



Catholic Research Resources Alliance

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CRRA Annual Meeting, Thursday, June 7, 2018, 1:00pm-3:00pm EST

Feature Article

Celebrating Black Catholic History Month

November is National Black Catholic History Month, and the Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRA) has an abundance of resources highlighting the important but oft-overlooked history of Black Catholics in the United States and around the world.

While the first African-American priest, Father Augustus Tolton, was ordained in 1886, many may be unaware that the contributions of Black Catholics go back hundreds of years in North America, to the settlement of what is now Los Angeles along the banks of the Porciuncula River in 1781 by 11 Catholic families of African, Spanish, and Native American descent, and even back to the 1565 founding of St. Augustine, the first permanent European settlement in what is now the United States. Outside of North America, Black Catholic history is nearly as old as the Church itself, beginning in the Acts of the Apostles (8: 26-40) with the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch by Philip the Deacon. This conversion of the first Black African in recorded Christian history predates

the conversion of Saint Paul, and has been cited as “[the very moment when the church changed from a Hebrew and Hellenist community to the truly Universal and Catholic Church.](#)”

By searching the [Catholic News Archive](#) or the [Catholic Portal](#), visitors to the [CRRA website](#) can be instantly connected to thousands of newspaper articles, pamphlets, scholarly books and articles, historical records, photographs, and other special collections from our member and partner institutions that relate directly to Black Catholic history. For those interested specifically in the history of African-American Catholics, a useful starting place might be our [subject guide on African-American Catholics](#), which points users to relevant materials in the Portal and provides direct links to both print and electronic special collections on the topic. Users interested in a more global perspective might head to our [Catholic Resources in Digital Form](#) page and click on [Catholics & Cultures](#). This initiative, sponsored by the College of the Holy Cross, explores the religious lives and practices of Catholics around the world through scholarly articles, videos, slideshows, audio clips, and other resources, and highlights several sub-Saharan African countries, including Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Visitors to the CRRA website can also link to a variety of special collections from our member and partner institutions. Examples include Marquette University’s [African American Catholics in the United States](#) and The Catholic University of America’s [The Catholic Church, Bishops, and Race in the Mid-20th Century](#). Finally, users can also find a wealth of sources on special topics by conducting direct searches of the News Archive or the Portal. For instance, a search for “black clergy” returns [275 results in the Portal](#) and [2,592 in the News Archive](#).

We invite you to browse all of our wonderful resources and encourage you to learn more about the long and rich history of Black Catholics and the many important contributions they have made to the Catholic Church. Happy searching!



From the Board

Sara B. Baron, Ed.D., Chair, Duquesne University

The year is going by quickly as it always seems to do but it is rewarding to see the progress being made. Ten members, listed below in the announcement from the Membership Committee, have joined the pilot to start the much-anticipated resource sharing initiative. The Membership Committee will work closely with the participating members in testing procedures, observing activity level, evaluating, and revising for best results.

The Catholic News Archive digitizing is growing in use and content. Over 2,800 users have searched a variety of topics, with November and December 2017 showing over 750 users in each month. What we are learning too is the enormous usefulness of what they are finding. Mary Brown, archivist, Center for Migration Studies, NY wrote to explain how newspaper articles turned documents in the archive into a narrative and telling the story of how [a folder of disparate papers became a story of refugee rescue](#). Even the Super Bowl has made its way into Catholic newspapers. Digitization is underway to complete the years 1955-1980 of the *Catholic News Service* and the accompanying *Catholic World in Pictures*. As of today, there is content from nine other diocesan and national papers with content still to come from the *Catholic Worker*.



For those of you who made your way to Denver recently, but perhaps did not get out to visit our colleagues at Regis University, I hope you enjoy this glimpse into the outstanding [Santo Collection](#). Thanks to Father Thomas J. Steele, collector, and Tom Riedel, curator, shown here with Hannah Miller, Digital Collections Librarian and member of the CRRA Digital Access Committee.



Committee Briefs

Membership Committee

Felice Maciejewski, Chair, Dominican University

I am pleased to announce that ten members have joined the pilot resource sharing initiative. They are Benedictine, Catholic Theological University, Dominican, Duquesne, Fontbonne, Georgetown, Loyola Chicago, Marquette, Mount St. Mary's, and Notre Dame. We can accommodate one or two more members. If you have questions or wish to join the pilot, which will run through May 2018, please respond to fmaciejewski@dom.edu and jyounger@catholicresearch.org.

The objective is to assist users in accessing materials in CRRA member and partner collections. This resource sharing initiative is intended to be free of charge among CRRA members and partners. CRRA members will continue borrowing from their current "first line" borrowing partners, usually a state or other consortial resource-sharing network, and add CRRA members in a subsequent borrowing group. Members and partners will participate based on their capacity for loaning and/or digitizing, and to the extent possible, share resources with CRRA members free of charge. OCLC membership is not required. Participants can use ILLiad, Tipasa, WorldShare ILL, email, or web submissions for requesting materials.

Member News

Digital Preservation at Notre Dame Breathes New Life into 1967 Sisters' Survey

A significant but largely inaccessible survey of more than 130,000 women religious in the late 1960s is now available to scholars around the world, thanks to a digital preservation effort by the [University of Notre Dame Archives](#) and [Hesburgh Libraries](#).

University archivists, librarians, subject experts, and digital preservation specialists collaborated to migrate [The Conference of Major Superiors of Women \(CMSW\) Sisters' Survey of 1967](#) to a digital format that researchers can access online.

Access the Sisters' Survey of 1967 dataset:

<https://curate.nd.edu/show/0r967368551>

Access the finding aid for the Sr. Neal papers:

<http://archives.nd.edu/findaids/ead/xml/nea.xml>

For more information, please contact Angela Fritz, head of Notre Dame Archives, 574-631-9200 or afritz2@nd.edu.

Pioneering Women Religious in the Sciences

Jennifer Head, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, presented the [hidden history of women religious in the United States](#). Just as *Hidden Figures* told the story of the unknown role played by black female mathematicians at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) during the race for space, Jennifer highlighted the work of women religious who became the first female pharmacist and the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in computer science. Contact Jennifer Head at jhead@bvmcong.org for more information.

Elder Family Papers at Mount St. Mary's University

The original manuscripts of the Elder Family of Emmitsburg have been fully digitized and are now accessible on our Digital Archives website. Records will be added to the Catholic Portal. The collection contains 35 original manuscripts dating from 1762 to 1888. William Elder was born into the Catholic faith in 1707 in what is now Calvert County. He married Anne Wheeler, who bore five children: William, Charles, Guy, Richard, and Mary. In 1728, William Elder and his family moved to the valley below the Catoctin Mountains, which he named Saint Mary's

Mount. The Elder family farmland would eventually be sold to Fr. John DuBois, our founder. The Elder family cemetery can still be visited on East Campus. This collection contains the papers of William Elder's family and descendants.

[View the Elder Family Papers](#)

NEH Grant to Hugh J. Phillips Library at Mount St. Mary's University

The Hugh J. Phillips Library at Mount St. Mary's University has been awarded a Preservation Assistance for Smaller Institutions grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to support a comprehensive preservation assessment. NEH funding provided through this grant program will be used to hire a LYRASIS professional preservation consultant to conduct a preservation needs assessment of collections, environmental conditions, facilities, and current departmental preservation policies and procedures to provide baseline data for departmental preservation improvement planning. Additionally, funding will support the installation of an automated environmental monitoring system that will continuously collect and report temperature and relative humidity within the areas that store collections. More information and details are available in this [news release](#).

CRRA News

Getting Your Content Into the Portal: A Refresher

by Eric Lease Morgan, University of Notre Dame

The "Portal," as it is affectionately called, is akin to a union catalog of library and archival materials from the CRRA membership. It is an index to the unique, rare, and infrequently held items of our Alliance. Getting your content indexed is a matter of describing your content in any number of metadata formats: MARC, EAD, or OAI-PMH. Once the content is described you are expected to share the Web address of the metadata, and we here at Catholic Portal Central will do the rest. Allow me to elaborate.

MARC is a bibliographic metadata data standard. It is usually used to describe library holdings.

If you have a library catalog, then your library catalog probably uses MARC. If you don't have a library catalog, and your collection consists of mostly books, then you might be able to use a free program called MARCEdit to describe your collection. Either way, once your collection has been described, you can export the MARC records as a file, put them on the Web (or the Portal's "dropbox"), let us know of their existence, and we will do the rest.

Archival materials are usually described using a metadata format call EAD. If you have a relatively large archive, then you probably already use EAD to describe your collection. If you have a relatively small archive -- a collection of papers, manuscripts, letters, etc. -- then you could use the Portal's EAD template program to create a set of quick and easy EAD files. Once you have created the files, put them on the Web (or the Portal's "dropbox"), let us know of their existence, and we will do the rest.

OAI-PMH is a metadata sharing protocol. It is most often used beneath repository applications such as OCLC's ContentDM. Libraries and archives digitize and describe their materials, save the results in a repository, and the whole is made accessible via the OAI-PMH protocol. Each repository and sub-repository is identified by a URL. If you have your metadata in a repository such as ContentDM, then let us know of the repository's existence, and we will do the rest.

This article has outlined how to make your metadata available, and there are a number of articles describing each of these process in greater detail. See: <http://bit.ly/1UcSSvx>

If you have any question about the process, then please don't hesitate to give me a call or drop me a line at emorgan@nd.edu. I love to get email.

Book Reviews

Apocalyptic Ecology: The Book of Revelation, the Earth, and the Future

Micah D. Kiel, Liturgical, 2017, 187 pp., ISBN 978-0-8146-8782-6, \$24.95 (paper)

reviewed by Daniel Boice

[click here to read review](#)

Lamentations

Gina Hens-Piazza, Liturgical, 2017, 162 pp., ISBN 978-0-8146-8154-1, \$29.95

reviewed by Dianne Bergant, CSA

[click here to read review](#)

The Indissolubility of Marriage and the Council of Trent

E. Christian Brugger, Catholic University of America Press, 2017, 312 pp., ISBN 978-0-8132-2952-2, \$69.95

reviewed by Patrick J. Hayes

[click here to read review](#)

Save the Date

2018 JEROME AWARD WINNER
Fr. Bryan Massingale

2018 REGINA MEDAL AWARD WINNERS
Andrea Davis Pinkney & Brian Pinkney

CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
2018 VIRTUAL CONVENTION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2018 | 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

2018 ST. KATHARINE DREXEL AWARD WINNER
Regina Doman

2018 AGGIORNAMENTO AWARD WINNER
Fr. James Martin

REGISTER TODAY www.cathla.org/2018registration

Catholic Library Association

[Spring 2018 Virtual Conference](#)

Wednesday, April 18th, 2018

8:30am-5:00pm Eastern

The Spring conference brings together award recipients, each of whom will do a presentation and take participants' questions.

With:

- Fr. James Martin as the 2018 Aggiornamento Award Recipient
 - Fr. Bryan Massingale as the 2018 Jerome Award Recipient
 - Author Regina Doman as the 2018 St. Katharine Drexel Award Recipient
 - Andrea Davis Pinkney & Brian Pinkney, Author and Illustrator, respectively, as the 2018 Regina Medal Award Recipients
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CRRA Annual Meeting: Thursday, June 7, 2018

We are pleased to announce that the CRRA Annual Meeting will take place virtually on Thursday, June 7 at 1:00pm ET – 3:00pm ET. We are excited to share with you what's new with CRRA. Please keep a look out for more information on our website!

Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR) Triennial Meeting

The next ACWR conference is **September 13th – 15th, 2018**. It will be held at the Brown Hotel in Louisville, KY.

A “save the date” flyer with more detailed information can be downloaded [here](#).