

# CRRA Winter 2020 Newsletter



## In This Issue...

1. [Save the Date: CRRA Annual Virtual Meeting - May 7, 2020](#)
2. [From the Board](#)
3. [COVID-19 Update: CRRA Office Operating Remotely](#)
4. [Care of the Environment: Earth Challenge 2020](#)
5. [Digitizing CLA's \*General Index to Catholic Literature, 1930-1980\*](#)
6. [Introducing the Newly Formed Archival Resources for Catholic Collections \(ARCC\) and Your Participation](#)
7. [Update on CRRA Resources: Catholic News Archive; Joint Grant with Catholic University](#)
8. [Comings, Goings, & Recognitions](#)
9. [Professional Development Opportunity: Catholic Portal Administrator](#)
10. [Stay Engaged](#)

---

## Save the Date for CRRA's Annual Meeting!

CRRA's 2020 Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, May 7, 2020**. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us online for this informative virtual event! Stay tuned for program announcements coming in April.

---

## From the Board

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



It may seem like we are caught up in a viral event of hurricane proportions. The majority of us are working from home, doing our best to keep our libraries functioning and serving our patrons. As the Board Chair, I hope you can look at just how much CRRA has done and is currently doing and realize that almost all of our great successes have been the result of collaborations accomplished remotely. We are scattered across the country yet we come together to achieve so much. I hope that knowing this gives you reassurance about the way forward.

In thinking about the way forward, I did want to let you know that right now the Board is working on a number of important projects.

We are still planning to hold our annual meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>. We have held it virtually in the past with great success and look forward to everyone joining us. Stay tuned as the program is in development. Ensuring discovery of hidden collections in the [Catholic Portal](#) is central, and, under the oversight of the Digital Access Committee, we are putting long-term stability in place. Discovery of the [Catholic News Archive](#) and its resources has always been important. To help institutions do this better, we are working with discovery platforms so that the CNA will automatically be added, and therefore more widely usable. As you would expect, all CRRA resources remain instantly accessible from our [website](#).

The Board is working through our strategic objectives to make sure we continue to grow, particularly looking at our leadership structure and the roles we play. And along the way, we are taking a deep

dive into our financial picture to help make sure we have the stable resources we need to continue to build CRRA and support our projects that make a difference in the work of so many scholars. Your colleagues and the Board are here to help you. Let us know just how we can.

---

## COVID-19 Update

As with all of you, our primary concern right now is the well-being of our colleagues in our member and partner communities. We want everyone to come through safe and healthy. We also want to make sure we maintain the online availability of CRRA resources and products. Now more than ever before, such publicly available resources can play a vital role in supporting our research community of faculty, students, and scholars.

Laura Lyman, association manager at Capitol Hill Management Services, is now working remotely while CRRA Executive Director Jennifer Younger and Todd Jensen, Project Manager for the Catholic News Archive, continue working remotely with each other and with Pat Lawton, CRRA Digital Initiatives Librarian. Our business partners, including Capitol Hill, MemberClicks, Andornot, and Veridian, have assured us of their continuing support respectively for handling financial and administrative matters and maintaining the [CRRA website](#), the [Catholic Portal](#), and the [Catholic News Archive](#). We are fortunate, too, in that we have an established tradition of working virtually with all of our members and partners. We look forward to our regular committee meetings as well as the annual virtual meeting on May 7, 2020.

We hope that you and your communities are staying well in this most challenging time. If there is anything we do to assist your institutions during this time, please don't hesitate to reach out.

---

## Care of the Environment: Earth Challenge 2020

*by Karen Lesiak, Hartford, CT, Digitizing Partner*



Earth Day's 50th anniversary celebrates its milestone anniversary this year on April 22. After its institution began in the United States in the 1970's, other countries followed suit and [Earth Day](#) became a global campaign. We face more challenges today than in years past with growing pollution that negatively affects biodiversity and ecosystems, threatening our existence and that of future generations. Organized by Earth Day Network, this year's theme is Climate Action. Proposed campaigns include [Earth Challenge 2020](#)—described as being the largest ever citizen scientist initiative that will aim to equip individuals with the necessary tools to report on the health and wellbeing of the environment.

We think of Saint Francis as synonymous with care and protection of all living things. He had a gentle yet steadfast love for all the creatures of the earth and all God's creation. Saint Francis was removed from the material world garnering tremendous spiritual insight and connection to our universe.

Pope Saint Paul VI, Pope Saint John Paul II, who declared Saint Francis the Patron Saint of Ecologists, and Pope Francis are popes who have championed a conscious and concerted effort to protect our environment. In the encyclical *Gaudium et Spes* (1965), Pope Paul VI asks us to consider the future of humanity and be strong enough to give reasons for life and hope for a coming generation. In *Redemptor Hominis* (1979), John Paul II states that we all have a responsibility to protect the environment. Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si* (2015) on *Care for our Common Home* is the most recent Vatican document on the environment.

A great starting place for further research is Ted Bergfelt's freely available subject guide "[Laudato Si](#)" which provides links to papal documents, recent articles in the media and search terms for finding books and other materials in the [Catholic Portal](#). For compelling newspaper accounts of the beginning of the global environmental movement, tap into the [Catholic News Archive](#).

*Selected Catholic newspaper articles on the environment:*

- 8 August 1969. Endst, Jeff. *Are we destroying the world we live in*. Predictions about the effects of pollution on the earth's climate at the millennium. -*Pittsburgh Catholic*
- 25 March 1970. *Famous, Filthy Cuyahoga*. Cleveland Ohio's Cuyahoga River Ohio Water Pollution Act. -*NCR*
- 25 December 1970. Kasper, Rob. *CAP Zaps Chicago Area Pollution*. Father Dubi and the Campaign Against Pollution (CAP) takes on big companies for excessive environmental waste. -*NCR*
- 24 September 1979. *New Books on Ecology*. A listing of books of the time period containing environmental studies, ecological essays, originally published narratives and preventative solutions for the burgeoning environmental crisis. -*NCR*
- 12 May 1972. *U.N. Conference to Study Environmental Influences*. A detailed look at the preparatory committees' drafting of the declaration for the international conference, to be held in Stockholm, on six major areas of the environment. -*Catholic Transcript, Hartford*
- 16 June 1972. *Weapons of War Cause Pollution*. Traces the impact of weapons of war as major causation for adverse effects upon the environment. -*Pittsburgh Catholic*
- 23 June 1972. *Ecocide Concerns Churchmen*. The aftermath of the historic Stockholm conference holds many concerns for Vatican delegates and religious task force on issues not addressed such as ecocide and the population explosion. -*Catholic Transcript*
- 7 July 1972. *Editorial: Ecology and Theology*. A commentary on the results of the U.N. Conference emphasizing the problem of social justice. -*Pittsburgh Catholic*.
- 15 June 1973. *Vatican Commission Views Eco Crisis*. The Vatican Commission for Justice and Peace issues a report to the U.N. Conference outlining ecological concerns on the environment on its first anniversary. -*Catholic Transcript*

---

## Digitizing CLA's *General Index to Catholic Literature, 1930-1980*

At the urging of librarians and scholars alike, the Catholic Library Association (CLA) is leading a collaborative project to digitize the remaining 18 volumes of its *General Index to Catholic Literature, 1930-1980*, with all issues made freely available in Villanova's [Digital Catholica](#) collection.

If your institution is one of the CRRA members invited to digitize a volume, we encourage you to consider participating. For more information contact [Jack Fritts](#), CLA President and CRRA member, or [Pat Lawton](#), CLA Board member and CRRA Digital Initiatives Librarian. The availability of this content will be of great benefit to scholars everywhere.

---

## Introducing the Newly Formed Archival Resources for Catholic Collections (ARCC) and Your Participation

by Pat Lawton, CRRA Digital Initiatives Librarian

ARCC is a direct response to the need for a body of dedicated religious leaders, archivists and scholars to provide a coordinated effort to assist Catholic women's and men's orders and congregations in preserving their archives and, through them, their important legacy. This need was clearly articulated by the participants at the Boston College conference and was included as a recommendation in the post-conference working paper [Preserving the Past, Building the Future](#). ARCC envisions itself as an organization that will:

- Synthesize and present as an integrated whole the unique perspectives of Catholic religious leaders, archivists and scholars in order to provide communities struggling with their archives reliable professional advice on how best to care for their records,
- Provide educational opportunities for archives, archivists and related personnel to assist with the development of professionally run archives,
- Create centralized online forums for knowledge and resource sharing and facilitated discussion to further collaboration and advocacy within the community.

Coordinated by Malachy McCarthy of the Claretian Missionaries Archives, the Steering Committee reflects the three groups represented at the Boston College conference: Catholic religious leaders, scholars and archivists. Its members include: Carol Coburn of Avila University, Ginger Downey of Our Lady of Victory Missionaries, archival consultant Ellen Pierce, Chris Doan of the Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, Pat Lawton of the University of Notre Dame, Jennifer Halloran of the Maryknoll Mission Archives and Rachel Foote of the Sisters of the Presentation of San Francisco.

A Google group is the first step towards bringing the vision to life by providing community members a discussion forum where they can share their questions, concerns, ideas and advice. To join the Google group send an email to [archivalrcc@gmail.com](mailto:archivalrcc@gmail.com).

ARCC's next step, currently in progress, is to develop a public website which will provide access to resources and education for anyone with a vested interest in the preservation and use of Catholic religious archives. Content to populate this site in the areas of education, advocacy and collaboration will come from the efforts of working groups. Preliminary working groups will focus efforts on:

- Educational programming for archivists
- Developing descriptive standards
- Repository guidelines

If you would like to volunteer to serve on one of these initial working groups, please contact Malachy McCarthy, [archivalrcc@gmail.com](mailto:archivalrcc@gmail.com).

We hope that this group will assist you with finding resources and individuals in your quest to save Catholic religious collections. The Steering Committee thanks you in advance for your support and involvement.

---

## Update on CRRRA Resources

### Catholic News Archive - Content Update

*by Todd Jensen, CRRRA*

We have had a flurry of new content activity the last several months!

#### Late Last Year

Two big, marquee collections were finished and published to the site:

- **The Catholic World in Pictures** - This rich and interesting collection is mostly pictures, carefully indexed to allow you to find interesting words and phrases. Currently available years: 1922-1927 and 1938-1963.
- **La Esperanza** - Our first Spanish language paper, based in California but nationwide in coverage. Currently available years: 1930-1940 and 1948-1954.

## Just Released

We have recently added two collections to the site, and added more years for two others:

- **Catholic Commentator** - A new paper out of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Currently available years: 1963.
- **St. Louis Register** - The more modern version of the Shepherd of the Valley newspaper. Currently available years: 1941-1957.
- **Catholic Advocate** - More years! Currently available years: 1958-1968.
- **The Catholic Standard and Times** - More years! Currently available years: 1833-1838; 1842-1844; 1963-1968.

## Coming Soon

Currently in testing:

- More years for [The Catholic Telegraph](#), from Cincinnati, Ohio.
- More years for [The Clarion Herald](#), out of New Orleans, Louisiana.

And even more content in the pipeline... stay tuned!

---

## **Catholic University/CRRA Awarded Grant from USCCB**

*by Stephen Connaghan, University Librarian, Catholic University*

I am very happy to share the good news about our successful grant proposal to create enhanced online access to materials in Catholic University's [Special Collections](#). We partnered with CRRA, who will administer the grant, and have been awarded \$15,690 from the Catholic Communication Campaign of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to support the enhanced processing of scanned materials from the National Catholic Welfare Council (NCWC) Bulletin (later Catholic Action), the NCWC Annual Reports and the National Council of Catholic Men program transcripts of the Catholic Hour. Our Special Collections serves as the archival repository to the USCCB of which these materials are a part.

These digitized materials will be added to the [Catholic University Digital Collections](#) and, thanks to the enhanced processing, to the [Catholic News Archive](#). We are excited to both reach a broader audience and enhance scholarship through the aggregation with similar primary sources and improved search capabilities.

These materials are vital for understanding the scope of operations of the representative organization of the Catholic Church in the U.S., the USCCB/NCWC. Additionally, they offer a window into relations between the Catholic lay organization, the National Council of Catholic Men, and the U.S. Bishops. Finally, they offer a view of early twentieth century Catholic media on a national scale.

My huge thanks to John Shepherd, Maria Mazzenga and Shane MacDonald at Catholic University, Katherine Nuss at the USCCB, and Todd Jensen and Jennifer Younger of CRRA for their work in securing this grant.

---

## Comings, Goings, and Recognition



### **Congratulations to Kathy Sprows Cummings on her new publication!**

Congratulations to Kathy Sprows Cummings, director of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame, on publishing the highly-acclaimed *A Saint of our Own: How the Quest for a Holy Hero Helped Catholics Become American* in 2019. At the American Catholic Historical Association meeting, a panel of distinguished scholars discussed the significance of her study of the "interplay of politics and policies, both American and Vatican, in the process of searching for a commonality that will help define the American Church" in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

For more, consult the [Catholic Library World \(December 2019, p. 140\) book review](#).



### **Congratulations to Tyrone Cannon on being named Interim Provost of USF!**

Dr. Tyrone Cannon, University Library Dean at the University of San Francisco, has been [appointed to serve as interim provost](#). His leadership of the library and service in a variety of other academic roles is well-known and highly respected. We have benefited from Tyrone's past CRRA Board service, including a term as chair, and know Tyrone is right for this new challenge.

Congratulations Tyrone!



### **Presentation by Kathryn Shaughnessy, St. John's University, at American Historical Association Annual Conference**

Kathryn Shaughnessy, St. John's University, presented a program at the American Historical Association Annual Conference 2020 about the NHPRC-funded project *Changing History of Immigration in NYC: Digital Community Archivists*. Five teachers discussed their curricula and resources, including newspapers, used to support inquiry-based learning in their 10th grade social studies classes. For more information, consult the [resource guide](#) or [Kathryn Shaughnessy](#).



### **Farewell to Meghan McGrath**

It is with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to Meghan McGrath, who has served as CRRA's Association Manager since 2018. Since the arrival of her new baby this past fall, Meghan has decided to extend her parental leave and make being a stay-at-home-parent her full-time job.

We wish Meghan the best of luck in her future endeavors with parenting and beyond, and appreciate her service to CRRA these past two years. She will be missed!



### Meet Laura Lyman

While Meghan was away this fall, Laura Lyman, also an association manager at Capitol Hill Management Services, stepped in to fill her role with CRRA. With Meghan's permanent departure, Laura will be continuing on with CRRA. She brings great experience and management skills to the job.

You can read more about her background at [www.catholicresearch.org/staff](http://www.catholicresearch.org/staff).

---

## Professional Development Opportunity

### Opportunities to Enhance the Catholic Portal

As noted in our previous newsletter, Eric Lease Morgan from the University of Notre Dame has developed, maintained and enhanced CRRA's Catholic Portal for over a decade. He has worked closely with the Digital Access Committee, the Collections Committee and CRRA members and partners to ensure it operates smoothly and in the way we want it to.

We are currently seeking a successor(s) for Eric, and are accepting applications and nominations from enterprising individuals to maintain and enhance the Catholic Portal through working with contributors to set up record loading, troubleshooting, writing instructions and member outreach. Please [click here](#) for the complete description and application instructions.

These are exciting opportunities for anyone seeking to expand their technical expertise, extend their professional network and support scholarship globally by enhancing discoverability of Catholic resources. If you have questions or are interested in learning more, please write to [Kevin Cawley](#), Chair, Digital Access Committee, and/or [Jennifer Younger](#), CRRA Executive Director. Please feel free to share this opportunity with any and all in your network who might be interested in applying!

---

## 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 [llyman@catholicresearch.org](mailto:llyman@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 [llyman@catholicresearch.org](mailto:llyman@catholicresearch.org)!

Catholic Research Resources Alliance  
230 Washington Avenue Extension  
Suite 101  
Albany, NY 12203  
United States