

# ACDA Newsletter

June 2017

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### From the President

*By Ann Boltin, Diocese of Baton Rouge*

It's hard to believe we are in June already. The temperature is rising in Baton Rouge as we head toward the steamy days and nights of summer in the Deep South. I am sure we are all dreaming of cooler weather as we travel to the Pacific Northwest for the Society of American Archivists annual conference in Portland, Oregon. Our education officer, Lee Leumas, has planned a great meeting for us that focuses on education, privacy, and access issues regarding the sacramental records in our collections. Our meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 26th at St. Mary's Cathedral in Portland.



With the odd years also come new officers. Our nominating committee which includes Meg Hall, Archdiocese of Chicago; Lisa Mobley, Diocese of St Petersburg; and chaired by Joe Coen, Diocese of Brooklyn, has done a remarkable job of putting together an outstanding slate of candidates. I know it is not easy to convince and cajole members into volunteering their time and talent so I applaud that they were able to get so many of you to run. Congratulations to the new leaders of our association. I know you will serve us well.

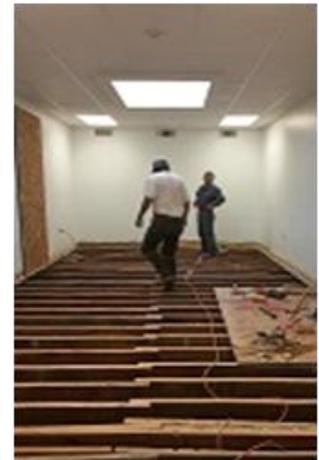
Finally, since this is my last column as President, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve as your leader for the last few years. I have a genuine affection for this association and all of its members. We are a unique group of individuals with the most common of goals, to manage the records of our institution in order to protect the heritage of the Church. That road may look different to some of us but the objective is all the same. While recognizing our similarities is not difficult, respecting our differences can sometimes be a challenge. With that we must remember that we all have something to bring to the table and we all have wisdom to share.

It has been my privilege to serve as your President and I consider it to be one of the highlights of my career in diocesan archives. I wish our new President Eric Fair and his board all the best for their upcoming term.

## New Home for the Diocese of Gallup

*By Cathy McCarthy, Diocese of Gallup*

The Diocese of Gallup is “a poor Church serving the poor,” just as Pope Francis desires. As the poorest Mission Diocese in the country serving an area as large as Illinois, we are always in need of money to serve others. The Diocese was erected by Pope Pius XII in 1939, specifically to serve the Native American people. (We have seven distinct Native American nations within our boundaries, including the largest Native American nation of the Navajo people.) Geographically, we cross over the boundary of the two states of New Mexico and Arizona in order to encompass complete Native American reservations. There is no infrastructure or big city; in other words, financially, we are always strapped. That is why, when our Chancery unexpectedly moved last fall, we had to make the event as inexpensively as possible. The staff, most of them grandparents (or of that age), did 90 percent of the moving (including full filing cabinets), in order to save money. The staff also helped with the cleaning, painting, putting in new floors, doors, and shelving. On top of this, we needed to create an archives room for our records.



*Staff (including the vicar general) moved former office contents to second floor or basement from old building to new location. Old floors had tiles loose or missing. The Bishop's “new” office floor had a “hill” in the center*

Originally a hotel, this new location was bought by the Diocese's first bishop, Bernard Espelage, OFM, in the 1940s. It became the Catholic Indian Center. It was staffed by the Franciscans who ran services in its chapel, St. Valerian. Also several sisters chaperoned the upstairs housing for young Native American women who came in from the reservations in order to go to school and to work. The girls would then return to their homes on the reservations for the weekends in order to be with their families. Many programs such as job training, catechetical classes, and fun were sponsored here over the years. But as times and needs changed, the Franciscans and the sisters left, moving on to serve in more remote areas of our Mission Diocese. Catholic Charities took over the use of the building and then Catholic Peoples Foundation (which raises money for our schools and seminarian education) moved in. So as you could guess, this “new” place is hardly that; it is a regular “fixer upper.” It is on the Historic Highway Route 66, and just across the street are the cross-country train tracks. Despite the trains’ noise, fumes, and rumbling of/ in the building they cause, despite the leaky roof and drafty windows, we are grateful to be here. This is because daily we are reminded of and visited by those we serve in this poorest of the poor Mission Dioceses. They come for help and we greet them on the way up to the second floor of the building which now holds the Chancery offices.

## New Home for the Diocese of Gallup (continued)

The new archives room had to be created out of an area in the basement which is shared by all three neighbors of the building. First the rooms were cleared out. They were used for silver smithing, one can see the original tables and chimneys in the photo. Then fire suppression walls were put in and pallets to raise the file cabinets off the floor. There is a sprinkler system. We hope to purchase an alarm system in case of flooding. Also needed: about two more full-time employees to get the entire archives out of the nineteenth century: organized and updated. But this will come, if God and the desires it. After all, it is His Church.



All in all, it is a good start for the archives and we are grateful. We are daily reminded of those we serve as they come to visit us in this home of history to the Native American peoples. We are in business; that is, the business of the *spiritual* business and record management keeping of a Diocese. Pray for us, please.



Outside of our main entrance to building of new location of Chancery. Old articles showing 1940s beginning of the corporal and spiritual uses of building.

### Update from San Antonio

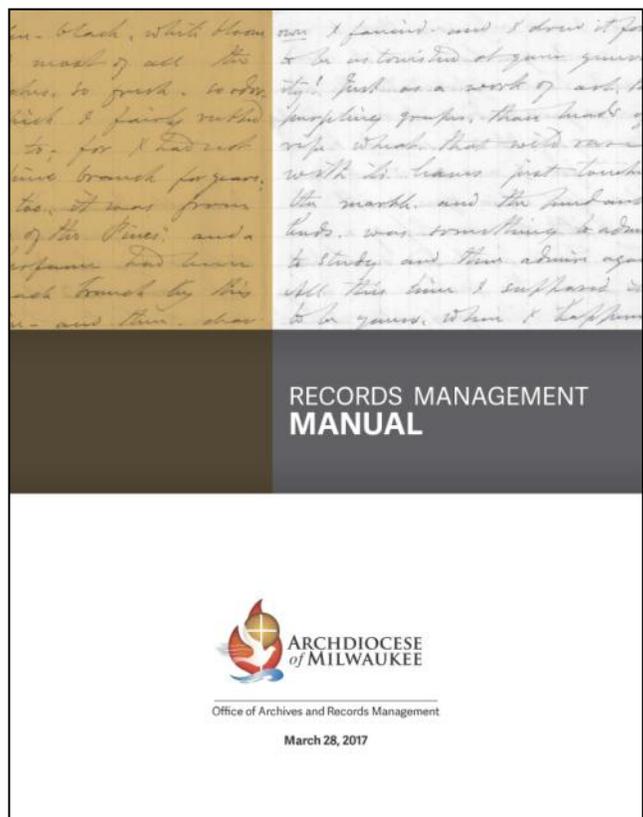
*by Brother Ed Loch, SM, Diocese of San Antonio*

We are leaning toward Find My Past for the digitization of our sacramental records. They will start first with what we already have on film and then what is not useable from the film, will be scanned from the original books. We have not signed the contract yet but I expect this will happen. The project will probably take three years for us to complete. We are also trying to get our Catholic newspaper, all 125 years of it, digitized. Jac Treanor has been here several times already as a consultant preparing us for hiring an electronic records manager. So far none has been selected and we still looking for applicants. The archives space itself is being expanded with the demise of the Second Instance Court. The thought is to turn that space into a new vault and then re-arrange the interior walls of the workrooms and add a large window between the archives research room and the atrium. We are also thinking of having our large blueprint collection digitized. The city of San Antonio is celebrating the 300th anniversary of its foundation – as Mission San Antonio. We are having the baptism book restored in which the declaration of the foundation on May 5, 1718 is written. Besides this I have been in the newspaper several times on the subject of the Campo Santo (Cemetery) which was accidentally uncovered under the former chapel of the Sister’s convent of the downtown Catholic Hospital. Besides this I have been giving a talk in all the deaneries on the sacramental records policy which was put into effect 20 years ago. There are many changes in personnel which makes this necessary. These talks last about two hours with the question and answer period. Some of the deaneries are at a distance, like 150 miles out, but this is Texas. The archives may be closed for most of the day that a talk is scheduled.

### New Records Management Manual in Milwaukee

*by Amy Nelson, Archdiocese of Milwaukee*

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee released a new Records Management Manual for archdiocesan employees! This was a multi-year effort of conducting interviews with each department, legal counsel review, and approval from Archbishop ListECKi and the Executive Council. The manual guides employees with an overview of records management, an electronic record filing naming structure, and general and department-specific retention schedules. Archives staff is currently conducting mini-training sessions for all employees to learn how to use the manual and training will be mandatory for all future employees. Shelly and Amy have heard a lot of positive feedback from these sessions. Additionally, with the release of this manual the archives office has been re-named the Office of Archives and Records Management making the staff more visible and influential in the archdiocesan administration.



## New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission

By Alan Delozier, Seton Hall University

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The New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission is pleased to announce the latest edition of our newsletter entitled: *The Recorder* (March 2017) has recently been published. This e-publication includes the following articles: "The Church Near the Falls: The Seven Storeys of Saint Bonaventure Parish in Paterson," by Kathy Cecala; "1978: Farewell to Rome, Welcome Metuchen," by Jewel Brennan, Ph.D., D.Min.; "Religious Rules & Regulation: The First Synod of Trenton," by Alan Delozier, Executive Director; "Shared History: Byzantine Catholics in New Jersey & Western Pennsylvania," by John C. Bates, Esq. Secretary of the Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. In addition, there are feature stories on new members of the New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission including Rebecca Driscoll (Caldwell University), Mary Kinahan-Ockay (Saint Peter's University), and Eileen Poiani (Saint Peter's University), along with other informational articles that touch on various themes associated with the history of Catholic New Jersey. Access to the current edition of our newsletter (along with back issues) can be found via the following link: <http://blogs.shu.edu/njchc/the-recorder/the-recorder-march-2017-newsletter-full-text-version-pdf/>

Our recently published book by Carl Ganz, Jr., editor entitled *Essays on New Jersey Catholic History: In Commemoration of the 350th Anniversary of the Founding of the New Jersey Colony*, (South Orange, NJ: New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission, 2016) is receiving wider readership opportunities since it was first published in August of 2016. Mr. Ganz has provided the following overview and introduction to the process of reviewing along with the various steps and subject areas covered that led towards completion of this volume. "We put out a call for papers on any topic dealing with the history of the Catholic Church in New Jersey. We soon received chapters on the eclectic array of topics we were hoping for. These include biographical topics of renowned clergy, specifically Father Francis Koch, OFM, and Dean William McNulty, as well as studies of the Passionists in Union City, the endeavors of the Carmelites in the state, and the work of the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor in Hudson County during the Civil War. We also received papers on the effort to curb sweatshops in the state as well as the fundraising efforts for the Catholic University of Ireland in the 1850s. Rounding out the essays are studies of anti-immigrant political movements from 1830 to 1870; the exhumation and reburial of Bishop Winand Wigger; Alfred E. Smith, Catholicism, and the 1928 presidential campaign; and the response of several Catholic communities to the priest shortage." You can purchase a copy of the book from Amazon.com here: <https://tinyurl.com/NJCHC350>

Monsignor Francis R. Seymour, KHS, Chair of the Commission and Archivist for the Archdiocese of Newark was recently featured in an article by Reverend Alex Santora for the *Jersey Journal* outlining some of the work he does on behalf of Catholic history in New Jersey. The full-text is available through the following link: [http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2017/06/keepers\\_of\\_catholic\\_history\\_preserve\\_records\\_for\\_n.html#incart\\_river\\_index](http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2017/06/keepers_of_catholic_history_preserve_records_for_n.html#incart_river_index)

We continue to maintain and update our institutional Homepage which can be accessed via the following link: <http://blogs.shu.edu/njchc/> and we also maintain a presence on Facebook. Please feel free to contact us if you are interested in contributing stories and updates to our newsletter and/or if have book project ideas to share along with any inquiries you might have about our activities and services.

### **News from ACDA Members!**

- Jenny Stevenson of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee has successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation! Jenny will graduate in August from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Information Science with a Ph.D. in Information Studies. Jenny has been with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Office of Archives & Records Management since 2013 and has been extremely important in providing guidance for many projects such as electronic records management, photograph digitization, and A/V preservation. Congratulations, Jenny!
- The Diocese of Columbus just recently promulgated a new records management policy, and we are working on putting together a records management guideline that will supplement the policy. Later this year we will prepare seminars for our parishes, schools, and diocesan staff to further educate them about good records management practices.
- As of May 1, 2017, Gillian Hearn has been appointed Director of Archives and Privacy Officer for the Archdiocese of Toronto!
- The Most Rev. John B. Brungardt, bishop of Dodge City, conferred the title of Archivist Emeritus upon Mr. Timothy F. Wenzl, former editor of the *Southwest Kansas Register* (1990-2000) and archivist for the diocese, following the Chrism Mass April 6 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe. His appointment is effective July 1. Wenzl has been a member of the Chancery staff since 1990. He has written 20 books including: "Legacy of Faith, A History of the Diocese of Dodge City;" "Priests on the Prairie, Southwest Kansas Territory," a necrology; and "A Legacy of Hope, A 50-year History of Catholic Social Services." Wenzl will retain an office at the chancery where he can dedicate time to independent writing projects while continuing to work part time in the archives. He also intends to continue writing "Mining the Archives," his feature column in the diocesan newspaper.

**Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists**  
**Program Meeting**  
**St. Mary's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception**  
**1716 NW Davis St.**  
**Portland, OR**  
**July 26, 2017**

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- 9:00am      Coffee and Registration
- 9:30am      Welcome and Introduction- Ann Boltin, ACDA President
- History of the Archdiocese of Portland  
                 Joseph Schiwiek, Archdiocese of Portland
- 10:00am     Managing Sacramental Records, Policies, Procedures, and Education  
                 Ann Boltin, Diocese of Baton Rouge
- 11:00am     Navigating Murky Waters- Privacy issues and contract negotiations with third  
                 party online genealogy websites  
                 Kate Feighery, Archdiocese of New York
- 12:00pm     Lunch and Business Meeting
- 1:00pm      Uncomfortable Entries: Documenting Slavery through Sacramental Records  
                 Lee Leumas, Archdiocese of New Orleans
- 2:00pm      Tour of St. Mary's Cathedral

*Although ACDA is not having a group mass, St. Mary's Cathedral offers daily Mass at 7:30am and 5:30pm for those who wish to attend.*

## Diocese of Baton Rouge Breaks Ground on New Archives Facility

by Ann Boltin, Diocese of Baton Rouge

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The Diocese of Baton Rouge broke ground for their new archives facility on June 1, 2017. The Diocesan Archives and Records Center design consists of 7500 square feet for offices, a reading room, conference room, exhibit space, processing / digitization area, a vault for historic materials, and an inactive records storage area. The building, which has been in the development stages for thirteen years, finally won approval from the finance board, planning commission, and the Baton Rouge Metro Council. It is estimated the building phase will take a year.



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## ACDA Election Results

The electronic ballots for the 2017 election have been received and tallied. The Nominating Committee wishes to thank all who ran for office and all who voted. The following individuals won election to the ACDA Executive Board:

*Vice President/Pres. Elect* (2-year term): Katy Pereira, Diocese of Savannah

*Treasurer* (2-year term): Angelique Richardson, Archdiocese of Atlanta

*Secretary* (2-year term): Kate Feighery, Archdiocese of New York

*Board of Directors* (4-year term): Katie Oubre, Diocese of Springfield, IL, and Janice Cantrell, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Thanks to all the candidates who agreed to run for these positions. Thanks also to the outgoing officers and board members. The new officers will be installed at the upcoming annual meeting in Cleveland on July 26.

The letter below from Ancestry.com is shared by request of Fr. Scott McCawley, Archivist, Diocese of Joliet

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As Ancestry has interacted with the Catholic archival community, some concerns and questions have been raised regarding Ancestry and any perceived relationship with other religious institutions. We are hopeful that this letter will dispel some of the misunderstanding that exists.

To be clear, Ancestry has no direct relationship with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the LDS Church), and we are not, nor have we ever been, part of this organization. We are an independent, for-profit company, headquartered in Lehi, Utah, with substantial operating and employee presences in San Francisco, California; Dublin, Ireland; London, UK and numerous other cities around the world. We are currently a private company, owned by several investors, including Silver Lake in Menlo Park California, Permira in London, GIC, representing the sovereign wealth fund of Singapore, and our own management team. No part of our company is owned by any entity affiliated with the LDS Church in any way, and no member of our Board of Directors is affiliated with the LDS Church.

We have more than 1,700 employees around the world, who represent the full diversity of humanity's racial, religious and political diversity. We maintain an active commitment to non-discriminatory practices and actively participate in efforts to ensure continued protections for people's rights to free expression in Utah and across the United States.

We, as is true of numerous organizations working in genealogy and family history, do engage in select digitization projects with FamilySearch (the genealogy arm of the LDS Church). Microfilm scanning projects by the LDS Church in the late 1900s have resulted in many valuable and informative documents being available only on microfilm held by FamilySearch. The value of this content is why we, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Archives and numerous other respected organizations continue to work with FamilySearch in our efforts to provide millions of people the opportunity to access meaningful insights into America's past. Simply put, FamilySearch is an important source of materials for anyone interested in researching their family's history in the United States.

In addition, as part of a program FamilySearch has in place with every major commercial family history organization around the world, we provide free access to portions of the Ancestry.com website for LDS church members and in LDS Family History Centers. However, Ancestry has sole discretion in determining which collections are made available through this program and restricts access to collections where archive sensitivities, preferences, or other limitations exist.

Indeed, Ancestry has full discretion over what is and is not shared with FamilySearch as part of our collaborations with them. As a subscription-based service, it is not in our commercial interest to share much of our content with FamilySearch as they publish records for free to the general public.

Fully understanding the sensitivities regarding the possibility of LDS use of Catholic church records, we want to assure that we will not provide access to your records to FamilySearch, LDS Family History Centers or to any entity affiliated with the LDS Church.

Our goal as a company is to provide access to all the records researchers need to discover their family history. We pursue this objective not guided by any religious ideology. This is a point clearly understood by every employee in our company and reinforced in our corporate policies. This is the approach that has enabled us to become the largest, most trusted source for family history around the world. We would be deeply honored to work with you to help millions better connect with their family's rich histories with the Catholic Church.

Association of  
Catholic  Diocesan  
Archivists

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Boston College  
is pleased to announce

## **Envisioning the Future of Catholic Religious Archives: A Working Conference**

**July 11-13, 2018 (finalized dates) - Boston College campus**

The archives of religious communities in the United States are becoming endangered as communities come to completion. To address the need to preserve their invaluable records, Boston College is organizing a working conference to bring focus to the issue and prepare a course of action.

The conference will seek to engage leaders of religious communities, archivists, and historians who are committed to safeguarding their legacy. Speakers and panels will address the preservation, accessibility, and interpretation of unique archival resources held by religious communities. Each presentation will raise specific questions for audience discussion.

The conference will also aim to identify various options for permanently housing religious archives and providing appropriate levels and means of access. Following the conference, a white paper will be drafted and circulated among attendees for input as a step toward developing a national strategic plan to preserve the archival heritage of religious communities in the United States.

The conference will include the following session topics:

- Archives at Risk: An Overview of the Issues Facing Religious Communities
- Revising the American Story: Utilizing Catholic Resources to Challenge the Narrative
- Finding the Treasure: Unlocking Hidden Collections to Enlighten the Past
- Forging a New Partnership: Religious Archivists and Historians
- Take the Lead: How Leadership Matters in Preserving the Legacy
- Descriptive Standards: Why Catholic Metadata Matters
- Interim Archives: A New Understanding of Archival Limbo
- Continuing the Story: How Legacy Gains Everlasting Life
- Break-Outs: Determining a Course of Action

We welcome your comments and suggestions for additional topics. Please contact Michael J. Burns at [michael.burns.7@bc.edu](mailto:michael.burns.7@bc.edu) to be added to our mailing list for further information.