

ACDA Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of the Association of Catholic
Diocesan Archivists

WWW.DIOCESANARCHIVISTS.ORG

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From the President: Total Immersion

By Peggy Lavelle, Diocese of Chicago

When I took over the presidency of ACDA in New Orleans last summer, I was 17 weeks pregnant with our third child. The theme I couldn't get out of my head was "Bringing New Life to ACDA." I thought of all the ways we bring new life into this world. Sometimes it's in a literal sense, like having a baby, but mostly we bring new energy and ideas to someone or something already in our world.

In my very literal approach to bringing new life, I happy to report that Charles O'Toole Lavelle was born on January 17th and is healthy and growing like a champ. Having three kids has been an adventure with every day ending in a giant pile of exhaustion. And I wouldn't change it for the world.



So as Charlie reaches six weeks old and the Fog of the Newborn begins to lift, I've had some time to think about the concept of immersion. People say the best way to learn a language is by total immersion. Go to a country where the language is spoken and just listen and learn, sink or swim. When your only communication option is to speak the new language, you're going to learn it. I'm finding the same is true when you have a new baby. Just reading all the books in the world isn't going to teach you beans until you're successfully calming and feeding a screaming, hungry child. During the newborn phase of each of my children, only total immersion has taught me who they are and what they need from my husband and me to be content and thrive.

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The American Catholic Studies Newsletter

By Heather Grennan Gary, University of Notre Dame

The [*American Catholic Studies Newsletter*](#) is seeking to expand its coverage of news from diocesan archives and the archives of other Catholic institutions. Our readers are mainly historians and scholars in other disciplines who are interested in American Catholic history.



at hgary@nd.edu. News may be submitted at any time and will be included in the forthcoming issue.

The American Catholic Studies Newsletter is a free, digital periodical of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at the University of

Do you have new collections, collections newly open for research, or other news you would like to share with this audience? Please email Heather Grennan Gary, newsletter editor,

Notre Dame. It is published twice a year (spring and fall). Visit cushwa.nd.edu for more information or to subscribe.

ACDA Conference Scholarships

By Michele Levandoski, Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

ACDA will offer two scholarships to the biennial conference in Mundelein. These scholarships, named in honor of founding member James O'Toole, are granted to individuals working in diocesan archives who have not previously attended a Mundelein conference. They cover the full registration cost, which includes meals and lodging. Recipients are responsible for their own transportation expenses.

The scholarships will be awarded by the Program Committee (Michele Levandoski, Cara Koenig, Sarah Patterson, Peggy Lavelle, Meg Hall and Jacqueline Uhler). Application forms, which are included in this newsletter on page 12, must be submitted by **May 7, 2014**. Recipients will be notified by May 14, 2014. If you have questions about the application form or about the scholarships themselves, please contact Michele Levandoski, mlevandoski@dio.org.

Parish Museum

By Joe Blasko, Diocese of Gaylord

Rev. Albert Langheim OFM, a former pastor of the Holy Cross Church in Cross Village founded the parish historical museum in 1995. His fascination for history led him to turn to spend hours in the Michigan Room of the Petoskey library. People responded to his enthusiasm for history by giving him keepsakes and historic treasures from their family heirlooms. When eyesight and health disabilities became obstacles for him to continue as pastor, he approached a few people he knew with similar interests and asked them to take care of his "museum." Frank Francis, current curator of the museum was one of them. "Fr. Al called me to the museum for a meeting," recounts Frank, "and he told me that the Diocese of Gaylord was retiring him and that he wanted to leave the museum in good hands." He handed me the keys to the museum and said "take care of it." A museum committee under Frank's leadership has renovated and revamped and continues to contribute to its growth and development. Each room has been repainted and carpeted to fit that particular room's theme. To give a more sophisticated museum look, decorations and track lighting have been installed.

For residents and tourists alike, the "Museum of *L'Arbre Croche* History" offers a unique look into the history of Cross Village, Michigan. And Fr. Joe Blasko, diocesan archivist says, "for a Parish museum it is the most impressive collection of archival data in the diocese and possibly in the State." Jane Cardinal, Museum of *L'Arbre Croche* who does Historic Research and serves as Exhibit Designer said, "It's hard to imagine what there was, when there is very little left to see." But for those willing to drop in and read the stories and view the pictures displayed come away in awe of the past. "Those wishing to know the treasures of our rich history rooted in the visual beauty of this area will be rewarded," Cardinal goes on to



Residential housing is seen in Cross Village in the early 1800s.

say. "Your perspectives will deepen and be forever changed."

"The museum has five rooms and a main hall," said Francis. "As you enter the museum, you're in the Main Hall that depicts the great fire that burned down Cross Village in 1918. Story boards hang on the walls that relate the story of the event with pictures." Room themes in the museum include the Odawa Room (1), the Weikamp Room (2), the *L'Arbre Croche* Room (3), the Pioneer Room (4), and the Research Library (5). Each room has a different story and weaves together the history of the area.

1. "The Odawa Room displays artifacts from the First Nation, and related items to the *L'Arbre Croche* area," Francis explained.
2. The Weikamp Room has items from the second half of the 19th Century when Rev. Johann Bernard Weikamp's Convent strongly influenced the area.
3. The *L'Arbre Croche* Room depicts the logging era that dominated Cross Village during the mid to late 1800s.

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Parish Museum

(continued from page 3)

4. The Pioneer Room contains donations of farm implements used locally after the logging industry cleared the land for homesteaders. Jane Cardinal points out that Cross Village was the “Gateway to Emmet County” in view of the fact that French traders came from Canada and were the first white settlers to the area. (The Story of Bishop Frederic Baraga is displayed on the wall adjacent to the Main Hall. It contains a series of flash cards he used to instruct the Christianized Indians in the faith.)
5. The Research Library Room contains materials collected by Father Al and bound in notebooks by Frank Francis that include parish records and history. Dr. Dave Frurip of Dow Chemical has donated several boxes of historic material written about the area from museums, library collections and religious archives. These are being organ-

ized and retyped from microfilmed copies. In a few years, this will develop into a wonderful resource center, reports Jane Cardinal.

“People come to the museum to look up family records and do research about the area,” said Francis. Area residents and tourists support the existence of the museum and consider it to be a hidden treasure. The Museum of *L’Arbre Croche* History is located in the parish hall basement on the grounds of the Holy Cross Church at 6624 North Lakeshore Drive in Cross Village. The museum is open from mid-May until October on Saturdays from 1–3 p.m. Special arrangements can be made for group tours and school field trips. For more information or appointments call 231-526-0906 or write P.O. Box 169, Cross Village, MI 49723 or email fffrancis@people.pc.com.

News from ACDA Members!

- The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is happy to welcome Eliza Urbanowicz as the Project Records Manager. Eliza graduated with her MLIS from Louisiana State University and before that she received a bachelor of music in performance from Portland State University. She is a transplant from Oregon who is still adjusting to Illinois winters and we are very happy to have her join the Archives’ staff.
- After 12 ½ years of service, Maria Paxi is leaving her position as Archivist of the Archdiocese of Hartford. She has taken a position as Librarian with the Connecticut State Library, effective February 7, 2014.

Legacy Audiovisual Formats Commonly Found in Diocesan Archives, Part III

By Jon-Erik Gilot, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

In the previous issues we looked at a number of legacy audio and video formats that we may run across in our collections. In this issue we'll look at some of the more recent audio and video cassette formats. As you'll see, just because a tape was created in the last 10–15 years, that doesn't mean it's a more robust or long-lived format.

The goal of this series has been to help each of you become more comfortable with these formats, understand their strengths and flaws, and to assist in making decisions when developing preservation or digitization strategies. Digitization is not cheap—it's important to be aware of not only the formats in your collection, but the information they contain. There are dozens of formats that time and space has not allowed us to touch on, so don't be surprised to find additional formats within your collection.

Just like the paper or digital records we work to preserve within our dioceses, the audiovisual tapes within your collection contain invaluable information with an ever-closing window to safely reformat and preserve. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about any of these or other legacy audiovisual formats found in your collection, feel free to give me a call at (888) 434-6237 or jgilot@dwc.org and I'll be happy to answer your questions (or at least point you in the right direction)!

LEGACY AUDIOVISUAL CASSETTE FORMATS



[flickr.com/duncantoms](https://www.flickr.com/photos/duncantoms/)

Compact Cassette

AKA Cassette Tape, Audio Cassette
Format – Analog
Typically 30–45 Minutes per Side
Dates – 1962 – ca. 2003



[flickr.com/cassettes](https://www.flickr.com/photos/cassettes/)

Compact Cassettes are among the most recognizable of audiovisual formats given their longevity and place in popular culture. The format contained featured a plastic shell containing two spools around which magnetic tape would wind. This format would render reel-to-reel recorders nearly extinct for use in non-commercial recordings, such as meetings, dictation, oral histories, etc. Compact Cassettes would decline through the 1990s and into the early 2000s in the rise of CDs and digital media downloads. You're likely to find quite a few of these tapes within your collection (I can count several hundred of these in our collection at DWC).

While the Compact Cassette was a popular and long-lived format, it is not without its problems. Damage to the shell or its inner-parts may result in the tape breaking or stretching. The tape itself may become "sticky," a common problem with magnetic tape known as "sticky shed syndrome."

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Legacy Audiovisual Formats

(continued from page 5)

The small felt pad over which the tape runs may dry out, leading to a scratching or hissing noise during playback. If you have any cassette decks within your collection, ensure that it is in proper working order prior to playback. Likewise, do not playback a tape that appears dirty or moldy – any dirt or mold may transfer to the audio heads over which the tape runs and in turn may do damage to any subsequent tapes you run on that deck.



flickr.com/windthoek

Digital Audio Tape

AKA – DAT
Format – Digital
Dates – 1987 – 2005
Roughly half the size of a Compact
Cassette



flickr.com/windthoek

While similar to its Compact Cassette predecessor, DAT recorded audio in digital format rather than analog. The format allowed several sampling modes, which allowed for a higher-quality recording than the Compact Cassette offered. DAT tapes can run anywhere from 15–180 minutes. The format was never as widely adopted or popularized as the Compact Cassette, due mainly to the complexity of the recorders and the expensive price tag. Even still, DAT was often used to record meetings, dictation, interviews, and oral histories. Because of this, you may anticipate finding DAT tapes within your collection.

Proving that “digital” is not always right, DAT tapes have several issues inhibiting their preservation. To begin, DAT tapes used a thinner magnetic tape than the Compact Cassette, increasing the risk of tape breaks. The format also has a problem with misalignment – a DAT tape may play back fine on the machine on which it was recorded, and may not play back on another machine. The highest risk associated with DAT tapes is the loss of the signal-to-noise ratio. If this ratio drops below the level that a digital error correction can accommodate, the signal (your recording) is unrecoverable. Because of these issues, any DAT tapes within your collection should be prioritized near the top of the list when developing a digitization strategy.



flickr.com/windthoek

3/4" U-Matic

Dates – 1971 – ca. 1990
Format – Analog
May look like an oversized VHS
(certain models)



flickr.com/drskulturavsjekt

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Legacy Audiovisual Formats

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The $\frac{3}{4}$ " U-Matic was one of the first videocassette formats. The format had only moderate consumer success but had substantial longevity in the broadcast market, so if your diocese had a television station in the 1970s–1980s, you likely have a few U-Matic's in your collection. Because U-Matics have not been manufactured for nearly twenty years, there is an ever decreasing supply of playback decks, replacement parts and experienced engineers. U-Matics are likewise highly susceptible to tape degradation and sticky shed syndrome. U-Matic is considered an “at risk” format and therefore should be prioritized near the top of the list when developing a digitization strategy.



flickr.com/zimpenfish

VHS/S-VHS

AKA – Videocassette
Dates – 1976 – 2008
Format – Analog
Replaced by Optical Disc Formats



flickr.com/windthoek

Like the Compact Cassette, VHS are among the most recognizable and most frequently encountered of the audiovisual formats within our collection. From the mid- 1970s until its decline in the face of DVD/Blu-Ray, VHS was widely commercially produced while the later SVHS tape was a consumer-driven format, creating many unique items that may have found a place within our collections.

Similar to other videotape formats, one of the issues with this format is the tape itself running across the video heads in the playback decks, effectively damaging a tape each time it is played back. Likewise, playback in a deck not properly calibrated or aligned may stretch or break the tape. As production of this format has ceased, we'll be drawing on an ever-decreasing number of playback decks and replacement parts.

Archdiocese of New York Moves to a New Home

By Fr. Michael Morris, Diocese of New York

Since the publication of Alex Haley's *Roots: The Saga of an American Family* in 1976 and the subsequent miniseries in January 1977, interest in family history has exploded and the tide seems to indicate that this phenomenon is not going to ebb. And for good reason. What can be more intriguing than the "whys, whens, and hows"? Immigration is the great American story.

We know the drill. A genealogical enthusiast wants to find the location of the church of baptism for his or her great grandmother. So this family historian calls the diocesan chancery and the chancery in turn calls us. Oftentimes, scant information is provided, making a search very difficult, if not impossible. It is assumed by those outside our semi-contemplative walls that an archives will have everything from a grocery store receipt to a letter from a pontiff or a head of state. We know that is not true. Unlike our archival cousins in Europe, Americans historically were not known for their record-keeping diligence. The United States government for instance, in an effort to streamline operations after the First World War, dumped tons of government records into the Anacostia River (a.k.a. the "Eastern Branch" by Washington insiders). The National Archives was not established until 1934, and did not become a separate federal agency, the *National Archives and Records Administration*, until 1985! Archival work in the United States really is a new academic and administrative adventure.

In every curia there is to be erected in a safe place a diocesan archive, or record storage area, in which instruments and written documents which pertain to the spiritual and temporal affairs of the diocese are to be safeguarded after being properly filed and diligently secured.

Canon 486, Paragraph 2,
Code of Canon Law.
1983

The story of the Archives of the Archdiocese of New York is probably no different from any other diocesan archives in the United States. Doubtless, excellent records were kept and the "backbone" of our archives is composed of the superb collection of Episcopal records from the administration of Bishop John Dubois (1826–1842) through Edward Cardinal Egan (2000–2009). But we started out small as an adjunct to the chancery office in New York City. The Archives moved to Saint Joseph's Seminary in 1981, and in January 2000, on the occasion of his eightieth birthday, the late John Cardinal O'Connor dedicated the Archbishop John J. Hughes Archival Center. After Cardinal O'Connor's death in May 2000, the new building was retrofitted for classrooms and the designated exhibition hall was converted into a chapel for use of the collegian seminarians.

In February 2009, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Timothy M. Dolan, Archbishop of Milwaukee as the thirteenth archbishop of New York. A professionally trained historian, then-Archbishop Dolan set out to evoke the true character of the Archives of the Archdiocese of New York, namely a world class institution dedicated to service to the professional historical and theological community. In the summer of 2012, plans to move the full archives to the Hughes Center were underway and in November 2013, the Archives set up shop in the "new" building. The real gem of our archives is the new John Cardinal O'Connor Memorial

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Collaborating to Preserve and Provide Access to Catholic Newspapers: A Progress Report on the CRRA's Catholic Newspapers Program

By Pat Lawton, University of Notre Dame

The Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRA) is a non-profit membership alliance collaborating broadly to deliver projects and services in support of its mission to provide enduring global access to Catholic research resources in the Americas. In support of its mission, the CRRA in 2011 initiated the Catholic Newspapers Program with the goal "to provide access to all extant Catholic newspapers in North America."

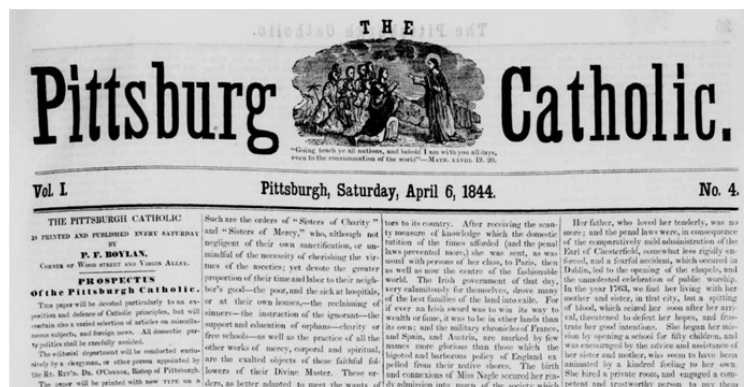
This Program was developed in response to scholars' intense use of Catholic newspapers in research across a wide range of social and economic issues. Program goals include the realization of three primary components:

- A fully searchable Directory of North American Catholic newspapers for discovery of and access to Catholic newspapers
- Digitization of priority papers
- A Repository service to provide a single search interface for searching and text mining capabilities across digital Catholic newspapers

Activities to date include progress in the three areas.

Directory

The CRRA conducted a preliminary environmental scan of North American Catholic newspapers to identify what papers exist, or were



CRRA Member Duquesne University has digitized the Pittsburgh Catholic, 1844-1970. This issue, April 6, 1844.

known to exist. To date, 800+ U.S. and Canadian papers have been identified. Current work is focused on adding data about Catholic newspapers to the Center for Research Libraries' International Coalition on Newspapers (ICON) database.

Digitization

The CRRA Scholars' Advisory Committee recommended that CRRA begin its digitization efforts by focusing on large city newspapers such as Chicago, New York, New Orleans, Philadelphia, and San Francisco along with national perspectives through the Catholic News Service feeds and national papers such as the National Catholic Reporter. CRRA enlisted the participation of digitization partners with newspaper holdings from the priority papers and partners have recently completed an inventory of holdings and "best versions" for digitization. The CRRA extends warm thanks and kudos to our digitizing partners for their fortitude in assessing and estimating over 1.4 million frames/pages of microfilm and print! We also thank our Lyrasis friends for their gentle guidance through the minutia of newspaper digitization processes. When it comes to newspapers, it does indeed take a village. For more on the scope of the project, please see: http://www.catholicresearch.net/cms/files/1613/9042/2216/Scope_of_the_Newspapers_Digitization_Project_website.pdf.

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ACDA Annual Meeting

By Michele Levandoski, Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Have you ever wondered what to do with old sacramental registers that are falling apart or how to organize your ever-expanding photo collection? Are you interested in starting an oral history project in your diocese or in digitizing your sacramental records?

If you have answered yes to any of these questions then you should attend the 2014 ACDA Biennial Conference, which will be held July 21–25, 2014 at St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois.

This year's theme is "Less Theory, More Method: A Practical Approach to Archives and Record Management." The education committee has put together an excellent program that focuses on practical skills needed by diocesan archivists and records managers, regardless of skill level, budget, or staffing.

The education committee is excited to add some new elements to this year's conference. One of the sessions will include small group discussion so that a wide array of ideas can be shared and another is a hands-on conservation class. This year's conference will also feature a mentoring program to welcome first-time attendees and those new to the profession (see page 11).

On Monday, July 21, the conference will open with dinner and a keynote address.

Tuesday, July 22 will open with concurrent sessions. The first, "Archival Basics," is a half-day presentation that is geared toward those archivists who would like a general introduction to archives management. For more sea-

soned archivists the morning will consist of two sessions: implementing an oral history project and digitizing sacramental records. In the afternoon, both groups will come together for a half-day session on how to establish a records management program.

Wednesday, July 23 will open with a half-day, hands-on conservation class where participants will learn some affordable, basic conservation skills that can be used to house or repair damaged sacramental registers. The afternoon will consist of the concurrent sessions that will address the following topics: gaining intellectual control over collections by using finding aids or databases, archiving social media, organizing photo collections, and appraising/reappraising and disposing of sacred objects.

Thursday, July 24 will consist of topics that affect all diocesan archivists. The first session will be a panel discussion on three handbooks that should be in all diocesan archives: sacramental records, records management, and closing a parish or school. There will also be sessions on working with parishes, advocating for a bigger budget, and working with other archivists in your area. The day will end with an "Ask the Experts" panel.

The conference this year has something for everyone. A brochure and registration form will be sent out in April and we look forward to seeing all of you in July!

ACDA Mentoring Program

Are you new to the world of diocesan archives or to the archives profession?

Do you wish that you had a more experienced diocesan archivist that you could contact with questions?

We know that our profession can be a lonely one, especially for lone arrangers. This is why the ACDA education committee is organizing a mentorship program slated to start at our 2014 Mundelein meeting. Our organizers will match up fledgling diocesan archivists with more experienced mentors, helping you to network and find a friendly voice to call when you have a question that Google cannot answer. If you are interested in mentoring or being mentored, please check the appropriate boxes when registering for the conference. We hope to see you at Mundelein!

Archives of the Archdiocese of Detroit Moves to a New Home

By Heidi Christein, Diocese of Detroit

The Archives of the Archdiocese of Detroit is pleased to announce their move to a new space. Over the course of two weeks in late September 2013, the Archives moved from the Chancery Building on Washington Blvd. to the former Cardinal Mooney Latin School building on the grounds of Sacred Heart Major Seminary at the edge of the historic Boston-Edison District in Detroit.

Portions of the 1960 school building were renovated to accommodate the needs of our archival collections. With approximately 3,800 square feet of new stacks space, all of the 568 collections in the Archives are in secure, climate-controlled conditions on a mix of static and movable shelving. In addition to the stacks spaces, we have a spacious office that includes a dedicated room for researchers to work, and a separate conference room. We have additional space for the transcripts from the almost 300 closed Catholic schools are in our custody.

The majority of the collections in the Archives are manuscript collections, but we have a significant number of visual materials including photographs and film in a variety of formats. Additionally, we have a collection of audio tapes from various events and area Catholic radio. Not included in the 568 collections are the sacramental records of over 80 closed parishes and hospitals from which we create new certificates.

Our mailing address remains 1234 Washington Blvd., Detroit, MI 48226. This will change in late 2014 when the rest of the Chancery Offices move to another location in Detroit.

Our email is archives@aod.org and our phone number is 313-237-5846. Heidi Christein is the archivist and Steve Wejroch is the assistant archivist.

**Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists
2014 Conference
Scholarship Application Form**

Two scholarships are available for individuals employed in (arch)diocesan archives to attend the 2014 ACDA Conference. The conference will be held July 21-25, 2014 at the University of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois. Scholarships will be awarded for the full cost of the conference, which includes all meals and lodging. The scholarships do not cover transportation costs.

These scholarships will be awarded by the Program Committee. Applicants must be employed in a diocesan archives and be first-time attendees at the Mundelein conference.

To apply, please complete this form and return it, by **May 7, 2014**, to the address below. The recipients will be notified by **May 14, 2014**.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Years in position: _____ ACDA Member: yes / no

Please list primary job responsibilities.

Please provide a brief statement about how your attendance at the conference will help your program or your professional growth (use other side if necessary).

Return by May 7, 2014 to:

Michele Levandoski
Diocese of Springfield in Illinois
1615 W. Washington, Springfield, IL 62702
Email: mlevandoski@dio.org

Archdiocese of New York Move



Archival materials packed and labeled for the move.

ogy with a welcoming and accommodating spirit. And this is what we want to convey—enthusiasm, a respect for academic endeavor, and most important an authentic Christian joy. I have been a priest for almost twenty-five years, with eighteen of those years in parish work. Archival work is also an important

apostolate in service to the Church. It is a wonderful way to serve the people of God.

I guess we as Christians should not indulge in pride. However, Kate and I do have reason to boast and I hope that we will be excused: of all the historians who have visited us since 2011, not one has left unhappy.

ACDA Year-End Financial Report

By Brian Fahey, Diocese of Charleston

Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists Profit & Loss January through December 2013

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Library where our researchers can labor in a very “historian-friendly” environment. Work continues on a chapel for liturgy, prayer, and reflection—the ultimate reason for our existence—and the new exhibition hall for displays and ephemera. All told, work on these latter projects is slated for completion this coming summer.

Our staff is small, but that is fine. Our archival manager, Kate Feighery, a New York University-trained historian and professional archivist, combines expertise in her craft, a love for history, and a keen understanding of the labyrinthine world of technol-

| | Jan - Dec 13 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | |
| Income | |
| Interest Income | 63.19 |
| Membership Dues | 4,325.00 |
| Publication Receipts | 1,931.50 |
| Total Income | 6,319.69 |
| Expense | |
| Annual Meeting Expenses | |
| Board Dinners | 502.44 |
| Lodging/Meals | 344.21 |
| Logistics | 311.50 |
| Planning | |
| Lodging | 1,413.12 |
| Meals | 310.04 |
| Transportation | 847.39 |
| Total Planning | 2,570.55 |
| Postage | 0.00 |
| Total Annual Meeting Expenses | 3,728.70 |
| Bank Service Charges | 6.38 |
| Internet Expenses | 89.38 |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | 162.27 |
| Office Supplies | 472.86 |
| Postage and Delivery | 1,486.15 |
| Printing and Reproduction | 23.25 |
| Total Expense | 5,968.99 |
| Net Ordinary Income | 350.70 |
| Net Income | 350.70 |

An Archivist's Brush with History

By Deacon William Bissenden, Diocese of Bridgeport

On November 22, 1963, I was a Specialist 4th Class (topographic surveyor) in the 72nd Engineering Detachment (Survey), 30th Engineering Battalion U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stationed at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. I was driving a 2½ ton truck in a convoy of about ten trucks. We were transporting the trucks from Ft. Belvoir to the Baltimore Army Terminal shipping facility in Maryland.

Our convoy had passed through the Washington area without incident and had just pulled to the side of the road for a restroom stop and refueling. Suddenly, the guy riding "shotgun" in the truck following ours came running up with a small transistor radio in his hand shouting something about President Kennedy being shot.

We were shocked, saddened and full of questions. "Where did it happen?" "When did it happen?" "Was it an accident?" "No? Then did they get the shooter?" And, since we were in the Army and away from our base, "What is our status?" "Do we continue on?"

Much of the ride after that included our trading reflections on what President Kennedy meant to each of us. I recalled the time candidate Jack Kennedy visited Bridgeport on a whistle-stop tour. What struck me were the actions of the crowd. As the convertible moved through the city, the crowd moved from block to block following the car like a human wave, each person trying to get just one more glimpse of JFK. Watching this mass of people, I was impressed with their adulation for Kennedy. Awe and concern stirred within me at the same time that one man should possess so much charisma.

During the time it took us to get to our destination and unload our vehicles, President Kennedy's body was put on to Air Force One and was headed for Andrews Air Force Base. Reports we received indicated that we would drive through Washington at just about the same time the Air Force One was landing at Andrews Air Base.



That Sunday afternoon one of our NCOs, Sergeant Patrick Bishop, came to the day room looking for volunteers for a very special surveying assignment.

After we volunteered, he explained that our assignment was to prepare a detailed topographical survey of the President's burial site and surrounding area located at Arlington Cemetery. We would have just three days to complete the project.

The area we were going to survey was not large, only about an acre, while the actual burial site was about 20ft. x 30ft. However, even to a crew used to surveying whole countries, this was a challenging assignment because we had to survey the grave site in tight one-foot increments of elevation and do it at night.

The site is on the foot of the hill in front of General Lee's Mansion and was selected for several reasons. It overlooks the Potomac River and the city of Washington. It is a beautiful spot. The other reason it was selected is that the area in general was not considered acceptable for regular graves because of the severity of the incline. Thus the site does not deny others from burial in Arlington Cemetery.

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CRRA's Catholic Newspapers Program

(continued from page 9)

Repository and Newspapers Online

In collaboration with CRRA committees and under the leadership of Betsy Post, Boston College's Head, Digital Library Programs, CRRA is exploring a range of options for a shared repository for digitized or born-digital Catholic newspapers.

The need for immediate access to the full text of Catholic newspapers has been addressed with the [Catholic Newspapers Online](#), an online list of Catholic newspapers in digital form, for immediate access to digital content.

You may recall Shawn Weldon's 2012 request to ACDA members for information about Catholic newspapers online. Thanks to Shawn's request and your response, our list of titles quickly expanded from 38 to almost 50 titles. We thank you for your enthused response and invite you to keep the list in mind as you hear of Catholic papers available in digital form. This list just continues to grow.

Contact us

We would love to hear from you—please send your questions, comments, or suggestions to Pat Lawton plawton@nd.edu, Digital Projects Librarian, or Jennifer

Younger younger.1@nd.edu, CRRA Executive Director, or any of your colleagues among our digitizing partners including Kate Feighery, Archdiocese of New York; Cait Kokolus, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary; Karen Lesiak, St. Thomas Seminary; Lee Leumas, Archdiocese of New Orleans; Lorraine Olley, University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary; Jac Treanor, Archdiocese of Chicago; and Shawn Weldon, Philadelphia Archdiocesan Historical Research Center.

For more information, please visit our website at www.catholicresearch.net

An Archivist's Brush with History

(continued from page 14)

Our instructions, to carry out most of the survey at night, were due to the number of people who would file past the gravesite during the daylight hours to pay their respects to a fallen hero.

Even during the night, we did have some interruptions. On several occasions, near midnight, word was passed to us to stop our work and back into the shadows. The first time this happened we were surprised, but we soon understood when three large black limousines drove across the lawn and stopped just in front of the gravesite. In a few moments several men emerged from the front and rear car and stood silently peering into the darkness apparently searching the area for

signs of something unusual. Finally, one of them opened the center car door and three men and a woman got out. The entire party approached the grave in silence, paused for a number minutes, something was placed on the grave near the eternal flame, and then the party departed. We were told later that it was Mrs. Kennedy and the President's brothers, Ted and Robert Kennedy. The next night the scene was repeated.

Some of my most vivid memories come back every time I'm at a military funeral and I hear that bugle and volley of rifle fire. Three weeks later we were boarding an airplane—destination Liberia, Africa, but even today, the sound of a bugler playing taps and the report of rifles echo loud and clear in my memories.

From the President

(continued from page 1)

ACDA's gained a lot of new members while I've been

around, and I'm always trying to hear more from them and continue to form our organization into a reflection of all its members.

To that end, I asked

Michele Levandoski to serve as ACDA's Education Officer and lead the Program Committee in planning and executing the 2014 ACDA Biennial Conference. She accepted immediately and I was thrilled! I then asked Sarah Patterson from the Diocese of Owensboro and Cara Koenig from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City to serve as members of the committee. They too responded enthusiastically to my request. We met in Chicago in November and planned a meeting we are sure all members will enjoy. I hoped this committee would be something special and our work so far tells me that it is.

But back to the concept of total immersion – I can't help but think of the ACDA biennial conference similarly. The usual conference offers participants the benefit of being removed from their typical surroundings, living and socializing with their fellow diocesan archivists, and listening to presentations about how others have succeeded in their jobs, thereby encouraging participants

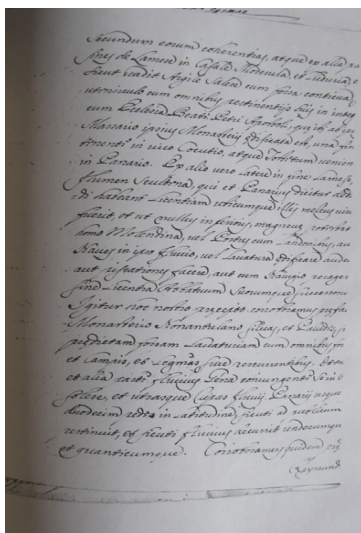
to succeed in their own. This summer's conference seeks to be a little different. Instead of just listening to presentations, which certainly have their value, the program committee has planned a conference with as much hands-on activity as possible without an archives and/or records center at Mundelein. In less than one week the new archivist will have learned enough to go back his or her office and managers with applied knowledge, not just a list of things they need to learn more about. In less than one week the seasoned archivist will have picked up a new skill or two, not just an idea to ponder.

When you arrive at the Mundelein Conference Center this July, recognize that you are being fully immersed in the world of diocesan archives and records. Take full advantage of the sessions and experiences being offered. Plan to bring new life to you career, your archives and records center, and your life. The best part about our community is that no one will let you sink!

Latin Papal Documents

By Brother Ed Loch, Diocese of San Antonio

In February of 2013, a woman called the Archives wanting some help with some documents in Latin. She came in with a very large envelope wrapped in plastic. She had me open it and what I pulled out were two documents, one of them was from Otto IV, which with my meager Latin figured out was the donation of the whole north east of Italy to the monastery of



A page from one of the documents.

Nonantola. The second one was from Sixtus V (died 1590), returning a large amount of gold with interest that he had borrowed from Monsignor Malvasia from Bologna. With further investigation I found that the two documents were taken as souvenirs by American soldiers during World War II, who stayed in the Villa of the family of the Monsignor in Bologna. I contacted the diocese as well as the monastery itself (now a historical monu-

ment) and found that the document was a fraud concocted two hundred years later to bolster the claim of the monastery and they already had a copy and were not interested in another. The copy, just for its age and beauty of the script plus the notary seals has to be worth in the thousands. The letter by Sixtus on the other hand is genuine. The lead seal is slightly corroded and there is a bit of water damage but in really great shape. I had no reply from Bologna and so I told the lady to put it in her safe and keep it in there. Her children had wanted to take it to school for show and tell.

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