

FALL  
2024

# THE DIOCESAN ARCHIVES DISPATCH

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THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC DIOCESAN ARCHIVISTS  
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# From the President

**Katie Oubre**

## **Diocese of Springfield in Illinois**

Fall has finally arrived. In true Midwest fashion, we have been switching between the A/C and the heater for the last month. But now the temperature has started to drop (and not immediately spike back up again), the leaves are falling, and all the summer projects that I intended to get to are now on my list of fall projects.



Our Biennial Conference at Mundelein feels like it was more than just a few short months ago. I enjoyed catching up with everyone and getting to see all our returning members and meeting our first-time attendees. I hope you all got as much out of the conference as I did. Actually, I hope you got more out of it than I did. I know I missed one session because I was busy signing paperwork for the conference.

I'd like to thank our Program Committee for putting together a great conference. Rena Schergen (Program Committee chair), Emily Ahlin, Geoff Hetherington, Thomas Lester, Brianna LoSardo, and Mark Prindiville—thank you for all your time and effort. I'd also like to thank all our speakers; we couldn't have a conference without you.

The ACDA Board has already approved the contract for our next Biennial Conference at Mundelein. It will be held Monday, July 6–Friday, July 10, 2026. The Board has listened to your feedback, and we are making an adjustment to the schedule for 2026. Tuesday will be a pre-conference session for Archives and Records Management 101. Those attending the pre-conference session should plan to arrive on Monday. Those NOT attending the preconference session should plan on arriving Tuesday. The Keynote Address will be on Tuesday night and the rest of the sessions will be all day Wednesday, all day Thursday, and Friday morning.

As a reminder, ACDA elections will be held soon. More information will be coming from our Nominating Committee. In the meantime, if you think you might be interested in running for office, please feel free to reach out to myself, any of our

officers/board members, or the members of the Nominating Committee to find out more about the available positions and the time commitment involved. You can find a complete listing of committee members [here](#).

I'd like to remind everyone that there are many ways to participate in ACDA. Whether you hold a position on the board, a committee, or engage with the listserv, all of you can contribute to this profession in a meaningful way. Thank you for your involvement as ACDA members.

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## The Diocese of St. Augustine wins for Historic Digital Archive

Congratulations to Katy Lockard and the Diocese of St. Augustine Archives for winning a recent award from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation!

As reported in the *St. Augustine Catholic's* Fall 2024 issue,

At the 2024 Preservation on Main Street Conference in Tallahassee, the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation celebrated its 2024 Preservation Award winners. Among the honorees was the Diocese of St. Augustine, recognized in the Preservation Communications-Media category for "La Florida: The Interactive Digital Archive of the Americas." This groundbreaking project, spearheaded by Dr. J. Michael Francis, digitized over 8,000 Spanish documents dating from 1594 to 1821, featuring translations, maps and a comprehensive biographical database. The project team collaborated closely with the diocese and the Sisters of St. Joseph to preserve and translate the fragile records. This digital archive offers unprecedented access to Florida's colonial history, uncovering the diverse communities of early St. Augustine and reshaping the understanding of the state's past. Explore the archives at <https://laflorida.org>.



**Dr. J. Michael Francis with Katy Lockard, director of Archives & Records Management for the Diocese of St. Augustine**

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# Meet an ACDA Member

## Mark Prindiville Diocese of Saginaw

### What diocese or institution do you work for?

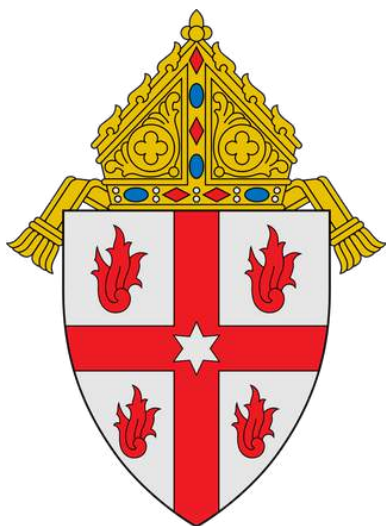
The Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan.

### How long have you been with the diocese / institution? Has your job changed over the years?

4 years. The job has evolved, but overall the work remains the same.



### How did you find yourself working in Archives? Did you study it in school? Find your way here from another career?



I began my university work at Central Michigan University, in the education field, specifically history. After a few years, I realized that teaching was not in my blood, but I still wanted to work in the field of history, if possible. After graduating with my B.S. in History, I continued into a master's program at the same school. During my work in the grad program, I stumbled into a class/internship duo within the archival field on campus, at the Clarke Historical Library. This is where I discovered my love for the archival field and my overall appreciation of being able to work with history with my hands.

My mentor at the Clarke informed me that I needed a particular degree in order to be seriously considered for an archivist position, especially at other universities, so I continued into the field after graduating with my M.A. in U.S. History, and after two years I graduated with my M.L.I.S. from Wayne State University in Detroit.

## What is your favorite item in your archive's collection?

That is a tough choice! I know whenever things seems stressful, and I need a quick pick me up, a photograph of our first bishop with his mother always cheers me up! Something about it is very wholesome, plus it's a nice reminder of our church leadership being very human and not all that different from the parishioners they watch over.



**Bishop William F. Murphy with his mother**

## What do you enjoy when you aren't at work?

I am a big fan of traveling and attending concerts. I have a daunting goal of visiting all 50 states by the time I turn 50, but I'm also very fortunate that I'm already over half way there (31 and counting)! I am also trying to include more unique places to travel abroad. Last February, my then-fiancé and I spent a week in Cuba, mostly around the capital city, Havana.

Editor's Note: Mark is currently working on a project called "Great Lakes, Great Faith," which offers an opportunity for users and fellow history connoisseurs to travel back in time and learn more about the diocese's roots and the folks who made up the Catholic communities in the Great Lakes Bay region. The project currently has a little over one hundred slides, made up of parish histories, bishop biographies, decade maps, and more! You can check out the project [here](#).

**Interested in featuring in an upcoming Meet an ACDA Member?  
Email [editor@diocesanarchivists.org](mailto:editor@diocesanarchivists.org) or complete the form [here](#)!**

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# The James O'Toole Biennial Conference Scholarship Report

## Rev. Lucas LaRoche, STL Diocese of Worcester



Fr. Lucas with Bishop Thomas Paprocki

One May morning a few months ago, my phone began ringing in the middle of a meeting. I'm usually inclined to ignore it in situations like this but, glancing at the screen, I realized it was the Bishop calling me; I thought it would be best to excuse myself and take the call. His Excellency explained that, come July 1, he intended to transfer me to a new parish: Very well, business as usual.

After a brief pause, however, the Bishop added, "Our archives are a bit of a mess and we're looking for someone to start cleaning them up. I'd also like to

appoint you Diocesan Archivist." A bit surprised, I responded, "Your Excellency, with respect: I know how to be a parish priest, I know nothing about being an archivist. Why do you want me to take this on?" After another pause he said simply, "You're the only one who's asked to see the archives in the last eight months."

Thus began a rather frantic search for: 1) What an archivist does, and; 2) How to get the training necessary to do that job well. I was pleasantly surprised to immediately find the website for the Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists and quickly ordered a copy of *Managing Diocesan Archives and Records*. A further inspection of the ACDA website, however, showed an upcoming conference which—miracle of miracles—included an "Archives 101" course for new-hires.

My excitement was quickly deflated, though, upon finding out that the now-fledgling Office of the Archives had no budget, having been created in the middle of the fiscal year. Unable to spare the expenses myself on such short notice, I was resigned to trying to become an archivist by self-tuition, until further inspection of the ACDA website proved that a scholarship was available for first-time attendees.



After sending in my annual dues to the ACDA and becoming a member, I sent in the application for the scholarship, expecting that someone as fresh in the role as me would be passed over. I was pleasantly surprised, however, when I received notification by email a few weeks later that I had been selected as one of the recipients of the James O'Toole scholarship; thus, I was thrust into the position of being least in the kingdom of the ACDA.

The conference itself proved to be most helpful. Dr. Leumas' "Archives 101" course provided the essential information to begin my work in the archives of the Diocese; what was even more helpful was the community of archivists, chancellors, canonists, and professionals who make up the ACDA, who were present at the conference.

In any of my roles, I'm used to attending conferences with some regularity. Never before, though, have I come across a community so eager to welcome newcomers, willing to collaborate on shared projects, and offer input from their own experiences with similar jobs.

Armed with the information learned from Dr. Leumas' course, I was ready to begin my initial dive into our archives; as I came across more issues that needed to be resolved, the members of the ACDA that I met at the conference have been some of the most valuable resources in continuing my work as the first archivist in the Diocese in several decades.

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## **Sr. Mary Regina, MSSR Diocese of Santa Rosa**

Sr. Mary Regina with Bishop Thomas Paprocki

St. John Henry Newman's words, "Here below, to live is to change," find expression in my own life in so far as my serving as archivist within the diocese of Santa Rosa, CA, represents a paradigm shift for me. In fact, after decades serving in academia and education administration, I'm now learning to be an archivist. Since entering religious life in 1976, I've been privileged to serve as a professor of philosophy at various universities, as well as the principal of a Pre-K through 12 Catholic Classical academy. Granted, years ago I did serve as archivist within my religious community, but my duties then were a far cry from



those I undertake in my present position. This means that when I arrived at the July 2024 ACDA Conference, held at Mundelein Seminary, I was in dire need of instruction from experienced professionals. *Deo gratias*, the presentations at the conference not only met but vastly surpassed all of my expectations.

For instance, I found Dr. Leumas' "Archives and Records Management 101" uniformly excellent; the word "WOW" barely captures the essence of my experience! Lee offered engaging, detailed explanations regarding procedures, then illustrated these by means of practical examples. I took copious notes during the day-long class, to which I continue to refer.

I think all of the conference presentations were well-crafted and helpful, but I particularly benefited from the class on Records and Information Programming and from the Learning Labs. I treasured the wonderful opportunities for meeting with and learning from archivists outside of the classroom setting. Right now, I'm working on record digitization utilizing the clear directives I received during dinner one evening.

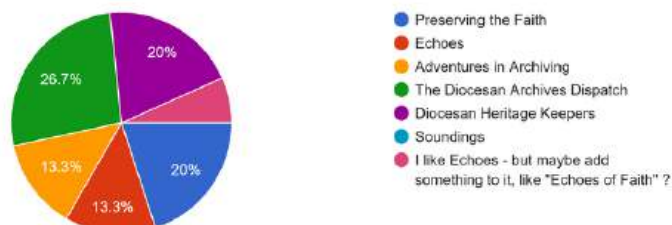
I was privileged to attend this conference as one of the 2024 James O'Toole Scholarship recipients. Truth to tell, when I received the news concerning this award, deepest gratitude outdistanced all other emotions that I experienced. And now, after I have attended the ACDA conference, I can hardly begin to frame the thanks I owe, first to the Lord, but also to Katie Oubre, Rena Schergen, and to all on the Programming Committee.

I'm very grateful for the tremendous benefits I derived from the conference this past July. As I gradually acquire the skills of an archivist, I can honestly characterize this summer's experience as *the gift that keeps on giving.*

## Introducing...The Diocesan Archives Dispatch!

Help us choose a new name for the newsletter or submit your own suggestion!

15 responses

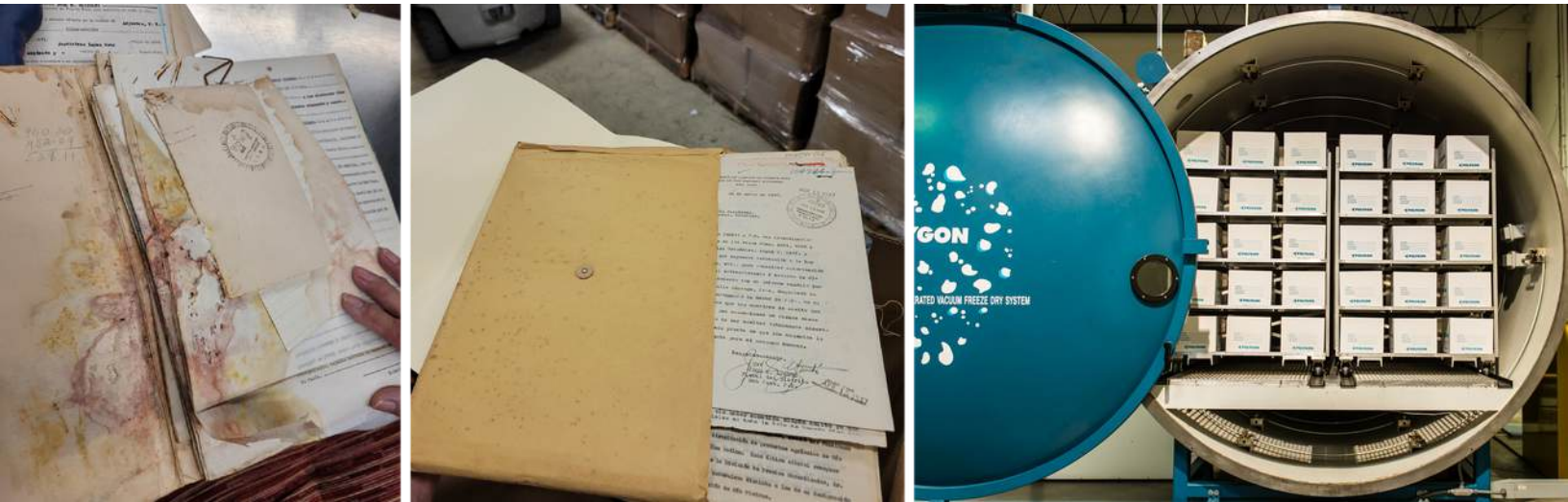


The people have spoken! To the left are the vote results for our newsletter title. Thank you so much to everyone that suggested titles and voted.

And a special THANK YOU to Rena Schergen, Archdiocese of St. Louis, for the winning suggestion!

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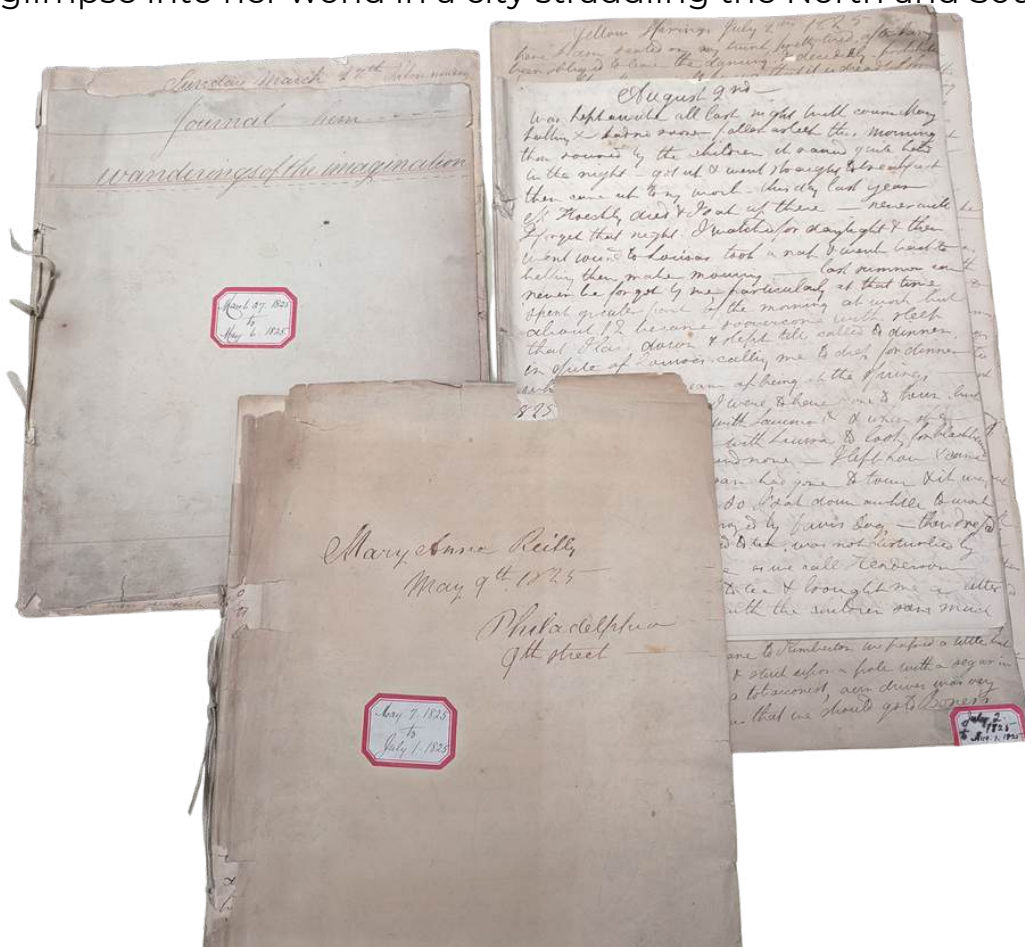
# Collection Spotlight: Marianne Reilly (1804–1895) Papers

Michelle Smith  
Archdiocese of Cincinnati

## What makes this collection interesting?

Marianne Reilly was born in 1804 in Philadelphia to Thomas Reilly and Mary Miller, who had emigrated from Cork, Ireland. Eventually the family made their home in Cincinnati, where they were among the founding families of the diocese. Reilly was active in social and church activities and her family enjoyed a close relationship with Archbishop John B. Purcell. When the first Sisters of Charity arrived in Cincinnati in 1829, they stayed with the Reilly family.

Reilly's journals detail family life, social engagements, travels, weather reports, health concerns, and parish life. They include poetry in English and French, a financial journal, and her travels to other places with large Catholic populations, such as New Orleans, Louisville, Baltimore, and Mexico. Such a rich collection of personal papers documenting the life of a 19th century lay Catholic over such a long period enables us to get a rich glimpse into her world in a city straddling the North and South.



## What kinds of materials are in this collection?

The collection is paper-based, consisting of correspondence (1827–1873), journals (1825–1886), and papers related to Marianne Reilly's estate and family genealogy. This includes Marianne's correspondence with Archbishop Purcell, consecrated religious, friends, and family members.

## Who would be interested in exploring this collection?

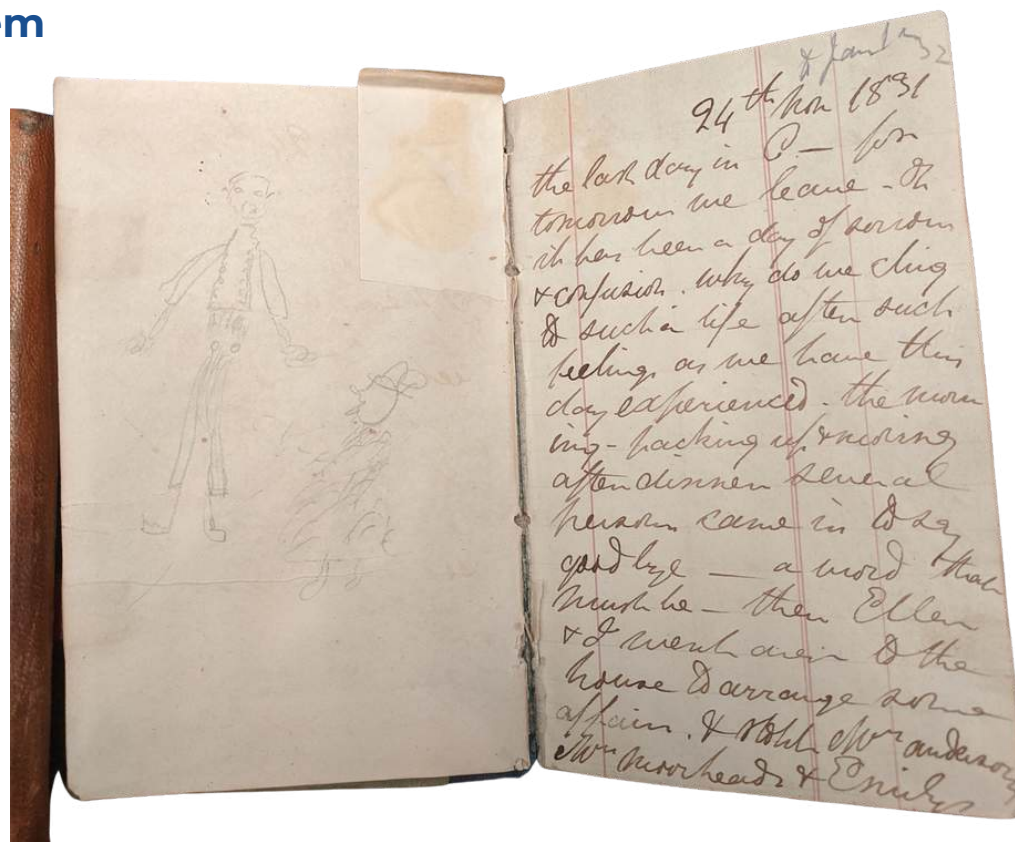
Those studying 19th-century American history, particularly looking at the intersection of culture, religion, and community in a historical context would find the journals invaluable for understanding the era. Those interested in women's writing, personal diaries, or poetry from the period may appreciate the literary aspects of her journals.

## What is your favorite item in the collection?

I like her doodles peppered throughout the journals.

## Is there anything else you want to share?

Marianne Reilly was a contemporary of Sarah Peter. Peter, the daughter of Thomas Worthington, Governor of Ohio from 1814 to 1818, was a Catholic convert, philanthropist, and patron of the arts.



**Do you have a collection to feature in an upcoming Collection Spotlight?**

Email [editor@diocesanarchivists.org](mailto:editor@diocesanarchivists.org) or complete the [form here!](#)

# 1st Annual Great Archives Bake-Off!

## Amy Lisinski Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Each October Shelly Taylor and Amy Lisinski, archivists for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, try to think of new ways to engage the central office staff to celebrate American Archives Month. After years of creative but poorly attended events, we think we've found the key to positive engagement – food!

Inspired by a recent donation of a cookbook, we decided to host a Great Archives Bake-Off. Using finding aids and our collection database, our intern was able to find ten cookbooks within our collections that could be used. The rules were simple: any staff member from the Pastoral Center could come to the Archives during September and October and browse the cookbooks to find a dessert recipe to make. Recipes had to be followed as written, ingredient substitutions were only allowed if an ingredient was no longer widely available, and only recipes from our cookbooks could be used for official entry.

Several new faces made their way into the archives to browse and by the final week of recipe selection, we had 14 bakers representing nine different offices. The Great Archives Bake-Off was held on October 29. Staff were invited to judge desserts on taste and presentation. About 50 staff members participated as “judges” and the winners were awarded a commemorative pie pan award, designed by our communications team. Scattered throughout the dessert tables were informational signs about the history of the churches where the cookbooks came from and a summary of the Archives activities from

the past year. Immediately following the Bake-Off, a tour of the archives was offered which was also well attended. Feedback from the entire Pastoral Center was positive and many people mentioned they hope this becomes an annual event. We have already thought of many ways we can change the competition each year to keep it fresh. This was a simple, fun, and no-budget way to engage the archdiocesan staff and promote the work and importance of the archives!



**Do you have any news or information about an upcoming event that you would like to share? Complete the form [here!](#)**



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# Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, & Events

## Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference

November 13-15, 2024 (Virtual)  
<https://www.marac.info/fall-2024-conference>

## ACWR Webinar for Congregations of Women Religious: Understanding Archival Agreements

November 13, 2024 (Virtual)  
<https://archivistsacwr.org/leadership/>

## American Catholic Historical Association Annual Meeting

January 3-5, 2025 (New York, NY)  
<https://achahistory.org/nyc2025/>

## ACWR Webinar for Congregations of Women Religious: Understanding Archival Restrictions

January 15, 2025 (Virtual)  
<https://archivistsacwr.org/leadership/>

## ACWR Webinar for Congregations of Women Religious: How to Prepare for a Move

February 19, 2025 (Virtual)  
<https://archivistsacwr.org/leadership/>

## New England Archivists Annual Meeting

March 13-15, 2025 (Springfield, MA)  
<https://www.newenglandarchivists.org/Current-and-Upcoming-Meetings>

## ACWR Webinar for Congregations of Women Religious: Update on Collaborative Archives

March 19, 2025 (Virtual)  
<https://archivistsacwr.org/leadership/>

## Society of California Archivists Annual Meeting

April 2-4, 2025 (North Hollywood, CA)  
<https://www.calarchivists.org/2025-AGM>

## Midwest Archives Conference Annual Meeting

April 10-12, 2025 (Minneapolis, MN)  
<https://www.midwestarchives.org/2025-annual-meeting>

## Society of Florida Archivists Annual Meeting

May 13-14, 2025 (St. Augustine, FL)  
<https://www.florida-archivists.org/2025-Annual-Meeting-save-the-date>

## Midwest Archives Conference Annual Meeting

April 10-12, 2025 (Minneapolis, MN)  
<https://www.midwestarchives.org/2025-annual-meeting>

## Conference on the History of Women Religious

June 22-25, 2025 (Notre Dame, IN)  
<https://cushwa.nd.edu/events/2025/06/22/conference-on-the-history-of-women-religious-lives-and-archives/>

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# About ACDA

The Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists is here to serve the specific needs of the Roman Catholic diocesan archivist. ACDA offers a variety of information and support to both veteran and beginning archivists and records managers.

The Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists is committed to the active promotion of professionalism in the management of diocesan archives in North America as reflected in our work to establish an archives and records management program in every diocese and to assist bishops and chancellors in the development of such programs.

# Photos from the 2024 Conference

**Many thanks to Dennis Pedley, Katy Lockard, Rena Schergen, and Tanya Taylor-Norwood for the memories!**



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