

# CRRA Summer 2019 Newsletter



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## Welcome to [Wheaton Franciscan Sisters FCJM](#)



Headquartered in Wheaton IL, the Sisters have long carried out a mission focused social justice, peace and nonviolence, care of creation, and more, in the U.S. The archivist, Jeanne Guilfoyle, learned about CRRA from her participation in Archivists of Congregation of Women Religious (ACWR) conferences. She heard most recently, in 2018, a presentation given by Nik Henle, Daughters of Charity Provincial Archives, and Pat Lawton, on finding aids and making collections discoverable in the Portal. Although the Archives does not have an online catalog, there are some finding aids which Jeanne wants to put in the portal. Their collections include records and papers relating to two sisters, Sr. Berenice Beck and Sr. Pulcheria Wuellner, active and influential in health care for babies and nursing as well as other materials of or relating to the sisters. Many of their historic photographs are available in digital files. Welcome Jeanne.

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## From the Board: Planning for the Future

Kathy Webb, chair, and Dean of Libraries, University of Dayton



It's been an honor to lead CRRA this last year. It was a year of continuing accomplishments and reaching new milestones in resource sharing, membership and growth of the Catholic News Archive. Knowing the future will bring new opportunities and challenges, the Board invited experts from within and outside of CRRA to develop a new three-year strategic plan.

- Kathy Webb, University of Dayton
- Mark Shelton, College of Holy Cross
- Millicent Gaskell, Villanova University
- Adonna Thompson, Avila University
- Kevin Cawley, University of Notre Dame
- Jennifer Head, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Noel McFerran, University of St. Michaels College
- Jamie Nelson, DePaul University
- Karen O'Connell, Georgetown University
- Diane Maher, University of San Diego
- Sr. Ginger Downey, Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters / Victory Noll
- Barbara Preece, Loyola University Maryland
- Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Atla

The group met in April and May. With the draft plan in hand, we gathered ideas for carrying out the proposed goals and objectives at the CRRA Annual Meeting in June. Since then, the Board adopted the plan. We are excited about the future and believe this visionary and ambitious plan will guide us well in the next years. I'm looking forward to continuing to serve our libraries and our collaborative work in providing enduring Catholic resources for our faculty, students, and scholars everywhere.

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## CRRA Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

**Goal 1: Enhance and improve our products and services by ensuring member and scholar usability.**

- Objective 1: Improve the user experience on the Portal.
- Objective 2: Increase traffic to Catholic News Archive.

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- Objective 3: Revamp website to meet changing landscape of stakeholders.

**Goal 2: Focus activities to sustain and strengthen the financial and structural long-term organizational viability and growth.**

- Objective 1: Create a plan for business continuity.
- Objective 2: Focus on financial development and sources of non-dues revenue that create financial sustainability.
- Objective 3: Review and evaluate current governance and infrastructure (including committees), to ensure efficiency and mission success.

**Goal 3: Increase membership development through recruitment, engagement and retention activities.**

- Objective 1: Clearly communicate the value of CRRA membership to prospective and current members.
- Objective 2: Enhance member engagement model to ensure strong retention rates in the future.
- Objective 3: Explore additional membership categories.

**Goal 4: Seek external opportunities for collaboration, partnership and increasing brand awareness.**

- Objective 1: Explore creative and beneficial partnerships with other organizations to meet goals.
- Objective 2: Create a marketing/outreach initiative to find external opportunities.
- Objective 3: Consider a CRRA brand refresh to improve recognition.

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## Is the Catholic News Archive searchable via search engines?

Submitted by Todd Jensen, project manager, Catholic News Archive

The short answer is yes. We have said we are willing to have the content crawled and Veridian, the hosting platform, has turned this feature to ON. The actual crawling work is a function of any given search engine's algorithms, priorities and resources. I have successfully searched via Google, so I can say with confidence that all of our newspaper content is findable via Google although it is a little hit and miss whether every single word of the OCR text has been indexed, particularly as we regularly add new content.

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## Catholic Source Materials in Teaching and Research: Keynote Summary from the 2019 CRRA Annual Meeting

By Josh Dinsman, Digital Projects Associate, CRRA

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The focus of this year's keynote address at the CRRA annual meeting was "Catholic Source Materials in Teaching and Research," in which three distinguished scholars spoke on the use of Catholic sources found in The Catholic News Archive, the Catholic Portal, and the CRRA subject guides. Panel participants included Dr. Charles Strauss, Mount St. Mary's University; Dr. Paula Kane, University of Pittsburgh; and Dr. Thomas Rzeznik, Seton Hall University. Their comments were enlightening and instructive with regard to the use of these resources in both the classroom and in their research, with examples ranging from tracing how Catholics created arguments about theology, history, and politics to mapping urban religious sites. For more, [read the full article here](#).

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## **Tribute to Katherine Nuss, Manager, Archives and Information Services, US Conference of Catholic Bishops, and member of CRRA Newspapers Committee and Digitizing Partners**

By Amy Cary, Marquette University and member, Newspapers Committee and Digitizing Partners

I first met Katherine in person at a recent Society of American Archivists annual meeting, but I was already acquainted with her from our mutual participation in the Newspapers Committee and Digitizing Partners. Katherine is a determined activist with a big dream of digitizing the *Catholic News Service* historic newsfeeds and the accompanying *Catholic World in Pictures*. She was a practical dreamer who wanted a better way to search these newspapers. Her archives had no film reader, requiring a walk over to Catholic University or an even more tedious browse through 65 years of printed volumes. She also knew the film copies of the Catholic News Service exist in only 3 collections – USCCB, Marquette and Catholic – and her dream included freely available online access by anyone, anywhere, 24/7. When the time came for sending her film copies to the vendor, she made sure that I (Marquette) still had what she called "back-up copies." All along, she provided on target advice in countless discussions shaping the development of the [Catholic News Archive](#) and was instrumental in obtaining two grants to fund the digitization of CNS and CWP, and provide some funds for selections of other diocesan papers. Without Katherine's leadership, we would not be nearly as far along as we are today. All of us – ourselves as her colleagues, our faculty, students, scholars and readers worldwide – owe her a giant thank you for her extraordinary ability to make big dreams become a reality. Thank you, Katherine. As a small token of our thanks, you will receive an Amazon gift card and certificate in the mail.

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## **Tribute to Kevin Cawley, Senior Archivist, University of Notre Dame, Chair of the CRRA Digital Access Committee**

By Demian Katz, Villanova University, Member and former chair of the CRRA Digital Access Committee

Kevin Cawley is one of the longest-serving members of the CRRA. He has been a member of the Digital Access Committee since its inception, and was involved in the Catholic Portal project even before that. He has been the chair of DAC since 2016, and he has presented at multiple CRRA-hosted events. As a professional archivist and one of the organization's most engaged members, Kevin has brought a valuable archival perspective to CRRA projects and has also used his

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technical abilities to make archival metadata more accessible with the help of his simple EAD creation tool. It has been a pleasure working with him on these and other things, and I am very happy to be able to present this award. In other activities, Kevin was a speaker at the October 2013 Catholic Archives in the Digital Age held at Catholic University. <https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/distinctly-catholic/catholic-archives-digital-age> Later, at the CRRRA Symposium *Bringing the Created Toward the Creator: Liturgical Art and Design Since Vatican II* in 2015 at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Kevin presented a poster on Catholic art.

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## **Book Review: An Enthusiasm for the Word: The Life and Work of Fr. Simeon Daly, OSB By Melody Layton McMahon, ATLA, 2016, 168 pp., ISBN 978-0-9863310-1- 5, \$20.00 (paper).**

By Daniel Boice

Retired Chicago Theological Union library director and Catholic Library World contributor Melody Layton McMahon has assembled an admirable biographical tribute to an important leader in religious librarianship who was also an utterly wonderful person. Newly ordained Benedictine Simeon Daly (1922-2012) was assigned by his abbot at St. Meinrad to serve in the archabbey library in 1949. After earning his Master of Library Science degree, Fr. Simeon became library director in 1951, a position he held for forty-nine years. Over his career he led not only his own library, but became a leader in state (notably the Indiana Cooperative Library Services Authority) and national organizations, including both the Catholic Library Association briefly, but more substantially the American Theological Library Association where he served as president Volume 89 No. 2 ~ 142 ~ Catholic Library World COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT Professional and then executive director. Fr. Simeon was an early champion of computerization and, especially, the importance of networking. He combined professional vision and organization, but it was his humility and warmth that endeared Fr. Simeon to colleagues everywhere. McMahon, who was (like many of us) a friend of Fr. Simeon, tells his story in layers. After a biography that focuses on Fr. Simeon's professional accomplishments, she includes in her collection several appendices of Fr. Simeon's writings (such as descriptions of the artwork in the St. Meinrad Chapter House), brief homilies, correspondence, brochures, and other notes. Many of us will recognize Fr. Simeon's clear and kind prose. Few of us will know the extent of his influence and his many accomplishments, most of which he modestly kept quiet but which McMahon narrates. The book lacks an index, but includes an extensive bibliography, and is a worthy tribute to a great Catholic librarian.

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## **Fully Searchable, Open Digital Repository at Your Fingertips**

by Josh Dinsman and Darren Poley

In recent focus groups conducted by the Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRRA), several librarians and archivists shared a common perception: that The Catholic News Archive is only useful to researchers who are interested in Catholic-related topics. In reality, nothing could be further from the truth. [Click here to read more.](#)

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## Stay Engaged!

Check out our latest blogs [HERE!](#) Interested in writing a blog or already have a blog ready to be published on our website? Let us know by contacting Meghan McGrath, Association Manager at [mmcgrath@catholicresearch.org](mailto:mmcgrath@catholicresearch.org)!

Join your colleagues and like us on [Facebook](#) so that you can stay updated on our latest news! Do you have your own news to share? Send us your idea for a Facebook post to [mmcgrath@catholicresearch.org](mailto:mmcgrath@catholicresearch.org)!

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