comes to some unconventional conclusions, based on extensive source material on patrons and benefactors, regarding the parish gentry origins of most Norwich nuns and patrons.

Cynthia J. Cupples successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, 'Âmes d'élite' Visionaries and Politics in France from the Holy Catholic League to the Reign of Louis XIV, at Princeton University, March, 1999.

Elizabeth Makowski contributed the lead article, "Mulieres Religiosae, Strictly Speaking; Some Fourteenth-Century Canonical Opinions," to The Catholic Historical Review (85:1, January 1999, pp. 1-14). The article traces the evolution of popular

definitions of women religious as well as the narrow canonical definition that came into vogue in the fourteenth century.

Therese Rooney, IBVM, Women for All Times and Places (privately printed, 1999), explores the history of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Mary Ward's foundation, popularly known as Sisters of Loretto) in the U.S. from 1847-1967. Copies available from the author at American Regional Administration of IBVM, 1600 Somerset Lane, Wheaton, IL 60187, \$25 includes postage and handling.

Carole Garibaldi Rogers has published an article entitled "Overlooked Narrators: What Women Religious Can Contribute to Feminist Oral History," in Frontiers (19:3, 1998). The article analyzes information from the oral histories conducted for Poverty, Chastity, and Change: Lives of Contemporary American Nuns (Macmillan Simon & Schuster, 1996).

Joellen McNergney Vinyard's study on immigrants' education, For Faith and Fortune: the Education of Catholic Immigrants in Detroit, 1805-1925 (University of Illinois Press, 1998), includes assessment of the work of women's religious orders.

Mary Janice Ziolkowski, CSSF, contributed an essay, "Spiritual Voice, Social Conscience," to Something of My Very Own to Say, a collection of essays in the East European Monographs series distributed by Columbia University Press. Edited by Thomas S. Gladsky and Rita Holmes Gladsky, the collection surveys the literary tradition of women writers of Polish descent.

The Fall 1998 issue of the quarterly publication Christianity and the Arts, "Hidden Treasures of the Church: Arts by Catholic Nuns," is devoted to the artistic production of nuns in a variety of media. The issue is replete with photographic reproductions and biographical essays that give evidence of the vibrant, active arts ministry carried out by numerous women religious in the U.S. and Canada during this century.

Paula Kane presented a lecture entitled "The Creation of Gender Identity among American Women Religious" at Seton Hill College, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, for Women's History Month (March, 1999).

Rima Lunin Schultz presented her paper, "A Remarkable Case for Education: Innovation through the Years at St. Mary High School and Center for Learning," at a program held by the school's faculty in Chicago, also on the occasion of Women's History Month. Schultz currently directs the Historical Encyclopedia of Chicago Women Project through the Center for Research on Women and Gender at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Elizabeth Kolmer is collecting the stories of women religious who have given their lives during the course of their ministry among people in various parts of the world. She sees this as an on-going project with an ultimate, probable aim of publication, and would appreciate hearing from anyone who has information on such stories. She can be reached by Email at kolmere@SLU.EDU

Mary Roger Madden, SP, is involved in research and activities relating to the beatification process for Mother Theodore Guerin. A video on the life of Mother Theodore has been produced, along with a paper on the foundress' life presented at the annual conference of the Indiana Association of Historians. Madden's paper, "No Alien Land," appeared in the Winter issue of TRACES, the Indiana Historical Society Journal.

Suellen Hoy received a research grant for 1999 from the Louisville Institute. She is working on "Catholic Sisters and African Americans in Chicago before Selma."

BOOK REVIEW

Catholics and American Culture by Mark S. Massa (Crossroad Publishing, 1999), Pp. x + 278.

Catholics and American Culture picks up the story of U.S. Catholicism where several fine books on the Catholic Revival stop; these books include Arnold Sparr's To Promote, Defend, and Redeem: The Catholic Literary Revival and the Cultural Transformation of American Catholicism 1920-1960 (Greenwood Press, 1990), Madeleva: A Biography by Gail Porter Mandel (State University of New York, 1997), and The Living of Maisie Ward (U of Notre Dame, 1997) by Dana Greene.

In this carefully researched yet highly readable study, Massa explores the irony of the postwar transition of Catholics who move from a largely uneducated minority to a force with which to reckon. Episodic rather than chronological, the book concentrates on "methodological pluralism and synthetic narrative voice—the rich vein of 'theological irony' mined by Reinhold Niebuhr" (p. 10). The chapters on Leonard Feeney, Fulton Sheen, Dorothy Day, and the First Sunday of Advent 1964 are fascinating reading. For those interested in the history of women religious in this country, chapter 8 "To Be Beautiful, Human, and Christian": The IHM Nuns and the Routinization of Charisma" is particularly noteworthy.

Massa summarizes the history involved in the 1967 IHM chapter which took to heart the reforms suggested by Vatican II. Three areas came to the surface: sisters choosing their ministry, option in types of clothing, and freer local community governance. The disagreements with Cardinal McIntyre escalated to the point that Rome became involved and the congregation ultimately separated into two groups in 1970. This history is interpreted through sociologist Max Weber's explanation of "charisma" and "routinization." Massa concludes that both parties were "ironic pawns of that same Holy Spirit who had inspired conservative Pope John to call Vatican II . . . with results that no one could have foreseen, predicted, or approved" (p.194). The call to recover charism was ironically realized to the full in the IHM case.

Writing about the risks involved, Anita Caspary, IHM, leader of the "lay ecumenical community" reflected that "what many did not understand was that the Sisters could not have taken the risk with no

guarantee of surviving as a community unless they cherished a deep love for a vision of the Church as it might be.”

Regina Siegfried, ASC
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrating Women's History, a publication released in April by President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History, contains a quotation by HWR member, Dolores Liptak, RSM, who was asked to participate in hearings for the purpose of developing the Commission's report. The quotation succeeds in calling attention to Haitian immigrant, Elizabeth Lange, founder of the first black congregation of Catholic women—and the only religious mentioned in the booklet.

The joint spring meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association and the American Society of Church History will be held April 28-30, 2000, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The theme is "Cultural Meeting Places." Proposals for sessions and individual papers are welcome; deadline for the ACHA is **October 1, 1999 (September 15 for the ASCH)**. Send proposals for ACHA to Professor Sandra Yocum Mize, Religious Studies Department, University of Dayton, Dayton, OH 45469-1530.

The Catholic University of America is hosting a conference, "Saving Sacred Things," July 16-18, 1999, for persons interested in the preservation of Catholic art and artifacts. Contact Saving Sacred Things Conference, The Catholic University of America, Archives, 5 Mullen Library, Washington, D.C. 20064.

The Coordinating Council for Women in History and the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians have announced the ninth annual competition for two \$500 graduate student awards to assist in completion of dissertation work. Deadline

September 13, 1999. Download an application from the website: <http://www.plu.edu/~hamcsgl/> or write to Professor Gina Hames, CCWH Awards Committee Chair, History Department, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA 98447.

The Archivists of Catholic Women Religious is collaborating with Avila College in promoting the development of the Women Religious Special Collection at Avila (see HWR News and Notes for June, 1998). Attention is called to the uniqueness of the Avila archival policies in encouraging the deposit of materials and archival depositories of congregations that have or are in the process of going out of existence. For further information, see the internet web site:
www.avila.edu/resources/womenreligious.htm

The Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother are seeking a full-time archivist. If interested, forward resumé with salary history to Sister Bona Ney, Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother, Our Lady of Sorrows Convent, 17600 East 51st St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have copy for the **October 1999** issue to the editor by **September 1, 1999**.

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