Archives of the Council Fathers Project

By Tricia Pyne, Associated Archives at St. Mary’s Seminary & University Baltimore, MD

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of Vatican II, the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences together with the Center for the Study of and Research on the Second Vatican Council of the Pontifical Lateran University are co-sponsoring a project to promote scholarly research with the archives of the Council Fathers entitled “The Second Vatican Council from the Perspective of the Archives of the Council Fathers.” Collecting information on where these archives are located will be a principle focus of the project.

As the coordinator for North America, I will be contacting you in the fall to invite you to fill out the census prepared by the project. If you have the papers of a bishop who attended the Council in your holdings, you will be asked to provide a brief description of them. Responses will be forwarded to Rome where they will be entered into a database that will contain the information collected from dioceses around the world. This database will then be made available to scholars through the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences’ website.

A presentation on the data collected for the project will be made at an international conference planned for October 2012, where sessions will be dedicated to promoting research that make specific use of the Archives of the Council Fathers.

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Welcome Letter
By Deacon William J. Bissenden, Diocese of Bridgeport

As I begin this assignment as president of ACDA, I want to extend to all members and, especially to new members, a hardy welcome. At the risk of repeating what has been said many times, the primary mission of ACDA is to keep our membership aware of the developments in the art and science associated with the archival profession.

Managing and storing information is so important in a “records” world that is beset with rapid changes in communication methods and new technologies. And, it is especially true for many like me who have spent our lives in other professional pursuits before, and suddenly, finding ourselves charged with the responsibility of managing a religious archive, be it small or large.

As President, I do not envision a change in our primary mission or our method of completing that mission. The founders of this organization put in place a sound operating system. However, we must continue to focus on increasing our active membership. One effort that is currently well underway is the development of an updated Archives Management Guide that will be distributed to Bishops, Chancellors, and Archivists.

Of course, there is our bi-annual conference to be held in 2012 at Mundelein, IL. The Education Committee has been formed and will be meeting this year to draft plans for this event. I hope you plan well in advance by getting this important date on your calendar.

I look forward to our next two years together as we strive to keep our professional credentials current, build our individual Diocesan and religious community collections, and strengthen our professional organization.

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Best Practices Manual: Lee Leumas, Audrey Newcomer, Jac Treanor

By-Law changes: Msgr. George Michalek
Catholic Diocese of Dallas: History Teacher Workshop
By Steve Landregan, Diocese of Dallas

Sixty history teachers from parochial schools participated in a workshop October 4 on Texas History co-sponsored by the Diocese of Dallas Archives and the Diocese of Dallas Catholic Schools Office. Three historians, the president and two former presidents of the Texas Catholic Historical Society gave presentations on Texas history under the Spanish, the Mission period and the time of independence and early statehood.

Diocesan Archivist Steve Landregan introduced to the teachers the second edition of Catholic Texans: Our Family Album, a supplementary textbook authored by Landregan and produced by the Diocese of Dallas.

Parochial schools in Texas are required to teach Texas history in the fourth and seventh grades. The purpose of the book and the workshop was to emphasize the contribution of Catholics and the Church to the history of Texas from the time of the first Europeans until the present.

Plans are to present similar workshops every other year.
August Business Meeting

Minutes

By Michele Levandoski, Diocese of Springfield, Illinois

Lee Leumas (Archdiocese of New Orleans), President, called the Business Meeting to order on August 24, 2011 at 2 p.m. at the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Archives and Records Center, Chicago, Illinois.

Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting were published in the ACDA newsletter. Katie Pereira moved to approve the minutes and Peggy Lavelle seconded and the minutes were approved.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

President’s report

Lee Leumas, President, welcomed the incoming board and thanked outgoing members of the executive board and committee chairs. She said that the goal of her presidency was to update the best practices manual, which is in the final review stages. The executive board approved a recommendation that ACDA join the International Council on Archives. Finally, she said that ACDA should continue to partner with other organizations by conducting sessions or serving as speakers at their conferences.

Treasurer’s report

Brian Fahey, Treasurer, reported that as of August 22, 2011, ACDA was $1,685 in the black, despite having budgeted a negative amount (-956.50) for the year. The reconciled balance as of June 20, 2011 is $69,520.17. The unreconciled balance as of August 22, 2011 is $68,480.15. The budget currently forecasts a net gain of $436.50 in 2012.

Brian explained that there are two upcoming expenditures in the 2012 budget: the 2012 Mundelein meeting and the ACDA best practices manual. Brian will make the budget available to anyone who would like to see it and will publish it in the next ACDA newsletter. Jac Treanor moved to accept the report and Dcn. Bill Bissenden seconded and the report was approved.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nominating Committee

Audrey Newcomer thanked Ken White and Jac Treanor for serving on the committee. She reported that the election went smoothly. The call for nominations went out in the newsletter and on the website and the nominations went out via email and votes were returned by paper, per the association’s by-laws.

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archives Dedicated

friend, Cardinal Kung, was named archivist in 1975. He left a considerable body of work, most notably Episcopal genealogies of the early Church in Connecticut, written in his clear and distinctive handwritten script. His work is now being transcribed into computer records.
Bishop Lori displays the dedication plaque, while (lr) Joseph Kung of Stamford, nephew of the late Cardinal Kung; Deacon Bill Bissenden, diocesan archivist; Bishop Lori; Nancy Matthews, chancellor; and Brenda Zamary of Sandy Hook, niece of Msgr. Horgan-Kung, look on. The dedication remembers Msgr. Horgan-Kung as “Priest, Pastor, Missionary, Archivist, Historian.”

August Business Meeting

and three non-ACDA members. After the peer review it will go to Bishop Paprocki for canonical review.

The Executive Board decided to send one free copy of the manual to all members and a copy to all (arch)bishops with a letter inviting them to the 2012 Mundelein meeting. The board also discussed publishing the manual as an e-book. The anticipated date for the publication and mailing is April 2012.

OLD BUSINESS:

Listserv/website update

Peggy Lavelle reported that the listserv is having problems giving people access to documents since many are unable to access Yahoo.com at work. Peggy is looking into hosting our own listserv and website and she reported that the Archdiocese of New Orleans might be able host the site for ACDA.

Newsletter editor

Peggy Lavelle reported that she has published six newsletters, but she is giving up her work as editor as she moves into her new role in ACDA. She already had two articles for the upcoming newsletter and encouraged people to submit items.

Partnering with other Diocesan Professional Groups

Lee Leumas reported that the Executive Board discussed partnering with other diocesan professional organizations, such as Diocesan Information Systems Conference (DISC) and the American Catholic Historical Association (ACHA).

By-Law changes

Lee Leumas reported that Msgr. George

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Michalek submitted the proposed changes to the ACDA by-laws. The Executive Board sent the proposed changes back to the committee to finish. The suggested changes will be published in the February newsletter and then voted on at the next Mundelein meeting before they can go into effect.

NEW BUSINESS:

Social Networking

Lee Leumas reported that the Executive Committee discussed creating a Facebook page for ACDA and opened it for discussion. Jac Treanor pointed out that if we create a page, someone will have to maintain it. Peggy Lavelle said that Facebook and other social networking sites are often blocked at work. Lee motioned to table the discussion until the 2012 Mundelein meeting.

Investments

Brian Fahey reported that the organization has some money in reserves (about $15,000-20,000) and he suggested using that money for a conservative investment that would provide a better rate of return than the current savings account. The Executive Board decided to investigate options and bring to the general membership for consideration.

Catholic Research Resource Alliance

Jac Treanor talked about the Catholic Research Resource Alliance and introduced Pat Lawton, the CRRA Digital Projects Librarian. The organization is developing an online list of Catholic repositories and their holdings with a focus on archives that have rare and unique Catholic resources for scholars. Jac suggested inviting them to Mundelein to share their plan for developing the website. For more information visit: www.catholicresearch.net.

ACTION ITEMS:

Committee Appointments

Dcn. Bill Bissenden reported that he is working on the appointments and will announce the new committee members in the near future.

Listserv/Website

Ken White reported that the recommendations regarding the listserv and website have been sent back to the committee to make a decision how both will operate in the future.

By-Law Changes

The committee will make the final changes to the proposed amendments to (Continued on page 8)
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the ACDA by-laws. The suggested changes will be published in the February newsletter and then voted on at the next Mundelein meeting.

Audrey Newcomer finished the meeting by asking those present to acknowledge Lee Leumas’ term as president with a round of applause.

Meeting adjourned.

Archives News

Diocese of Forth Worth Names New Archivist

By North Texas Catholic

Claire Galloway, director of the newly-formed Office of Records Management and Archives, is a certified archivist who received her undergraduate degree in history from Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana, and her master’s degree in public history from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. While in Arkansas she worked as a graduate assistant at the Clinton Presidential Library for two years, and went on to work in Special Collections in the Texas Christian University Archives in Fort Worth. For the past two years she has served as archivist in the University, Labor, and Political Collections within the University of Texas at Arlington Special Collections area of the university library.

"I greatly look forward to working with the diocese to manage its records and archives material," said Galloway, noting her deep interest in the history of the local Catholic Church.

"The diocese has such a rich heritage, and I feel blessed to be a participant in its life."

Benemerenti Award

By Newsletter of the Friends of the Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco

Through the efforts of Archbishop George Niederauer, Pope Benedict XVI has graciously awarded Dr. Jeffrey M. Burns the Benemerenti Award for his long-time service at the Chancery Archives, Archdiocese of San Francisco. Dr. Burns states, “I am very grateful to Pope Benedict and Archbishop Niederauer for this award. I am deeply honored.”

Diocese of Helena Website

By Sister Dolores Brinkel, SCL, Diocese of Helena

View the Helena diocesan website to see the archives partial collection of Bishop Patrick Carroll, second bishop; Bishop Joseph M. Gilmore, fifth bishop; Father Remigius DeRyckere, first diocesan priest; and the stained glass windows of the Cathedral of St. Helena.

The Archivist's Apostolate in the Words of Blessed John Paul II

By Sister Kathryn, M.S., Diocese of Lincoln

In light of the recent beatification of our beloved Pope John Paul II, it seems appropriate to review his understanding of the role of an archivist in the life of the Church. Blessed John Paul II addressed the superiors and staff of the Vatican Archives and the Vatican Apostolic Library on January 15, 1999. In this address he spoke of two important attributes of the Church’s archives and libraries: the relationship between preserved texts and the exercise of the governance and ministry of a See, especially the Magisterium (the teaching office of the Church); and the archives’/libraries’ service to the evangelization of culture.

When speaking of the documents preserved in an archive, Blessed John Paul II emphasized the fact that these texts “contain and transmit the Church’s own memory and therefore the continuity of her apostolic service down the centuries, with its lights and shadows, both of which must be known and made known without fear, but rather, with sincere gratitude to the Lord, Who never ceases to guide His Church in the midst of world events.”

John Paul II called the archivist’s service to the evangelization of culture “a central and vital task for the Church in the contemporary world.” He pointed to Pope Paul VI’s Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii nuntiandi, which states: “The Gospel, and therefore evangelization, are certainly not identical with culture, and they are independent in regard to all cultures. Nevertheless, the kingdom which the Gospel proclaims is lived by men who are profoundly linked to a culture, and the building up of the kingdom cannot avoid borrowing the elements of human culture or cultures. . . . The split between the Gospel and culture is without a doubt the drama of our time, just as it was of other times. Therefore every effort must be made to ensure a full evangelization of culture, or more correctly of cultures. They have to be regenerated by an encounter with the Gospel. But this encounter will not take place if the Gospel is not proclaimed.” John Paul II stated that the items preserved in archives and libraries testify to the Church’s proclamation of Gospel values, which sustain a true understanding of the human person and his relation to the Lord.

Finally, Blessed John Paul II commended the archivists and librarians for their service to the Church and the world in carefully maintaining her treasures and teachings. He termed this service a great and dignified one that is sometimes masked by apparently humble duties. John Paul II called archivists and librarians to “love, respect and defend this great heritage collected over the centuries [and to] jealously safeguard the valuable and inalienable patrimony of the [Church].”

The text of this address can be found online at: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/speeches/1999/january/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_19990115_librarian_en.html
SEND US YOUR NEWS!!

We all want to know about the professional and personal developments of our peers and colleagues. Perhaps your office has undertaken a major project, or received grant funding. Perhaps you’ve retired, received professional recognition, or passed a personal milestone. Submissions do not need to be lengthy or Pulitzer Prize-worthy. And pictures speak volumes!

Please send your submissions to Ryan Rutkowski at rrutkowski@dwc.org or 1300 Bryon Street, P.O. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003

Ryan will gladly receive your news or photographs at any time.

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