



CARA News

Fall 2008 No.2

Chicago Area Religious Archivists

CARA Fall 2008 Meeting and Tour of Three Religious Archives

All religious archivists are invited to the Fall CARA meeting to be held on Friday afternoon November 14, 2008 from 1-5 pm. On the agenda is the annual business meeting which includes elections for the 2009 CARA Steering Committee, a visit to three religious archives located in Arlington Heights, food and good fun! Be sure to stay until the end for the raffle!

Hosting the event is Joan Sweeney, archivist for the Clerics of St. Viator, Gwyn Stupar, archivist for the Sisters of the Living Word and Donna Dahl, archivist for the Alexian Brothers. The archives are all within 10-15 minutes of each other.

The agenda for the afternoon follows:



1:00 PM - Meet at the Viatorian Archives for the business meeting followed by a tour and appetizers.

The Clerics of St. Viator (CSV) is an international Roman Catholic congregation comprised of priests and brothers as well as lay associates. Their mission is to be dedicated educators of

faith and to raise up communities of believers who espouse the values of Jesus Christ in their life and work. They minister to the young and those who are "accounted of little importance" by some.

The Viatorian Community Archives, located in the U.S. Province Center in Arlington Heights, Illinois, preserves the Province's historical records, including the Foundations and Institutions where the Viatorians serve and information about the CSV confreres and associates from the establishment of the Province in the 1882 to the present.

2:30 PM - Caravan together to the Alexian Brothers Archives for a tour and light fare.

The Congregation of Alexian Brothers is a lay, apostolic, Catholic Order whose Brothers, bound together by religious vows, dedicate themselves primarily to live in community and

to the ministry of healing in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. For almost 800 years, the Alexian Brothers have cared for the sick, the aged, the poor and the dying.

The Alexian Brothers Provincial Archives affirms and reflects the Congregation of Alexian Brothers Immaculate Conception Province's unique historical identity. It is the official repository for records created by and about the Immaculate Conception Province and its corporate entities.

See the last page of the newsletter for the membership application!

News?

Send news and photos for the CARA newsletter to:
jsweeney@viatorians.com

Questions?

Contact:
Malachy McCarthy
mccarthym@claretians.org



Fall 2008 Meeting (continued)



3:45 PM - Caravan together to the Sisters of the Living Word Archives for a tour, dessert and raffle.

The Sisters of the Living Word are a community of 70 women religious founded in 1975 and headquartered in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Their Mission is to reflect and affirm the Word, Jesus, who frees the oppressed and gives new life. The SLW minister throughout the Midwest and South. Their works include youth and adult education, parish, campus and diocesan ministry, health care, retreat and spiritual direction, counseling, healing ministries, environmental advocacy, and outreach to new immigrants as well as to victims of violence, hunger, unemployment and homelessness.

The Sisters of the Living Word Archives preserves the history and heritage of the Congregation and offers coming generations an incentive to keep alive the spirit and mission of the Sisters of the Living Word.

Directions: Arlington Heights is easily accessible by car via Interstate 90 and by the Metra Northwest train line. More specific directions and maps will be provided upon RSVP.

RSVP: Please RSVP by Monday November 10th to Joan Sweeney at jsweeney@viatorians.com or (847) 637-2130.

Catholic Archive Collaborative Formed

The Archives of the North American Province of the Cenacle Congregation has joined the Claretians USA Archives to form the new Catholic Archive Collaborative. Located in the Claretian/St Jude building on the corner of Monroe and Wells [205 W Monroe] in Chicago, this 3200 square foot facility will provide a well managed professional facility for scholars. The shared space houses individual offices for archival staff, a reading room, a small exhibit area, common processing room, and stack area. Using the Society of the Sacred Heart Archives and Ursuline Sisters Archives in St. Louis, MO as model, the new archives will provide both religious organizations an efficient space to undertake all aspects of archival administration. The new archives is almost completed and will be open to researchers after the new year.

The Cenacle Sisters were founded in 1826 in France to foster spirituality through retreats religious education and other forms of spiritual ministry. The first US foundation opened in 1892 in New York City. The sisters' ministry was unique as women became retreat directors and initiated many programs. The archives contain community journals which reflect insight into church affairs and Catholic presence in primarily in urban areas in North America such as Chicago, New York City and Long Island, New Orleans, Boston, St Louis, Toronto and Vancouver. The archives house the records of the early years of ministry in the Philippines and New Zealand/Australia as well as the North American foundations. The Sisters also sponsored houses in South America, especially Lima and Buenos Aires.

Collaborative (continued)

The Claretian Missionaries USA Archives houses materials related to Claretian ministry in the United States, Mexico, Guatemala, Panama and the Philippines. The Claretians entered the United States in 1902, assuming control of San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio (1902-1978) and quickly established parish ministries in Arizona and California. Today the Claretians manage Our Lady of the Angels Church in Los Angeles, the oldest functioning Catholic church in the city as well as the San Gabriel Mission. Primarily involved in Mexican-American Catholic ministry, the archives reflect materials relating to the establishment of Mexican-American churches throughout the United States. The Claretians in Chicago influenced American Catholic life and culture. In 1929, the Order introduced the Saint Jude devotion to the United States at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in South Chicago which houses the National Shrine of St. Jude. The devotion spawned a vibrant publishing house, Claretian Publications. Today *US Catholic* continues Chicago's Catholic progressive voice established by its predecessor publication, *Voice of St Jude* (1935-1963). Besides this monthly publication, Claretian Publications offers a broad range of titles that enhance Catholic American life as well as numerous publications for the Catholic Latino community.

Billy Graham Center Archives Lecture December 4, 2008

Dr. Joel Carpenter will be giving the first annual BGC Archives lecture on Thursday, December 4, at 7pm in the Archival Seminar Room on the 3rd floor of the Billy Graham Center, 500 E. College Avenue at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. The title of the talk is: "Wheaton, Moody and the China Connection: Finding Our Ancestors in the Archives."

What is it like to do archival research? How do researchers use the scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, oral history interviews and other historical raw materials to write history? What is it like to use these physical fragments to understand the past? These will be among the general themes of BGC Archives lectures. This year Dr. Carpenter will discuss the shaping of American Protestant/Fundamentalist missions in the early part of the 20th century, a story he told in part in the 1990 book, *Earthen Vessels: American Evangelicals and Foreign Missions, 1880-1980*, which he co-edited. His talk will also describe how his experience of using oral history interviews shaped his research and his thinking. There will be a discussion period after the talk, followed by a reception, courtesy of the Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals. The lecture is open to the public and admission is free. There will also be an exhibit of documents, photos and other documents from the BGC Archives illustrating the themes of the lecture.

Dr. Carpenter is founder and director of the Nagel Institute for the Study of World Christianity at Calvin College. From 1996 to 2006 he was provost of Calvin. Previous to that appointment he was director of the religious program at Pew Charitable Trust and before that director of the Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals professor of history at Wheaton College (1983-1989). He is also a well-known historian of both the American Evangelical tradition and modern world Christianity. *The Changing Face of Christianity: Africa, the West and the World* (Oxford, 2005), which he co-edited with Lamin Sanneh, is one of his recent publications.

CARA tours Chicago History Museum exhibit



The first Spring meeting of the Chicago Area Religious Archivists (CARA) was held on Thursday, May 8, 2008 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Chicago History Museum (CHM). Twenty-two members and/or guests attended the CHM exhibit *Catholic Chicago* together. This exhibit explores how Catholicism shaped Chicago's life and culture. It is the first in series of religious exhibitions to possibly be followed by *Jewish Chicago* and *Muslim Chicago*.

Before touring the exhibit, co-curators from CHM, Jill Grannan and Marie Scatena, along with consulting

historian, Ellen Skerrett, spoke to the CARA group about the planning and mounting of the exhibit. It has been in the works since 2002 – a six year endeavor! And very well done!



A big thank you goes out to our tour guide/speakers, Jill, Marie and Ellen. Also thanks to the local religious organizations which loaned items to make this exhibit such a success!

Catholic Chicago, which opened March 8, 2008 will run through January 4, 2009 and comes highly recommended by CARA!! Don't miss it!

After the exhibit, the CARA group walked down to Bricks Oven, a lower level, cozy restaurant in Lincoln Park and shared pizza, sandwiches, salads and drinks together to round out the fun evening!



Thanks to all who attended CARA's first Spring meeting and making it an enjoyable success! If you are not a member yet, be sure to join now to continue receiving the newsletter and find out about future CARA happenings!

CARA Membership

Print out this page and send it with a check (made payable to CARA) to:

Richard Seidel
426 W. Briar Place Apt. #3A
Chicago, IL 60657



___ Membership for CAA \$10.00
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