
History of Women Religious

News and Notes

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HWR Network News

The fifth triennial conference will convene Sunday, June 17, through Wednesday morning, June 20, 2001, at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The deadline for submitting proposals for papers was August 1. For further information on possible extension of the deadline or on the program which centers on the theme, "Individuals in Community: Women Religious and Change—Past, Present, Future," contact program chair Elizabeth McGahan, University of New Brunswick, P.O. Box 5050, Saint John, N.B. CANADA E2L 4L5. Telephone 506-648-5600; Fax 506-648-5799. Email <emcgahan@nbt.nb.ca>

The Awards committee of the conference invites nominations for the award of Distinguished Historian. Criteria for the award are that the individual have contributed in an outstanding fashion to the promotion and understanding of the history of women religious through her or his own scholarship or through furthering others' research in the field.

Past recipients of the award, which is given on the occasion of the triennial meeting, have been: 1989, Evangeline Thomas, CSJ-Concordia, author of *Women Religious History Sources: A Guide to Collections of Manuscripts and Archives in the U.S.* and other works; 1992, Marie Augusta Neal, SND, designer and administrator of major longitudinal surveys of sisters, results of which were analyzed in *Catholic Sisters in Transition* and other works; 1995, Karen M. Kennelly, CSJ-Carondelet, editor of *American Catholic Women: Historical Perspectives*, and coordinator of the HWR conference since its inception; and in 1998, two recipients: Mary Ewens, OP, author of *The Role of the Nun in the Nineteenth Century* and a dedicated, long-time supporter of historical studies relating to women religious; and JoAnn McNamara, author of the monumental *Sisters in Arms: Catholic Nuns Through Two Millennia* and other works.

The deadline for nominations for the award is February 1, 2001. Nominations should include a

description of the specific contribution the nominee has made to the understanding of women religious, and a brief vita of the nominee. Please send nominations to award committee chair, Elizabeth Kolmer, ASC, American Studies Department, St. Louis University, 221 No. Grand, St. Louis, MO 63103. Email Kolmere@SLU.edu

As noted in the prior issue, editorial offices of the newsletter have been moved from Los Angeles to St. Paul. The new address is indicated on the subscription form. *Please note the subscription date given alongside your address*, and bring your subscription up to date if you have not done so recently in order to ensure receipt of future issues. Our subscription list is being updated concurrent with the move of editorial offices.

Publications

Paula Kane, Jim Kenneally, and Karen Kennelly, CSJ, have completed editing *Gender Identities in American Catholicism* (working title), due for publication later this year by Orbis Books. Part of the documentary series, *American Catholic Identities: A Documentary History*, Christopher Kauffman, general editor, this volume contains substantial source material pertaining to women religious. Extensive reference to sisters is also made in the second volume in the series, *The Frontiers and Catholic Identities*, ed. Anne M. Butler, Michael E. Engh, SJ, and Thomas W. Spalding, CFX (Orbis Books, 1999).

Patricia Byrne, CSJ-Baden, presented a talk, "Re-conceiving Identity in a Time of Crisis," on the occasion of a gathering of U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Louis, Missouri, June 27, 2000. Timed to coincide with the 350th anniversary of the beginnings of the Sisters of St. Joseph in LePuy, France, and with the millennium, the event also generated a video production, "Sound the Trumpets," produced by Barbara Baer, CSJ-Wichita; Gretchen Wagner, CSJ-Carondelet; and Clara Santoro, CSJ-Brentwood. Both talk and tapes are available from Network Communications, P.O. Box 219, High Ridge, MO 63049. Toll-free number (800) 747-1426. Email nettapes@compuserv.com

Annabelle Raiche, CSJ, *A Home Becomes a College* (Good Ground Press, 2000), recounts the 30-year history of the St. Paul Diocesan Teachers College, 1927-1957. Unique both for its unusual campus—the James J. Hill Mansion—and for its mission of training parochial school teachers, the institution filled an indispensable role prior to being superseded by college-based baccalaureate teacher training programs in the early 1950s. Copies may be obtained from the Press at 1884 Randolph Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105; toll-free number (800) 232-5533.

Ann Thomasine Sampson, CSJ, *Seeds On Good Ground* (privately printed, 2000), includes biographies of 16 pioneer Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet who came to Minnesota as well as the names and birthplaces of over 2000 Sisters who exercised their ministry in the fields of teaching, health care, arts, domestic work, social services and spirituality in Minnesota from 1857 to 2000. Copies are available for \$16.95 plus \$4.00 shipping costs, from the author at Bethany Convent, 1870 Randolph Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105. Checks payable to Sisters of St. Joseph.

Mary C. Sullivan, RSM, is pleased to report publication of a paperback version of *Catherine McAuley and the Tradition of Mercy*, by the same presses that brought out the hardcover edition in 1995, University of Notre Dame Press and Four Courts Press (Dublin).

Mary J. Oates, CSJ-Boston, "Gaining a Foothold: Reflections on the Catholic Dimension in *Women and Religion in America*," *U.S. Catholic Historian* (Spring 2000), 62-68, reviews the significance of the pioneering historical reference work published in 1981 by Rosemary Radford Ruether and Rosemary Skinner Keller. The same issue, devoted to reviews of reference works pertaining to Catholic history, contains a review by Diane Batts Morrow, "In the Larger Black Community": Catholicism in *Black Women in America*," pp. 69-78, an illuminating commentary on the historical encyclopedia of that title published in 1993.

Vera Whittington, *Sister Kate: A Life Dedicated to Children in Need of Care* (University of Western Australia Press; available in North America from International Specialized Book Services, 5804 N.E. Hassalo St., Portland, OR 97213; 1999), describes the life and work of Kate Clutterbuck (1861-1846) as a member of an Anglican community, the Sisters of the Church.

Mary Jo Maher, IHM, *A Compelling Vision: History of IHM Overseas Missions* (privately printed, 2000), offers a comprehensive account of the international missionary work of the Monroe, Michigan Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters, of particular value to those concerned with missiology. To obtain copies, contact the author at 610 W. Elm Ave., Monroe, MI 48162.

Mary Tyler Huber and Nancy C. Lutkehaus, eds., *Gendered Missions: Women and Men in Missionary Discourse and Practice* (University of Michigan Press, 1999) develops a comparative view of the subject through analysis of the ways gender shaped missionary roles in a variety of religious traditions including Roman Catholic.

James Cameron, 'And Martha Served.' *History of the Sisters of St. Martha, Antigonish, Nova Scotia* (privately printed, Sisters of St. Martha, 2000), marks the centenary of this congregation by describing the expansion of the group with respect to numbers (from the original 15 to over 600 today), location, and ministry. Copies may be obtained from the congregation at 45 Bay St., Antigonish, N.S. CANADA B2G 2G6.

Barbara Misner, SCSC, *The Living Love of Christ Among Us: The Era of Consolidation 1888-1938* (privately printed, Holy Cross congregation), brings the history of her international congregation up to World War II and is now engaged in research for the third and last volume of this large project (see *News and Notes* 11:2, June 1998).

Joy Eby, RSM, recently completed her doctoral dissertation, 'A Little Squabble Among Nuns'? *The Sister Formation Crisis and the Patterns of Authority and Obedience Among American Women Religious, 1954-1971* (St. Louis University). The dissertation explores the crisis that erupted in the SFC 1961-64, here interpreted as the result of emergence of a new theology of authority and obedience among American women religious. For more information, contact the author at 2301 Grandview Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45206. Email judyeby@aol.com

Helen Rolfson, OSF, expects her English translation of Jan van Ruusbroec's *Twelve Beguines* (in his *Opera Omnia*) to appear in the near future in a two-volume set to be published by Brepols of Turnhout, Belgium, as part of its Corpus Christianorum: Series Continuatio Medievalis. She has a translation of another of Ruusbroec's works in process.

Charles de Miramon, *Les 'donnés' au Moyen Âge: Une forme de vie religieuse laïque (v.1180-v.1500)* (Paris: CERF, 1999) provides a scholarly treatment of, and sheds considerable light on those elusive people—*oblatis, redditii, conversi, prebendarii, donati*, and others, whose precise status and significance for religious and social history during the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth centuries has puzzled historians.

Sandra Schneiders, IHM, *Finding the Treasure* (Paulist Press, 2000), continues her reflective analyses of contemporary religious life and trends affecting it. Readers may also be interested in Mary Anne Foley's thoughtful reflections on recent literature on this subject, "Another Window on the Crisis in Women's Communities," in *Review for Religious* July-August, 2000, pp. 343-357.

Margherita Marchione, *Pope Pius XII: Architect for Peace* (Paulist Press, 2000) probes the truth of that tragic period in the long history of the Jewish people as a follow-up to her earlier publications including *Yours is a Precious Witness* in which she notes Pius XII's suspension of cloister regulations to allow convents to shelter Jews (see *News and Notes* 11:2, June 1998).

Book Reviews

Educating the Faithful: Religion, Schooling, and Society in Nineteenth-Century France by Sarah A. Curtis (Northern Illinois Press, 2000), 255 pp.

The role of Catholic educators, especially that of the Roman Catholic teaching congregations, in laying the foundations for universal primary education in modern France here receives for the first time an impartial and balanced assessment. Heretofore dismissed by historians as irrelevant at best, or antithetical at worst, to the achievement of the republican goal of educating citizens for the modern nation-state, the educational work of religious congregations from 1801 to 1905 is demonstrated to have been indispensable with respect to establishing a broad network of schools accessible to the lower and middle classes; in guaranteeing an abundant, though never sufficient, supply of well prepared teachers; and in developing curricula and teaching methods appropriate to the needs of the times.

The author develops her thesis in two main parts, first examining the founding and expansion of congregational schools, teacher training, and pedagogical

methods from the Concordat of 1801 to the establishment of the Third Republic in 1870; and next analyzing causes and outcomes of the Third Republic's attack on religious education beginning with the repressive laws of the 1880s and culminating in the draconian 1901-1904 laws that forced religious underground in order to continue their educational ministry.

The author's archival research is focused on the diocese of Lyon (departments of Loire and Rhône), and on the four largest of the Lyon-based teaching congregations: the Frères des Ecoles Chrétiens; the Frères Maristes; the Soeurs de St-Joseph; and the Soeurs de St-Charles. The importance of Lyon as a center of religious activism and of dynamic socio-economic transformation, along with the existence of relatively untapped and rich archives of the religious communities, lend an unusual significance to Curtis' study, undertaken as a doctoral thesis at Indiana University.

Typical of the hundreds of congregations that sprang up in nineteenth-century France, the Lyonnais group was imbued with the Reformation and Enlightenment belief in the power of education to shape values and mold minds, and driven by a post-Revolutionary zeal to revive religious faith and practice through education of the young. The teaching congregations pioneered in inventing the parish school and in devising methods for teacher training, first for their own members in novitiates, and by the 1840s, for lay and religious in normal schools.

Much as monasteries had done in prior centuries, the new apostolic communities "provided the organizational basis for a centralized teaching core" in a country confronted with the gargantuan task of making education accessible to the multitudes. John Baptist de La Salle's seventeenth-century pedagogical methods for teaching the poor proved eminently adaptable to nineteenth-century needs, particularly the so-called "simultaneous method" for classroom organization.

Ingenious ways were found to resolve the seemingly insurmountable difficulties of too little money and too few teachers to meet demand. Again, the author challenges conventional anticlerical views with facts drawn from primary sources. Far from substituting religious spirit for knowledge and teaching skills, most religious had more training than their lay counterparts.

In the end, the pedagogical structure elaborated by religious as of 1870 served as a predecessor for the

system of education that "underpinned the modern French state." Curtis is consistently alert to issues of gender as the story unfolds, noting in summary that schools owned and staffed by sisters served as "central sites of female identity" with results abundantly illustrated by women's protest activities amid the enforced school closings of 1905.

In sum, the history of education and of feminism is enriched by this volume with its fresh look at archival sources and thorough review of published works. Students of religious life will find numerous instructive parallels between the French experience and that of the United States where the French teaching congregations established missions. Scholars and general readers alike will find this an intellectually satisfying and very readable volume, one that prompts agreement with Curtis that it was high time for this story to be "written back" into history.

Karen M. Kennelly, CSJ
President emerita
Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles

Research In Progress

Dolores Liptak, RSM; Mary Ewens, OP; and Karen M. Kennelly, CSJ, are developing a series of chronologically framed essays on American women religious to be included in the encyclopedia of American Catholic women edited by Michael Glazier. Publication by the University of Notre Dame press is anticipated for next year.

Patricia Byrne, CSJ, and Veronica O'Reilly, CSJ, are preparing an English translation of Marguerite Vacher, *Des 'régulières' dans le siècle: Les soeurs de Saint-Joseph du Père Médaille aux XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles* (Éditions Adosa, 1991).

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province, are working on a collaborative history of the province for the period from 1951 to the present. Publication of the work, tentatively titled *Eyes Open on the World: Challenges of Change*, is scheduled for 2001. The editorial committee coordinating the research and writing is composed of Alberta Huber, Mary Kraft, Eleanor Lincoln, Catherine Litecky, and Jean Wincek.

Laura Swan, OSB, is compiling a bibliography of published and unpublished works on the history of American Benedictine women. This could include papers presented, unpublished or privately published

books and articles, masters or doctoral theses, etc. She asks that anyone who is aware of items that might fit these broad criteria forward information to her at email lswan@stplacid.org or 500 College St. NE, Lacey, WA 98516.

Marie Paul Holdman, SC, is doing research for an article, based on a May 2000 pilgrimage to Spain, on "St. James Way." Her very intriguing approach to the subject compares P. Coelho's *Auf dem Jakobsweg* (Augsburg, Germany, 1993) with Shirley MacLaine's 1999 version, *The Camino*.

Announcements

Publishers of the periodical, *Sisters Today*, have announced that it will cease publication with the November, 2000, issue. Originally published under the title of *Sponsa Regis*, this periodical has met an important need by providing American religious with a steady stream of articles for over 70 years on topics relating to spirituality and psychology, theology, the role of women in the Catholic Church, and social justice issues; with timely book reviews relating to these same topics; and always with some wonderful poetry. The HWR conference salutes Mary Anthony Wagner, OSB, for her work as editor for the past 21 years, and thanks the other editors and staff who have assisted her. The publication will be missed.

Newsletter Deadline

Please have copy for the February, 2001, issue to the editor by January 1, 2001.

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Editor: Karen M. Kennelly, CSJ
Book Review Editor: Regina Siegfried, ASC
Ad hoc Conference Committee:
Kaye Ashe, OP; Florence Deacon, OSF;
Mary Ewens, OP; Mary Hayes, SND; Elizabeth McGahan; JoAnn McNamara; Mary J. Oates, CSJ;
Judith Sutura, OSB; Margaret Susan Thompson.

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Karen M. Kennelly, Editor
HWR News and Notes
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