

Women Religious Archives Collaborative



July 2023

Newsletter



We are happy to feature another collaborator, American City Bureau (ACB), helping us to make the Women Religious Archives Collaborative a reality. ACB has been onboard with WRAC since conducting a fundraising study in 2020, and now is providing support for our upcoming Capital Campaign.

“Leslie and Bob have a proven track record when it comes to Capital Campaign success stories. I had the privilege of working with them on our successful campaign to support the construction of a new motherhouse for the Ursuline Sisters in Cleveland. I am confident that they will bring the same expertise, professionalism and enthusiasm to make this project a reality.”

– Susan Durkin, OSU

If you are interested in learning more about ACB, please visit their website <https://acb-inc.com/>

From American City Bureau

American City Bureau, Inc. (ACB) knows the importance of safeguarding and sharing the stories of women religious. We have partnered with hundreds of congregations and their sponsored ministries across the United States during our 110 years of serving not-for-profit and faith-based organizations. Our engagement with each congregation of women religious has been unique because each congregation's history, mission, and need has been unique. When taken together, we are awed by the impact Catholic Sisters have made in education, healthcare, civil rights, and the care for those among us living at the fringes of society.

The Women Religious Archives Collaborative (WRAC) is a bold initiative that addresses both the opportunity to celebrate the contribution of women religious through exhibits and programs that tell their story and the need for congregations to better manage their individual archives.

The experienced team at ACB prides itself on our ability to really get to know the culture and values of the clients we are privileged to serve. Whether we are assessing an advancement office's fundraising capacity, evaluating major donor interest in a capital campaign or training leaders in the art of solicitation, ACB believes that our work—*building a culture of philanthropy*—is fundamentally rooted in building relationships. After eleven decades, that philosophy has never changed. Never will.

ACB is confident that when donors hear and understand the mission of WRAC and emotionally reconnect with the impact Catholic Sisters have had in their lives and in their communities, they will want to help create this heritage center. There are so many lives to celebrate, so many stories to tell, and so much history to study in the archives of these congregations. Bringing them together at WRAC allows those lives, stories, and history to live on.



Pictured Left to Right: Sister Susan Durkin, WRAC Executive Director; Leslie Biggins Mollsen, ACB President; and Robert Hotz, ACB Vice President

Guidebook: Laudato Si'

As we envision the future structure for WRAC, we are mindful of “how” we choose to build. We are endeavoring to balance financial constraints with responsible care of the earth, looking at building methods and materials that will support the health of our planet now and in the future. With this in mind, we are in the process of applying to the Northeast Ohio Sewer District's 2024 Green Infrastructure Grant. “The GI Grant Program aims to remove stormwater volume from the combined sewer system by supporting the strategic implementation and long-term maintenance of green infrastructure, which serves to protect, preserve, enhance, and restore natural hydrologic functions.” WRAC is located in a combined sewer district, and we look forward to contributing to cleaner water and less stress on the community infrastructure.



As with all our funding requests, we ask you to keep our work in your prayers!

Participating Congregations to Date:

- Carmel of the Holy Family
- Sisters of Charity of Saint Augustine
- Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, OH
- Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa
- Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis
- Sisters of the Holy Spirit
- Sisters of the Humility of Mary
- Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament
- Sisters of Loretto-Loretto Community of Nerinx, Kentucky
- Sisters of the Precious Blood
- Ursuline Sisters of Cincinnati
- Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland
- Ursuline Sisters of Louisville
- Ursuline Sisters of Toledo

Credits:

Green building by Bakena Studio from Noun Project (CC BY 3.0)

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