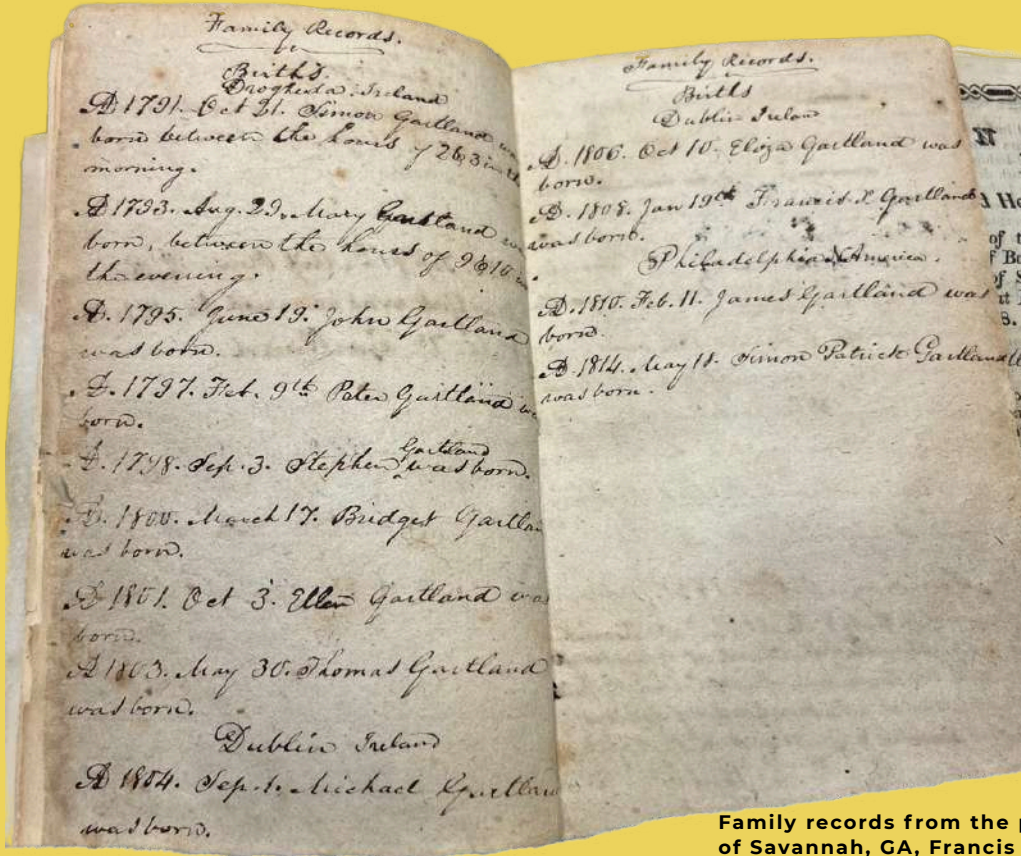


THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC DIOCESAN ARCHIVISTS  
DIOCESANARCHIVISTS.ORG



Family records from the prayer book of the first bishop of Savannah, GA, Francis X. Gartland.

## In this Issue

FROM THE PRESIDENT	P. 2
.....	
ACDA AT SAA	P. 3
.....	
MEET AN ACDA MEMBER: STEPHANIE BRADY	P. 4
.....	
COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT: SISTERS OF SOCIAL SERVICE ARCHIVES	P. 7
.....	
ATLA CATHOLIC NEWS ARCHIVE UPDATE	P. 9
.....	
SAVE THE DATES	P. 11
.....	
UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS	P. 12

# From the President

## Katie Oubre Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

It is summer again, and it is hard to believe that it has been almost a year since we were together in Mundelein. I hope to see many of you at our next meeting in August.

Our one-day meeting in conjunction with the Society of American Archivists will be held on August 28, 2025, in Anaheim, California. Registration information is included in this newsletter and will be shared on the listserv. While registration for this meeting is free for our members, we do ask that you register so that the Program Committee can adequately prepare for seating and meals. I hope to see many of you there. If you need any extra incentive to attend (beyond the amazing program our Program Committee has put together) the Christ Cathedral Cultural Center was a filming location for *Star Trek Into Darkness*, and the Anaheim Convention Center was used as Starfleet Headquarters in *Star Trek: Picard*.



Every other summer we also welcome new additions to the ACDA board. Congratulations and welcome to our newly elected officers and board members! Thank you to our Nominating Committee, Brian Fahey, Lindsay Alukonis, Kathleen Messier, and P.J. Oubre for assembling an amazing group of candidates. Every single person who ran for office has served ACDA in some capacity and will help contribute to the success of this organization in the future.

It has been a privilege to serve as your President. I know that ACDA will thrive under the leadership of our incoming president, Thomas Lester, and the incoming officers and board members. Thank you for sharing this journey with me.

# ACDA ONE-DAY MEETING

AUGUST 28, 2025

**HOSTED BY:**

DIOCESE OF ORANGE  
13280 CHAPMAN AVE  
GARDEN GROVE, CA



**FREE!**  
**REGISTER NOW!**



## SCHEDULE

8:00 am – 8:30 am	Morning Mass at St. Callistus Chapel in Christ Cathedral
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Breakfast in Pastoral Center Conference Room 1 A/B
9:30 am – 9:45 am	Opening Prayer and President's Welcome
9:45 am – 10:45 am	ACDA Annual Business Meeting
10:45 am – 11:00am	Break
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Educational Session: <i>Digital Preservation at the Diocese of Orange</i> by Daniella Mosqueda and Fr. Chris Heath
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch (Free box lunch provided)
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Educational Session: <i>History of the Mission of San Juan Capistrano</i> by local historian Eric Plunkett
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Guided Tour of Campus

## QUESTIONS?

Contact Rena Schergen, Education Chair

[renaschergen@archstl.org](mailto:renaschergen@archstl.org)

## Meet an ACDA Member

### Stephanie Braddy Diocese of Savannah



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

The Diocese of Savannah, Georgia.

#### How long have you been with the diocese / institution?

Over six years!

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

I earned my BA in history from Georgia State University, but had no idea at the time what to do with it. By a twist of fate, I ended up in Savannah and started working in higher education administration, where I stayed for over 11 years. After a while, I tried to work toward advancement in that career, but wasn't able to go any further without a master's degree. When I finally decided to go for my master's, I wanted to pursue something I was actually interested in, and thought back to undergrad school and what it was that interested me about history. I was rarely happier than when I was working hands-on in the school's special collections and archives. While I do enjoy research, I really wanted to know how to care for and preserve the collections for the benefit of future generations, to use as I had. So, in my mid-30s, I changed career paths and decided to become an archivist!

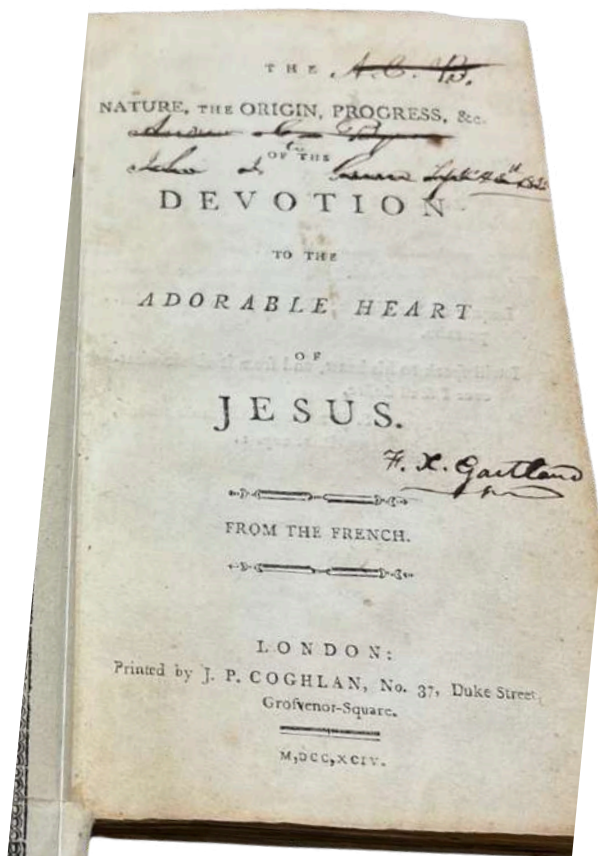
The coat of arms of the Diocese of Savannah consists of a cross of red (gules) on a background of silver (argent). The cross is that of Saint George, Patron of England and of King George II, under whom the Colony of Georgia was founded and for whom it was named in 1733. The four blue (azure) stars or "mulletts" signify that Georgia was the fourth state to ratify the Constitution of the United States. The rose of gold (or) in the center of the cross is the Cherokee rose, the state flower of Georgia. It is also associated with the Biblical Rose of Sharon and the Blessed Virgin Mary, the "Mystical Rose."



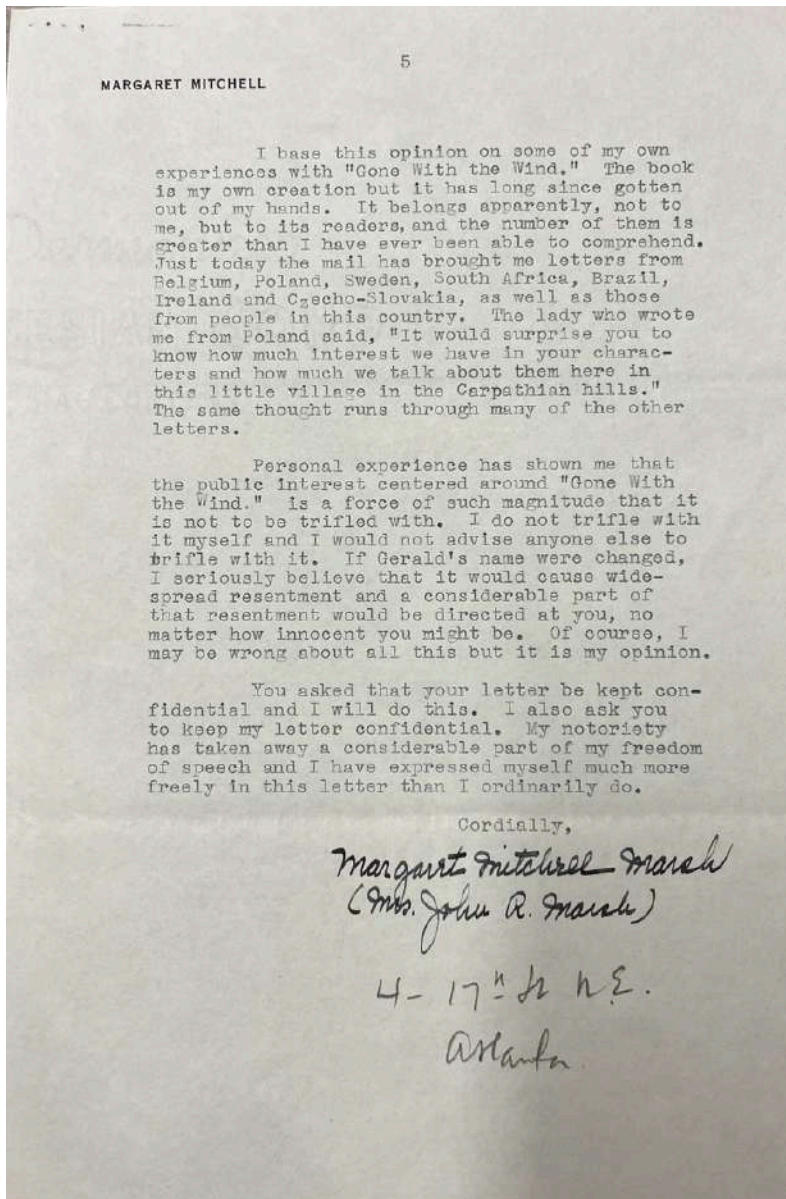
## What is your favorite item in your archive's collection?

I have a few favorites. The oldest record in our archive is the sacramental register from our first official parish, established in 1796, well before Savannah became a diocese in 1850. Another is the personal prayer book of our first bishop, Rt. Rev. Francis X. Gartland. He wrote notes in the margins and even jotted down his family tree on some of the fly leaves. Finally, I am a fan of the book *Gone with the Wind* and author, Margaret Mitchell. We have a letter that Ms. Mitchell wrote to our bishop at the time, Most Rev. Gerald P. O'Hara, who just happens to share his name with Scarlett's father in the book. At the time the movie was in production, Bishop O'Hara wrote to Ms. Mitchell asking her to change the name of Scarlett's father so that they would not be the same. Ms. Mitchell politely, yet firmly explained that fans of her book would expect the name to be the same and she in no way intended for the fictional Gerald O'Hara to resemble a living Gerald O'Hara. Something about the letter always makes me smile.

Sacramental register from Savannah's oldest parish.



Title page from the personal prayer book of Francis X. Gartland, showing his personal notations.



Signature page of a letter from *Gone with the Wind* author Margaret Mitchell to Savannah Bishop Gerald P. O'Hara.

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

I love hanging out with my husband and teenage daughters (if/when they decide hang out with their "old" parents), friends, my two dogs, Rita and Lady, and my 8-month-old kitten, Beans! I have also taken up crocheting, while I listen to audiobooks on my "me time."

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

# Collection Spotlight: Sisters of Social Service Canadian Archives

**Dominy William**  
**Archdiocese of Hamilton, Ontario**

## What makes this collection interesting?

This collection celebrates the lives and ministry of the Sisters of Social Service in Canada. It follows the path to Canada from Hungary and their efforts to build a community of belonging through hospitality, social work, and support of newcomers to Canada. Grounded in Benedictine spirituality, the Sisters of Social Service are professionally trained to serve in social work, evangelization, women's movements, and social justice. Their ministries have made significant and lasting contributions to communities they have served.

## How did your archive come to hold this collection?

In 2019, the Sisters of Social Service of Canada donated their archives to the Diocese of Hamilton. With only five members of the Canadian Sisters of Social Service remaining, their General Director was looking for a repository to safeguard the order's history.

## What kinds of materials are in this collection?

The collection comprises 524 linear feet of documents including textual materials, photographs, and memorabilia. The oldest items belonged to the pioneering Sisters who first came to Canada and date back to the late 1800s.

## Who would be interested in exploring this collection?

This collection is VERY popular with local historians. However, it is also relevant to a wide range of researchers and fields including women's studies, politics, and social history.



## What is your favorite item in the collection?

The photographs of the Sisters in ministry!



## Is there anything else you want to share?

This collection was featured in a virtual exhibition series *Stories of Migration and Belonging*, developed by the City of Hamilton. The short video highlights the contributions of the Sisters to Hamilton through their retreat work, which was conducted out of the historic Auchmar Estate, from 1946 to 1998. You can watch it online: <https://hamiltoncivicmuseums.ca/exhibition/migration-and-belonging/sister-mary-schwartz-and-the-sisters-of-social-service/>

**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!](#)**

# Atla Catholic News Archive Update

## Maria Stanton Atla

The Catholic News Archive (<https://www.thecatholicnewsarchive.org/>) is a free, fully searchable digital archive of Catholic newspapers launched in 2016 as a project of the Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRRA) and now overseen by Atla's CRRRA Program. The archive comprises thousands of newspaper pages from nearly 30 Catholic newspapers across the United States, spanning from the first issue of The Catholic Telegraph (October 22, 1831) to The Clarion Herald (June 28, 2025), featuring over 47,000 issues and more than 900,000 pages, with new materials being added regularly.



As publishers and dioceses seek ways to protect and share their rich histories, the Atla Catholic News Archive continues to expand with new and compelling content. In June 2025, the archive welcomed The Catholic Journalist (from the Catholic Media Association) as well as two publications from the Diocese of Phoenix: The Catholic Sun (1985–2024) and Alive (1971–1984).

The Atla Catholic News Archive offers a vast, searchable collection of Catholic newspapers, preserving and sharing the history, culture, and perspectives of Catholic communities throughout North America.

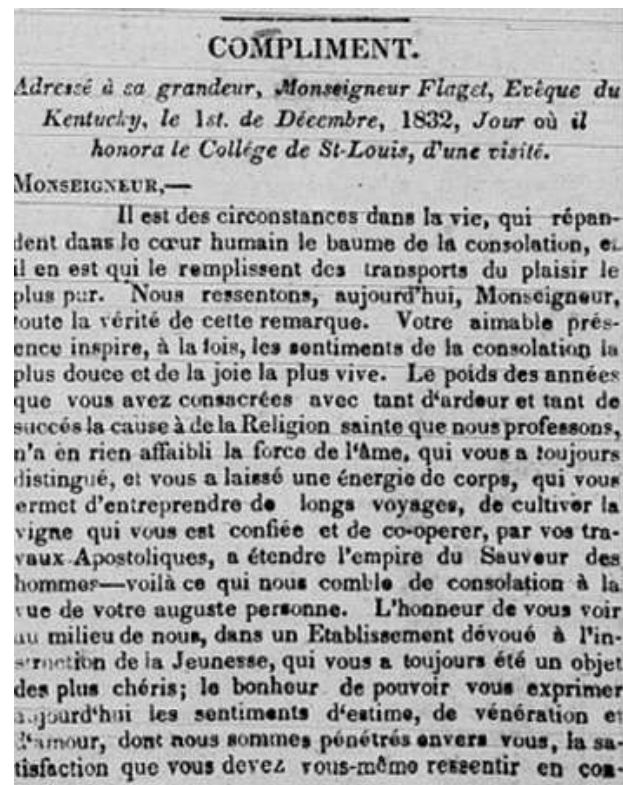
The Catholic News Archive is a valuable resource for virtually everyone. Researchers and scholars can access a wealth of topics for studies in Catholic history, theology, social movements, and American religious life, making it easier than ever to locate and reference original newspaper content. Journalists can use the archive to deepen their understanding of background information, historical context, and trends in Catholic media coverage. Church leaders and clergy explore past communications, policies, and

community developments to inform their current work and outreach. Genealogists and family historians will appreciate the rich collection of local Catholic news, obituaries, and event coverage for tracing family roots and community stories. For general readers, the archive provides a fascinating glimpse into Catholic culture, history, and the diverse perspectives of Catholic communities across North America.

More than just a favorite source, what I truly value is the depth of historical perspective the archive provides on key issues and insights into daily life. I've been especially drawn to comparing news reports from the First Vatican Council (1869–1870) and the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965). Through this exploration, I've spent time reading about the evolution of American culture in light of Vatican II, particularly the document *Lumen Gentium*, which redefined the role of the laity, promoted religious freedom, and encouraged ecumenical cooperation.

As a full-text collection, the archive also reveals unexpected treasures, such as a letter from students in St. Louis to Monseigneur Benoit Flaget, Bishop of Bardstown, Kentucky. When Bishop Flaget visited St. Louis College on December 1, 1832, a student expressed that Bishop Flaget's presence brought great joy and inspiration to the community. The city of St. Louis deeply valued his earlier contributions during a period when spiritual resources were scarce, and his visit was seen as both a blessing and a reminder of his vital work in strengthening the Church throughout the region.

Since joining Atla, the CRRA Program has continued to expand and enhance the Catholic News Archive.



To learn more about the valuable resources that Atla's CRRA Program is making available to students, scholars, educators, and researchers, we invite you to watch our recent webinar from April 2025 (<https://www.atla.com/webinar/new-and-noteworthy-developments-of-the-catholic-news-archive/>). If your institution or organization has newspapers to contribute, we encourage you to consider how you might participate and help bring your collections to a wider audience.

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



**2025 ACDA at SAA**

**Anaheim, CA**

**Thursday, August 28, 2025**



**2026 Biennial Conference  
Mundelein, IL  
July 6 - 10, 2026**



**2027 ACDA at SAA  
Date & Location TBD**



**2028 Biennial Conference  
Mundelein, IL  
July 17 - 21, 2028**

## 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.

## Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, & Events

### **Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting**

August 24, 2025 - August 27, 2025 (Anaheim, CA)

<https://www2.archivists.org/conference>

### **Canon Law Society of America Convention**

October 13 - 16, 2025 (Orlando, FL)

[https://clsa.org/page/2025\\_Convention](https://clsa.org/page/2025_Convention)

### **Midwest Archives Conference Fall Symposium: Trauma Informed Practice in Museums & Archives**

October 24 - 25, 2025 (St. Louis, MO)

<https://www.midwestarchives.org/2025-fall-symposium>

### **Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Symposium: Sustainability & Archives**

October 27, 2025 (Wilmington, DE)

<https://www.marac.info/conferences>

### **American Catholic Historical Association Annual Meeting**

January 8 - 10, 2026 (Chicago, IL)

<https://achahistory.org/chicago2026/>

### **New England Archivists Annual Meeting**

March 19 - 21, 2026 (Portland, ME)

<https://www.newenglandarchivists.org/Current-and-Upcoming-Meetings>

## *Support the ACDA Endowment Fund*

Consider making a tax-deductible contribution to support ACDA in promoting professionalism, education, and training programs for its members!

### **Donate Online**

[cdfnd.org/donatenow](https://cdfnd.org/donatenow)

Under the Endowment Gift heading, please be sure to indicate "Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists" in the "Notes" section.

### **Donate by Mail**

Catholic Development Foundation  
5201 Bishops Blvd. S, Suite A  
Fargo, ND 58104-7605

**Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists**  
**Board of Directors**

**PRESIDENT**

Katie Oubre, CA, CRM  
Diocese of Springfield (IL)

**VICE PRESIDENT / PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Thomas Lester  
Archdiocese of Boston

**TREASURER**

Timothy Olson  
Diocese of Fargo

**SECRETARY**

Diana Zwilling  
Diocese of Raleigh

**PAST PRESIDENT**

Brian P. Fahey  
Diocese of Charleston

**BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Ana-Elisa Arredondo, CA  
Diocese of Tuscon

Elvira Sanchez-Kisser  
Archdiocese of San Antonio

Allison Spies  
Archdiocese of St. Paul &  
Minneapolis

Dominy Williams  
Diocese of Hamilton

**EPISCOPAL MODERATOR**

Most Rev. Thomas J. Paprocki  
Diocese of Springfield (IL)

**CONNECT WITH US!**

