

NEWSLETTER

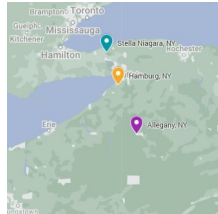


JUNE 2023

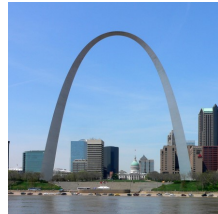
Top stories in this newsletter



FCA Spotlight



Needs Assessments & Onsite Visits



Meet us in St. Louis!



Strategic Planning & Next Steps



From the Archives



News Alert

We recognize the urgency for Franciscan congregations 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.

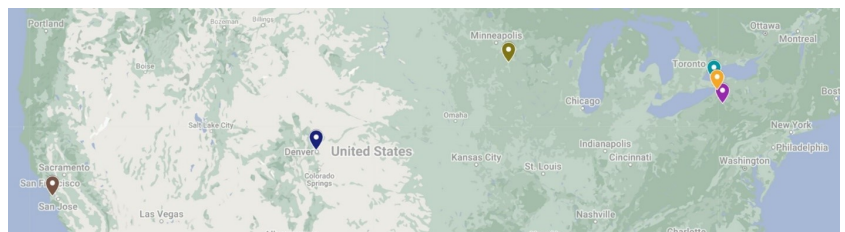
FCA Spotlight



In January, we welcomed **Veronica Buchanan** to the FCA to serve as the Archival Consultant. In this role, she will provide needs assessments for our Community partners and assist with strategic planning for the FCA's future. Many may recognize her name if they receive emails from Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR) where she has served as Executive Secretary since 2013. Her career in women religious archives began with the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor in 2010 and that experience instilled a deep regard for the Franciscan spirit. Veronica currently serves as the Archivist for the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati where she's overseen five grant-funded digitization projects, resulting in the creation of over 800 individual records on the website [Ohio Memory](#). Inspired to serve in this role by the FCA's commitment to a charism-centered collective, she looks forward to sharing her skills and insights with this initiative!

Needs Assessments & Onsite Visits

Archival Consultant, Veronica Buchanan, started working this January with our six communities participating in the needs assessment that is supported by grant funding from the Academy of American Franciscan History. Community leadership and archival surveys have been compiled and reviewed. Community archival policy documents have been collected for consideration and archival assessments have begun. Starting in May, Veronica has been carrying out onsite visits with each of the communities' archives:



- ◆ May 1-3: [Sisters of St. Francis of Penance & Christian Charity, Holy Name Province in Stella Niagara, New York](#)
- ◆ May 4-6: [Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph in Hamburg, New York](#)
- ◆ May 8-10: [Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, New York](#)
- ◆ May 17-19: [Sisters of St. Francis of Rochester, Minnesota](#)
- ◆ May 29-31: [Sisters of St. Francis of Penance & Christian Charity, Sacred Heart Community in Denver, Colorado](#)
- ◆ June 1-3: [Sisters of St. Francis of Penance & Christian Charity, St. Francis Province in Redwood City, California](#)

Each visit has entailed working diligently with the archivists to complete an assessment followed by a meeting with leadership to discuss findings, needs, concerns, and wishes. The discussion has been wide-ranging to include what is needed for each archive, the overall initiative, and why this is so important to prepare each community archive and for leadership support when evaluating long-range planning.

Part of the care of the sisters is the care of the archival documents and the legacy of the sisters that have gone before them. This has been a subject of advocacy by Sister Ginger Downey, OLVN, who has spoken on how canon law indicates that leaders have the responsibility for the public witness and care of the mission and members and patrimony. This includes deceased members and their contribution to the public witness and the mission of the congregation in the past. Archives are part of the patrimony of the congregation as they tell the story and profess the witness of charism and mission.

Meet us in St. Louis!



FCA Facilitator Holly Fiedler and Archival Consultant Veronica Buchanan will be heading to St. Louis for the Franciscan Federation [Annual Federation Conference](#) June 9-12th to host a table for the FCA! They look forward to talking with other communities and hope to have discussions with interested communities.

During their time in St. Louis, Holly and Veronica will visit the three consolidated and collaborative religious archives located there to learn of their repositories, how they are using their facilities, and the features they appreciate:

- ◆ [Jesuit Archives and Research Center](#)
- ◆ [Archives of the United States – Canada Province of the Society of Sacred Heart](#)
- ◆ [Carondelet Consolidated Archives](#)

Strategic Planning & Next Steps



Findings from the needs assessments and onsite visits will be brought into the strategic planning phase of this 2023 Academy of American Franciscan History grant which will run from June through October. This will define storage recommendations for the future collaborative archive; the processing plan for each community; and infrastructure unification recommendations. These findings and recommendations will define the next steps. Communication with communities will define what form of assistance they wish. This information can be used in future grant applications to continue support for the communities and the FCA.

The FCA is seeking additional grants to help carry out recommendations. This will include providing the communities with support to prepare their archival collections to be moved including processing, archival housing, and intellectual control through inventories and collection summaries. New communities will have an opportunity to have their archive collections assessed. We will be seeking grants to assist with project management, communications, development, and fundraising.

Next Steps

- ◆ Provide individual communities archival support defined by the needs assessment and with assistance from grant funding to include: collection preservation and supplies; special projects; contract archivist(s) or intern(s); and/or storage needs
- ◆ Assess new members' archives
- ◆ Prepare members' archives to move their archival collections
- ◆ Meet members' needs and schedules for moving their archives
- ◆ Development and capital campaign with unified communications strategy
- ◆ Legacy planning to include an endowment fund such as a trust

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.

From the Archives

Franciscan sisters in the United States have often been called to live and serve “on the margins”. Through the years sisters have cared for poor families, children, orphans, the indigenous, people of color, immigrants, and “the sojourners among us.”

One such example comes from the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity, St. Francis Province in Redwood City, California. This is the story of a Japanese mission, Holy Family Mission, that was in Los Angeles and Sacramento from 1929 to 1942.



Sr. Roberta Clauter



Sr. Teresita Beeler

In 1929, the sisters started to work with the Japanese community out of St. Joseph's parish in Los Angeles. Sister Roberta Clauter learned Japanese, and with the help of native Japanese sisters, taught Japanese to first graders and adult English classes in the evening. St. Francis parish in Sacramento was the start of the Japanese mission in this area. Sr. Roberta came up to Sacramento to continue her ministry.



Sr. Roberta's assignment was to start a Japanese kindergarten to get the students ready for schools in the area. In later years, Sr. Teresita Beeler stepped into the teaching role. Sr. Teresita also helped out when the relocation orders came in. Those families transferred to the Tule Lake internment camp asked that she come up for a visit. Permission was granted in 1943.

News Alert



Extra! Extra! Read all about it! The **Franciscan Central Archive** now has a webpage!
<https://FranciscanCentralArchive.franciscanway.org/>

Just out: The Century and Consumers Buildings in downtown Chicago that the Chicago Collaborative Archive Center (CCAC) is reviewing have made the **National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2023 America's Most Endangered List!**

Article Release: Christopher M. B. Allison, Director of the Mary Nona McGreal Center for Dominican Studies at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois, and Board Member of the Chicago Collaborative Archive Center (CCAC) just published an article in the **American Catholic Studies Newsletter:** [Catholic collections and the future of American Catholic history](#)

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

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