



Open Wide Our Archives: Truth, Transparency, and Access

Cardinal Rigali Center, Archdiocese of St. Louis

October 30-31, 2023

DAY 1

8:00am-9:00am ***Registration/Continental Breakfast***

9:00am-9:30am **Welcome and Introduction to Conference**

9:30am-10:30am **Keynote Address: Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre, Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky**

10:30am-10:45am ***Break***

10:45am-12:30pm **Session 1: Researching Enslavement within Catholic Institutions**

Speakers:

Rev. David Endres, Academic Dean and Associate Professor, The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West

Emilie Gagnet Leumas, Ph.D., Consultant

Pre-recorded Descendent Testimonials

Description:

This session will address various sources found within Catholic archives that contain information about enslaved people and communities. Rev. David Endres and Emilie Leumas will discuss their own researching efforts to broaden the narrative on the Catholic Church's participation in slavery. Additionally, the audience will hear pre-recorded testimonials from descendants who have researched their own family histories and how Catholic archives played an essential role in their discoveries.

12:30pm-1:30pm ***Lunch***

1:30pm-1:45pm **Remarks: Bishop Joseph Perry, Archdiocese of Chicago, Illinois**

1:45pm-3:00pm **Session 2: CROSS Best Practices Manual Overview**

Speakers:

Stephanie A.T. Jacobe, Ph.D., Director of Archives, Archdiocese of Washington, DC

Thomas Lester, Director Archives and Library, Archdiocese of Boston, Massachusetts

Description:

This session introduces the *CROSS: Best Practices Manual*. This manual assists Catholic institutions and their archives in identifying records of enslavement, promoting access to these documents for research, and encouraging engagement and discourse within the institution and its wider community.

3:15pm-4:15pm ***Mass***

St. Vincent de Paul Chapel

All sessions are held in the Fleur-de-Lis Room unless otherwise specified.



DAY 2

8:00am-9:00am **Registration/Continental Breakfast**

9:00am-9:30am **Prayer Service**

St. Vincent de Paul Chapel Danielle Harrison, President, Mission, Faith, Equity Consulting, LLC

9:30am-11:30am **Session 3: Reconciling with the Past: Programs on Enslavement within the Church**

Speakers:

Sister Eleanor Craig, SL, Loretto Community Historian

Eric Fair, Director of Archives, Archdiocese of St. Louis

Rev. Tim Kesicki, S.J., Descendants, Truth & Reconciliation Foundation

Description:

This session provides three case studies of Catholic religious communities and dioceses who have initiated and executed an investigation into their involvement with slavery and how they communicated their findings to their communities and the wider public.

11:30pm-12:30pm **Lunch**

12:30pm-2:30pm **Session 4: Outreach and Dialogue with Descendant Communities**

Speakers:

Robin Proudie, Founder and Executive Director, Descendants of the St. Louis University Enslaved, Inc.

Kelly Schmidt, Reparative Public Historian, Washington University

Description:

This session focuses on ways to foster healing and reconciliation by building partnerships with descendant communities. It will offer insights from an institutional perspective as well as host an open dialogue from descendants of those enslaved by Catholic institutions.

2:30-3:00pm **Reflection and Prayer**

Dr. Amelia Blanton-Hibner, Dean of Mission Integration, Visitation Academy of St. Louis