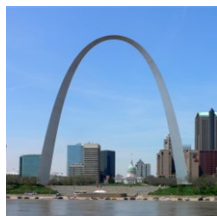


NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2023

Top stories in this newsletter



FCA at the RCRI Conference



Community Spotlight



Strategic Planning



From the Archives



Franciscan Forum



News & Information

We recognize the urgency for Franciscans to find permanent repositories for their archives that will safeguard the community's charism and legacy for future generations. The **Franciscan Central Archive** will be a physical center, following national archival standards, with a reading room, exhibition space, lecture hall, and robust virtual presence. Researchers will be able to study congregational ministries, shared vocations, and Franciscan charism across the collections. The FCA will be supported by charism-based educational programs and social engagement to ensure its members' legacies are carried into the future. Participation is open to Franciscan communities and organizations.

FCA at the RCRI Conference

Holly Fiedler, board member for the Franciscan Central Archive (FCA) and the Chicago Collaborative Archive Center (CCAC) was able to attend and co-host a vendor table at the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) Conference September 26-28 in St. Louis. RCRI kindly reduced the cost, which was split with the Order of Friars Minor (OFM) who provided us with guest rooms. FCA Advisor, Dee Gallo, generously donated funds to pay the FCA's portion for the table. Brie Martin, Interim Director of the OFMs Our Lady of Guadalupe Provincial Archive and Library co-hosted the table as they are also planning to be part of the CCAC. We were able to make many positive new connections with Franciscan communities and advocates for our efforts!


We are pleased to announce the following:

Our Lady of Guadalupe Provincial Archives and Library

The unified Order of Friars Minor province from six U.S. legacy provinces with archives from the following cities:

- Albuquerque, NM
- Burlington, WI
- Butler, NJ
- Cincinnati, OH
- St. Louis, MO
- Santa Barbara, CA

Interim Director: Brie Martin - Email: bmartin@friars.us



Franciscan Central Archive

Email: FCArchive@franciscanway.org
Website: <https://FranciscanCentralArchive.franciscanway.org>

The FCA and OFM Our Lady of Guadalupe Provincial Archive and Library are planning a shared library and reading room, creating a Franciscan center for research!

We are stronger together!





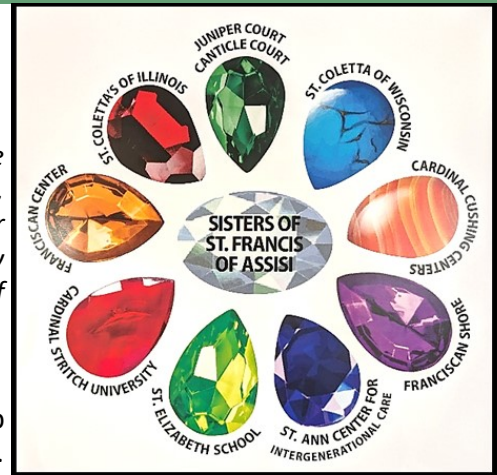
Community Spotlight: Treasured Crown Jewels

Sr. Celia Struck, Archivist, Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis, WI

The breadth and depth and scope of the corporate ministries of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi make them, in a sense, the “crown jewel” of the congregation’s ministries. Together these corporate ministries, whose seeds were planted and nurtured by congregation members, have, over the years, touched the lives of thousands of men, women, and children across the world.

Doris Pehowski, OSF By God’s Providence (2007): 257

In the 1970s and in the spirit of Vatican II, our congregation’s leadership invited lay women and men to promote and sustain the OSF mission. The sponsored ministries were “arms” of the corporation identified as the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. Today the Presidents/CEOs and their staffs continue to be our hands, feet, and hearts. In order to build relationships among the ministries, an annual conference was established. Fifty-two conferences have been held. The hosting location rotated to a different ministry site each year.



Each jewel represents a sponsored corporate ministry. As of June 2023, Cardinal Stritch University closed. Previously, two other ministries have closed: Franciscan Youth Center in Baltimore, MD and Marian Center for Nonprofits in Milwaukee, WI.



During the conference, the leadership of our congregation and each of the ministries shared the previous year’s highlights and future planning. Speakers provided expert input and thought-provoking discussions ensued setting the stage for relationship building and so much more.

The Sisters have read the writing on the wall. Leadership has begun the process to transfer our sponsorship to each corporate ministry. Therefore, it was decided that the October 2023 Corporate Ministry Annual Conference would be the last to take place, marking the *Transfer of Sponsorship – Moving Forward*.

The Corporate Bowl was retired after 52 years of passing it from one corporate ministry annual conference host to another.

The New Assisi Archives was invited to provide a visual dimension – a feast for the eyes! Along with my assistant, Sara, and a volunteer, Sr. Mary, we

created extra-large posters for each corporate ministry. We combed through everything and anything that would convey the special history of each ministry. The exhibits were on display in our New Assisi Heritage Room. The three weeks of creation were a labor of love. It was an honor to be able to exhibit our community’s history in this fashion. We all learned some historical tidbits along the way, too!

The two and one-half days of the conference were filled with profound rituals and times of reflection. Hearts full of gratitude were shared in many ways. “A Proclamation from the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi: Celebrating a Legacy of Hope” was read by the leadership team and shared with each ministry. These days were extremely bitter-sweet for all the attendees – no dry eyes at the conclusion of the final ritual.



Cardinal Stritch University was founded in 1937 as St. Clare College by the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi as an institution to train the order’s sisters as teachers. Eventually, the college opened its programs to lay women and later to men. The school attained University status in 1997. In April 2023, it was announced the university would close in May due to financial challenges and declining enrollment.



Strategic Planning

In January, we welcomed Veronica Buchanan to the FCA to serve as our Archival Consultant, supported by grant funding from the Academy of American Franciscan History. She has provided on-site archival needs assessments for our community members. Each has its own Processing Plan as well as an Assessment Action Plan with key recommendations and action items linked to its projected timeline. (New communities will also be provided with the same services.) Information learned is being brought into our current strategic planning.

In June, the FCA voted in its initial Board of Directors: Sister Mary Serbacki, Veronica Buchanan, and Holly Fiedler.

Individual community archival policy documents have been collected as we consider joint FCA policies and procedures. The board has met with community leadership and archivists to consider findings, needs, and wishes. The discussion has been wide-ranging to include what is needed to prepare each community archive, the overall initiative, and why leadership support is vital with long-range planning.

Storage recommendations and space needed for the future collaborative archive have been defined. Infrastructure unification recommendations are being outlined. The board is identifying quarterly objectives as well as annual and long-range goals as part of strategic planning.

The FCA has applied for another grant and is seeking additional grants to help carry out defined needs. This will include providing the communities with support to prepare their archival collections for the future move. We will be seeking grants specifically to assist with project management, communications, development, and fundraising.

The FCA plans to open by 2033. If a community has a more immediate need to transition its archival collection, interim storage options are available with on-site archivist support by subcontracting space with the OFM Our Lady of Guadalupe Provincial Archives and Library that has leased temporary space in Chicago.

Committed Members:

- ◆ Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity
 - ◇ Holy Name Province, Stella Niagara, NY
 - ◇ Sacred Heart Community, Denver, CO
 - ◇ St. Francis Province, Redwood City, CA
- ◆ Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY
- ◆ Sisters of St. Francis of Rochester, MN
- ◆ Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis, WI
- ◆ Wheaton Franciscan Sisters, IL

From the Archives: The Passing of a Local Legend

Sr. Marisa McDonald, Leadership Councilor and Archivist, Sisters of St. Francis, Rochester, MN



In 1955, Sr. Lauren Weinandt completed her Novitiate and went immediately to Saint Marys Hospital in Rochester MN, sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Francis of Rochester. After many years in various roles, including Executive Secretary to two Hospital Administrators, she moved to a different position in the mid 1980's – helping to establish and maintain the hospital's Archives. For the next 35 years, until a few weeks before her recent death at the age of 101 years and 363 days, she went daily to her office in the Administration area. As Archivist and Development Assistant, she received requests and visitors, including many famous faces. Her

67 years on the payroll of the hospital (now part of Mayo Clinic) made her the longest serving employee, a record I doubt anyone will break! While she was named "Archivist", her institutional knowledge and welcoming personality made her role more that of an "ambassador".

The photo on the left is undated. The photo on the right was taken two months before Sr. Lauren's 100th birthday in 2021!





Franciscan Forum

In July, emails were sent to specific Franciscan archivists, historians, directors, and technology experts with the hope of creating connections and addressing shared needs by the creation of a forum where Franciscan entities could discuss their projects and assist each other find solutions. Three meetings have been held. Shared vision, interests, and needs have been defined which include archival collections and media at risk. Long term goals include building collaborative working relationships, a Franciscan resource guide and database, linked virtual presence, possible shared Digital Repositories & Collection Management Systems, and grant projects.



Video: "What are Archives?" A comprehensive, non-institution specific, overview for people new to archives by AtlasSystems: https://youtu.be/QNN2LFe_iD8?si=UvBE3o899_3LkYJd
"In under three minutes, learn more about different types of archives, what archivists do, who can use archives, what is missing from them, and why they are valuable."

Society of American Archivists, Archivists of Religious Collections Sections Presentation: "Environment, Storage, and Integrated Pest Management" by Holly Fiedler and Iona McCraith

Video: <https://youtu.be/Ov6X3nLyOUo?si=eFicL-VUpzL0-qpR>

PowerPoint Presentation and List of Resources:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SqGHFzVELYQRiexafHIKmZE8icObqPYD?usp=drive_link

Mission Statement: The Franciscan Central Archive (FCA) preserves, protects, and provides access to the records of its Franciscan entities for the purposes of research and knowledge through a collaborative repository that will carry the Franciscan charism and legacy into the future.

PURPOSE
History & Memory
Knowledge

GOALS
Preserve
Inform & Connect
Foster Collaboration
Engage & Inspire

VALUES
Responsible Stewardship
Integrity & Accountability
Professional Service
Sustainability

Funding is dependent upon grants, donations, participating members, and fundraising. We need your help to see the FCA through the next steps.

How To Support:

Volunteer: We are seeking assistance with grant writing, development, and fundraising.

Donations and Planned Giving: We welcome support for the legacy of our communities and Franciscan charism through the preservation of our archival collections.

Partnerships and Affiliations

- ◆ Academy of American Franciscan History
- ◆ Chicago Collaborative Archive Center
- ◆ Preservation Chicago
- ◆ McGreal Center at Dominican University
- ◆ Archival Resources for Catholic Collections
- ◆ Society of American Archivists - Archivists of Religious Collections Section
- ◆ Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious

THE REALITY

The time to plan is now!

CARA's National Women Religious Archive Survey Report 2022:

Respondents that anticipate transitioning their archive to a repository most favored a charism-based archive by 42%.

Average Age of Individuals:

- Under 70 = 20%
- 70 to 79 = 27%
- 80 or older = 50%

Size of Community:

- More than 100 = 20%
- 51 to 100 = 30%
- 50 or fewer = 43%

CONNECT WITH US

Email: FCArchive@franciscanway.org

FCA Contact: Holly Fiedler - (303) 458-6270 x112

Web: <https://FranciscanCentralArchive.franciscanway.org/>

