Greetings and salutations, fellow ACDA members!

I am most grateful for the opportunity to serve as president. My predecessors, in conjunction with the past boards and committees, established a solid foundation. And upon it, you and I will continue to build ACDA into the most pertinent and helpful professional organization for our unique line of work.

Over the past decade or so, ACDA programming has responded to current events as well as the growing diversity of experiences and professional backgrounds of our members. However, in trying to be “all things to all people,” ACDA has experienced obstacles when confronted with the following questions: How do we maintain continuity from one term to the next? How do we develop programming that holds the interest and meets the needs of members whose archival and records management experiences range from “and other duties as assigned” to those with advanced degrees in the fields? How do we promote greater membership participation in ACDA and its program development?

Those questions are the bases for the initiatives that past president, Katy Lockard, implemented: updating and creating governing documents (e.g., constitution, bylaws, handbooks, and retention schedules); and conducting a membership survey so that we are certain “who” our members are and what programming would serve them best. Many of Katy’s initiatives are still ongoing (Please be on the lookout for your ACDA membership survey very shortly!). As president, I will continue that path to “get our
house in order.” I will ensure that we realize the full benefits of the membership survey and continue to listen to member’s thoughts on programming. But I will also promote initiatives of my own. Specifically, I wish to foster greater membership participation.

I propose that inertia is the strongest force that any human must overcome. That holds true in my personal and professional life. It’s seemingly “natural” for me to remain passive in my profession. There are always others with more experience, more knowledge, more resources, a bigger personality, and so on. Shouldn’t they be obliged to contribute and lead? The truth of the matter is that “others” do have something to contribute. But so do you! Regardless of background and experience, we will all benefit from your wisdom. Tell me your programming needs, and then move to meet them. My point is this: you get out of ACDA what you put into it. Please share your wisdom and skills with the rest of us. Participate and contribute!

I look forward to our continued progress and the opportunities to help our peers.

Your friend in diocesan archives,
Brian P. Fahey

ACDA INSTITUTIONAL SURVEY

By the time you are reading this, you should have received an email with a link to the ACDA Institutional Survey. You should have also received a postcard reminder, because we don’t want anyone to miss the opportunity to participate. If you haven’t received the email or the postcard, please contact Katy Lockard.

Studies show that most surveys get a response rate of 33%. We are hoping for a much larger and wider range of responses from our membership. This survey initiative consists of two parts. The first covers the individual, and the second the institution. The information collected will be crucial for learning more about who we are, to help the organization better understand how to serve its members. The questions are also designed to give participants a different perspective on their own programs, policies, and collections. The surveys should take around 30-45 minutes to complete. Included is a worksheet to fill out before you start, collecting information that will help in answering the questions. The deadline for completing the surveys is November 19, 2021.

And while virtue is usually its own reward, in this case everyone completing the surveys will be entered into weekly drawings for one of four $50 gift cards, and a grand prize $100 card.
JOIN US FOR

ENGAGE

2022!

ACDA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

JULY 18TH TO JULY 22ND

Join us in our Biennial Conference & Annual Meeting to engage with fellow colleagues. This ACDA in-person experience will deliver pragmatic educational programming to benefit the new and experienced Diocesan Archivist, Chancellor and support staff.

University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary
WE INVITE YOU TO ENGAGE...

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

ACDA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE: ENGAGE 2022!

OPENS: 11/01/2021 | CLOSES: 11/24/2021

The Program Committee invites you to suggest session proposals fitting, “ENGAGE 2022!” theme. Session ideas presenting viable archival practices while reinvigorating our professional vocation through action are encouraged. Please use Mundelein 2022: Education Session Proposals Google doc to submit session ideas, identify resources, and/or state interest in becoming presenters.

Google Sheets link will also be posted to ACDA Listserv.
artifacts from the diocesan-operated summer camps (1924-1975), housed in our archives. Among the items in our display, we included a copy of a scavenger hunt from 1948. We challenged the Curia staff to bring in items from that list in exchange for a prize. We encouraged them to be creative with their submissions because several items called for live animals or insects and we would not accept any live (or dead!) contributions.

We offered each staff member that brought an item from the list their choice of a ring pop or an inflatable drink holder for their pools. Each week we posted a reminder and a call to help us complete the entire list through Microsoft Teams. The display ran throughout the summer from June 1 to August 18. We had a reasonable amount of participation within the Curia and it certainly was talked about in the halls and on Microsoft Teams. We have included a picture of the scavenger hunt list and the items the staff brought in.
Little did we know that when the Judicial Vicar asked us about norms for the care of Tribunal records we would end up with over 100 years of records! We reached out to the ACDA community for guidance and have been able to provide the Tribunal office with much appreciated information.

Tribunal records had previously been kept in several locations, including the third floor attic of the chancery building. The entire collection of records will be placed in new acid free folders and boxes. The collection will eventually comprise over 500 boxes of material.

The Archives is currently processing and indexing these records. Much of our collection had to be shifted to other areas. Because of such a large influx of records, we are now beginning to look into solutions to expand the Diocesan Archives. Dare we hope for a new building?

Our Diocese has also begun a search for a new EDRMS. We are in the early stages of determining our needs. Thanks to our ACDA colleagues who have offered advice and guidance!
The Catholic Historical Research Center of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia receives a grant in the amount of $20,720 from The Ambassador's Fund for Catholic Education!

The Ambassador's Fund for Catholic Education awarded the Catholic Historical Research Center of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia a grant in the amount of $20,720 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The funded program will digitize, identify, arrange, and preserve the photographs of noted Philadelphia photographer, Robert Halvey, under the grant titled Philly in Focus: Digitizing Robert Halvey’s Photographic History of Catholic Philadelphia. From 1935 to 1999, Robert Halvey served as a freelance photographer for the Catholic Standard and Times, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia which began publishing in 1895 and ended its run in 2012. The Robert and Theresa Halvey Photograph Collection is comprised of approximately 16,000 records, also known as events, that contain an estimated 350,000 negatives total documenting Catholic life in Philadelphia between 1935 and 1999.


Any ACDA members who currently work or who have worked in the archival field (likely to be all of you!), please consider completing SAA's archival census, found at the link below.

Archives Census