

# The Archival Spirit

October 2022

ARCS 

Archivists of Religious  
Collections Section, of the  
Society of American Archivists

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## ARCS Election Results

Dear Archivists of Religious Collections  
Section members and friends,

In case you have missed this news, at  
our online Annual Meeting I announced  
the following section leadership election  
results. The successful candidates  
were:

- ⇒ Vice-chair / Chair elect: Erin Louthen
- ⇒ Steering Committee Member: Mary  
Grace Kosta
- ⇒ Secretary: Elaine Nadeau

Many thanks to everyone who voted.

Congratulations to those we have cho-  
sen to lead the section from September  
1, 2022 to August 31, 2023.

ARCS is in good hands!

Sincerely,  
Tim Binkley  
ARCS Immediate Past Chair

## Recordings of Lunch-and-Learn Sessions Available

If you would like to watch or re-  
watch a Lunch-and-Learn ses-  
sion hosted by the ARCS Mod-  
els and Resources Committee,  
now you can do so by consult-  
ing the ARCS microsite at  
[https://www2.archivists.org/  
groups/archivists-of-religious-  
collections-section/events](https://www2.archivists.org/groups/archivists-of-religious-collections-section/events) or by  
viewing our YouTube channel  
at [https://www.youtube.com/  
channel/UCpWzzChlhR-  
8O7CrKmiL2rw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpWzzChlhR-8O7CrKmiL2rw).

Click [here](#) to follow the ARCS  
Discussion Board on SAA Connect.



Click [here](#) to follow ARCS  
on Facebook.

## Carol W. Smith Receives Sister M. Claude Lane Award from SAA

*Shared by Julia Pillard, Marketing & Communications Specialist, Society of American Archivists*

Carol W. Smith, archivist for Christ Church Preservation Trust, is the [2022 recipient](#) of the [Sister M. Claude Lane, O.P., Memorial Award](#) given by the Society of American Archivists (SAA) in conjunction with the Society of Southwest Archivists. The award honors an archivist who has made a significant contribution to the field of religious archives.

During her years working as a religious archivist, Smith spearheaded the Philadelphia Historic Congregations Project and received funding from CLIR, the Council for Libraries and Information Research (funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation), as well as the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission and the Connelly Foundation to digitize or harvest more than 85,000 documents across seventeen Philadelphia congregations. More records will continue to be uploaded. The [resulting portal](#) provides insight into the relationship between religion and politics while also providing greater access to invaluable documents. Many of these “hidden” documents have not had sufficient description, and this project significantly improves accessibility.



Smith has been an outstanding member of the archival profession. As one supporter has written, Smith “is a dedicated person who works with several other organizations to make sure that their archives are kept in pristine condition for future generations.” In addition, the supporter notes that because of Smith’s dedication, the Philadelphia Historic Congregations Project is “collaboration at its finest—among congregations and among constituencies. To say these records are a treasure trove for future scholars is scarcely adequate.”

Created in 1974, the award honors Sister M. Claude Lane, O.P., a Dominican nun who was the first professionally trained archivist at the Catholic Archives of Texas in Austin. Past recipients include Mary Grace Kosta (Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada), Ellen Pierce (Dominican Sisters and other religious congregations), and Jillian Ewalt (University of Dayton).

## Capital Area District Libraries Announces the Availability of the Edwin W. Bishop Collection

**HEIDI J. BUTLER, MSLS, CA, Local History Specialist**

Forest Parke Library and Archives, Capital Area District Libraries  
LANSING, MICHIGAN

Edwin Whitney Bishop was born on May 12, 1869, in Norwich, Connecticut, to Sherman B. Bishop and Ellen Lucina Webber. He attended Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, and the Hartford Theological Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut. He was the minister at Plymouth Congregational Church in Lansing, Michigan, for 21 years, from March 1918 until August 1939. He served previously as a minister at other Congregational churches, including one in Grand Rapids (Mich.), and one in New Hampshire.

This six-box collection contains hundreds of both published sermons and rough drafts. There are three boxes of rough drafts; some are handwritten and some are typed with handwritten notes. The sermons occasionally include songs or Bible verses. A fourth box contains published sermons. The final two boxes contain newspaper clippings of pieces written about or by Rev. Bishop, orders of church services, photographs, and biographical information.

When possible, Rev. Bishop’s numbering and naming system for the organization of the collection were utilized (folders XXV, XXIX, and XXXI are missing). However, when naming or numbering were not included, staff attempted to identify and interpret the material, and name it accordingly.

Rev. Edwin W. Bishop married Rachel Rand (1879-1927) in 1903 and they had three children together: David Rand Bishop, Sr. (1904-1994), Helen Bishop (1906-1991), and Ruth Bishop (1908-1999). Rev. Bishop died on January 19, 1942, in Battle Creek, Michigan. He, his wife, and all their children are buried at Deepdale Cemetery in Lansing.

This collection was processed in Summer 2022 by Wayne State University Archives practicum student Rebecca Holm.

The detailed collection inventory can be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/EWBishop>.



## The Federation of St. Scholastica: A Centennial Exhibit

**ELAINE NADEAU, M.A., M.S., Archivist**  
 Mount St. Scholastica  
 ATCHISON, KANSAS

The Federation of St. Scholastica celebrated its centennial anniversary in June. The Federation of St. Scholastica began in 1922. Its creation made its member monasteries pontifical instead of diocesan and was largely cut across ethnic (German) and apostolic (teaching) lines. It was the first of the Benedictine Federations to be formed. The creation of the Federation was a large step towards self-governance of the Benedictine sisters in North America.

While a few dissertations and scholarly works have been written about various points of its history, much of the Federation's history has been largely inaccessible to those not engaged in writing about it. It was important for the Federation archive to show attending prioresses and delegates of the centennial chapter, who otherwise would have little to no interaction with the archive and its holdings, the wealth of history the Federation archive contains. When most people think about archives, they may think of dusty, uninteresting administrative documents. Instead, the centennial exhibit was designed with a focus on the human element of the Federation's past, on the trials and forward momentum of previous presidents, and of the messy human reality of pivotal moments in the Federation (and Church) history.



It can be difficult to create a display at the best of times. Like many religious institutions, the budget was small, the staff miniscule. The exhibit was also temporary, only staying up for about three weeks. Thus, it was important to think strategically and economically; book and display cases from other areas were emptied and commandeered; fold-able partitions used for other monastic events were used to create a false sense of enclosed space and to create walls to hang photos. Items were bought only when absolutely necessary; recent photos that only existed as digital entities were printed for display; custom matboards to give the exhibit a more uniform look; hooks and paint supplies used for the creation of the banners.

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How does one convey the human element of a static photo, the spirit of a woman long deceased? In this case, A/V recordings were scoured for clip-worthy topics- thirty seconds to several minutes worth of audio. These were then cleaned up with Audacity to diminish background noise, remove long pauses, and even-out the volume. From there, they were put through a QR converter and hosting site. These QR codes were printed, laminated, and hung beside the photo of the person whose voice was captured for the code, or placed next to the object spoken about. The earliest recording was from the 1950's, in which the Federation President at the time, Mother Alfred Schroll, reported to the Atchison community about the prioresses' trip to Rome in 1950, a trip she later credited as the real start of inter-Federation communication.

Using QR codes also allowed for the "display" of videos. Instead of trying to finagle a way to have video stations, the QR code held the video. Much A/V material in the archive may remain untapped because people don't know the materials exist, or because there are little to no descriptions of the items, or because its inclusion in displays would require specialized equipment. QR codes were an inexpensive way to showcase small bits of larger, heretofore unheard materials.

Some materials were also created specifically for the Centennial. Monasteries of the Federation which had already reached completion were able to have a section for displays of their individual communities. Where possible, former members of completed communities were contacted and asked to record themselves describing the history of their communities. Thus, attendees could view photos, brochures, or cloth objects from the community while hearing a member tell them their story in their own words.

Banners were also created especially for the event. Postulant Dorothy Herring painted and arranged banners for display. One set of banners greeted the delegates with faces they knew. This collaborative effort involved all the archivists of the Federation, who submitted photos of previous delegates. A photo of virtually every delegate and prioress to participate in the Federation from inception to the centennial meeting was included. The sisters delighted in finding their own community members. Two other banners acted as entrance and exit banners to the exhibit itself and bore a quote from Sister Joan Chittister, president from 1971-1978: "If not in our time then because of our time/Come along the best is yet to be."



Sisters were asked to bring headphones for their phones. In this way sisters could experience the exhibit together in the physical space, while being able to choose their method and pace of exhibit interaction. While the QR codes were explained, and individually demonstrated for those who asked, some sisters chose to forego this level of experience altogether, preferring the more traditional visual displays. They still were able to see photos, letters, and ephemera. Others would stand in front of a photo of someone they knew and let them speak to them from the past.



This human element included more than just photos and voices of past presidents. Materials were combed through for pertinent or striking quotes. Many sisters laughed to read that even in 1945 a superior wrote, "The modern girl is something difficult to understand, sometimes." Presumably they have had similar laments. Other parts were more painful, such as the confusion they experienced during Vatican II. Many learned about events or programs that had existed in the Federation's history for the first time. Others could tell of a story behind a photo. Many relayed the communal, institutional memory which only exists as a nebulous concept in the archival record.

Such thorough digging through the records for exhibition material enabled the archive to create a more thorough finding aid, make note of preservation concerns, and create an action plan for future digitization efforts. Exhibits highlighting the gems of the collection created an atmosphere of learning and nostalgia amongst attendees. A PDF compilation of the exhibit allows for sisters at home to experience the exhibit as well. While such exhibitions can be a strain on archives, they are also a time of learning, adaptation, and reflection. They identify gaps in the record, inspire innovation, allow for levels of interaction between the archive and the user (or record-makers) that are usually impossible in the context of a Federation, due to large distances between monasteries. More importantly, anniversaries remind people of the many wonderful things the archive is capable of.

## Transitions: Fidelity to the Core & New Leadership

REV. J. A. Schneibel, CSC, Archivist

Archives & Artifacts, University of Portland  
PORTLAND, OREGON

We are the Archives for a private Catholic college (appr. 4000 enrollment) which will, after 120 years, welcome this term our first President from outside the founding Holy Cross religious community. That is, we are encountering the trauma of change. The University of Portland was founded by the Archbishop of Oregon City in 1901. Direction and ownership was transferred (i.e., sold: promises of funds being exchanged) to the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1902. In 1968 ownership was vested in a corporate Board of Regents. From then, from the first year, and until today, the Holy Cross fathers have provided staffing and leadership and colleague-ship at the University of Portland.

But in point of fact—for good or ill—the University was always never yet the Catholic boys school envisioned by the founders. Through the years, time after time, seemingly just missing the goal. Fortunately. That Catholic boys school plan describes a horizon we were ever moving away from in reality, for whether as an aspiration or fall back safety-default, the cloistered boarding school model was not sustainable in early twentieth century Oregon. Truth to tell, looking back, we find a bit of failure woven into our story as we come to consider our horizons today in 2022. Starkly put: today we are a 120-year-old Catholic college at a time of transition. Again however, to repeat the previous point, we cannot discover a time in that 120 years when we were not in transition. Some years of security: yes. But mostly, and the dominant strain, not so much.

And in that, we are probably not so different from many parallel Catholic religious institutes and apostolates. Standard operation conditions after all. The question: how to tell the story, our story.



*“Hello, I must be going...”*



*Campus paving stone, Library Plaza*

Within the activities of the Archives is the management of an outward-leaning educational web-page, [PortLog](#), a digital magazine. Throughout the year we post ‘one-page’ sketches which might feature an artifact in our collection, a historical anniversary, or some anecdote crying out for attention. In this digital activity, the Archives received the charge that the web-articles might highlight and articulate the continuing Catholic and Holy Cross mission of our school. The example below welcomes the new president. The link at the bottom is an article on religious identity: “1901-1928: More Catholic or More College?” (While not daring to promote the examples here as best-practice—see the deprecations above—feel free to steal from the models if they are useful.)

The aim of our documentary articles is not backwards looking. The heritage our Archives promotes is not meant to note and celebrate the embalmed past. Instead, looking at the challenges of today, we remember and re-enact precedent, anecdote, lessons from our history to preserve and forward the educational mission that has been the center of the institution and the religious identity that remains a stable foundation. Our guidelines are fidelity to that core, which we find single and vital. Our aim is not to portray our predecessors as quaint. And we do not regret today as either loss or shadow.

Time and circumstance are conditions of life, and imply transition. But with change? Lots of things stay the same. The question: how to tell the story, our story. And so, here is the story of our first president drawn from outside the ambit of the University’s founding Catholic religious order, with emphasis how on the more things change . . . the more clear and evident is the observer’s discovery of the thread of continuity (values, mission, charism) that defines the work of the Congregation of Holy Cross at the University of Portland.

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## One-hundred-and-twenty years, and continuing

Dr. Robert Kelly has been named the Twenty-first President of the University of Portland. He is the first person to hold that office who has not been a Holy Cross Religious at some point earlier in his life. (Trivia point: our first president, Rev. Edward Patrick Murphy, began his clerical career as a Holy Cross priest, and had even been president of a Holy Cross school, St. Edward's College in Austin, Texas, before Archbishop Alexander Christie appointed him president of Columbia University for one-year in 1901.)

But Dr. Kelly is not our first President Kell(e)y.

The name of the 21st President is now joined beside that of Rev. Louis Kelley, CSC; the Seventh President (1928-1934). Both of these educators—as indeed all of the presidents—assuming the role in a time of transition. Between 1928-1934, we grew from junior college status to a fully accredited 4-year university program, and merged into full partnership with St. Vincent Hospital to form the School of Nursing. The school's development during these years was so significant as to lead to altering our name to describe the new reality, Archbishop Christie's Columbia University becoming the University of Portland in 1935. Now entering our 121's year, President Robert Kelly's time — and our time— promising a period of new growth and potential for the years ahead.



*Dr. Robert Kelly, President-Elect (Marketing and Communications Photo)*



*Rev. Louis Kelley, CSC;  
rendered by Emil Jacques, 1929*

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See the full posting on "Catholic Identity and Values 1901-1928: More Catholic or More College?" at <https://sites.up.edu/museum/1901-1928-more-catholic-or-more-college/>.

# Models and Resources Committee Report, September 2022

Submitted by Mary Grace Kosta, Chair

## 1. Committee members

Mary Grace Kosta (Chair), Thomas McCullough, Russell Gasero, Scott Keefer, Julia Armstrong, Holly Fiedler, Charlene Martin, Nan Cano, Claire Wilton (ex-officio), Mary Silverstein, Sarah Waits, Jake Griffith-Rosenberger, Phyllis Bratton, Mary Kenney, Erin Louthen

## 2. Lunch and Learn sessions

These sessions were completed in 2022 to date:

- ⇒ The importance of religious archives, Malachy McCarthy, Claretian Missionaries Archives USA-Canada, Friday, May 13, 3:00 EST/EDT – registration total 176/88 attended live
- ⇒ Making archive digital spaces accessible, Lisa Snider, Access Changes Everything, Friday, May 20, 3:00 EST/EDT – registration total 254/131 attended live
- ⇒ Outreach, Carey Pallister, Consultant, Friday, June 3, 3:00 EST/EDT – registration total 159/89 attended live
- ⇒ Social justice and Catholic nuns – how archives support research, Sara Ludewig, Library of Congress, June 23, 7:00 pm EST/EDT – registration total 135/50 attended live
- ⇒ The construction of an archival vault, Junia Yasenov, Capuchin Province Archives, July 8, 3:00 pm EST/EDT – registration total 153/80 attended live
- ⇒ Outreach lesson planning, Scott Keefer, Daughters of Charity, Friday, August 12, 3:00 EST/EDT – registration total 99/44 attended live
- ⇒ Reference services, Nadia Nasr, Santa Clara University, September 2, 3:00 EST/EDT – registration total 162/76 attended live

## 3. Archival Chat sessions

These sessions were completed in 2022:

- ⇒ How to talk to management about archives, Lisa Gibbon, Congregation of St. Joseph Archive. Friday, May 6, 3:00 EST/EDT – registration total 100/37 attended live
- ⇒ Sharing collection highlights, Janice Rosen, Canadian Jewish Archives, Thursday, July 14, 3:00 EST/EDT – registration total 44/22 attended live
- ⇒ How to tackle unprocessed collections, Erin Louthen, Friday, August 19, 3:00 EST/EDT – registration total 100/61 attended live

## 4. Upcoming sessions

The Models and Resources Committee has planned sessions for the remainder of 2022 and well into 2023. Here are the confirmed sessions for the rest of 2022:

- ⇒ Introduction to AtoM, Jody Robinson, Bishop University, Mary Grace Kosta, CSJ Archives, Wednesday, October 5, 3:00 pm EST/EDT (*editor's note: this presentation was held on October 5, as planned*)
- ⇒ Archive-It, Catherine Falls, Raven Germain, Internet Archive, Nov. 18, 3:00 pm EST/EDT

## 5. Models and Resources Committee Handbook

A 21-page handbook with instructions for members of the Models and Resources Committee is available for download on the SAA ARCS microsite.

## 6. Models

There are new sections added on microsite where resources with a Creative Commons license can be downloaded:

- ⇒ Archives Policy
- ⇒ Emergency and Disaster Preparedness
- ⇒ Archival Processing

## 7. Microsite and YouTube

The microsite contains links to register for Archival Chat and Lunch and Learn sessions, and links to recorded sessions, both on the Zoom server and [our YouTube channel](#). It also contains models (policies and manuals) collected by the Models and Resources Committee.

## Summaries of Archival Chats and Lunch-and-Learn Sessions

Unlike Lunch and Learn sessions, Archival Chats are not recorded, as they are considered a safe space for open dialog among archivists, librarians, and other information professionals. Highlights from these sessions are therefore provided below.

### **Archival Chat: How to Talk to Management about Archives, 6 May 2022**

*Presentation by Lisa Gibbon, Congregation of St. Joseph Archives & Records Retention*

Summary points:

- ⇒ Get on the bus! Working with leadership is about relationships, and they need an invitation to join
- ⇒ Other “bus-mates” include researchers, users, former archivists, and community (however defined)
- ⇒ Recognize the need that your archives must serve – what are the things that will make you invaluable in your role?
- ⇒ The ability to be reachable and accessible can counteract the difficulty of working with geographically disparate partners
- ⇒ Creating records management programs
- ⇒ Education of managers/partners is not a one-time event (particularly if leadership changes frequently)

*Summary provided by Scott Keefer, CA, Provincial Archivist, Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise*

### **Archival Chat: Sharing Collection Highlights, 14 July 2022**

*Presentation by Janice Rosen, Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives*

Janice Rosen of the Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives presented on the history of her organization and collection highlights documenting the earliest Jews in Canada to the present and representing the types of material held. This presentation prompted an open discussion on several topics:

- ⇒ The Canadian Jewish Archives holds both immigration records from families and organizations supporting immigrants and vital records from synagogues. While many religious archives have genealogical material like vital records, they do not have immigration records. This is one of the ways in which Jewish archives are cultural or community archives.
- ⇒ In terms of unique collections, many Catholic archives hold relics. In general, religious archives tend to house objects as well as records, which is true of the Canadian Jewish Archives.
- ⇒ Attendees noted different relationships to the concept of a "religious" archive. Jewish archives document their communities and as such collect material that reflects religious practice. Other attendees work in college and corporate archives with strong religious components.
- ⇒ Attendees discussed the oral histories in their collections, which are primarily about life experiences in a place, a city, country, or a religious order, not about religious practice.
- ⇒ Attendees were asked "What is your network? Who are your colleagues when you need specific advice? Are they from SAA or other special interest groups? Are they geographic (local, state/provincial, nationwide) or subject-based (type of institution, collecting focus)?" Briefly, it depends on the advice needed.
- ⇒ Attendees were asked "Do you use local subject headings? Are these community-based, cultural, or religious? Are these in a language represented in your collections or other than your language of description?" Local authority files for people and corporate bodies are universal. Some have used or were aware of adaptation of standard classification systems to local needs, for example developing a "Jewey" decimal system. At least one attendee had local subject headings for unique offices or titles in their organization. This also raised the question of language of description or ability to process or catalog multilingually. Two Jewish archivists noted that their use of Hebrew and Yiddish is limited.
- ⇒ We ended with a brief description of funding opportunities and structure for Jewish historical societies in the United States.

*Summary provided by Jake Griffith-Rosenberger, Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven*

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*continued from page 8*

## **Archival Chat: How to Tackle Unprocessed Collections, Friday, 19 August 2022**

*Presentation by Erin Louthen, Santa Clara University*

Erin Louthen has just begun her new position as the first full-time professional archivist for the Diocese of San Jose, CA. The archives have been housed in a 3400 sq. ft. warehouse since 2014. Erin gave us a virtual tour via video so that we could see the piles of boxes, furniture, unboxed blueprints and maps, reaching up four and five shelves high. As she walked us through, she gave a brief history of the Diocese of San Jose.

Participants offered many suggestions from how to deal with blueprints, laws regarding Privacy and student records, and design of an access policy. A “miscellanea” collection was suggested to hold odd materials. Gloves, N95 masks, and goggles are useful in a dusty warehouse. A priority list for what collections to process first would be helpful to determine where to start. MPLP (“more product, less process”) was suggested. Mold and pests were discussed. And participants shared experiences with unlabeled boxes and folders. The chat continued for almost an hour and was productive and practical advice was profitably shared.

*Summary provided by Mary Kenney, Marianist Province*

## **An Eye for History: Diocese of Orange has its own “Catholic Picker” in Archivist Emeritus William Krekelberg**

*Shared by Fr. Christopher Heath, Director of Archives, Diocese of Orange*

Father William Krekelberg might like to say there was some great planning and consideration that led to him becoming the first archivist for the Diocese of Orange, but the truth is far more random. Or serendipitous. Or, as Fr. Bill says jokingly, “God’s sense of humor.”

He was a pastor, who had recently been appointed to Holy Family parish in Orange, when the Diocese of Orange was established by Pope Paul VI in 1976.

“The Bishop (William Johnson) had just moved into our house,” Fr. Bill recalled.

As the rendition goes, some members of the clergy were dining with the bishop when Johnson said off-handedly that the archivist at the Archdiocese of L.A. had mentioned the young pastor might be a good person for the job at the new Diocese.”

Fr. Bill said the bishop asked him.

“‘Would you like to do that?’ I said, ‘Well, yeah, that would be great.’ It was as informal as that.”

Whether it was pure luck, or part of God’s plan, the choice of Fr. Krekelberg to be Director of Archives and de facto historian of the Diocese of Orange, couldn’t have been a better or more natural fit.

Fr. Bill’s younger brother, retired Los Angeles Monsignor Richard Krekelberg, who well knew his brother’s love of history, said the choice was inspired.

“That it suits my brother is a great understatement,” he said. “He was formed in the womb to love history.”

Fr. Bill remained in the position until his retirement in 2015. To this day, he maintains the title of Archivist Emeritus.

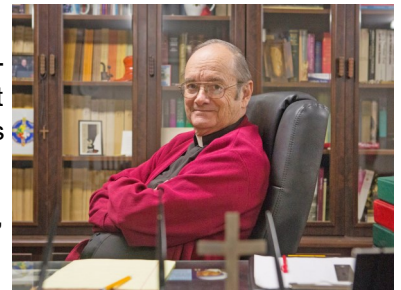
The archivist has several missions. As a matter of Catholic canon law, a diocese is required to archive its history and culture, as well as records of its priests, deacons and other personnel.

Another is to collect all manner of documents and articles that help tell the story of the Church through the years and put it in context.

Father Chris Heath, who succeeded Fr. Bill as the full-time Archivist, puts it this way.

“I collect and maintain the story of the Church of Orange,” he said. “It’s something we need to keep. Every family should have its history and the Diocese is a very big family. Despite that the Diocese isn’t that old we have to hold onto that story.”

Continue reading this story as it was originally published in the *Orange County Catholic*: <https://occatholic.com/an-eye-for-history/>.



## Retirement Announcement from Diane Wells

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that after 28 years as the Archivist and Records Manager for the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, I made the decision to retire in April of this year. It was not an easy decision – but I believe that it was the right one, with a confluence of events leading me to believe that it was also the right time. So, within a matter of two months, I retired, sold my house, and moved across country. When it's right – it's right!

This is not to say that I do not miss my work in the diocesan archives and my many friends and colleagues in the profession. I do. However, I don't view this as an end to my archival career – but rather as a change in direction. A change in direction that is both literal and figurative – as I have physically moved from Auburn, Washington to Auburn, Indiana – from Auburn to Auburn! Having spent the last few months settling in and making the adjustment from west coast to mid-west, I have not quite decided what my new path will be. I can only tell you that it will be an adventure!

For those of you who do not know me – I have been active in SAA and ARCS since 1994, serving the Section as Secretary, 1999-2001; Vice Chair, 2001-2003; and Chair from 2003-2005. I have represented the section in SAA programs by presenting papers on such topics as documenting faith communities and administering sensitive and confidential records – and have also been very active in the field of records management, producing policies and procedures manuals and retention schedules for diocesan records. In 2015 I was honored to be the recipient of the Sister M. Claude Lane, O.P. Memorial Award.

I have also been active in the realm of Episcopal archives, hosting conferences, presenting papers, holding workshops, writing articles, coordinating anniversary events, blogging, etc. – all in addition to the daily business of maintaining and managing the archives. In short – doing what archivists do! My years working in the Diocese of Olympia Archives, along with my participation in SAA and other professional organizations, have provided me with a truly fascinating and rewarding career experience.

Though my decision to retire last April may seem abrupt to some, the thought of retirement – and what it might mean to myself and others – had been on my mind for at least two years. One of my main concerns was the thought of a successor. Who would take my place? This concern was laid to rest last fall when Erik Bauer (contacted me about possible volunteer work. Instead of offering him a volunteer position, I hired Erik as a part-time project archivist – and he exceeded my expectations. Erik is an archivist and librarian with extensive professional experience. After working with him for a few months, I knew that if he was interested and if the bishop agreed, that I'd found my successor. This was the last piece in my retirement puzzle – and I was able to submit my retirement letter secure in the fact that the Diocese of Olympia Archives was in good hands.

Therefore, I would like to introduce you to Erik Bauer (pictured at right), the new Archivist and Records Manager for the Diocese of Olympia and ask that you make him welcome. His email address is [ebauer@ecww.org](mailto:ebauer@ecww.org). As for me, I will still be around as I am not ready to hang up my archival hat quite yet. I can be reached at [dianewells727@gmail.com](mailto:dianewells727@gmail.com) or [dianesan@hotmail.com](mailto:dianesan@hotmail.com).

In closing, I would like to thank everyone in ARCS for your continued dedication to preserving, protecting, and promoting the documentary heritage of our religious communities – for raising awareness and for underscoring the importance of these records to the social and cultural fabric of our nation and beyond.

With gratitude,

*Diane*

Diane Wells, MLS, MA, CA

