

UNSILENCING THE ARCHIVES: ILLUMINATING VOICES AND COLLECTIONS

Annual Meeting and Biennial Conference | Mundelein, IL
July 6-10, 2026

CAMPUS FACILITIES

Conference Center Lodge (CCL)

Lodging rooms and chapel for morning Mass. See Mass info below.

Meeting Hall (MH)

Educational sessions and business meetings. Room numbers are preceded by MH.

Dining Hall

Where we eat meals and enjoy the evening social!

Immaculate Conception Chapel

Wednesday evening Mass with Bishop Paprocki is at the seminary chapel. See Banquet info below.

The Lake Trail

Take a morning or evening stroll around the lake. Approximate length is 3 miles.

MASS INFORMATION

Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday

7:30 am-8:15 am

Chapel is located on the 2nd floor of the Conference Center Lodge. Daily Mass is also offered at the National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe in nearby Libertyville, IL. You will need to provide your own transportation there.

BANQUET

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm – Mass

Immaculate Conception Chapel
Bishop Paprocki, Celebrant

6:15 pm – ACDA Group Photo

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm – Banquet

Scholarship Winners
Acknowledged

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner:

All meals located in Dining Hall, and you must have your meal card to enter dining hall. All meals (except banquet) are served buffet/cafeteria style.

- Breakfast daily 8:00 am – 9:00 am
- Lunch daily 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
- Dinner daily 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm*

**Wednesday dinner will be served at Banquet at 6:30pm.*

Beverages:

Free soda, water, coffee, and tea are available in the Conference Center Lodge Living Room, Dining Hall, and the Meeting Hall Coffee Room. We encourage all to bring personal water bottles.

Session Breaks:

Light snacks will be offered during breaks in the Meeting Hall Room 202.

Social:

Catch up with friends old and new during the nightly Social 8:00 pm-10:00 pm located in the Dining Hall. Complimentary soda, beer, wine, and cocktails. A few of the nights will offer activities, but you do not need to participate to attend the general social.

ADDITIONAL INFO

Guest Services:

USML Staff are available at the Reception Desk from 8 am to 10 pm, whenever there are groups in-house. Any attendee arriving after 10 pm will need to contact Public Safety (847-970-4815 or 847-561-9397) to check-in to a room.

Wi-Fi Info:

Wi-Fi is available in Residence and Meeting Halls. Connection details will be provided at Check-In.

Printing Station:

Computers and printers are available for free use in the Conference Center Lodge Living Room.

Wheelchairs:

If you need assistance from the Meeting Hall to the Dining Hall, please see a Program Committee member for more information.

CHECK OUT

Check out of CCL rooms by 9 am.

You can leave your luggage in the CCL living room or store it at the back of MH 202.

Transportation: There are many ways to travel to/from Mundelein to O'Hare Airport, including rideshare apps like Uber or Lyft, car/limo services, and the [Metra commuter train](#).

The following car services offer transportation to/from O'Hare. Please note that ACDA does not endorse any specific company; these have simply been provided for your convenience:

[Northshore Limousine Service](#), 847-890-1210

[Northshore Cab](#), 847-864-7500

[All American Limousine](#), 773-992-0902


[Universal Taxi Dispatch](#), 630-617-5400

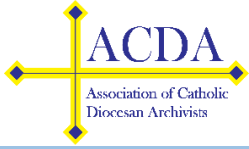
[Eminent Limo](#), 855-286-6691

SILENT AUCTION

Exciting Event!! This year at Camp Mundelein, you can support the ACDA Endowment by participating/placing a bid on one-of-kind items.



 Bidding begins on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, and ends at 9:00am on Thursday, July 9, 2026, with prizes to be awarded during the Thursday night social. Details will be posted prior to and at the conference.



ACDA 2026 Biennial Conference Schedule | Mundelein, IL

See session descriptions on pages 5-10.

Monday July 6, 2026	
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Arrival/Registration (Conference Center Lodge - Lounge)
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	DINNER (Dining Hall)
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Social
Tuesday July 7, 2026	
7:30 am – 8:15 am	Daily Mass (Conference Center Lodge - Chapel)
8:00 am – 9:00 am	BREAKFAST (Dining Hall)
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Arrival/Registration (Conference Center Lodge - Lounge)
9:00 am–10:15 am	Session 1A - Archives and Record Management 101 (MH 202) Presenter: Dr. Emilie Gagnet Leumas, PhD
10:15 am–10:30 am	MORNING BREAK
10:30 am–11:45 am	Session 1B – Part II Archives and Record Management 101 continued (MH 202)
12:00 pm–1:00 pm	LUNCH (Dining Hall)
1:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Session 1C - Part III - Archives and Record Management 101 continued (MH 202)
2:15 pm – 2:30 pm	AFTERNOON BREAK
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<i>Executive Board Meeting (Executive Board members only in MH 104)</i>
3:30 pm – 3:45 pm	Session 1D - Part IV - Archives and Record Management 101 continued (MH 202)
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	FREE TIME
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	DINNER (Dining Hall)
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Opening Prayer & Welcome (MH 202) – Thomas Lester, ACDA President Keynote Address – Sergio M. González – <i>Archival Silences and Sacred Presence: Latino Catholics in the Midwestern Church</i>
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	SOCIAL – “Game/Craft” (Dining Hall)
Wednesday July 8, 2026	
8:00 am – 9:00 am	BREAKFAST (Dining Hall)
9:00 am–10:15 am	Session 2 – Roots of Faith: Tracing Pope Leo XIV's Ancestry Through Sacramental Records (MH 202) *Sarah Waits
10:15 am–10:30 am	MORNING BREAK
10:30 am–11:45 am	Session 3 – Where Angels Fear to Tread: Inventorying of Sacramental Registers (MH 202) *Amy Lisinski, Stephanie Jacobe, Elvira Sanchez Kissler
12:00 pm–1:00 pm	LUNCH (Dining Hall)
1:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Session 4 – Exhibits on a Grand Scale (MH 202) *Elvira Sanchez Kissler
2:15 pm – 2:30 pm	AFTERNOON BREAK
2:30 pm – 3:45 pm	Session 5 – Learning Labs (MH 101)
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	FREE TIME

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Mass at Immaculate Conception Chapel
6:00 pm – 6:10 pm	Group Photo at Immaculate Conception Chapel steps (immediately following Mass)
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	BANQUET (Dining Hall)
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Social – “Trivia Night” (Dining Hall)

Thursday July 9, 2026

7:30 am – 8:15 am	Mass (Conference Center Lodge - Chapel)
8:00 am – 9:00 am	BREAKFAST (Dining Hall)
9:00 am–10:15 am	Session 6 – <i>Making the Most of Your Archive Space</i> (MH 202) *Stephanie Jacobe, Susan Kirk Ryan
10:15 am–10:30 am	MORNING BREAK
10:30 am–11:45 am	Session 7 – <i>Working with Volunteers and Student Interns</i> (MH 102) *Lindsay Alukonis, Stephanie Braddy, Kathleen Messier, Shelly Taylor
12:00 pm–1:00 pm	LUNCH (Dining Hall)
1:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Session 8 – <i>Something is Better Than Nothing: Getting Started with Digital Records Management</i> (MH 202) *Emily Ahin
2:15 pm – 2:30 pm	AFTERNOON BREAK
2:30 pm – 3:45 pm	Session 9 – <i>Unexpected Workflows: Responding to the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA)</i> MH 202 *Rena Schergen
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	ACDA Business Meeting – all attendees (MH 202)
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	DINNER (Dining Hall)
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	FREE TIME
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Social – “Line Dancing” (Dining Hall)

Friday July 10, 2026

7:30 pm – 8:15 am	Mass (Conference Center Lodge - Chapel)
8:00 am – 9:00 am	BREAKFAST (Dining Hall)
9:00 am	Check out CCL rooms by 9am. <i>You can leave your luggage in the CCL living room or store it at the back of MH 202.</i>
9:00 am–10:15 am	Session 10 – <i>Intro to Military Archive: We Are Everywhere and You’ve Probably Never Heard of Us</i> (MH 202) *Randall Mueller
10:15 am – 10:30 am	MORNING BREAK
10:15 am – 11:15 am	Session 11 -<i>Listserv Live</i> (MH 202) *Moderators: Brianna LoSardo and Lindsay Alukonis



ACDA 2024 Biennial Conference Session Descriptions

Tuesday, July 7

Session 1A-1D

FULL-DAY WORKSHOP

over 4 sessions

MH 202:

9:00 am – 10:15 am

10:30 am – 11:45 am

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

2:30 pm – 3:45pm

Archives & Records Management 101

Presenter: Dr. Emilie Gagnet Leumas, PhD (EGL Consultants)

NOTE: This full-day workshop is divided into 4 sessions.

This course provides a survey of canon laws, practices, and principles that diocesan archivists and records managers apply, as well as issues that they confront while managing diocesan records. We will discuss the policies, procedures, retention schedules, disposition, finding aids, and recordkeeping standards. This course is designed for those that are new to their position, have limited experience in archives and records management, or those who have been charged with oversight of the archives and records management program.



Stay in the Loop!

Follow the QR code to access the ACDA 2026 shared drive:

- **Schedule-at-a-Glance**
- **Full Program**
- **USML maps & guides**
- **Presentations**
- **Handouts**

Tuesday, July 7

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

MH 202

Opening Prayer & Welcome

Thomas Lester, ACDA President

Keynote Address by Sergio M. González

Archival Silences and Sacred Presence: Latino Catholics in the Midwestern Church

Researched the Latino Catholic communities in the Midwest, this keynote explores how diocesan archives can surface the histories of marginalized Catholics whose lives often appear only fleetingly in institutional records. By reading sacramental registers, parish correspondence, ethnic ministry files, and community ephemera “against the grain,” I argue that archivists play a crucial role in recovering stories of migration, faith, labor, and belonging that have shaped the modern Church. In an era of demographic transformation, diocesan archives remain vital spaces for recognizing the historical presence and spiritual contributions of Latino Catholics and other marginalized communities.

Sergio M. González is Associate Professor of History at Marquette University. A historian of twentieth-century U.S. migration, labor, and religion, his scholarship explores the intersections between faith and social movements as well as the development of Latino communities in the U.S. Midwest. He is the author of *Mexicans in Wisconsin* (Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2017) and the co-editor of *Faith and Power: Latino Religious Politics Since 1945* (New York University Press, 2022) with Felipe Hinojosa and Maggie Elmore. His most recently published book, *Strangers No Longer: Latino Belonging and Faith in Twentieth Century Wisconsin* (University of Illinois Press, 2024), explores the relationship between Latino communities, religion, and social movements in the twentieth century Midwest. González’s current research examines the contentious battles over sanctuary movements in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, exploring the pivotal role people of faith have played in developing contemporary social movements for immigrant and refugee justice as well as the opposing political movements that have risen to criminalize these forms of solidarity. Along with his academic scholarship, González is a committed public historian. He’s engaged in several public humanities projects, including co-writing and co-hosting *The Look Back*, a social studies show for middle school students on Wisconsin PBS; serving as a founding member of the Wisconsin Latinx History Collective; and co-writing and co-hosting *Sanctuary: On the Border Between Church and State*, a limited podcast series with Axis Mundi Media.

Wednesday, July 8

Session 2

9:00 am – 10:15 am
MH 202

Roots of Faith: Tracing Pope Leo XIV's Ancestry Through Sacramental Records

Presenter: Sarah Waits

Pope Leo XIV was elected on May 8, 2025, becoming the first head of the Catholic Church born in the United States. Recognizing the Pope's Creole ancestry through his maternal line, the Office of Archives and Records at the Archdiocese of New Orleans found sacramental records within the archive that traced the Holy Father's Louisiana roots back to his sixth great-grandparents. While other news outlets and sources have tracked the Pope's family back to Europe, the Archives office wanted to dig into the treasure trove of records held in New Orleans to tell the Holy Father's story. This led to the creation of a family tree exhibit that has the names of more than fifty of Pope Leo's ancestors with direct ties to Louisiana. This family tree reflects the multicultural ancestry of colonial America, with French, African, Spanish, Cuban, and Canadian ancestors. The family tree exhibit is installed at the Old Ursuline Convent Museum in the French Quarter of New Orleans, with a digital component available on the museum website. This presentation will highlight the process of genealogical research and feature the ongoing impact of the exhibit on social engagement, increased museum attendance, and partnerships with other institutions.

Shepherd: Michelle LeBlanc

Wednesday, July 8

Session 3

10:30 am – 11:45 am
MH 202

Where Angels Fear to Tread, Inventorying of Sacramental Registers

Presenters: Amy Lisinski, Stephanie Jacobe, Elvira Sanchez Kissner

Where Angels fear to tread, inventorying Sacramental Registers Inventorying of an (arch) diocese's sacramental registers is a big, complex, and very necessary job for any archives. But to accomplish it, we are forced out of our offices and storage areas and into the overburdened world of parish staff, pastors, and chaplains. This session will provide background on three case studies from three separate Archdioceses. First, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee has been managing, microfilming and digitizing their records regularly for more than 25 years. They have dealt with inventorying, closed parishes, and the regular updating of the scanned records. The Archdiocese of San Antonio began microfilming its records in the 1950s but it was not until beginning a large digitization project with Ancestry.com that they realized that many registers had been missed. They have been working to update their inventory and make sure all registers are backed up. The Archdiocese of Washington embarked on its first inventory project in 2025, and they have been working to find all their registers and have the parishes complete the inventory. Some books were removed from parishes by religious orders priests who oversaw them, orders were sent to local historical societies or University Archives. We hope to have the inventory complete in the new year.

Shepherd: Patrick Shank

Wednesday, July 8

Session 4

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm
MH 202

Exhibits on a Grand Scale

Presenter: Elvira Sanchez Kissler

As our Archdiocese began preparing for their 150 years jubilee as a diocese I was asked to create an exhibit for a one-day event. The preparation started 7 months before the event with no money set aside. The one-day event was planned for 5,000 people in a space of two basketball courts or 100 sq. ft. I had to come up with a budget, seek donations, design, and implement. I will talk about how to make a big splash in a short time period and be able to use the designs beyond the one event.

Shepherd: Brianna LoSardo

Wednesday, July 8

Session 5

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm
MH 101

Learning Labs

Visit interactive stations to learn more on the following topics:

This Is Fine 🔥🔥 : Relocating materials, Gaining Intellectual Control, and Establishing Sustainable Policies and Workflows

Presenters: Daniella Mosqueda and Rev. Chris Heath

What do you do when you inherit an archive that is, in its entirety, a legacy collection? After decades of organic growth, The Diocese of Orange archives developed a substantial backlog, with no provenance, finding aids, or policies in place. After eight years of inactivity, new staff were tasked with building an archival program from the ground up. Installing high-density mobile shelving and relocating part of the repository forced us to make foundational decisions about a new CMS, arrangement, policies, and workflow.

This poster is a snapshot of that in-between stage - the backlog is not yet processed or arranged, but a foundation has been laid for a modernized repository. We share how space planning became the catalyst to move us from accumulated materials to an intentional, sustainable program, and we invite conversation about how others have navigated similar moments of overwhelm and opportunity.

Reeling in the Years: Identifying Issues in A/V Materials

Presenter: Patrick Shank

A/V formats present a unique challenge to archives. Learn about some of the different preservation issues from some common formats as well as steps that can be taken to limit deterioration.

The Volunteer Hub: Getting Involved with ACDA

Presenter: Lindsay Alukonis

The ACDA depends on members like YOU to volunteer. Are you curious how your talents can support the mission of the ACDA? Stop by our table and talk to people who have volunteered on different committees to learn more about the roles and responsibilities of each committee and understand the level of time and commitment that is required. There is truly something for every schedule and person!

Thursday, July 9

Session 6

9:00 am – 10:15 am

MH 102

Making the Most of Your Archive Space

Presenters: Stephanie Jacobe, Susan Kirk Ryan

Sometimes less-than-greatness is thrust upon us! We cannot always control what our physical Archival space will be. Stephanie Jacobe, Archdiocese of Washington, and Susan Kirk Ryan, Diocese of Wilmington, will share their experiences and discuss practical ways to make the most of what we're dealt, whether in moving on a budget to a "new to us" space, or to maximize our existing space. A change can be an opportunity to foster goodwill within the Diocese and with the public.

Shepherd: Patrick Shank

Thursday, July 9

Session 7

10:30 am - 11:45 am

MH 202

Working with Volunteers and Student Interns in the Archives

Presenters: Lindsay Alukonis, Stephanie Braddy, Kathleen Messier and Shelly Taylor

Have you or someone you know ever supervised a volunteer or student intern? Been a volunteer or student intern yourself? If so, we've assembled a small team of co-presenters for a collaborative session exploring the full arc of these experiences. Each presenter will lead a segment drawn from their own institutional context, addressing recruitment, training, project design, and the rewards and challenges of mentoring.

Shepherd: Lindsay Alukonis

Thursday, July 9

Session 8

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

MH 202

Something is Better Than Nothing: Getting Started with Digital Records Management

Presenter: Emily Ahlin

As technology continues to grow by leaps and bounds, and physical space and budgets continue to shrink, the amount of recordkeeping that will need to be done digitally is bound to increase. Digital records management can often feel like chipping away at a very large iceberg, and many archivists are simply overwhelmed and don't know where to begin or are afraid that digital archiving costs will exceed their monetary resources. This presentation will cover very foundational building blocks and pieces of knowledge related to digital archiving, while dedicating the bulk of the time to an in-depth look at running basic file checks, archiving websites, and creating your own digital collections – all of which can be accomplished with no monetary investment from your strapped budget. Everyone will be able to leave empowered to take one good step forward to move into digital archiving.

Shepherd: Lindsay Alukonis

Thursday, July 9
Session 9
2:30 pm – 3:45 pm
MH 202

Unexpected Workflows: Responding to the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA)

Presenter: Rena Schergen

In July 2025, Congress passed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA), offering one-time payments to “downwinders” who developed cancer after living, working, or attending school in areas impacted by government-related radiation exposure since 1949. Parts of the St. Louis region were among the affected areas. Following RECA’s passage, the Archdiocese of St. Louis Archives experienced an unexpected surge in records requests to verify individuals’ residency, employment, and school attendance. Discussion on how RECA reshaped the archives’ daily workflow, access procedures, and revealed unforeseen uses for our archival holdings.

Friday, July 10
Session 10
9:00 am – 10:15 am
MH 202

Please remember that you must check out of your CCL room by 9:00am. You can leave your luggage in the CCL living room or store it at the back of MH 202.

Intro to Military Archive: We Are Everywhere and You’ve Probably Never Heard of Us

Presenter: Randy Mueller

This talk will introduce the Archdiocese for the Military Services from our origins during the First World War up to the present day. The discussion will include our particular structure, our subjects and our clergy. In depth discussion will cover our sacramental records, our geographic footprint and our interactions with other dioceses including our triumphs and challenges

Shepherd: Michelle LeBlanc

Friday, July 10
Session 11
10:30 am - 11:15 am
MH 202

Listserv Live

In this moderated discussion, audience participation is encouraged as we discuss some of the popular topics on the ACDA Listserv.

Moderators: Brianna LoSardo and Lindsay Alukonis