



Women Religious Archives Collaborative

January 2023

Newsletter



Ellen Pierce leading a team including Lisa Gibbon and Sr. Deb Weina, to prepare the SSJ-TOSF collection to move to WRAC.

The Women Religious Archives Collaborative (WRAC) is pleased to present this inaugural issue of what we hope will be a monthly publication. The goal is to provide you and your members with the most updated information regarding the archives initiative.

Success in establishing and growing a non-profit takes time and requires the gifts and talents of many individuals. It is our aim to make this collaboration a model for others as we seek not only to preserve our important histories, but also to make them come alive for future generations of researchers and others through our collections, exhibits and special programming.

Vowed women religious across the United States are at the forefront of legacy planning. However, as suggested by a recent survey conducted by the Center for Applied Research of the Apostolate (CARA), **68% of congregations do not have plans for the future of their archives.** We are indeed fortunate that, to date, **12 congregations** between Kentucky, Ohio and Pennsylvania have begun this planning and are placing their trust in WRAC to provide the oversight and the appropriate safeguards and preservation practices for their collections in perpetuity. We are also in conversation with other congregations who are considering WRAC as a their future home.

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12 congregations to date place their trust in WRAC

This collaboration will provide individuals and groups a unique insight into our congregational histories – our life, service and ongoing presence. The variety of charisms and the mix of contemplative and apostolic congregations housed in one location will offer a comprehensive view of our work together as well as our individual efforts.

We continue to invite additional interested congregations to join us in this evolving process. If you have any questions or are just curious, we are available for consultation and presentations to leadership teams and congregations. We can also connect you to other experts in the field depending on your needs.

Organization Fast Facts:

WRAC is a 501-c3 incorporated in the State of Ohio and listed in the Official Catholic Directory. Our Board of Directors has approved our Code of Regulations and By-Laws. We have an official Board of Directors and several committees engaged in work. We will introduce you to the various committees and their work in future issues of this newsletter. Vowed religious and lay partners with expertise in various areas are generously sharing their gifts.

Meet our Board of Directors:



President:
Jean Anne Zappa, OSU
President, Ursuline Sisters of Louisville



Vice-President:
Margo Young, CPPS
Leadership Team member, Sisters of the Precious Blood, Dayton, OH

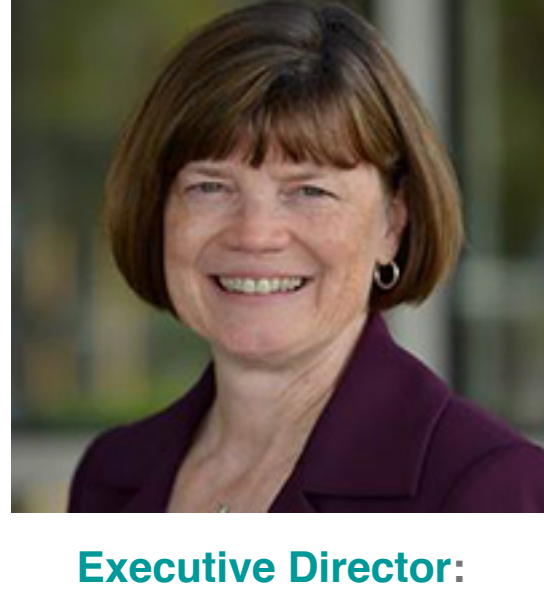


Treasurer:
Judith Ann Karam, CSA
Congregational Leader, Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine



Secretary:
Joanne Gross, OSU
Legal Counsel, Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland

Staff:



Executive Director:
Susan Durkin, OSU



Director of Finance:
Joan Peine, OSU



Archival Consultant:
Ellen Pierce

Financial Support:

Realizing that congregations have multiple financial priorities and limited funds, WRAC's goal has been to make this affordable for participants. We will be launching a Capital Campaign in the upcoming months to support the construction of the facility. We are not asking congregations to contribute at a specific financial level, but as we communicate with future donors for contributions, we would like to say we have **100% participation from congregations.** Congregations are making pledges based on their circumstances. We express our gratitude to all the congregations who have made donations toward our efforts. **To date, congregations have pledged over \$4 million dollars.**

We are most grateful to the Sisters of Charity Foundation in Cleveland and the staff of the Sisters of Charity Health System for their invaluable assistance in launching this project with us. **The Foundation has awarded us a \$100,000 grant** toward various funding needs and, since the beginning of the project, has provided office support for our work.

100%
PARTICIPATION GOAL

To date, congregations have pledged over
\$4M

The Foundation has awarded us a grant for
\$100,000

As a new non-profit, we are trying to build a multi-faceted revenue stream (grants and donations at present) while needing to cover expenses of some professional services. Be assured that we are exercising appropriate oversight procedures regarding monies raised to date and using the funds strategically to assist with research, design and expenses related to professional services.

Stay tuned for more WRAC developments as they unfold!

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. 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 the Precious Blood
- Ursuline Sisters of Cincinnati
- Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland
- Ursuline Sisters of Louisville
- Ursuline Sisters of Toledo