Greetings from your new President! As of the ACDA seminar in Portland, OR this summer, I have taken the reigns of this fantastic organization. For those of you that may not know me, I started my professional career under the tutelage of Jac Treenor at the Archdiocese of Chicago some sixteen years ago, and worked in a variety of different archival institutions (my wife was an officer in the navy, so we moved quite a bit!). In 2014 I returned to my first love: diocesan archives. I’ve been the Director of Archives and Records for the Archdiocese of Saint Louis since May of that year, and I’ve loved every minute of it. And now, I look forward to serving you for the next two years.

But first, I’d like to thank Ann Boltin for her service to ACDA. Ann served an extended term as both Vice-President and then President of the organization. During her time, despite some unexpected turnover in leadership, ACDA’s membership grew each year, and the 2016 biennial conference posted some of the best attendance numbers in years. I can only hope to keep ACDA on the course she set. Thank you, Ann!

Our seminar in conjunction with the SAA was a terrific opportunity to gather with colleagues and share ideas and information. Of course the weather and the scenery were beautiful, and Joseph Schiwek, archivist at the Archdiocese of Portland, served admirably as host. Ann Boltin offered insights into managing sacramental records, Kate Feighery facilitated a much needed discussion on managing and working with online genealogy vendors for digitization projects, and Lee Leumas engaged a thoughtful conversation on documenting slavery through sacramental records. I feel the ACDA seminars in conjunction with SAA fill a valuable role in our professional development: the SAA conference provides us an opportunity to learn about broad trends in the professional archival community, while the ACDA seminar gives us the opportunity to have a more intimate discussion about those issues that directly impact our role as diocesan archivists. That was certainly the case this year. Thank you to our host and to all our presenters.
Digitization Project Preserving A Century of Catholic News
By Katherine Nuss, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- A consortium of librarians and archivists are preserving the Catholic news from the last century.

Outdated technologies such as microfilm and microfiche keep those newspapers from being readily accessible unless you live near a big downtown library or a university that still has the machines needed to read that data.

Many Catholic newspapers, unlike their secular daily brethren, were not kept, maintained, and preserved with the same level of passion, save for some diocesan archives.

To correct this situation, the Catholic Research Resources Alliance has undertaken a project to digitize nearly a dozen of the United States' Catholic newspapers of regional and national importance—the print runs of which, for some of them, go back for more than a century.

“We mark the beginning (of the project) in 2011, when we brought together a newspaper committee: ‘If we're going to digitize something, what would be most useful?’ Newspapers rose right to the top. Which newspapers? We had to figure out which newspapers existed, which ones were being held (by libraries), which ones weren't being held,” said Jennifer Younger, executive director of the alliance, known as CRRA.

“We mark the beginning (of the project) in 2011, when we brought together a newspaper committee: ‘If we're going to digitize something, what would be most useful?’ Newspapers rose right to the top. Which newspapers? We had to figure out which newspapers existed, which ones were being held (by libraries), which ones weren't being held,” said Jennifer Younger, executive director of the alliance, known as CRRA.

The committee came up with a list of more than 800 Catholic publications from the United States alone, and another 200-plus in Canada.

Eleven newspapers the digitization project has begun with represent some of the largest dioceses in the nation. For a national perspective, the National Catholic Reporter and 65 years’ worth of newsfeeds starting in 1920 from what is now called Catholic News Service will be digitized. CNS’ predecessor was NCWC, for National Catholic Welfare Council. In addition, an
Digitization Project Preserving A Century of Catholic News (continued)

NCWC/CNS feature called “Catholic World in Pictures” will be digitized too.

The digitized material will be made freely available through the CRRA-developed Catholic News Archive, http://thecatholicnewsarchive.org.

Digitization is the new normal, according to Tim Meagher, an associate professor of history at The Catholic University of America, Washington, and an archivist who runs the Center for American Catholic History.

“Everything is, as much as possible, going into digital format,” Meagher said. “In some ways, even if the paper exists in print, its use will be less if it is not digitized.”

Some of the largest U.S. dailies, including the New York Times, Washington Post, and Chicago Tribune, have been digitized, he said. “It’s a tremendous asset,” Meagher added. “Suddenly you're on the radar screen, easy to access, easy to get to.”

Of Catholic papers, he said, “We would love to be able to digitize every one. We may not be able to digitize all of them, we may not be able to digitize all years. But to begin is an important thing.”

“We have set very high standards. When we do our digitization, we never have to do it again,” said Patricia Lawton, CRRA's director of digital initiatives. “We're getting the best imaging we possibly can. Microfilm or print, you want a good image. That is the basis of everything that you're going to do,” allowing the user to employ more robust search capabilities. “We based all our research on the Library of Congress (standards) and even upped the standards a bit,” Lawton noted.

Archivists also are working with those libraries and diocesan archives holding newspaper collections to preserve them, and to provide multiple backups for the digital information being created.

A grant from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Catholic Communication Campaign has allowed CRRA to digitize the NCWC/CNS archives from 1920 to 1957. A GoFundMe project was established to raise money to digitize the NCWC/CNS “Catholic World in Pictures” print run: www.gofundme.com/hb-catholic-world-in-pictures. This was an experiment to see if monies could be raised for specific projects between grant requests.

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For more information contact USCCB/CNS Archivist Katherine Nuss at knuss@usccb.org or to partner with CRRA or get specifics on digitization contact Jennifer Younger jyounger@nd.edu or Pat Lawton plawton@nd.edu.
**Update from San Antonio**  
*by Brother Ed Loch, SM, Diocese of San Antonio*

As I mentioned in the last issued of the ACDA Bulletin, San Antonio was about to begin work on the renovation of the archives and the installation of an electronic document and records management system. Jac Treanor made several preliminary trips here to survey the situation and to begin the introduction of the system. Some of the first collections Jac assessed to be digitized were the blueprint collection and the Catholic newspapers. The blueprint collections description is to be transferred from the current paper inventories into an excel spreadsheet and then have the blueprints digitized by a vendor. The final database will combine the description of each project with an addition of the digitized drawing. The drawings were removed from the racks and placed into barrels for storage before they are to be digitized.

The Catholic newspaper collection to be digitized covers 125 years of the local newspaper under various titles. We are getting ready for the move into our new space by getting all of the existing archive document collection, which was mainly in expando folders, to be re-boxed and labeled. A new vault is being prepared from space evacuated by the second instance court. Because of the floor strength the mobile shelves will only be five shelves high. There will be about 1,700 cubic feet of space. The room will be temperature controlled and in case of fire have a gas suppression system. Once the new vault is completed then all of the material will be moved there and the present archives space will be turned into a reception area with offices for the archivist and the director. The former vault will become the reference research room and the connecting space between will be the processing area. The new Director of Archives and Records management is Mrs. Elvira Sanchez Kisser. The office consists of Bro. Edward Loch S.M., archivist; Jaclyn Georges, processing archivist; Joan Jarosek, library assistant; and Laura Ramirez, Baptismal records assistant.

**News from ACDA Members!**

- Barbara Miles is leaving Manchester, New Hampshire for sunny Florida. Her position as Archivist for the Diocese of Manchester will be available by the end of November. For more information, please contact Diane Quinlan at dquinlan@rcbm.org.

- Angelique M. Richardson, CA, was recently promoted to Director of Archives and Records for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta, effective August 1st. Ms. Richardson has been the Archivist for the Archdiocese since May 2012.
Ann Boltin, President, called the Business Meeting to order on July 26, 2017 at 12:00pm.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

President’s report (Ann Boltin) – Ann reported that it has been her pleasure to serve ACDA as president over the past few years, and is happy to turn the job over to Eric.

Treasurer’s Report (Eric Fair) – Eric reported that the board had approved the FY2018 budget. 2017 has so far been going according to the budget. There were a few less members than predicted, but more manual sales made up the difference. ACDA currently has 162 paid members, and he estimates 168 members for 2018. The FY2018 budget was created based on the FY2016 budget, since 2018 is a conference year, with a predicted 2% increase in costs from 2016. He also included a budget for a special event (i.e. trip to Milwaukee or Chicago), if the education committee decides to include that in the conference schedule.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Program Committee (Lee Leumas and Ann Boltin for Jac Treanor) – There were 21 people in attendance at the Portland ACDA meeting, which is about 25% of attendance at the Mundelein conference. The program committee based the day on feedback from members on what they wanted to hear about. Going forward, Eric will be looking for volunteers for the education committee, as Lee is rotating off.

Ann discussed Jac Treanor’s report. Jac served as an outside consultant for the 2016 Mundelein conference. Many of the suggestions that Jac made for ACDA going forward were in line with what conference attendees wrote in their evaluations. Most who attended liked the program, but did not like the vendor presentations. He also suggested potentially moving the venue for the 2020 conference. If this is something you would be interested in, Ann suggests speaking with either Eric Fair or Katy Pereira.

Finance Committee (Eric Fair) – The finance committee met and the budget was approved.

Nominating Committee (Ann Boltin) – Joe thanked Meg Hall and Lisa Mobley, who served with him on the committee. ACDA again used Survey Monkey for nominations and voting. Joe thanked everyone who ran, and congratulated the new board members.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Newsletter Report (Kate Feighery) – Kate confirmed that, starting with the October issue, the newsletter will be going down to two issues per year instead of three. The Board had also decided that, in response to a letter in the June newsletter from Ancestry.com, that going forward, any submissions from outside companies like this should be subject to the approval of a newsletter editorial board.
Continuing Education Award (Lee Leumas) – There were no applicants for the 2017 grant. It will not be available again until 2019. The application process is relatively easy, and people can only win the award once.

Social Media and Website (Angelique Richardson) – Angelique reported that the redesigned website it doing well. She is also working on improving ACDA’s social media presence, and encouraged people to like the Facebook page and posts. The Board members are all going to have access to the Facebook page to post content, but if any member has something that they would like to see on the page, just email it to Angelique.

OLD BUSINESS

ACDA Banking Options (Eric Fair and Angelique Richardson) – Because Wells Fargo doesn’t have branches everywhere (particularly in St. Louis), Angelique explored online banking options. Capital One Spark Business seems to offer the best options for business online banking. It has similar perks to Wells Fargo, but doesn’t need a physical bank branch. Going forward, switching to Capital One will help with online membership applications and payments. Some questions raised: If Meg (Chicago) gets physical checks for the manual, can she deposit them without mailing them to the treasure? Answer: Yes. The Board approved the motion to move to Capital One, so Angelique and Eric were going to visit a Wells Fargo branch to move accounts.

ACDA Archives (Ann Boltin for Barbara Miles) – Barb Miles went to the Archdiocese of Boston Archives to look into what was in the ACDA collection there. She put together a processing plan with folder-level description. There are 12 cubic feet of records. The records go back to 1979, nothing new has been added to the collection since 2001, but the Archdiocese of Chicago might have some material to add.

There is no donor agreement with the Archdiocese of Boston. Looking forward to the 40th Anniversary of ACDA in 2019, it was decided to form a committee to look into potentially digitizing all of the material that is in Boston and collecting material from the last 16 years from the past presidents, vice-presidents, education chairs, etc.

NEW BUSINESS

ACDA 2018 (Ann Boltin) – The ACDA Conference in Mundelein has been booked for July 16 – 20, 2018. We have not yet put down a deposit. The program is still to be determined.

ARCS Meeting (Ann Boltin) – The ARCS Meeting at SAA is Friday, July 28, at 11:15. There is not a reception this year.

ICA Updates (Lee Leumas) – The section is doing well; ACDA paid its dues as an organizational member. ICA is pushing the International Day of Archives on June 9th. You can submit a photo and blurb about your archive if you want to be included. The two languages of ICA are French and English, but they are adding Spanish. In light of that, there is a possibility of applying for a grant from ICA to translate the ACDA manual into Spanish. The next meeting is in November in Mexico City, Lee will be attending.

Catholic Archivists Meeting (Lee Leumas) – ACWR (Archivists for Congregations of Women Reli-
gious) has a working relationship with many diocesan archives as well as ACDA. Lee presented at a Catholic University conference in March on the future of religious archives, where she found that Boston College is hosting a 3-day conference on religious archives in July 2018. Malachy McCarthy is involved in the planning, so Lee sent him a note asking why ACDA wasn’t involved, especially as the initial date conflicted with Mundelein. The BC conference ended up being moved to earlier in July. The Board is suggesting that ACDA submit a proposal for 3-4 members to present about what ACDA does and how we can help religious communities. ACDA would also underwrite the travel costs for 2-3 members. Lee and Marian Barber are both on the planning board for the conference.

**Ancestry.com (Kate Feighery)** – Kate was approached by Ancestry.com (via phone call), who had heard that she will be presenting at the ACDA meeting on July 26. He wanted to provide her with a PowerPoint presentation to use to highlight what Ancestry was willing to offer to dioceses in regard to sacramental record digitization. He also requested that she not make any recommendations to the group about working with Find My Past (which the Archdiocese of New York is working with on the sacramental record digitization). He felt it was unfair for Ancestry to not be able to present their proposal. The presentation Kate is doing is more about the process of how the work of the project is being done, not about the company we are working with or why we picked that particular company.

**New Board Members (Ann Boltin)** – Ann officially installed the new board members. Katy Pereira is vice-president/president elect (presidential term begins in 2019); Angelique Richardson is treasurer; Kate Feighery is secretary; Katie Oubre and Janice Cantrell are the new board members.

Lee then thanked Ann for her superb work during her lengthy term as president and moved to adjourn the meeting. Eric seconded.

**Meeting adjourned.**

**From the President (continued)**

Finally, with 2018 rapidly approaching, planning has commenced for the ACDA biennial conference this July. Jon-Erik Gilot has agreed to serve as Education Committee chair, a position for which his professional experience and knowledge base makes him well suited. We also reached out to Amy Nelson of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Angelique Richardson of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, and Katie Oubre of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois to assist us. Together we will gather here in St. Louis to develop a program to challenge us to continue to explore the issues and currents unique to our position as guardians of the heritage of the Church. Stay tuned!
# OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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