

Janice Welburn, CRRA Board Chair
Opening remarks (delivered by Evelyn Minick)

- As chair of the Board of Directors, I would like to welcome you all on behalf of the Catholic Research Resources Alliance.
- We gather today to explore how resources reflecting the issues of social justice, both in the Church and throughout Catholic history, have been used to support teaching, learning, scholarship, and most importantly service.
- Since our inception in 2008 it has been the mission of the CRRA to provide global access to Catholic research resources; resources that are unique and abundant, yet scattered among our Catholic institutions.
- This mission is rooted in the belief that challenges of the 21st century should be approached with the Catholic intellectual tradition and scholarship. We look to the past to make informed decisions regarding challenges faced at present and in the future.
- Our mission has been realized. It has been realized by scholars, archivists, and librarians dedicated to service rooted in Catholic tradition. Our guests today exemplify this. They demonstrate that collaboration and the provision of access to Catholic scholarship results in progress towards successful initiatives concerning social justice issues.
- They have been working for peace and justice; establishing service programs, curating social action collections, and mining the scholarship of Catholic pioneers.
- It is imperative that today we reflect on these successes. Let us take the time to reflect on where we have been and where we are now so that we may better plan for where we are going.
- It is a great pleasure to witness the intersection of Catholic collections, scholarship, and service. I thank you for being a part of today's symposium and for supporting our mission-driven organization.