

The Official Newsletter of the Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists

# ACDA Newsletter

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## Save the Date



**Mundelein 20/20: Envisioning the Future**

**July 13 - 17, 2020**

**University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, IL.**

The Program Committee for the 2020 Biennial Conference has issued a call for proposals. Please review the Call for Proposals ([link below](#)) and submit your idea by **Sunday, November 10, 2019** for consideration by the Program Committee. If you have any questions about the Call for Proposals, please contact the Program Committee at [acdaconference@gmail.com](mailto:acdaconference@gmail.com).

[Call for Proposals](#)

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Angelique Richardson, Director of Archives and Records for the Archdiocese of Atlanta,

program called "Living History." The article offers some helpful tips on how to prepare yourself and your archive for a new audience. Click [here](#) to read the full article, and check out a video clip below! Congratulations to Angelique and her team!



A screenshot of the website for the Office of Archives and Records of the Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg. The header features the diocese's logo and the motto "COURAGEOUSLY Living the Gospel". Navigation links include "About", "Parishes", "Schools", "Clergy", "Events", "Offices", "News", and "Pray". A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area shows a group of nuns in black habits standing in front of a brick building. The text "Office of Archives and Records" is overlaid on the image. Below the image, there is a "CONTACT US" button and a section titled "Our Mission" with a brief description of the office's purpose.

## New Website for the Diocese of St. Petersburg

Congratulations to Lisa Mobley for all her hard work in launching the new webpage for the Diocese of St. Petersburg Office of Archives & Records! The site looks amazing, and has a lot of useful information. Check it out [here](#)!

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Monsignor Francis R. Seymour, KHS who served for many years as the first Archivist for the Archdiocese of Newark when he was named to this position in 1969. He was also a founding member of the New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission in 1976 and became Chair of this organization in 2009. The contributions Monsignor Seymour made to the Monsignor William Noe' Field Archives & Special Collections Center were many and memorable. Counted among his most important and lasting works include his careful organization of research files related to the priest community, collecting of important documentation from autographed photographs to memorial cards to parish histories and many other items and objects related to the story of Catholic New Jersey.

It was also in the personal sharing of his knowledge and recollections where he really brought history to life. His memory for details was remarkable and brought both enthusiasm and a gentle touch to his interactions with the many people he touched during the course of his life. On a personal level, Monsignor Seymour will be remembered fondly and missed greatly by the many individuals who and had the privilege to learn from his example and had the privilege to call him a colleague and friend.

Among those associated who treasure his kindness are Tiffany Burns, Assistant to the Dean of University Libraries at Seton Hall University who remembers "My first job on the SHU campus was as an employee with the Archdiocese of Newark. Monsignor Seymour hired me to process sacramental requests in Archives and Special Collections twice a week. During my time in the Archives my brother passed away suddenly. It was Monsignor who most comforted me with words of kindness and his gentle explanation of the Church's teaching during the saddest days of my life. I always felt that when Monsignor Seymour entered the room he brought the Lord with him."

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### Grant Program Recap from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia!

*Leslie O'Neill, Catholic Historical Research Center (CHRC) of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia*

This spring, we welcomed seventh and eighth students from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia schools for an interactive learning experience at the CHRC! Funded entirely by [The Archdiocesan Educational Fund](#), the grant entitled, *To Touch a Saint: Creating a Place for Middle School Students*, brought students, staff, and chaperones to the CHRC for a two-hour plus program.

Our Lady of Ransom School, had 572 seventh and eighth grade students visit. This number does not include the teachers, principals, or priests that accompanied them. During their visit, they had an interactive and hands on learning experience, toured the facility, met our Archivists, viewed current exhibits, and saw archival collections. Students also learned about their own Catholic history and parish through a learning session in a newly equipped classroom. Following the tour and classroom session, the students identified and handled artifacts from the Archives such as a chaplain's kit from World War I, 19<sup>th</sup> century religious candy molds, and more. It is rare that an archive or historical center would allow patrons to actually touch and handle items from the collections, and the students thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity!

Additionally while at the CHRC, the students completed a scavenger hunt with the chance to win a prize. The scavenger hunt was comprised of 14 questions/items and included items like finding the oldest object on display, identifying what an archivist is, or naming an example of a primary source they saw. The students learned how to also use Find My Past and each visit was tailored to the school and parish, with historical photos, related facts, and trivia. Every student and staff/chaperone received a brochure that detailed how to use the Archives, Find My Past, and were all invited to contact the staff for research help and/or return to the CHRC.





The Archdiocesan Educational Fund awarded the CHRC with a grant in the amount of \$31,196 for the 2018/2019 academic/fiscal year. The grant, To Touch a Saint: Creating a Place for Middle School Students, funded a Catholic archival learning program for seventh & eighth grade students. Matthew H. McCloskey, Jr. (1893-1973), building contractor and U.S. Ambassador to Ireland (1962-1964), created and funded the Wayne-based private foundation in 1967. The Arch-Ed Fund supports Catholic education and Catholic ministry throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

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## ACDA Austin 2019

Not able to make the Austin meeting last summer? Check out some of the presentations [here!](#)

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