



# Women Religious Archives Collaborative

September 2023

## Newsletter



Anne Gutzwiller and Nancy Broermann – Ursulines of Cincinnati Archive Volunteers

### Creating a National Network: NAPWR

The Women Religious Archives Collaborative along with collaborative archive repositories located at Boston College, Santa Clara University and The Heritage and Research Center (HARC) located at Saint Mary's College in South Bend, have been in conversation to determine how to virtually network our repositories. In 2021 these four repositories formed the National Archive Project for Women Religious (NAPWR). This consortium was recently awarded a 3-year \$500,000 grant from the Hilton Foundation.



### National Archives Project FOR WOMEN RELIGIOUS

In 2023 - 2026, the consortium will work toward digitally linking the sites; educating women religious about the importance of prioritizing planning for their archives; assisting congregations by providing resource materials and hands-on expertise; and raising awareness in the greater Catholic community about the urgent need to safeguard the stories of women religious.

NAPWR hopes that these initial repositories will provide a blueprint for additional centers. The consortium will be open to all repositories of women religious archives seeking connection to a national network. Ginger Downey, OLMV is serving as coordinator of the NAPWR consortium. Susan Durkin is the WRAC representative to the consortium.

### Telling the Story

Prior to this year's Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) annual conference, Ginger Downey, archival consultant, Ellen Pierce, and Susan Durkin presented a webinar to LCWR members titled "National Archives Project for Women Religious: Creating a National Network." The webinar was offered twice to leadership team members and congregational archivists. Both webinars were well attended.

Sisters Ginger and Susan will also be offering a workshop at the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) annual conference at the end of September in St. Louis. This presentation is titled "Patrimony: It Is Not Just Land and Money."

Both presentations provide information for leaders to reflect on, including key questions to consider, options for the future of archives, engaging members and staff in the conversation, making decisions for the future of the archive, and skill sets needed to create a sustainable plan for archives. Regardless of where a congregation is on its journey, creating a long-term archival plan for sustainability and preservation of the institute's legacy is vital.



Sister Susan Durkin and Sister Ginger Downey at the RCRI Annual Conference



### Coming Attractions!

Stay tuned for the Women Religious Archives Collaborative website to go LIVE!

### Archive Moment

*From the Archives of the Ursuline Sisters of Cincinnati*

Submitted by Anne Gutzwiller

Ursuline Sisters of Cincinnati Archivist

### Sister Mary Carmel: Education Pioneer



Sister Mary Carmel entered the fledgling community of the Ursulines of Cincinnati at the age of 41 in 1909.

She received a master's degree from Xavier University and a doctorate from the University of Cincinnati. She was the first woman to receive a Doctor of Philosophy in Education from the University of Cincinnati. In affiliation with Catholic University of America she prepared an intensive course of studies in content and teaching methods. She was therefore able to

teach and prepare the sisters of her community for teaching at the High School level.

At the direction of the Superior of the Ursuline Community she sketched a design for the proposed chapel. Using Sister's sketch, the architect Joseph Steinkamp drafted the final design for the Academy's Chapel.

### 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:

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