

CRRA Winter 2019 Newsletter



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Save the Date for CRRA's 2019 Annual Meeting!

The CRRA Annual Meeting will take place virtually on **Wednesday, June 5 at 2:00 - 3:30pm ET**. We are excited to share with you what's new with CRRA. Please keep a look out for more information on our website!

From the Board: Planning for the Future

Kathy Webb, chair, University of Dayton



My colleagues and I are living through the exciting renovation of the first and second floors of the [Roesch Library](#) this year. We are creating flexible, dynamic learning spaces for tomorrow's

students and thus moving some of our physical collections to free up space. We are mindful of the critical role of “space saving” digital resources as well as the importance of ensuring access to Catholic materials. That’s why we include CRRA tools - the [Catholic News Archive](#), the [Catholic Newspapers Online](#) and the [Catholic Research Resources Alliance Portal](#) – in the list of databases on our website. In addition to providing access to materials held in our outstanding [Marion Library and Archives and Special Collections](#), including the U.S. Catholic Collection, we are excited about the continuing CRRA conversations with archivists of women religious congregations on creating access to their collections and access to digitized resources of other CRRA members through the [Portal](#), a few of which are reported on in Member News.

This spring, CRRA is undertaking a strategic planning initiative. The current [Three Year Strategic Plan \(2017/18-2019/20\)](#) was first developed six years ago. Since then, we shortened the time period to three years and updated it annually. This year is a good time to undertake a more in-depth look at strategic goals and objectives for the near term. We are setting up a Strategic Planning Leadership Team and will shortly be sending a survey inviting input from all members, partners and friends. We look forward to hearing from all of you.

This is a wonderful time to be part of CRRA.

Larry Bolanowski talks about why he funded digitization of the *Catholic Transcript*

Karen Lesiak, Hartford

In 2018, Connecticut Catholic historian, Larry Bolanowski, donated funds to digitize 10 years of Hartford's *Catholic Transcript* to enable online access for his research on parish history. In my role as a CRRA Digitizing Partner, I worked with Larry and Todd Jensen, project manager, Catholic News Archive, to make this happen. We are grateful for Larry's donation and fascinated by his journey on the road to completion of several publications, *The Golden Years Never Ended: St. John's Roman Catholic Church, Stamford, Connecticut: 2012* and *Joy in Sorrows: The History of the Parish of Our Lady of Sorrows, Essex, Connecticut: 2018*, both by Lawrence J. Bolanowski.

Karen: What was your experience in accessing the Catholic News Archive?

Larry: As you know, we first met when I was researching the history of St. John's Parish, Stamford. For most of the years I was involved, I was a resident of New Jersey. While I did schedule time with (former Archdiocesan Archivist) Maria Medina-Paxi to view microfilm of *The Connecticut Catholic*, predecessor of *The Catholic Transcript*, driving from my New Jersey home to Hartford meant eight hours on the road for each visit. I never did try to use Hartford's copies of the Transcript. Having twenty years online for the Vatican II years, plus the years you and I made happen, gave me an opportunity to search for articles on St. John's, Stamford, of which there were many. So, my experience ... allowed me to secure articles on St. John's.

Karen: What prompted you to donate funds for the digitization of a portion of the Catholic Transcript.

Larry: ... local newspapers ceased providing articles on the Essex Catholic parish from 1928 to 1935. ... I had a choice to make: drive to Hartford many times to sit and review microfilm or work with you to have the subject years digitized and search from home for articles on Essex. I chose

the latter.

Karen: As a historian, what do you think others could gain from the Catholic News Archive?

Larry: My research began in 1982. At that time, you acquired information through newspaper and journal advertising, or viewing microfilm using readers that strained your eyes and for which you had to write out what you found. There were no reader/printers in those days. ... Digital searching will not pose the challenges I had to face in the 1980s ...provided that the source material is available online. ... anyone interested in Church history now will do so due to the ease of accessing data.

Karen: How can your story inspire others?

Larry: Many churches have published church histories. Let's hope that those who still do not have such histories will have someone step forward and begin the process. As I indicated, the rewards are there and the process is now much easier than it used to be.

Karen: Thank you again Larry for your generous help in insuring the visibility of our Catholic heritage for future generations. Thanks to you, we are one step further along the way to making this happen. We wish you all the best in your future research endeavors.

The Catholic News Archive accessible from ACHA site

The American Catholic Historical Association (ACHA) put an announcement and link to the [Catholic News Archive](#) on its website at <https://achahistory.org/>. Katie Holscher, University of New Mexico and ACHA president, will also mention in her forthcoming newsletter to ACHA members. Early on, ACHA members on the CRRA Scholars Committee advised us on the high value of Catholic newspapers to historical research with a recent example in Jim Jim McCartin's paper given at the 2019 ACHA Annual Meeting cited an article in the Cincinnati [Catholic Telegraph, March 20, 1845](#). The flier distributed at the meeting, "A Fully-searchable open digital repository of historical Catholic news," is downloadable from CRRA [Catholic Newspapers Program](#) page.

New Content in Catholic News Archive

Todd Jensen, Newspapers Digitization Project Manager

We've very excited to announce these new additions to The [Catholic News Archive](#): We've added 57,478 new pages of Catholic News Service News feeds covering months between 1959 and 1966. This is a great partnership with Katherine Nuss and the Catholic Communication Campaign of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCC). We are also very happy to announce the addition of The Catholic Worker (1943 - 2016) which is now live on the site! A special thanks to Amy Cary and Marquette university for their partnership in making this possible.

Four members join the Resource Sharing Program: From the Membership Committee

Felice Maciejewski, chair, Dominican University

In January, four members joined the CRRA Resource Sharing Program bringing the number to sixteen. We are pleased to welcome Edgewood College, Gonzaga University, Seton Hall University and the University of Portland. Current members are Benedictine, Catholic Theological Union, Dayton, Dominican, Duquesne, Fontbonne, Georgetown, Loyola Chicago, Marquette, Mount St. Mary's, Notre Dame and St. Catherine University. The objective is to assist users in accessing materials in CRRA member and partner collections with participation based on the capacity for loaning and/or digitizing, and to the extent possible, share resources with CRRA members free of charge. You may join at any time. Please find the [CRRA Resource Sharing Guidelines](#) here. Please contact Meghan McGrath, Association Manager, at mmcgrath@catholicresearch.org for more information and to join the program.

Thank you too for responding to the recent survey asking about your current activities and plans for storing digital materials for access and/or preservation in digital repositories. If you aren't sure you responded and wish to, please contact Meghan McGrath at mmcgrath@catholicresearch.org.

CRRA Resource Refresher Webinar

Tuesday, April 9 1:00pm - 2:30pm ET.

Don't miss this opportunity for a refresher on all things CRRA. This webinar is for you, whether you are brand new to CRRA or need a refresher on all of the great resources CRRA offers.

CRRA Corner: Highlighting Catholic Research Resources through Digital Exhibits

Josh Dinsman, Digital Projects Associate, CRRA

Our mission is to facilitate scholarship by providing enduring global access to Catholic research resources in the Americas. One of the ways we seek to accomplish this goal is by highlighting digital resources housed at our member and partner institutions through featured digital exhibits on our website.

The CRRA homepage has featured [multiple digital exhibits](#) over the past several years. Having recently transitioned to our new and improved website, we are now curating a brand new digital exhibit focused on the Catholic laity. To help put together this new exhibit, we are excited to welcome Rebecca Rosenstiel to the CRRA team. Rebecca is a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who is working with us as part of her 120-hour practicum during the spring 2019 semester. This collaboration will not only aid our efforts in gathering materials for our new exhibit, but will also provide Rebecca an opportunity to experience firsthand the process of developing digital exhibits from start to finish.

To learn more about the CRRA's efforts to highlight and promote digital materials from our member and partner institutions, we invite you to visit our [website](#), where you can view examples of past exhibits by visiting our [Exhibit Archive](#).

We are always looking for new ideas. If you know of any particular collections or themes that you think should be featured in one of our upcoming exhibits, we welcome your input and collaboration. Send your suggestions to me at joshdinsman@catholicresearch.org.

CRRA News: From the Liaisons

One of the goals for the CRRA Liaison Committee is to make sure each member institution is represented in the Catholic Portal. We feel that an easy way to do this is through the creation of LibGuides. Our vision is that eventually each member institution will have their own LibGuide page within the Catholic Portal's website. If you are interested in working with the CRRA to create a LibGuide to highlight the historical Catholic resources at your institution, please contact Ted Bergfelt at bergfelt@duq.edu.

2018 Annual Google Analytics Report

Josh Dinsman, Digital Projects Associate

Each year the CRRA utilizes data from Google Analytics to track usage statistics for our website, www.catholicresearch.org, the results of which can be found in our annual Google Analytics Reports. In 2018, we had 12,823 users who engaged in 16,510 individual sessions on the CRRA website. While a majority of users continue to reside in the United States, the international reach of the website remains strong, with visitors accessing the site from 140 countries and over 3,000 cities worldwide. The most popular features of the website continue to be our [Catholic Newspapers Online](#) database and the [Catholic Portal](#), which provides users access to over 140,000 rare, unique, and uncommon Catholic scholarly sources. In 2018, users conducted nearly 4,000 searches of the Portal on over 3,000 unique search terms. For more details and a variety of other usage statistics, we invite you to read the entirety of the [2018 Annual Report](#).

CRRA News By and From the Members

- [METAscripta](#): Vatican Film Library, Debra T. Cashion, Saint Louis University

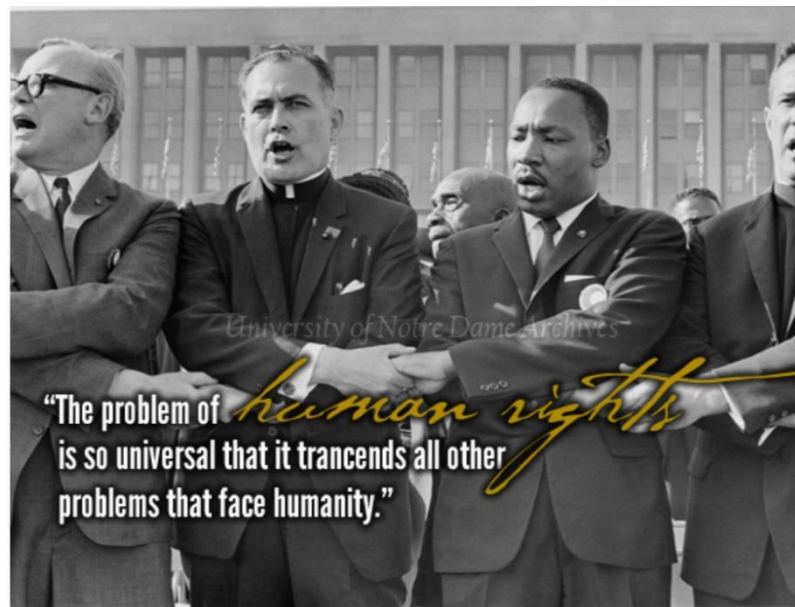
[METAscripta](#), meaning "metadata about manuscripts," is a large-scale digital humanities project of the Knights of Columbus Vatican Film Library (VFL) in the Department of Special Collections of Pius XII Memorial Library. The immediate goal is to digitize and create online access to 37,000 manuscripts originally microfilmed by SLU at the Vatican Library during the 1950s. *METAscripta* builds on SLU's prestigious association with the Vatican Library through

continuing a tradition of innovative technologies applied to the study of Vatican manuscripts. Just as SLU's original microfilm project once represented cutting-edge innovation for this purpose, new digital applications now provide online access and research tools that bring the project from the past into the future.

The next goal is to build an online environment in which users will be able to search and research the digital Vatican manuscripts. Scholars will be able to search for manuscripts, study them comparatively, annotate images with text or other images, and embed links to outside sources anywhere online. Users will have the options to store their work to their own account, share it with others, or contribute their knowledge to a crowd-sourced metadata template. The crowd-sourcing component has special value to the Vatican Library, because about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Vatican's 80,000 manuscripts are either inadequately cataloged or not cataloged at all. [METAScripta](#) has the potential to dramatically improve this obstruction to user access to Vatican manuscripts. Read about the daily work and browse exhibits at [METAScripta](#).

- **Digital Archive of Historic Fr. Hesburgh Works Now Available**

The University of Notre Dame Archives and the Hesburgh Libraries have launched a new research portal dedicated to preserving and increasing access to some of the most important works of former university president Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, CSC, including his work on the US Commission on Civil Rights. The [Hesburgh Portal](#) assembles some of the writings and images from throughout his life and makes the assets digitally available to the public. Fr. Hesburgh was an influential leader at Notre Dame, in Catholic higher education, and was involved in many major social issues, including civil rights. Although this project provides an expansive storyline of Father Hesburgh's Life, these materials represent only a fraction of Father Hesburgh's rich collection housed in the University Archives. The finding aid for the [Father Theodore M. Hesburgh Papers](#) is available on the University Archives website.



- Nik Henle, Daughters of Charity Provincial Archives (Emmitsburg, MD) and Pat Lawton, CRRA, co-presented "Gratitude for the Past and Hope for the Future: CRRA's Commitment to Provide Enduring Global Access to Religious Archives Resources" at the Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR) Tri-Ennial Conference in September. They discussed creation of finding aids and MARC records with examples drawn from records contributed by religious congregation archivists to the Portal. This is part of our outreach to religious congregation archives to let them know of CRRA tools and resources.
- Marta Deyrup, Seton Hall University, published [Librarian's Guide to Writing for Professional Publication](#). She explains the difference between traditional and self-publishing, supplies advice on picking a publisher and working successfully with a publisher, and provides useful information on copyright, open access publishing, and contract signing.
- Melody McMahon, retired, Catholic Theological Union, published a well-reviewed biography on a great Catholic librarian, Fr. Simeon Daly, OSB, library director at the St. Meinrad Archabbey Library, Indiana. He was a leader among Catholic libraries as well in the Catholic Library Association, the American Theological Library Association and the Indiana state network. The review appeared in the Dec. 2018 issue of the *Catholic Library World*.

Book Review: *Catholic Library World*—the journal of the Catholic Library Association

Catholic Library World—the journal of the Catholic Library Association—publishes about 100 book reviews per issue. Here is a review from its December 2018 issue, Vol. 89 Issue 2, p128-128, 1/4p.

Revolutionary Saint: The Theological Legacy of Óscar Romero

By Michael E. Lee, Orbis, 2018, 240 pp., ISBN 978-1-62698-226-0, \$27.00 (paper).

Michael Lee, associate professor of systematic theology at Fordham University, here contributes a thoughtful and theologically nuanced exploration of the life, writings, and preaching of Óscar Romero. Romero was the Archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador, martyred at the altar in 1980. He was canonized by Pope Francis in October 2018, but his legacy continues to be the source of ongoing negotiation and articulation from various memory communities. Lee articulately engages with many of these perspectives as he investigates the complexities and theological implications of Romero's ministry.

The heart of Romero's theology, according to Lee, is the preferential option for the poor. Without oversimplifying the complexities of debates over Romero's relationship with liberation theology and the Catholic hierarchy, Lee paints a clear portrait of his life as a model and inspiration for all who struggle for justice, defend human rights, and seek peaceful solutions to violence. Structurally, the book examines the larger themes of conversion, martyrdom, and politics through the lens of Romero's life, ultimately showing ways in which Christians can and should think and live differently because of him. This timely and sympathetic work is highly recommended for Catholic libraries of all types.

Brian T. Sullivan, Alfred University

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!

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!

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