

ACDA NEWSLETTER

The Official Newsletter of the Association of Catholic
Diocesan Archivists

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From the President

By Peggy Lavelle, Diocese of Chicago

Workdays are filled with discouragement. Retention schedules bore even the most chipper records manager. No matter what information an archivist miraculously digs up on a remote subject, there's always a "critical" morsel of data that remains elusive. Genealogists lurk out there ready to whine about the mysterious baptismal certificate of a relative whose existence he or she cannot even prove. Sometimes work's just a drag.

Wow, what an uplifting president's column, Peggy! And on your first time out? Impressive!

My goal here is not to bum out the entire ACDA membership. Instead, I wish to remind myself and my colleagues of the positive in our jobs. My days get lost in other people's wild goose chases and temper tantrums and being the mother of two toddlers, I don't need more



of those. So sometimes I need a little pick-me-up. Aside from candy and always hunting for amusement in my work (some names are just too funny not to giggle about), I search for real answers to why I do what I do for a living.

I'm an archivist because I love being a smartypants. It's true. I may fail in that goal on a regular basis, but even skimming through a parish history will give me some factoid that I probably didn't know before. And I file it away in my little brain because someday I might be able to enlighten others about a neighborhood because

of what I've learned here about the local parish. History captured my interest long ago because that stack of index cards full of useless facts that resides in my brain (think Cliff Clavin) must grow for me to be happy. I realize this is a pretty weird reason to enter a field, but it actually helps me be pretty good at my job. Busyness and motherhood have certainly dampened my memory, but I'm gonna keep at it anyway.

Why did you get into this field we all muddle through? I'm sure there's a good reason that you sometimes forget about. Try to remember and see if it makes your day a little smoother.

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National Archives Month in Florida

By Lisa Mobley, Diocese of St. Petersburg

Tomaro Taylor, C.A., President of the Society of Florida Archivists announced “It is with great excitement that I share the following news: Florida Governor Rick Scott recently signed a proclamation [see below] designating October as Florida Archives Month!...Please take a few moments to read the document and share it with your colleagues and clients. By spreading the word, you’ll help everyone understand what we already know—the expansiveness and importance of both archives and archivists in the State of Florida.”



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA ARCHIVES MONTH

WHEREAS, every year in October, Florida celebrates Florida Archives Month; and

WHEREAS, Florida Archives Month provides an opportunity to learn more about the archival repositories throughout the state that collect and make available to the public materials covering Florida's 500-year history; and

WHEREAS, archives in the State of Florida are established by state and local governments, colleges and universities, religious institutions, libraries, historical societies, museums, private corporations, and families as a means of preserving history; and

WHEREAS, Florida Archives Month is also an occasion where Florida's residents and visitors can learn more about and honor the archivists that diligently preserve and protect the history of our state; and

WHEREAS, archivists acquire, manage, preserve, and help patrons identify and use historically significant collections of unique materials, such as government records, manuscripts, photographs, films, and sound recordings, in physical and digital formats; and

WHEREAS, archivists assist people studying their community's rich history, learning from the efforts and actions of their predecessors, tracing their ancestors and confirming property rights; and

WHEREAS, archives generate interest in local communities and the state, family history, genealogy, the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, immigration, western settlement and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, cultural heritage tourism is a catalyst for increased visitation to and within our state, rising year-upon-year over the past two decades, and with Florida's diverse history, archives throughout the state provide visitors with a glimpse into the past,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing October 2013 as *Florida Archives Month*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 6th day of September in the year two thousand thirteen.


Governor

Bishop Denis Mary Bradley, Founder of Diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire

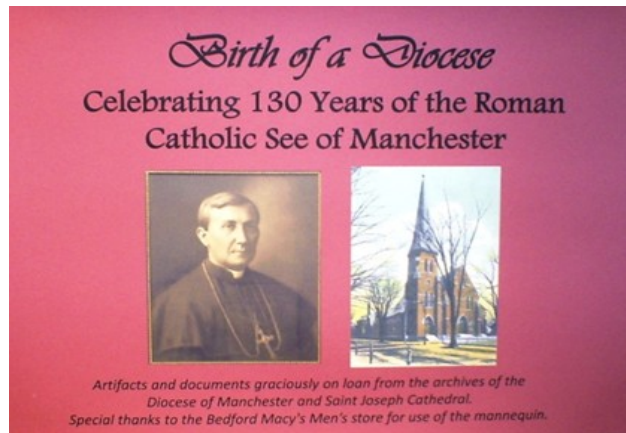
By Barbara Miles, Diocese of Manchester

Ledges gave up their granite, the Great White Mountain forest made offerings of Maple, Birch, and Aspen to build altars in the emerging cities of God. Rt. Rev. Denis Mary Bradley, first Bishop of Diocese of Manchester and thirty-seven priests (most of whom lived in boarding houses and public inns) enlisted the aid of French, Irish, Canadian, and native-born men and women who penetrated the vast mountainous wilderness, boulder ridden rivers, and expansive stretches of fresh water between lake shores to consecrate refuges and harbors of faith.

Working-class Catholics who had forgotten how to be Catholic, scraped their shallow savings, labored again after toiling in the mills, donated and sold land so that the mountains, woods, and lakes could yield sanctuaries for the Blessed Sacra-

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
Psalm 46:4

ment. Visitors from adjoining states who kept summer vacation homes in the resort and lakes region graced the emerging church with their generosity. Together, resources of



immigrant, indigenous, and the privileged enabled the faithful to renew their sacramental traditions.

When elected in 1884, Bradley was America's youngest bishop. After 19 years of educating priests, introducing communities of women religious, co-founding a Catholic college, and building schools to prepare youth for enriched lives, his life ended in exhaustion at the age of 57. This compassionate, compelling shepherd never forgot the presence of God, and gladdened the natural beauty of New Hampshire by his presence.

Hurricane Sandy Update in Diocese of Brooklyn

By Joseph Coen, Diocese of Brooklyn

Records damaged by the waters of Hurricane Sandy were recently returned to the Principal at St. Francis de Sales School, Belle Harbor, on the Rockaway Peninsula. The records had been freeze dried, cleaned, treated with low dose gamma radiation to prevent mold re-growth by the Rapid Refile division of Polygon. We are still awaiting the return of records to St. Vigilius Church in nearby Broad Channel.



St. Francis de Sales School, Belle Harbor

Senior Priest Oral History Project in Brooklyn Diocese

By Joseph Coen, Diocese of Brooklyn

The Diocese of Brooklyn interviewed 36 senior priests between 2007 and 2009 with funding from the Diocese's Alive In Hope Foundation. Although the project had planned to do transcripts for the interviews and index them, further work was placed on hold due to the effects of the financial crisis. Thanks to a recent partnership between St. John's University, Jamaica, NY, and the Diocesan Archives, we made progress on the project once again.

During the Spring 2013 Semester, students from an oral history class taught by Kristin Szylvian transcribed interviews they selected using protocols established by the Diocesan Archives. Fourteen interviews were transcribed with thirteen priests. The discrepancy is because two parts of one interview were transcribed by different students. Five of the

priests have died since they were interviewed. Copies of their interview transcripts will be shared with their families. Feedback from the students indicated that some had playback problems with the interview DVDs. The Archives will need to follow up on this to correct the problem on the existing DVDs and to create procedures to ensure better quality control in future oral history projects.

The interviews prompted class discussion on the value of video versus audio interviews and the life of the parish priest. Regarding the former, the students found video tapes more difficult to transcribe than audio tapes. Many also felt that the videos would be more powerful if they captured some action—the priest pointing out changes to the church or the neighborhood, for example.



Fr. John Byrnes is interviewed for the Senior Priest Oral History Project.

Even the Catholic students gained insight into the life of a parish priest. The students were impressed with the length of the priests' education and service to the church. To them, retirement does not mean continuing to work or conduct one's duties. The students were also taken with the concept of obedience and did not realize the extent to which a priest had to surrender his own interests and needs for the good of the church.

In other news, the Diocesan Archives was able to make one of the few interviews that were previously transcribed available to NET, the Diocesan television station. Portions of an interview with the late Msgr. James King were requested by NET for its Martin Luther King Day coverage and for a production on the history of Vatican II.



Msgr. Cooney participating in the Senior Priest Oral History Project.

Shrine of Bishop Baraga, First Bishop of the Upper Peninsula: "The Snowshoe Priest"

By Fr. Joe Blasko, Diocese of Gaylord

On a stretch of US 41, between L'Anse and Baraga, is a giant copper figure standing astride a silvery cloud rising some 60 feet above the bluff overlooking Keweenaw Bay. This heroic statue pays tribute to one of the earliest and most beloved pioneers of the Keweenaw, Frederic Baraga, the Snowshoe Priest who became the first Bishop of the Upper Peninsula and the Apostle of the Great Lakes.

Frederick Baraga left his home in Slovenia in 1830 for the Catholic missions of the Upper Great Lakes. Father Baraga's intention was to minister to the native peoples of the region. In the process he founded five missions along the south shore of Lake Superior and created a legend.

The last of his missions was sited in the village of L'Anse, which had been the site of an earlier Jesuit mission founded in the late 1600s. He remained in L'Anse from 1843 and was consecrated as the first Bishop of the Upper Peninsula in 1853.

Much has been written about this priest who left an upper-class European existence for the hardships of the northwoods. Stories of his endurance in overland treks to reach members of his flock are at times difficult to credit, yet the records attest to both his strength of will and physical stamina.

His title as the "Snowshoe Priest" came from the necessity of long treks overland in the winter months to serve his far flung churches that served both the native population and the small communities of copper miners on the Keweenaw Peninsula. Even after he became a Bishop, Baraga continued his circuit, covering distances of more than 60 miles. Bishop Baraga was known to travel over 700 miles in winter.



Shrine of Bishop Baraga

Father Baraga had these comments about his work among the L'Anse Chippewa: "I have few comforts here, often times barely the necessities of life. But what consolation, what grand reward, what unspeakable joy will it be for me on the day of judgment, some or hopefully all of these my good children may surround me and give me testimony before our final judge."

Baraga learned to speak the native languages fluently and developed their written language. His Chippewa grammar and dictionary are still used today. In 1832, his first Indian Prayer Book was printed in Detroit.

In 1853 he was elevated to Bishop, becoming the first Bishop in Upper Michigan. He continued his long treks to visit churches in his jurisdiction.

The Shrine

The Bishop Baraga Shrine, erected in the 1960s, was designed and constructed by the late Jack Anderson with the help of Art Chaput. Anderson was commissioned by the Bishop Baraga Foundation to memorialize this dedicated man of God through funds raised by local subscription.

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ACDA Business Meeting, August 14, 2013

Old Ursuline Convent, New Orleans, Louisiana

By Lisa Mobley, Diocese of St. Petersburg

Note: These are draft minutes, to be approved at next year's board meeting.

Dcn. Bill Bissenden (Diocese of Bridgeport), President, opened the Business Meeting on August 14, 2013 at 2:45 pm at the Old Ursuline Convent, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Minutes

Minutes of the July 19, 2012 Business Meeting have been published in the ACDA Newsletter, Volume 28, No. 1.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President's report

Dcn. Bill Bissenden thanked Lee Leumas for the hospitality shown to all.

Treasurer's Report

Brian Fahey reported that the end of year budget forecast is \$7,565, but we should come out at a break-even point. Last year we were approximately \$7,387.00 ahead. The balance is doing fine.

Membership is at 163 with current dues and 212 active members. Membership normally averages 181 members with current dues. Membership is a little lower than projected, but with the publication of the new ACDA standards manual the income from sales is making up for the lack of membership income.

The reconciled balance as of April 30, 2013 is \$68,485.97. The un-reconciled balance as of August, 2013 is \$69,856.47. The most expensive conference was \$43K in 2006. Adjusted for inflation that is \$49,000 today. Meaning \$49,000 should be our reserve/capital assuming .03% annual inflation. Therefore, that leaves us with roughly \$20,000.00 surplus. We still owe \$5,000.00 balance to Mundelein for 2014, but this budget does not reflect all Mundelein expenses or the Exec. Bd. Dinner.

Brian convened with Peggy Lavelle and Olivia Dart to look over the proposed budget. Lee reviewed it as well. All agreed it looked fine. It presented actuals for 2013 and 2012. Money projections for the sale of the book were not factored in, but that projection is approximately \$11,787.00 income for next year.

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Dcn. Bill Bissenden motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, 2nd by Ken, approved.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee

Lee gave thanks to Ken White and Jac Treanor for putting together a dynamic slate of candidates. Lee, Ken, and Jac have served on past nominating committees. It was a close race. We had over 81 voting members, which was over 50% of our membership. The highest ever voting results. We received direct results using Survey Monkey, which only cost \$20.00 to use. Emails were sent twice with reminders to vote. Moving forward we will use Survey Monkey as it works well. There is no need to send paper ballots anymore.

Education Committee

Ken White acknowledged his gratitude to Lisa May, Lee Leumas and Ann Boltin. Twenty eight (28) people registered for the ACDA all day meeting at the Old Ursuline Convent. Twenty one (21) dioceses were represented. The museum was closed entirely to host the meeting that started at 10:00am and ended with Mass at 5:00 pm at St. Louis Cathedral.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Best Practices Manual

Lee reported the manual has been published and two copies sent out to each Diocese, with a letter from Most Rev. Thomas J. Paproki introducing the manual.

Distribution

Peggy Lavelle reported that 600 copies were sent gratis. Bishops, Chancellors, and members who paid their dues received a free copy. ACDA received \$500.00 for the sale of 25 copies that were physically given to the Archivist of Sydney, Australia whose shipping and handling fees were waived. The Diocese of Lafayette is the second entity who has purchased the most manuals. The Canadian Diocese purchased six copies.

Brian Fahey projected a cost of \$20,000 for the project. To date only \$15,000 has been spent resulting in the ACDA being under budget.

Discussion ensued about the possibility of having the manual out as an E-book in approximately two years. Jac Treanor suggested it would be advantageous if the manual was translated into Spanish so it could be promoted at the International meeting in Spain in 2014. The Executive Board will discuss a Spanish E-book option at their next meeting.

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OLD BUSINESS

Listserv Update

Lisa May is still approving all members and posted content.

Newsletter Editor

Brian Fahey stated that of three people who responded, Kate Feighery, Archival Manager of the Archives of the Archdiocese of New York will be the new editor. October, 2013 will be her first issue.

Web Team Editor

Peggy Lavelle stated that Word Press was the new web site content management tool hosted in New Orleans, but can be maintained from anywhere.

ACDA Banking

Peggy Lavelle and Brian Fahey discussed changing the bank account to a national bank. The current bank is located in Chicago. We have a debit card, but do not have web access. Brian's name needs to be corrected on the account as it currently reads; "Brain." Jac Treanor will need to accompany Brian to the bank to make all necessary corrections. Jac believes he might need up-dated forms from the bank to make the corrections as well as the USCCB Tax ID#. He will contact the bank and inquire.

2014 ACDA Biennial Meeting

The location of the ACDA Biennial Meeting will be at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL. It was decided we not partner with the 2014 DISC Conference being held in San Jose, because it is too far away. The President of DISC spoke at Mundelein in 2012.

We will have specific dates after the planning meeting in September, but for now the meeting will be the week of July 21st, 2014 at Mundelein.

Coordinators have yet to be named.

NEW BUSINESS

Funding of ACDA Grants

The idea of creating a new ACDA award in honor of Audrey Newcomer arose. Audrey continually promoted the value of continuing education and the importance of working toward becoming Certified Records Managers. At present, the ACDA has two James O'Toole Scholarships that may be awarded. Only members who are first time participants are eligible to apply, but for those who have continued on with the ACDA it was suggested the ACDA create an award, similar to the A. Otis Hebert, Jr. Continuing Education Award.

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The value of the new scholarship could possibly be in the \$500.00 range, which conceivably could pay for a Pre-Conference expense at the SAA. Dcn. Bill Bissenden and Jac Treanor agree honoring Audrey's memory is a good idea and the ACDA should pursue this possibility.

Jac Treanor had heard the same statement as Peggy Lavelle about running the risk of becoming a for profit entity if there were too many Grants, but assured all this was not true. The ACDA's original goal was to have enough money in an account in case of a drastic failure or disaster that occurred prohibiting members from attending a conference. There were enough funds in the account to create the Best Practices Manual, so whatever excess funds are in the account should be frequently monitored to determine how to spend it to promote the ACDA.

Why is it we accept the fact that Chief Financial Officers and Canon Lawyers attend conferences and we are not? The ACDA should think of ways to promote continuing education. The criteria to qualify for the possible award and language need to be tight with requirements determined to meet the request for funds. Scholarships can assist members in meeting their financial needs, such as the case with Lee Leumas who was able to travel abroad for an International meeting.

Dcn. Bill Bissenden proposed creating a Continuing Education Award in Audreys' name and appointing committee members having one or two standing committee members. Lee Leumas and Ann Boltin volunteered. Peggy Lavelle moved to accept the proposal. 2nd by Ken White. Accepted.

Announcements

On August 14, 2013 the SAA posthumously presented the Sister M. Claude Lane, O.P., Memorial Award to Audrey Newcomer's husband Gary. Lee asked all to attend to give Audrey's husband Gary our love and support.

The ARC (Archivists for Religious Collections) program at the SAA Conference section meetings did not have anyone from any dioceses' on their attendee list, which Lee believed was a good thing. Their topic titled: "The Elephant in Archives: Scandalous Records in Religious Archives" slated for discussion was abominable and inappropriate and did not have the right people at the table to discuss the issues. ACDA members were asked to attend the ARC program at the SAA Conference when those discussions began.

There will be a full day conference October 9, 2013 at the Catholic University, Caldwell Auditorium titled: *Catholic Archives in the Digital Age: A Conference for Reporters, Archivists, and Scholars*. Tricia Pyne is on the morning panel. Lee Leumas and Jac Treanor are on the afternoon Round Table panel. Dcn. Bill Bissenden will send a notice to all members.

ACTION ITEMS

Dcn. Bill Bissenden officially installed Peggy Lavelle as ACDA President and handed her a gift. She joyfully opened the gift which turned out to be a gavel with her name and new position etched onto it, then humorously stated she could now rule with a wooden hammer. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

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Rising six stories above the Red Rocks Bluff, the Shrine commands a breathtaking panoramic view of virgin hardwoods, scenic coastline, and the oldest mountains, geologically, in the world. Flanking the southern side of the Bluff is the Lac Vieux Desert Trail, a gateway to the Mississippi Valley for Native Americans in the early 1830s.

Holding a cross (7 feet high) and snowshoes (26 feet long) the statue of Bishop Baraga is 35 feet tall and weighs four tons. It floats on a cloud of stainless steel supported by five laminated wood beams representing Baraga's five major missions.

The Shrine is a lovely spot to rest and get out of your car to stretch your legs. There is a well kept picnic area, gift, and snack shop on the site where you will find several fine books about Baraga and the early days of these Keweenaw Bay communities. You may also find yourself reflecting on the challenging conditions confronting this priest in his efforts to bring the Grace of God to the indigenous peoples of a wild and unforgiving land.

His triumph over adversity is still evident today

in a county, a village, and a L'Anse street all named after Baraga, in the continuation of the Holy Name Church in Assinins, and in the Shrine of the Snowshoe Priest.

Baraga Shrine Store & Missionary Center

The Shrine Gift and Coffee Shop was purchased in 2007 by the Missionaries of the Liturgy, a non-profit organization. The building is now the Baraga Shrine Holy Store and Missionary Center featuring a wide assortment of books, gifts, refreshments, ice cream, and public restrooms. All are welcome!

The Baraga Shrine is always open as well as the Stations of the Cross prayer path and the little chapel nestled behind the Gift Shop.

Baraga Shrine Holy Store and Snack Shop

Open: May 15th — October 15th.
Hours: Monday — Saturday; 11 am to 5 pm

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**Looking for the next installment of Jon-Erik Gilot's series on
Legacy Audio Visual Formats?**

**Part 3 will appear in the next newsletter, which should arrive
in your inboxes in February 2014.**

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Education Officer

Vacant

News from ACDA Members

- Maria Medina, Archivist for the Archdiocese of Hartford, CT, married Rafael Paxi on May 25, 2013 at St. Francis of Assisi Church, South Windsor. Fr. John P. Melnick, pastor of St. Bernard Church, Enfield, and former Assistant Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Hartford, served as officiant.
- Rebecca Altermatt is the new Director of Archives for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Ms. Altermatt relocated to St. Louis from New York City where she worked as an archivist for 12 years for organizations including Tamiment Library at New York University, the American Museum of Natural History, and the Winthrop Group. She also held adjunct professorships, teaching archives and records management, at St. John's University and Columbia University, both located in New York. Ms. Altermatt received her MLIS at the University of Texas at Austin.
- Rena Schergen joins the Archdiocese of St. Louis as the Archivist. She graduated with her MSLIS at the University of Illinois in May, and recently moved to St. Louis from her hometown of Chicago. Join us in welcoming her to ACDA.
- As of Aug. 7th, Sr. Patricia Radekin became the new Diocesan Archivist for the Lincoln Diocese, taking over Sr. Kathryn Maney's job. She has been reassigned to be Bishop James Conley's secretary. Sr. Patricia can be reached at: sr.patricia-radek@lincolndiocese.org

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