



Archival Connections

Newsletter of the Catholic Archivist Group

Volume 3, Number 3

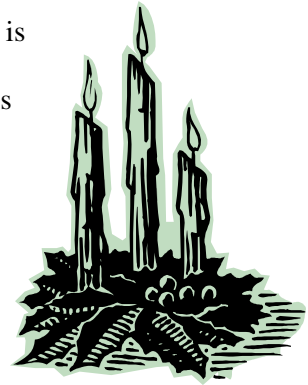
December 2006

From the Chair – Gayle Desarmia, SP

The Season of Advent, the time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas is upon us. While our annual conference held in Ottawa/Orleans may seem like a distant memory, we do have a number of items relating to the conference in this newsletter. For those who attended the conference, this information will be an update. For the rest of our membership, it will be new information.

Planning Committee Members for our 2007 conference to be held September 24-27 in Montreal are Wayne Jenkins, SCJ (Chair), Debra Majer, Leslie Hall, Rose-Marie Dufault, RHSJ, Suzanne Malette, SNJM and me as Ex-Officio.

Outreach Committee Members are Jo-Anne Allison and Laurette Couture, CSSF and me again as Ex-Officio.



On behalf of our membership I wish to acknowledge the generosity of each of these persons and thank them for volunteering to work for our Catholic Archivist Group on these committees.

For those who attended our conference in September and wanted more information on the Wilson Report, Eloi de Grace is doing the research for us and hopes to have something to report in our next newsletter.

If any of the 2006 conference attendees is missing a brown jacket (style similar to the London Fog brand), one was left at Maison-de-la-Providence in Orleans. If it is yours, contact Irene Meloche, OSU or Ruth Marie Curry, OSU.

Archivists of religious congregations might want to read circular letter N. 14/06/4 from the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church. It is titled “Inventory of the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life Cultural Patrimony: Some Practical Orientations.” Also of interest is an article in *Review for Religious* (65.3.2006) which is titled “Archives of Religious Communities”.

It will soon be time to renew your membership. Watch for the information in the mail.

We are always looking for stories and news items for this newsletter. Do you have some item that may be of interest to the group? We would like to see all types of archives (for dioceses, religious congregations and Catholic institutions) represented in our newsletter. To have your items appear in the next newsletter, send them to me by January 15th. (archives@providence.ca)

Bridging the Sacred and the Secular – Jo-Anne Allison



The theme of “Bridging the Sacred and the Secular” proved to be timely and relevant for the Catholic Archivist Group (CAG) Annual Conference held in Ottawa/Orleans, Ontario in September 2006. Fifty-five Archivists mostly from religious communities but with growing representation from Diocesan archives, met to learn, discuss, and share ways for promoting archival resources as a gateway to our shared history.

Archives allow for and encourage conversations with the past because archival resources bring bygone eras to life. What looks like a mound of old paper is actually the key to discovering what happened long ago. Archivists make the journey into the past possible by ensuring that historical resources are protected and preserved and by accepting the responsibility for making sure that the gift of the past is accessible. This is a tall order and one that is enriched by our special call as Catholic Archivists.

Catholic Archivists are responsible for keeping Christ’s memory alive in the secular world. This duty flows from canon law, professional principles, and from our baptism into a sacred community. Catholic Archivists are part of both secular and sacred communities and our special role as Archivists is to connect those worlds. We bridge the sacred and the profane so that our religious heritage can be known, acclaimed, and cherished. This is our legacy but it is also our challenge. Insights into how to accomplish this goal and strategies for energizing weary spirits were in abundance at the CAG meeting.



The Catholic Archivist Group (CAG) is made up of Archivists committed to maintaining and promoting the archives of Catholic institutions, Dioceses, and religious communities. The Group, formerly known as the Canadian Religious Conference (Ontario) Archivist Group, has recently taken on a national mandate. The Group includes members of religious communities, professional Archivists and dedicated volunteers. The Group now has

over 50 members, nine of which work in Dioceses or Archdioceses across Canada. The Archives of the Diocese of Prince George joined CAG in 2006.

The meeting consisted of formal presentations and informal talks, which provided food for thought about how to tell our stories and how to communicate with those who are

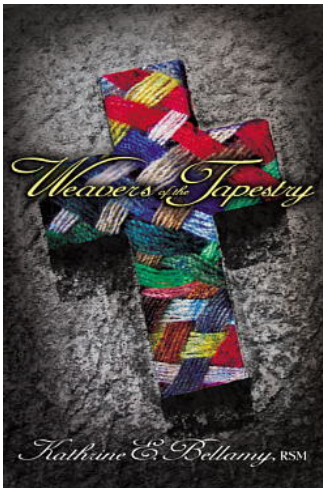
searching for connections to their church communities. Workshops on accessibility issues, the care and handling of photo albums, a tour of the Gatineau Preservation Centre and a moving address on the value of religious archives by Ian Wilson, Librarian and Archivist of Canada all served to inform and inspire.

In his talk, Mr. Wilson harkened back to the words of Sir Arthur Doughty, National Archivist (1860-1936) who said that archives are a gift from one generation to another. Mr. Wilson acknowledged that church records belong to the church. However, he also stressed that religious archival materials provide an authentic record of events and therefore have an invaluable role to play in documenting the social history of Canada. He also addressed some thorny issues, which directly affect our goals and more importantly which tightly constrain what we as Archivists hope to accomplish. Budgets are small, litigation is ongoing, and religious communities are declining in numbers. The reality of managing archives in the face of these day-to-day challenges formed the basis for many quiet conversations over the course of the 3-day conference. The sense of kinship that grew between the participants spread optimism and purpose like a soothing balm.

Archivists don't need to be convinced that historical records are priceless. However, at the CAG meeting I learned that my responsibilities as a Catholic Archivist go beyond the doors of my own institution and that each of us has a role to play in the landscape of collective memory that shapes our church, our country and ultimately ourselves.

The Story of the Mercy Congregation in Newfoundland and Labrador

Weavers of the Tapestry, by Kathrine E. Bellamy, RSM
Paperback, 963 pages, b&w photos, \$29.95



This new 963 page history of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of tells the story of the circumstances of the founding; the character, example, and teachings of the foundress; the sufferings, hardships, joys, and triumphs of the members; the accounts of new missions undertaken; and the tales of saintly and not-so-saintly individuals are all elements in a congregational history that has been passed down through the years and is still unfolding.

This book presents in truth and simplicity the story of a group of ordinary women who did ordinary things but who did them extraordinarily well. It is an attempt to capture the spirit that called young women to give up home, with all that this implies, in an attempt to bring a little more equality and justice to the world. They did this by educating the young, caring for the poor and the sick, and empowering people to take control of their own lives and destinies so that all people might live in dignity and peace.

The Diocese of London's Archive: Ready for Researchers! – Debra Majer

The Diocese of London had cause to celebrate this year with its 150th anniversary in February. Despite the occasion, the year was also met with many challenges that have not been as joyous. The announcement of 36 churches and missions slated to close has been upsetting for both staff and parishioners. Even more devastating are the recent sexual misconduct charges brought against a retired priest. As a result of this unhappy publicity, a comprehensive history book encompassing nearly three hundred years of the London Diocese is eagerly anticipated by many.

My job, which began as a part-time contract position two years ago, has developed into a full-time permanent position here in the Archive with good reason. Collection management and the arrangement of documents arriving from our closing churches and missions, the identification of various papers for current legal matters and local history research, and research into our own documents for the history book have taken up much of my time.

There have been a number of people in the position of Assistant Archivist over the past 35 years. (Due to a canonical precedent, the title Archivist is reserved for the Chancellor of the Diocese). The Archive has had certain archival components completed such as



finding aids for a few bishops, microfilms of parish registers and priest biographies. For decades the Archive was used as a storehouse for miscellaneous liturgical items that my immediate predecessor was responsible for clearing. When I first entered the Archive there were 250 years worth of historical documents. This included 9 bishops' papers, countless commissions and committee papers, aged sacramental registers and over 175 different church and mission papers, all of which needed to be identified, sorted, boxed and pulled from more than 40 filing cabinets and storage units. My initial reaction was not positive. This was not what I expected an Archive of London's Diocese to be. There was certainly none of the glossiness I had become accustomed to while working at Western's ARCC. My first thought was to wonder what other archival jobs might be available in London.

Above - Summer student gives diocesan worker tour.

In retrospect, taking on this enormous challenge has been a blessing. With the help of a summer student, local archivists and supportive supervisors, I spent my first year getting organized. It became apparent quite quickly that this was not going to be a desk job; I was going to have to get my hands dirty as I became acquainted with our holdings. My

first priority was to remove all the materials from the filing cabinets and move them into Hollinger boxes which could be stacked on shelving units. Photos were collected and grouped accordingly. It was not until the summer of 2006 that a photographic inventory was finally completed. Three hundred sacramental register books, some dating back to 1760, were sorted, flagged and housed. As the work progressed, word was getting around that our diocese was becoming serious about its Archive and people were beginning to take notice. Local historians and researchers from UWO and other universities began to make appointments to come and research from our documents. Even more surprising was the discovery that donations would be made willingly for the privilege of access to these documents. The past six months have been our busiest yet with over fifty scheduled research appointments and eight new acquisitions.

It has now been a little over two years since I began developing the Diocese of London's Archive and I have been fortunate in that it has resulted in the support of diocesan staff, the author of our history book and the many researchers who have so actively sought the treasures within our Archive. There is still a lifetime of work to be done and countless projects that still need to be addressed, let alone completed. As the demand for access to our records increases, and awareness of our importance to both the diocese and the history of our region gains momentum, this Archive will continue to grow and flourish. It can only get better!

Sister Rita McGuire – Founding Member of the Archivist Group



Sister Rita McGuire, G.S.I.C. died in Marianhill Residence, Pembroke, Ontario on August 5th, 2006 in the 61st year of her Religious Life.

She entered the Grey Sisters' Community on September 6th, 1945, pronouncing her final vows on August 1st, 1950. Following graduation from the Ottawa Teachers' College in 1949, Sister Rita began her career at the Immaculate Conception Primary School in Windsor, Ontario. Subsequent teaching assignments led her to various other Ontario schools, including Assumption School in Eastview, (Vanier), St. George's School, Ottawa, Continuation School, Eganville, and Immaculata High School in Ottawa, where she taught for eleven years. Continuing with further studies, Sister Rita earned a "High School Specialist Teaching Certificate" in English and History, her B.A. from St. Patrick's College, Carleton University, as well as her Masters in Education, from the University of Toronto. For two years she served as Librarian at St. Teresa's High School in Midland. In 1972, Sister Rita moved to the Northwest Territories ministering in Adult Education and teacher training programs for the territorial government. She initiated the programs in several areas in the N.W.T. including Fort Good Hope, Fort

Smith and Frobisher Bay. She also taught Catechetics in the MacKenzie/Fort Smith Diocese, where in 1980, she served as Adult Education coordinator for the next two years. In 1982, Sister Rita's interest turned to managing Archives, eventually accepting the position of full time Archivist for the Grey Sisters' Community. She was a founding member of the Religious Archivists of Ontario, and is well known and respected within the group. A writer, as well as an educator, in 1983, Sister Rita published her first book: "A Pioneer for Our Times: regarding the life and times of St. Marguerite D'Youville". There followed other publications including the history of the Grey Sisters in China, in the Bahamas, and in the Dominican Republic.

Sister Rita McGuire was a founding member of the archivist group in 1982. Besides attending all the annual conferences, she served on the Planning Committee 1983-86, 1993-95, 2000-01 and hosted the conference in Pembroke, Ontario in 1994.

Prince George – Jo-Anne Allison

The Archives of the Diocese of Prince George is housed in what used to be a shop room in the former O'Grady Catholic High School. When the school closed at the end of the 2000-2001 school year, the Chancery Office, in need of more space, moved into the empty building. While the physical conditions in which the archives are housed are better than the accommodation they enjoyed previously, there is still room for improvement. The Archives storage room is overheated, has lots of windows and the roof leaks. I was able to turn the heat down and curtains were installed – although light was still leaking in – but my main area of concern was the leaky roof. At the Catholic Archivist Group Annual Meeting in Orleans in September, Lynn Curry, Book Conservator at the Gatineau Preservation Centre gave us some excellent suggestions for Archives facing challenges like mine. Her advice on what to do was both practical and inexpensive.



Lynn suggested having tarps on hand in anticipation of flood or rain damage. In tandem with this she recommended that everyone should walk around their archives everyday to continually monitor the areas' environment. However, I work part-time and a leaky roof can do a lot of damage in a short space of time. Even if I checked the physical space on the days I work, what if the roof started leaking on a Friday and continued leaking until I came back to work on the following Tuesday?

By then the storage boxes would be soaked and the documents inside would be severely damaged. This would be a real problem since we have neither the facilities nor the funds

for freeze drying and restoration of water damaged documents. I decided to anticipate the worst. As soon as I got back to Prince George I went to Canadian Tire and bought the biggest tarp I could find. I set the tarp up over my shelving units providing a complete barrier for my record boxes. The tarp is white allowing light to penetrate and now I don't have to worry about what I might find when I go away for a few days. An added bonus was that the tarp was big enough to create a tent like space over my new accessions worktable. Now I don't have to box materials up every time I leave this area.

The solution isn't perfect and the Archives library books are still exposed to potential leaks and splashing. However, there is enough room under the tarp to hold all the books temporarily if the worst happens.

I have also followed Lynn's advice and have tacked down the curtains to keep light from filtering in along the edges. I have no control over relative humidity but the temperature is better since I turned the heat down. Unfortunately, now that winter is here this makes for a chilly welcome for researchers and visitors since our public spaces share the thermostat with the collections area!!

Logo Contest – Win your 2007 conference registration fee!



At the AGM in Orleans, the ideas of a logo and a web page for our Catholic Archivist Group surfaced. At our Executive Meeting in November, we have moved both of these suggestions forward as priorities. A logo can be used right away for letterhead and for the newsletter. Most importantly we want to have a logo ready to use on our Catholic Archivist Group web page. We have mandated our Outreach Committee to research possibilities for website development and maintenance and then report their findings. We ask our membership to be involved in 2 ways –

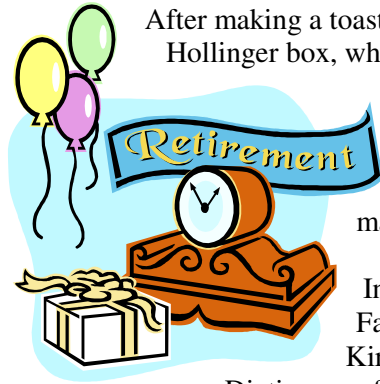
- 1) Give our Outreach Committee suggestions for their research – sample web pages to view, grant information and contact information for both web page development and maintenance. We are particularly interested in what other not-for-profit groups are doing.
- 2) Design a CAG logo and submit it our Outreach Committee (Jo-Anne Allison: archives@pgdiocese.bc.ca or Laurette Couture, CSSF: lcouture@mcsnet.ca). The logo should have simple clean lines and readily identify our group.

Deadline for logo submissions is March 31, 2007. All submissions will go to the Outreach Committee for review. All submissions along with the recommendations from the Outreach Committee will be forwarded to the Executive. The winner will receive his/her conference registration fee for the 2007 conference. Look for the announcement of the successful logo design in the May newsletter.

Let us give Jo-Anne and Laurette all the help we can. Note that there is no deadline for sending them leads regarding a web page – the sooner the better!

Retirement Lunch for Father Kirley – M.C. Havey

Archival friends and colleagues gathered on May 18 for a festive luncheon to honour Father Kevin Kirley, CSB on the occasion of his retirement as Archivist of the Basilian Fathers at the end of June.



After making a toast, Linda Wicks presented Father Kirley with the group gift. A Hollinger box, which was tied in a bow of unbleached cotton tape, was filled with items only an Archivist would appreciate – a writing journal, handmade in Italy of tooled leather and vellum paper and wrapped in acid-free tissue paper, HB pencils, disposable cotton gloves, plastic clips, post notes, a Ph testing pen and CD marker pen.

In addition to providing an occasional ‘coup de main’ to help Father James Rent, his successor as Basilian Archivist, Father Kirley’s future plans involve a possible companion volume to the Dictionary of Basilian Biography and a supplement to his memoirs.

In 1989, Father Kirley came to Basilian Archives with pedigree academic credentials and indepth knowledge of Archives. A native of Lindsay, Ontario, he graduated from the University of Toronto in 1949 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in modern history and modern languages. Ordained in 1952, Father Kirley earned a Master of Arts degree at the University of Toronto and LL es L at the University of Lyon, France.

He taught for 32 years: English and Spanish in Annonay, France; French in Toronto and Saskatoon; French and English in Bogota, Colombia. For postgraduate work, Father Kirley researched the Basilian history in France 1864-1955, consulting a diocesan Archives in Viviers, France; Departmental Archives in Privas, France; the National Archives, Paris, France; Secret Archives at the Vatican; the Archives of the Sacred Congregation of Religious in Rome; Basilian Archives in Annonay, France and Toronto.

For archival training, Father Kirley attended workshops of the Archives Association of Ontario (AAO), Toronto Area Archives Group (TAAG) and CRC-O Archivist Group. His professional memberships include the AAO, TAAG, CRC-O, CAG and Canadian Catholic Historical Association, where he has served on the Bulletin’s editorial board.

Organized by Linda Wicks and Evelyn Collins with assistance from MC Havey, the lunch was held at the Basilian and faculty dining room at the University of St. Michael’s College. The Basilian Fathers who attended were Rev. C. Arnold, Rev. James Rent, and Rev. Leonard Kennedy (Archivist, St. Michael’s College School). The CAG was well-represented by Evelyn Collins, (University of St. Michael’s College); Juliana Dusel, IBVM, and Ajantha Dias, (Loretto Sisters); Brother Walter Farrell, (Brothers of Christian Schools); Jacques Monet, s.j. (Jesuits of Upper Canada); Sister Gabrielle Petroniak, (Sisters of Social Service); James Mason, C.Ss.R. and Cathy Watt, (Redemptorists); Patricia Burke, SOS, and M.C. Havey, (Sisters of Service); Linda Wicks and Sister Grace Sauve, CSJ, (Sisters of St. Joseph, Toronto); and Marc Lerman, Michelle Mumford, and Jennifer Klug, (Archdiocese of Toronto).

In Memoriam



Rev. Robert James Cranley, S.F.M. (1929 – 2006) Born in 1929 in Lethbridge, Alberta Fr. Cranley was ordained to

Scarboro Missions December 8, 1954. He served in the Philippines. Recalled to Canada in 1965, he served for 13 years as chaplain at Scarborough General Hospital in Toronto. He was later appointed Secretary General of Scarboro Missions, serving faithfully in that capacity until this year when health issues forced his retirement. He died peacefully Scarborough General Hospital on May 30, 2006, at the age of 77. The Mass of the Resurrection took place at Scarboro Missions on June 2, 2006. Father Cranley was buried at Queen of the Angel Cemetery on the grounds of St. Augustine's Seminary where many Scarboro priests are buried.

During his term as Secretary General Father Cranley served as Archivist for Scarboro Missions and attended our annual conferences from 1988-1994.

Sister Teresa Sabatini, C.S.J. Sault Ste.

Marie (1925-2006). Born in 1925 in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Sister Teresa entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1942. As a school teacher and principal she served in Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Fort William, North Bay and Thunder Bay for 41 years. She received her B.A. from the University of Ottawa and then completed further studies at Lakehead University. In 1989, after retirement from teaching, she became archivist for the Diocese of Thunder Bay. In 1999 she was nominated as Consultor of the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church. Sister Teresa died suddenly at St. Joseph's Motherhouse, North Bay. The Mass of the Resurrection took place February 7, 2006 at St. Joseph's Motherhouse, North Bay. A Funeral Mass took place the next day in Thunder Bay. Sister was buried at St. Andrew's Cemetery in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

As Archivist for the Diocese of Thunder Bay, Sister Teresa attended our annual conferences from 1994-1999.

May they rest in peace.

Quebec Declaration on Archives – Nathalie Parant



Preamble

Archives, the sum of the documents created in the routine course of activities, are sources of memory, information and action. They play an essential role in the development of society. Archives are a unique, precious and irreplaceable heritage transmitted from generation to generation, contributing to transparent administration, the formation of our collective identity, and the growth of knowledge. Thus, they promote democracy and enhance our quality of life.

It is incumbent upon society as a whole to foster archives through public policies, a legal framework, and human, financial and material resources, as well as through the use of technology to support archival development. It is also incumbent upon society to

continue to add to this heritage with documents expressing its aspirations, its debates and its achievements.

In their pursuit of the recognition of this collective responsibility, archivists and information specialists undertake, with the support of their fellow citizens, to use their expertise to serve society by managing, conserving and providing access to the archives that are entrusted to them.

To this effect, we the undersigned recognize

- **the originality of archives** as evidence and as a reflection of the evolution of society;
- **the diversity of archives**, which have been created by all people in every era, in a multiplicity of forms, in every realm of human activity;
- **the necessity of archives** for business, the recognition and exercise of rights and obligations, public information, and the training of responsible citizens, as well as for the establishment of individual and collective memory, understanding of the past, documentation of the present, and preparation for the future;
- **the responsibility of all**—public decision-makers, citizens, owners or holders of public or private archives, and archivists and information specialists—in the management of archives.

We therefore undertake to work together,

each according to his or her competence, in order that

- the management of archives is valued and is carried out fully in civil society, public bodies and businesses;
- archives are conserved in conditions that ensure their authenticity, integrity and intelligibility;
- archives are made accessible to everyone, while respecting the rights of individuals, creators, owners and users.

In this way, we will contribute to the progress of our society.

11 January 2006

The Archivists of Quebec, including the Regroupement des archivistes religieux, invite you to add your voice to the Quebec Declaration on Archives. Visit www.archivistes.qc.ca for more information and to sign the declaration.

Chuckle for the Day – Father Kirley, CSB

Q - How did you get that black eye?

A - I opened this particular file in the archives and I was struck by a cross reference.



Historic Organ Citation – Gayle Desarmia, SP



It's old, majestic and produces sweet sounds. The 108-year-old Casavant organ at Providence Manor in Kingston, Ontario has been recognized as an historical instrument by the Royal Canadian College of Organists. A citation was presented during a ceremony in Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel following Mass on Sunday June 11th. Sister Gayle Desarmia, Archivist, received the citation from Carol Ramer, president of the Kingston centre of the RCCO.

The RCCO is interested in identifying all historic organs in Canada. Assessments are made on the historicity of the instrument and have nothing to do with the quality of the instrument. If you think your church or chapel has an historic organ, check out the website

(www.rcco.ca/Historic%20Organs.htm) for more information.

New Members

We welcome the following new members of the Catholic Archivist Group –

- ✚ Jo-Anne Allison replaced Florence D'Costa as Archivist for the Diocese of Prince George
- ✚ Sister Florence Kennedy has replaced Sr. Marie MacDonald as Archivist for the Sisters of St. Martha of Antigonish.
- ✚ Father Jim Rent has replaced Father Kevin Kirley as Archivist for the Basilian Fathers
- ✚ Marian Moody, Madonna House Archives
- ✚ Ron Welwood, Diocese of Nelson Archives
- ✚ Leslie Hall, Sisters of Charity of Providence, Edmonton, AB.

Welcome!

Catholic Archivist Group

We are a group of archivists committed to maintaining and promoting the archives of Religious Institutes, Diocesan and Catholic Institutions in order to preserve the social heritage of all of its members

The main thrust of the Catholic Archivist Group is that of mutual encouragement and support and to keep before all relevant authorities and groups the importance, significance and relevance of our Archives.

We follow the terms of reference of professional archival guidelines in Canada, Canon Law, and the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church, as well as pertinent government legislation.

Publication Schedule

The newsletter will be published December 1 (Fall issue), February 1 (Winter issue) and May 1 (Spring issue).

Submit your news items, articles and photographs by November 15, January 15 and April 15.

The next deadline is January 15, 2007.

Catholic Archivist Group Executive – Contact Information

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