

# CRRA Spring 2021 Newsletter



Catholic Research  
Resources Alliance

## In This Issue...

1. [Save the Date! CRRA Annual Meeting, May 6, 2021](#)
2. [CRRA Receives 2021 Aggiornamento Award](#)
3. [From the Board](#)
4. [CRRA Announces Executive Director to Retire](#)
5. [Volunteer Recognition: Call for Nominations](#)
6. [A Faculty Perspective on Catholic Source Materials](#)
7. [More on Catholic Source Materials](#)
8. [New and Noteworthy](#)
9. [Stay Engaged](#)

## Save the Date: CRRA Annual Meeting - May 6, 2021, 2pm ET

### CRRA Annual Virtual Meeting Thursday, May 6, 2021

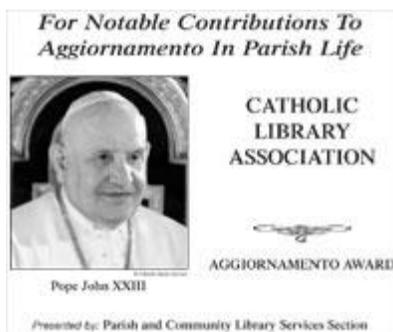
**2:00-3:30pm ET | 1:00-2:30pm CT | 12:00-1:30 MT | 11:00pm-12:30pm PT**

Save the date for May 6th and plan to join the CRRA Virtual Annual meeting from 2:00-3:30 pm Eastern Time!

**Featured Theme:** The environmental crisis casts a dark shadow over the earth. While many have long been invested in using resources wisely, the environmental crisis is compelling new levels of action. At the end of this anniversary year of *Laudato Si*, the Vatican will launch the Action Platform to encourage families, schools, hospitals and others to develop sustainability efforts at the grassroots level.

Join us in learning about what's happening now around the environmental crisis, why people are recommitting to the common cause, and what ordinary people and faith-based coalitions can do. Our speakers will talk about their work and the opportunities for small movement activism to revision what the future requires.

## CRRRA Receives 2021 Aggiornamento Award



CRRRA is thrilled to announce it has been selected for the Catholic Library Association's 2021 Aggiornamento Award!

The Award will be presented by the Parish and Community Library Section at the CLA Spring Virtual Conference on Friday, April 30, 2021 from 10:30-11:30 am Eastern. The [Aggiornamento Award](#), established in 1980, is awarded annually in recognition of an outstanding contribution made by an individual or an organization for the renewal of parish and community life in the spirit of Saint John XXIII (1881-1963).

The Award recognizes the resources CRRRA has made available for use by those in parish, community and school libraries. Through the 'CRRRA Corner,' published in every issue of the *Catholic Library World*, Pat Lawton, Josh Dinsman, Ted Bergfelt, Darren Poley and Karen Lesiak have described what's available and shared the fruits of their research, incorporating sources from the [Catholic Portal](#) and the [Catholic News Archive](#). Everyone will be invited to register for the conference (information forthcoming) and share in the recognition for our collective accomplishments.

## From the Board: Making a Difference

*by Mark Shelton, CRRRA Board Chair and Director of Library Services, College of the Holy Cross*



The value of CRRRA can be found in many places. Our [Portal](#) and the [Catholic News Archive](#) are the result of our work to achieve our [mission and vision](#), and the increasing use of these resources is solid evidence of their value to users. Our [strategic plan](#) considers how far we have come, where we are now, and lays out a path to where we want to be. Our members, representing a broad spectrum of institutions, are our lifeblood, and as is true for all important work, we need the value of knowledge, skills, and experiences that each person brings to CRRRA to achieve our goals.

We need your leadership and participation today and tomorrow to continue to grow our resources and services to researchers and scholars, students and faculty, historians, and learners.

If you'd like to become more engaged, I invite you to join me in leading and guiding CRRRA, to shape our programs and services by participating on committees and our Board, and take advantages of these opportunities to expand your professional network and enhance your leadership skills. We would be happy to speak with you about how you can participate. All you need to do is send a short note to [Laura Lyman](#), CRRRA association manager, or [Jennifer Younger](#), CRRRA executive director.

## CRRRA Announces Executive Director to Retire

As the Chair of the Board of CRRA, I also share the bittersweet news that Jennifer Younger, Executive Director of CRRA, has decided to retire this summer. After serving with distinction, Jennifer will be greatly missed by all of us. Jennifer has had a significant impact on the growth of CRRA, developing programs and membership in ways that have let us accomplish more together than any of us could on our own. Her commitment to member leadership and organizational skills were critical to empowering the expertise and dedication of committee members that made our achievements possible.

Jennifer said, "Members and partners are the lifeblood of CRRA. I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve them. Together we have made an impact in supporting teaching and research around the world. It's been a wonderful time and I will greatly miss my friends and colleagues. I look forward to supporting the CRRA of the future." Read the full announcement [here](#).

## Call for Nominations for Volunteer Recognition

CRRA's Volunteer Recognition program acknowledges the service of individuals who have contributed to CRRA in a significant way to develop and improve CRRA products and services. 2021 honorees will be celebrated at the CRRA Annual Virtual Meeting on May 6, 2021.

To submit a nomination, please fill out the nomination form at <https://forms.gle/cR3P5fsUA1a2kfb7> by **Monday, April 26, 2021**.

View the list of past recipients at [www.catholicresearch.org/volunteer-recognition](http://www.catholicresearch.org/volunteer-recognition).

Questions? Send an email to Laura Lyman at [lyman@catholicresearch.org](mailto:lyman@catholicresearch.org).

## A Faculty Perspective on Catholic Source Materials



*In an interview with Mark Shelton, Director of Library Services, Justin Poche, Associate Professor in the Dept. of History, [College of the Holy Cross](#), and member of CRRA's [Scholars Advisory Committee](#) talked about his teaching, research, and promotion of CRRA resources. The interview was edited for length.*

**Mark: What primary source materials do you use in your teaching?**

Justin: My courses center around the history of Catholicism in America. Many of the resources used come from content I hold. Some is from 19<sup>th</sup> century periodicals and magazines, *Early English Books Online* and repositories such as HathiTrust. Current source materials make it easier to track down historical materials.

As more content is digitized, I can get more obscure resources. I am familiar with the diocesan and other newspaper collection in the [Catholic News Archive](#). I have less familiarity with the [Catholic Portal](#) and what is covered more broadly by it although I am familiar with the [digitized](#) Catholic comic books at Catholic University, for which there is a finding aid in the Portal.



- Mark: **What assignments do you give students?**
- Justin: Students form research teams to do more in-depth research and writing, which drives students to explore more broadly and deeply into historical literature. This research is also meant to look at today's current themes and compare them to how similar thinking occurred in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries yet was framed differently. This includes researching the Catholic perspective on topics like economic justice, labor unions, the representation of Catholics in pop culture, and pro- and anti-Catholic writings. As students work in different databases, I suggest teams screen-share what they discover to explore various kinds of documents and source materials. Based on the way my students conduct research, the [CRRA subject guides](#) would be a good resource for them.



- Mark: **What do you focus on in your research?**
- Justin: My research is on the Catholic mission and the teaching of the “ministry hits the road:” the history of pastoral ministry and how it impacts labor, civil rights, race, local economics, and politics. How does a minister or local clergy impact social change in their day-to-day work? How do those on the front line reshape culture based on their interpretation and application of the Church's focus? Resources such as parish information, missionary reports, and visitation reports often contain important gems of information. I wish too I had easier access to church bulletins, church newsletters, more [diocesan newspapers](#), student newspapers at Catholic schools, colleges and universities, journals (early missionary), magazines, and local church reports. Annotated bibles once owned by priests and nuns are of value. Catholic sociological studies have lots of valuable data even beyond the works published from the data. As my research is tightly integrated into the classroom, I use the resources discovered in the classroom as well.



- Mark: **How can CRRA do better in promoting and facilitating the gathering of important materials?**
- Justin: I can help through collegial discussions at conferences about where we find important historical content. We have excellent “archive diving” skills and are eager to share those golden items we discover. It's important for us to integrate our passion for “archive diving” and research into teaching. Although “archive diving” is about research, it's also about classroom pedagogy. If CRRA could frame how the content can be utilized in the classroom and how it can be integrated into a course with associated pedagogical outcomes, that would be an excellent addition. Going beyond just the show and tell, although demonstrating what is available is critically important, giving students ways to practice use as well as discovery of the content makes the value of the resources more tangible. CRRA and the Portal can also branch out into gathering social media content around Catholicism and its intersection with current events.
- Mark: Great suggestion to create learning guides. Darren Poley, Villanova, developed [From Interracial Sit-Ins to Interreligious Solidarity](#) for exploring resources in the Catholic News Archive. Thank you for talking with me. I look forward to future discussions

## More on Catholic Source Materials

- Successful combinations of focus and serendipity! **Fr. David Friel**, a doctoral student at **Catholic University of America**, was looking for a particular article in an early issue of the *National Catholic Reporter*. By chance, he found it in the Catholic News Archive. While reading that article, he found [another of interest](#), which subsequently led to his blog '[Here's How the Mass Will Change](#).'

**Karen Lesiak**, Hartford CT, was motivated by the *History Unfolded* project of the U.S. Holocaust Museum to learn more about events around the Allied participation in World War II. She cites multiple sources found in the Portal and the Catholic News Archive in '[The Ravages of Genocide](#),' published in the *Catholic Library World*.

- **John Shepherd**, **Catholic University of America**, introduced a new online resource about the history of American Catholic Schools in his regular blog [The Archivist's Nook](#).
- Creating bridges from the Portal to more Catholic resources is an ongoing project of **Kevin Cawley**, chair, and the **Digital Access Committee**. There are records describing the scope and content of individual archives, such as "[Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet](#)," individual e-newspapers such as the [Clarion Herald](#), and [CRRRA subject guides](#). To get a list of all 148 CRRRA resources, do a blank search and limit by institution to [Catholic Research Resources Alliance](#). We appreciate DAC's efforts and hard work to enhance access by enabling users to find these resources in the Portal!
- The [Digital Catholica guide](#) from CRRRA identifies over 50 digital collections and brings to light [oral histories](#), papers and manuscripts in the [Catholica Collection](#), papers of an [English Catholic intellectual](#), and much more from 22 collections. Thanks to Rosemont College, Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, University of Dayton, University of St. Mary of the Lake, University of St. Thomas, Villanova University and Xavier University of Louisiana, who responded last year to the **Collections Committee** survey asking for updates on digital Catholic materials in their collections. We are indebted to **Ted Bergfelt**, **Duquesne**, who created and regularly updates this fully searchable and frequently consulted guide.
- More content is in process for the **Catholic News Archive!** **Todd Jensen**, Project Manager, is working on two small grant-funded projects to add the 1950's of *The Catholic Standard and Times* (Philadelphia) and 2001-11 of the *Pittsburgh Catholic* this spring.

## New and Noteworthy



**Todd Jensen, Catholic News Archive Project Manager**, was a panelist in a virtual global conference on Impact Sourcing, a socially responsible hiring methodology, for the Global Technology & Business Services Council. [Read more](#). Congratulations Todd!

**Villanova University's Falvey Memorial Library** co-sponsored the successful [Digital Seeds Speakers Series](#). The first presentation was on analyzing property maps of Indigenous land in southern California and how those maps challenge the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) visual project that replaced Indigenous geographies with rationalized settler space. The second presentation projected good news for the humanities in that we're living through a digital transformation that makes it possible to explore culture as a latent

space—a space of possibility—where machine learning facilitates a kind of creative play that is akin to rigorous self-understanding.



Congratulations to our colleagues at **Loyola Marymount University** on receiving the [2021 ACRL Award for Excellence in Academic Libraries!](#)

The citation recognized LMU for "initiatives that bolster the institution's mission, in particular encouraging learning, educating the whole person, and social justice" and commended that the library has "embraced evidence-based practices and built a culture of assessment which is evident in the outcomes of their initiatives." Further, their leadership in the Institute for Research Design in Librarianship is far reaching in its impact for the field.

**Kristine R. Brancolini, Dean of the Library**, responded: "At the William H. Hannon Library, we continually strive to be the best versions of ourselves. We are driven by our campus culture to be innovative, inclusive, and collaborative. The Jesuit and Marymount values of Loyola Marymount University require us to consider who is left out in any conversation and to identify where we can do better. We are thrilled to receive this honor and hope that our work can serve as a model for libraries of all shapes and sizes."



The [Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious](#) (ACWR) welcomes proposals from its membership, independent researchers, historians, archivists, and others for conference sessions at its 10th Triennial Conference, to be held virtually on Thursdays in September 2021.

The theme is "Pioneers of the New Normal." More archivists are advising their respective leadership teams on crucial decisions about the future of their collections. They become pioneers in sharing the unique legacy of our respective communities while forging into a new frontier to preserve and document the charism and history of women religious into the future. Topics include but are not limited to born digital materials, merging or transferring collections and working with external researchers, and oral history programs.

Submit a title, 300-word abstract, and brief bio of the presenter(s). Proposals submitted after March 11, 2021 may be considered. Write to [archivistsacwr@gmail.com](mailto:archivistsacwr@gmail.com) for more information.

The Vatican conference **Charism and Creativity: Cataloguing, Managing and Innovative Projects for the Cultural Heritage of Communities of Consecrated Life**, to be held in Rome September 30-October, 2021, has issued a call for papers.

Refer to the [promotional letter](#) for additional information. The call for papers and other materials can be downloaded from the conference website at [www.carismaecreativita.net](http://www.carismaecreativita.net).

**Let the fun begin!** Several of our CRRA colleagues have announced their upcoming retirements. Congratulations and well wishes to:

- **Caroline Byrd**, Executive Director of the Blume Library, St. Mary's University, San Antonio, TX
- CRRA Board Member and Secretary/Treasurer **Dan Gjelten**, Associate Vice Provost, University Libraries, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

- **Cathy Fennell**, Executive Director of Library Services, Gertrude Kistler Memorial Library, Rosemont College, Rosemont, PA
- **Jack Fritts**, University Librarian, Benedictine University, Lisle, IL
- CRRRA Board Member **Felice Maciejewski**, University Librarian, Rebecca Crown Library, Dominican University, River Forest, IL
- CRRRA Board Member **Diane Parr Walker**, Edward H. Arnold University Librarian, Hesburgh Libraries, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN



**We wish everyone a happy, healthy and relaxing new chapter ahead, and hope you will stay in touch with your CRRRA friends and colleagues!**

On a separate but related note, please see below for links to the job openings at the University of St. Thomas and Notre Dame. CRRRA members: please continue sharing any additional announcements and/or job postings via the Representatives e-list at [representatives@catholicresearch.org](mailto:representatives@catholicresearch.org).

### **Job Postings**

- University of St. Thomas: [Associate Vice Provost, University Libraries](#)
- University of Notre Dame: [Edward H. Arnold University Librarian](#)

## **Stay Engaged!**

Check out our latest blog posts [HERE!](#) Interested in writing a blog post or already have an article ready to be published on our website? Let us know by contacting Laura Lyman, Association Manager at [lyman@catholicresearch.org](mailto:lyman@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 [lyman@catholicresearch.org](mailto:lyman@catholicresearch.org)!

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