

Women Religious Archives Collaborative



October 2023

Newsletter



Something to Celebrate

October is National American Archives Month. We want to take this opportunity to spotlight our participating archivists and thank them for their service to our congregations. Merriam Webster defines archivist as “a person who has the job of collecting and storing materials in an archive.” We recognize these unsung heroes laboring in our archives and maintaining our histories as so much more. One cannot be an effective archivist in a congregation without understanding our charism. The women who work with us are imbued with and give witness to our mission both internally and externally each day; they are as much the face of mission as each congregational member. Their efforts extend far beyond what most consider simply working with our “old stuff.” They tend the stories and preserve the records central to our histories. Their work is vital and amazing; it is a sacred charge.

We are grateful to all our archivists for their service and dedication to our mission and for their commitment to telling our stories. If you haven't so, take some time to visit your archive. Talk with your archivist and learn more about the work and the level of detail, organization and knowledge their work requires. Let's all take some time to acknowledge them for their service.

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NATIONAL NEWS

Dan Stockman, reporter for the *National Catholic Reporter*, recently interviewed Sister Susan about the WRAC project and the future of connecting all repositories nationally. The article appeared in NCR and Global Sisters Report. We are grateful to Dan for helping us to get the word out as we prepare to launch our Capital Campaign.

[Read the article here.](#)



Archival Response Team

Ellen Pierce, Sister Susan and a team of six traveled to Iowa for a six-day work session in the archives of the Clinton Franciscans. An archival response team is a group that travels to work for a specific period of time to help with a specific archival project. It is labor intensive work within a short period of time.

The beauty of a collaborative effort is the ability to share expertise to help one another. We are so grateful to the congregations who allowed their archivists to join us to assist in organizing the collection and creating an electronic finding aid to assist the Clinton Franciscans now and in the future. It is imperative that congregations have knowledge of what is in their collections as they prepare to sign legal agreements to designate the use of their archival materials by researchers. Many thanks to Sarah Aisenbrey (CPSS archivist), Reba Weatherford (Loretto archivist), Lisa Gibbon and Sarah Lubelski (CSJ archivists) and Sisters Joan Peine and Susan Zion (Ursuline Volunteers).



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 Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament
- Sisters of Loretto
- Sisters of the Precious Blood
- Ursuline Sisters of Cincinnati
- Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland
- Ursuline Sisters of Louisville
- Ursuline Sisters of Toledo