



NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Brian P. Fahey
Diocese of Charleston

Greetings and salutations, fellow ACDA members!

I recently brought my 13-year-old son and his friend to a concert of their choosing. They stayed in their seats, while I retreated to the concessions area.* My lack of interest in the performance gave me plenty of time to observe the operation from behind the stage. I saw stagehands moving equipment. I saw sound engineers and electricians making tweaks. Beyond them, I saw ushers in aisles, security on patrol, and lighting staff in the rafters. In concessions, I saw vendors preparing food and beverages. Behind them was a stream of others constantly refilling supplies from distant stores. What I didn't see, but had cognition of, was the day-to-day administrative staff that kept the venue itself in operation. In sum, the time and talent of easily more than two hundred individuals were needed to put a mere six "musical artists" on a stage for four hours.**

Although I argue that ACDA's conferences and meetings are more entertaining than what I experienced that night, I admit that any comparison of them to that concert is not a perfect analogy. But the gist holds: the product of any production requires participation and cooperation of many individuals; and most of that production is hidden from plain view.

Since the last newsletter, your board and committees have worked tirelessly in the "production" of ongoing initiatives and the upcoming conference. Allison Spies and Stephanie Jacobe serve as ACDA's representatives to USCCB's Subcommittee on Native American Affairs, specifically working to discern truth and provide healing for past transgressions. Katie Oubre has implemented her Planning Committee initiatives, and formed Membership, Outreach, and Archives Subcommittees, respectively chaired

by Michael Courtney, Katie, and Thomas Lester. Using recently adopted records retention schedules, the Archives Subcommittee have reached out to current and previous ACDA leadership to secure the documentation necessary for continuity in ACDA operation. Katy Lockard has progressed with the findings of the membership survey and has qualified ACDA for free use of the digital platform Google Workspace for Nonprofits. Ana-Elisa Arredondo has done an amazing job of herding the cats of the Program Committee to develop sessions, secure speakers, reserve rooms, and all sorts of logistical madness for our biennial conference at Mundelein this year.

I lack the space to individually name everyone who has worked towards ACDA's causes these past few months. There are more members engaged now than in my recent [feeble] memory. I am elated! My only caution is this: that doesn't let you, dear member, off the hook for your own participation. As the Scout adage goes, "many hands make light work." Even with greater participation, many remaining tasks have some of us pulling our hair out.*** There are plenty of opportunities for sharing your time and talent with ACDA. I'll see y'all at Mundelein. Prepare to ENGAGE 2022!

* Yes, beer, wine, and cocktails were available. But I did not partake. Scout's honor.

** I had no earthly idea that this concert included four acts! And after four hours of hearing what passes as music for my son's generation, I've never felt so relatable to Hank Hill in my entire life.

*** View my column pic as evidence.

ACDA DOCUMENT REVISIONS

It's been two years since ACDA took the initiative to review and update our constitution and bylaws. During that time, the ad hoc Governing Documents Committee composed separate, revised drafts, which it presented at last year's annual business meeting. Following that meeting, the committee posted the drafts on ACDA's Google Drive, which allowed comments and markups from members. Each comment was answered; all markups were addressed. Membership feedback on the drafts closed on March 15, 2022, and the ACDA Executive Board approved the final drafts for a referendum at the business meeting of this year's biennial conference. The final drafts for the referendum were sent with this newsletter. At the business meeting, members may vote in the affirmative or in the negative. An affirmative vote of "aye" is to adopt the draft constitution and the draft bylaws as written or as amended during the regular course of this business meeting. A negative vote of "nay" is to not adopt the draft constitution and the draft bylaws as written or as amended during the regular course of this business meeting.



ACDA'S CONFERENCE ENGAGE 2022!

(RE)CONNECTING MINDS TO SECURE OUR FUTURE

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION



Register Here

The Biennial Conference & Board Meeting, July 18th-22nd, will be at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Seminary, Mundelein, IL. Registration cost includes lodging & meals. **Register online** by **May 16th** to qualify for the **EARLY BIRD registration** discounted price of **\$750**.

*Regular price is \$825, May 17 through June 24, 2022.

Visit our [webpage](#) for more Conference Program details.

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Two James O'Toole scholarships and two additional awards (offered this year only) to cover the cost of registration are now available. Eligibility details are listed on our [ACDA website](#).

Apply online by **May 1, 2022**.

*Excludes travel cost to conference.



Scholarships/Awards

Questions? Email at acdconference@gmail.com

REMINDER: CONFERENCE REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AND PAID IN FULL BY MONDAY, MAY 16 2022 TO RECEIVE THE EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT.

ACDA CONFERENCE DETAILS

The ACDA Biennial Conference will be held July 18th – 22nd, 2022 at our traditional meeting location – the picturesque University of St. Mary of the Lake/Seminary campus in peaceful Mundelein, IL. The conference theme this year is ENGAGE 2022! (Re)Connecting Minds to Secure our Future.

The Program Committee invites diocesan/religious archivists, records managers, and other archives advocates (i.e., bishops, chancellors, support staff) to engage in our dynamic programming aimed to (1) further professional development at all levels; (2) increase occurrences of collaborative activities to strengthen our archival community; (3) provide opportunities for member to renew their vocation of preserving the Church's history.

More information about the event is available on ACDA's [webpage](#). When members register online by May 16, 2022, they will be eligible for our Full Week, All-Inclusive package at an early bird rate of \$750. After that date, the regular price of \$825 applies. This package includes five days of lodging, meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner), sessions admission, social hour activities, and Wednesday's Banquet with our Episcopal Moderator, Most Rev. Thomas J. Paprocki, Bishop of Springfield, IL.

Please note that, while there is a PayPal option available on the registration site for convenience, ACDA assumes a 2-4% charge each payment made through it. The preferred form of payment is by check/cheque.

Two James O'Toole scholarships are available to member to defray costs of registration for their first-time attendance. Additionally, for 2022 only, two Need-Based Awards are available to defray costs of registration for members who would be unable to attend otherwise. Those awards are available to first-time or returning attendees. Scholarships and awards will cover registration, meals, and lodging at the Conference. Transportation and ancillary costs are the responsibility of the awardee. These scholarships and awards are competitive and will be awarded by the Program Committee. Applicants must be a member in good standing of ACDA.

ACDA STATEMENT ON UKRAINE



Peace, friends and colleagues.

The ACDA executive board has given recent events in Ukraine concerted consideration over these past few weeks. While we do not, as an association, have the resources to directly provide succor, the board realizes the potential that our individual members have for making a positive impact. Therefore, the board passed the following statement on behalf of the Association. Please note that the statement contains hypertext links to the statements of the Society of American Archivists and the International Council on Archives, where options are given for making donations and offering other means of support.

The Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists acknowledges Russia's assault on Ukraine as an unjustified invasion. We stand united with the Society of American Archivists (SAA), the International Council on Archives (ICA), and other cultural preservation organizations to aid the health and harmony of the Ukrainian people as they are being displaced and separated from their loved ones. We support SAA's and ICA's pleas in urging the Russian government to comply with the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

As archivists, records managers, museum curators, and historians, we will not condone the destruction of people's homes, property, history, and cultural achievements. We remain hopeful that during this dangerous conflict, our Ukrainian colleagues can work safely to protect their people's vital records and national treasures.

As events continue to develop, the board will consider options for further action. Please keep everyone involved in the recent Ukraine crisis in your hearts and prayers.

ACHA AWARDED NEH SHARP GRANT FOR ITS PROJECT, “NATIVE BOARDING SCHOOLS, HISTORICAL RESEARCH, AND CATHOLIC ARCHIVES”

The Executive Committee of the American Catholic Historical Association is pleased to announce that the ACHA has received a SHARP grant from the American Historical Association and National Endowment for the Humanities in the amount of \$75,000. Designed to change the calculus of current relations between historians, religious archives, and Native communities, this grant will foster conversation and collaboration between these constituencies to promote and secure greater access to records on Native American Boarding Schools (NABS).

This announcement coincides with a call for participation in the ACHA’s phased implementation of the grant. In addition to selected participants, we seek members of the groups mentioned who are interested in the accessibility and development of the historical record on NABS. This assembly will be propelled at the upcoming spring meeting of the ACHA, to take place at the University of Scranton, April 22-23, 2022.

The project will unfold in phases. The first phase involves selection of six to eight participants for a series of non-public Zoom forums between historians to help identify some of the problems scholars have faced in their work on NABS and to push through the problem of accessibility. The second phase will involve teams of historians, journalists, archivists, and Native American community leaders doing on-site research. Finally, a capstone, two-day public conference in conjunction with the Spring 2023 ACHA meeting is envisioned to summarize some of the key issues that promote or hinder archival access or communication between stakeholders and widen the aperture for future steps on research methods, collaborative prospects, and publication of initial findings.

In addition to the advancement of historical knowledge through increased accessibility to archival documentation and networking, participants will also receive a stipend. The ACHA therefore appeals to potential candidates for inclusion in this project

- among its membership,
- among historians of the Native American experience, both at the graduate and professional levels,

- among historians of the Native American experience, both at the graduate and professional levels,
- among archivists of Catholic institutions whose collections bear on NABS—whether religious, diocesan, or university-affiliated,
- and among Native American communities, including those involved in Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, archives, or museums.

Inquiries may be addressed to Patrick J. Hayes, Ph.D., at pjhayesphd@gmail.com (215) 922-2871 (o); 347-325-0926 (c). Media are invited to contact members of the core working group for interviews:

- Maka Black Elk, secretary, Executive Director for Truth and Healing, Red Cloud Indian School, Board Member, National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (makablackelk@redcloudschool.org; 605-867-5491, ex 2212)
- Jack Downey, Newman Professor of Catholic Studies, University of Rochester (j.downey@rochester.edu, 585-275-5224)
- Katie Holscher, Professor of Catholic Studies, University of New Mexico (kholscher@unm.edu, 505 277-3929)

Background:

In the aftermath of the revelations about the discovery in May 2021 of over 1,000 graves at the former Canadian indigenous school at Kamloops, the American Catholic Historical Society committed to righting the historical record on Native American Boarding Schools in the United States. Some ninety of these schools were conducted under the auspices of the Catholic Church in the United States. In the wake of the US Secretary of the Interior Deborah Haaland’s call last June to “recover the history” of these schools, diocesan and religious archives are taking stock of boarding school records in their collections. This situation calls, with urgency, for conversations between stakeholders about what archival accessibility looks like.

Where do boarding school records exist, how are they relevant, how can they be interpreted, and how can they be made available to communities? Striving to answer these questions will complement, though not mirror, community activist projects, which prioritize archival accessibility as part and parcel of processes variously conceived of “truth telling,” “healing,” and “reconciliation.”

Initiative 1

The first initiative will include a series of four virtual forums plus one webinar, staggered over several months, and all organized around a common question: “What Does Accessibility Look Like?” These events will be held monthly during the

summer and fall of 2022. The four forums will be non-public and designed to foster conversation among and between different groups of experts and stakeholders, relative to the problem of accessibility, Catholic archives, and boarding school history.

The first forum will bring together archivists at Catholic institutions that hold, or have formerly held, boarding school records.

The second forum will convene historians and journalists, survivors and advocates engaged in research related to Catholic Indian missions and/or boarding schools.

The third and final forum, then, will bring together select participants from each of the first two forums, with the purpose of building conversation about accessibility across groups, or between archivists, historians / journalists, and front-line communities and their advocates.

In addition to these forums, the virtual series will include one public webinar. The webinar, also organized around the question “What Is Accessibility?” It will include a panel of Native and settler experts on the role Catholic archives and archivists played in Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation process. This webinar will offer opportunity for participants across the four forums, as well as ACHA’s membership and the general public, to think about the US reckoning with boarding school histories in a comparative perspective. Each of these five events will be moderated by an ACHA member who is part of the AHA-NEH grant leadership team, and each will be held virtually to provide accessibility to participants from a range of locations and social positions.

The Truth and Reconciliation webinar will be held in January 2023, in conjunction with the ACHA annual conference in Philadelphia. The ACHA will provide an in-person session at the conference, to supplement the webinar’s content.

Initiative 2

The second grant-funded program will consist of limited and short-term collaborations between researchers and archivists, both geared toward developing “accessibility plans” for sets of archival materials related to boarding schools. For this program the AHA-NEH grant will allow the ACHA to provide a stipend for up to six researchers, each of whom will spend time in one or more Catholic institutional archives in order to survey documents related to boarding schools housed in that archive, and work with the archivist(s) there to develop an “accessibility plan” for building community access to those documents.

Initiative 3

The third grant funded initiative will be a two-day, hybrid conference during May 2023, near the end of the grant period. This culminating conference will coincide with, and serve as an extension of, the annual spring meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association. The conference will be open for general registration and will consist of both in-person and virtual offerings. The program will likely include public-facing panels in the following areas: 1) sessions comprised of Catholic archivists, discussing the scope and content of Catholic materials related to boarding schools, 2) sessions comprised of historians and journalists, discussing challenges of archival accessibility in relation to researching and writing about Catholic boarding schools, and missions more broadly, 3) a session in which the grant-funded researchers (detailed above) discuss their experiences in the archives, and plans they developed for archival accessibility, 4) a session that brings together participants from across the scope of the project, to discuss plans for next steps and future collaboration (plans which will, in their implementation, exceed the scope and timeframe of the AHA-NEH grant).



Father Augustine Freitag, C.Ss.R., and young members of the Penobscots of Maine, with whom he ministered in the 1880s.

Photo courtesy of the Redemptorist Archives, Philadelphia.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

AMERICAN
HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION



ACHA

NEW MILESTONES FOR ACCESS TO CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS

Jennifer A. Younger
Catholic Research Resources Alliance

Since opening in fall 2016, nearly 30,000 issues from eighteen newspapers have been added to the Catholic News Archive and the number of users has climbed steadily to 145,000 in 2021. This year, we recognize three milestones made possible by our partners. The Catholic Commentator is the first paper included from its starting date in 1963 through 2022. Ann Boltin, archivist and recently named chancellor, continues to lead the project at the Diocese of Baton Rouge, working with the editor of the paper and adding new issues as published. Second, The Catholic Telegraph, is the first paper with one hundred years (1831-1930) of its history in the Archive. Michelle Smith, archivist at the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, and her predecessors, secured multiple grants and collaborated with the public library to add the paper to the Catholic News Archive. Third, The Catholic Voice and Helen Osman, Interim Director of Communications at the Diocese of Oakland, CA, became the first subscriber to the Catholic News Archive Community News Hosting Service which enables publishers and archivists to upload born digital issues directly into the Archive. This is the service Ann uses for adding current issues. Thank you, Ann, Michelle, and Helen. We are grateful too for your leadership as well as that of our partners in Hartford, Miami, New Orleans, Newark, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, St. Louis, and USCCB in developing the Catholic News Archive to support the research of parishioners, scholars, students, and archivists.

We have taken another leap forward in expanding user access by making this unique digital collection fully searchable in JSTOR, the database where many scholars and students start their research. This action puts Catholic newspapers in front of people in a way they have not been and will foster use by people who may never have imagined wanting to find a Catholic newspaper.

It can be surprising to see what is in the Catholic News Archive. Let me invite you to start your exploration by finding out who was the first president of the Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists. I welcome your questions, comments, and suggestions. Send to me at jyounger@catholicresearch.org.