

# Good Habits: Exploring the Role and Impact of Women Religious Archives

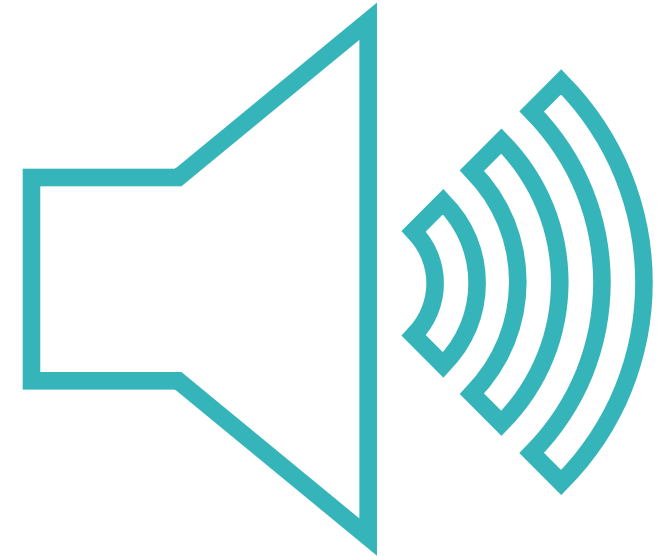
April 17, 2024

The logo for the Association of Theological Libraries (atla) is displayed in white lowercase letters on a dark teal background. The background features a geometric pattern of white lines forming a grid of triangles and quadrilaterals, with a large teal triangle pointing to the right behind the text.

atla

# Questions

- ▼ Use the chat box for any questions, comments, and technical difficulties. Q&A allows for anonymous questions.
- ▼ Our presenters will answer questions throughout the session as well as provide time for additional questions at the end.



# Today's Panelists



- ▼ Michele Levandoski- Director of the School Sisters of Notre Dame North American Archives



- ▼ Scott Keefer - Provincial Archivist for the Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise



- ▼ Cindy Hamill - Archivist for the Sisters of the Holy Cross Congregational Archives and Records Office

# Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious

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Website:

[archivistsacwr.org](http://archivistsacwr.org)

Email:

[archivistsacwr@gmail.com](mailto:archivistsacwr@gmail.com)





# School Sisters of Notre Dame North American Archives

Presenter: Michele Levandoski  
April 16, 2024



# Contact Information:

Mount Mary University, Milwaukee

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414.763.1000

[mlevandoski@ssnd.org](mailto:mlevandoski@ssnd.org)

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8-4:30



# The Foundations of SSND in North America

- Founded by Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger in 1833 in Bavaria
- Charism: Education
- 1847 First mission in United States—St. Marys, PA
- 1847 Opened three missions in Baltimore—became first permanent missions in US
- 1850 First Motherhouse in US—Milwaukee, WI



# SSND in 1966

Eight Provinces:

- Milwaukee (1850)
- Baltimore (1876)
- St. Louis (1895)
- Mankato (1912)
- Canada (1927)
- Wilton (1957)
- Dallas (1961)
- Chicago (1965)

<b>1916</b>	<b># Sisters</b>	<b># Houses</b>	<b># Students/ Orphans</b>
North America	4,079	318	115,415

<b>1966</b>	<b># Sisters</b>	<b># Houses</b>	<b># Students/ Orphans</b>
North America	7,034	662	311,366
Total Congregation	11,680	958	406,330



# SSND in the United States before 1969

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Alabama (1878)

Arizona (1957)

Arkansas (1898)

California (1948)

Connecticut (1896)

Delaware (1969)

Florida (1944)

Georgia (1946)

**Illinois (1859)**

Iowa (1860)

Indiana (1865)

Kentucky (1860)

Louisiana (1856)

**Maryland (1847)**

Massachusetts (1881)

Michigan (1852)

**Minnesota (1865)**

Mississippi (1874)

**Missouri (1858)**

Montana (1960)

Nebraska (1898)

New Hampshire (1951)

New Jersey (1864)

New Mexico (1958)

New York (1849)

North Dakota (1917)

Ohio (1920)

Pennsylvania (1847)

Rhode Island (1912)

South Carolina (1949)

South Dakota (1911)

Texas (1902)

Vermont (1948)

Virginia (1859; 1966)

Washington (1921)

Washington DC (1866)

West Virginia (1953)

**Wisconsin (1850)**

US Territories: Guam (1949) and  
Puerto Rico (1915)

# SSND in Canada and Pacific Ocean

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## Canada:

- Alberta (1948)
- British Columbia (1944)
- Ontario (1871)
- Saskatchewan (1926)

England (1864)\*

## Pacific Ocean:

- Caroline Islands–Yap (1973)
- Japan (1949)
- Mariana Islands–Rota (1969) and Saipan (1979)
- Micronesia–Chuuk (1991) and Ebeye (1987)

\*England was part of the Canadian Province

# SSND in the Latin America and Africa

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## **Latin America:**

- Bolivia (1961)
- Chile (1964)
- Columbia (1963)
- Dominican Republic (1984)
- El Salvador (1987)
- Guatemala (1962)
- Haiti (1989)
- Honduras (1956)
- Mexico (1985)
- Paraguay (1966)
- Peru (1965)

## **Africa:**

- Algeria (1972)
- Sierra Leone (1973)
- Ghana (1974)
- Kenya (1974)
- Liberia (1970)
- Nigeria (1974)

# SSND Ministries Before 1969

- School administration and teaching:
  - *Parochial schools*
  - *Institutes and Academies*
  - *Colleges*
  - *Special education*
- Orphanages
- Catechetical schools



# SSND-Founded Schools

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- **St. Mary's Institute, Milwaukee, WI, 1851-1886**
- Institute of Notre Dame, Baltimore, MD, 1852-2020
- Immaculate Conception Academy, Belleville, IL, 1859-1972
- St. Mary's Academy (now Quincy Notre Dame HS), Quincy, IL, 1861-present
- St. Mary's Academy, Prairie du Chien, WI, 1872-1961
- Notre Dame Preparatory, Towson, MD, 1873-present
- Academy of Our Lady, Chicago, IL, 1874-1999
- St. Mary of the Pines, Chatawa, MS, 1874-1975
- Academy of Holy Angels, Demarest, NJ, 1879-present
- **Notre Dame of Maryland University, Baltimore, MD, 1895-present**
- Academy of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, MN, 1912-1980
- Mount Mary University, Milwaukee, WI, 1929-present
- Notre Dame High School, St. Louis, MO, 1934-present
- Notre Dame of Dallas Special School, 1963-present
- Notre Dame High School, Talafofo, Guam, 1968-present



# SSND Ministries After 1969

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- School administration and teaching
  - Chaplains (prison, hospital, etc.)
  - Social work
  - Spiritual direction
  - Nursing
  - Therapy (art, music, etc.)
  - Pastoral ministers
  - Social justice advocates
  - Business-owners
- Artists, authors and musicians
  - Religious education
  - Founded organizations that focused on:
    - *Social justice*
    - *Ecological issues*
    - *Human rights*
    - *Social issues (substance abuse, care for aging adults, children with special needs)*





# What We Have

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Records of deceased sisters

Chronicles

Photographs

Records for SSND-owned schools

Records from mission extensions

Leadership / administrative records



# Notable Collections

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Catholic education

Nun Study

WWII

Special education

Latin America / Africa



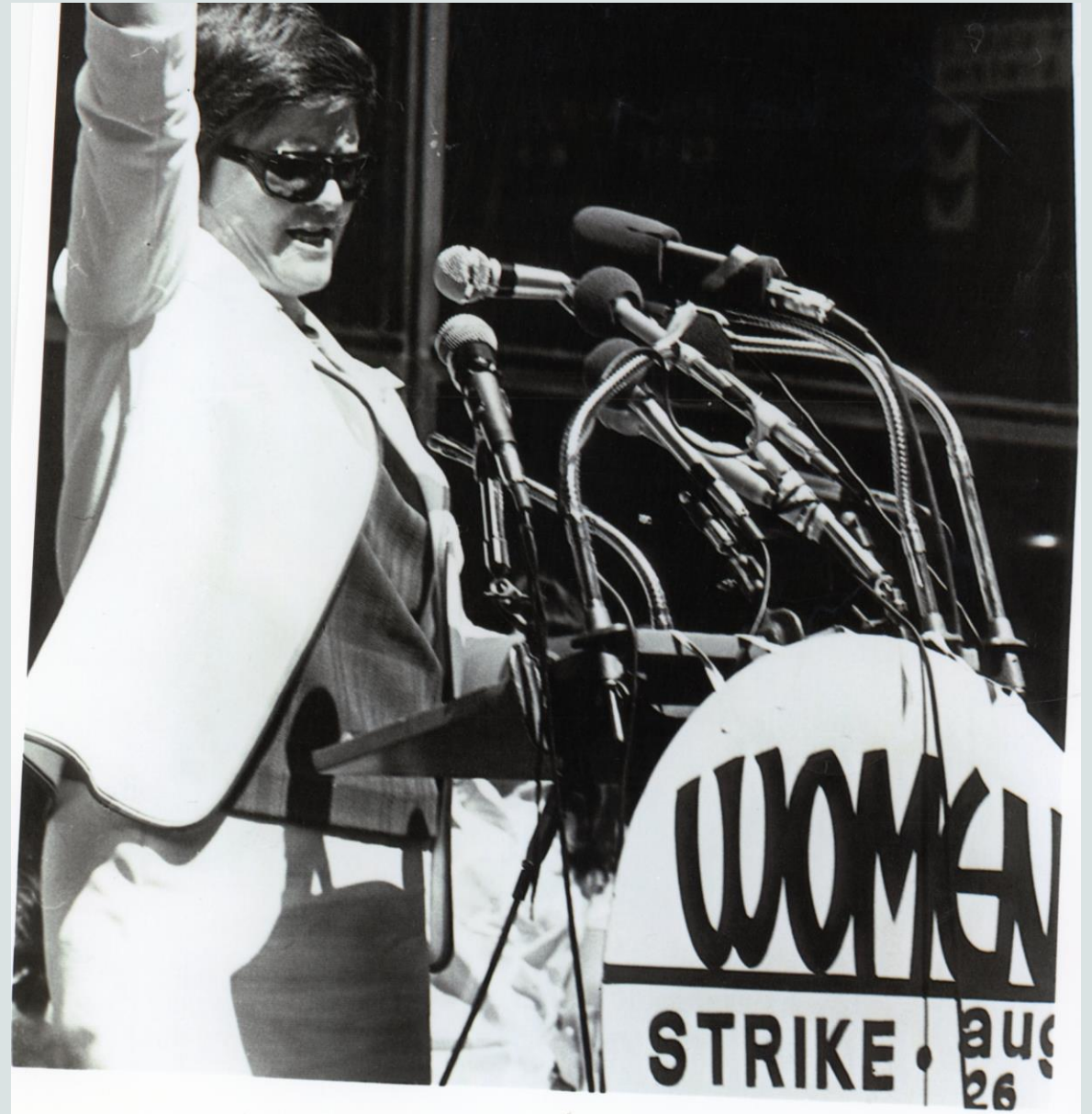
## Notable SSND

Mother Caroline Friess

Sr. Stanisla Kurk

Sr. Margaret Ellen Traxler

Sr. Caroleen Hensgen





Thank you

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Michele Levandoski

414.763.1000

[mlevandoski@ssnd.org](mailto:mlevandoski@ssnd.org)

[www.ssnd.org/archives](http://www.ssnd.org/archives)

Daughters of Charity  
Archives, Emmitsburg MD

Scott Keefer, Provincial Archivist

Talk for ATLA

April 17, 2024

# Overview

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What makes our Archive unique?

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1. Mother Seton and the American Community

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2. Merging of Provinces

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3. Seton Shrine

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What are our future projects?

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1. Digital Outreach and Access

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2. Ending Handshake Agreements

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## Daughters of Charity - Background

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- Founded in 1600s France by Saints Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac
- Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton – Mother Seton – founds Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's in Emmitsburg, MD in 1809
- Latter becomes American Province of the former in 1850

## Uniqueness Reason #1: Mother Seton and the American Community

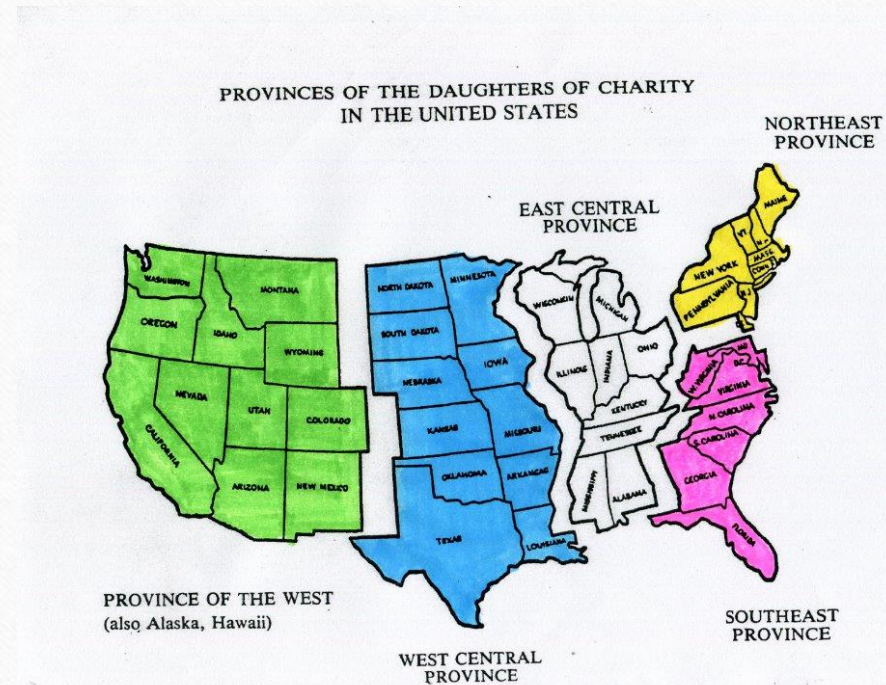
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- Inherited the history of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's and Mother Seton
- Largest holder of Mother Seton materials in the world



# Uniqueness Reason #2: Merging of Provinces

- One province became 2 in 1910, 2 became 5 in 1969, and 5 became 2 again in 2011
- Creates a research base across the country, but makes researchers distant from the records they seek





## Uniqueness Reason #3: Seton Shrine

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- National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton contains a museum
- Natural collaborator in providing access and interpretation of materials in the Archives
- Newly remodeled space in 2023



# Artifacts on Loan



# Archives Exhibit at National Shrine

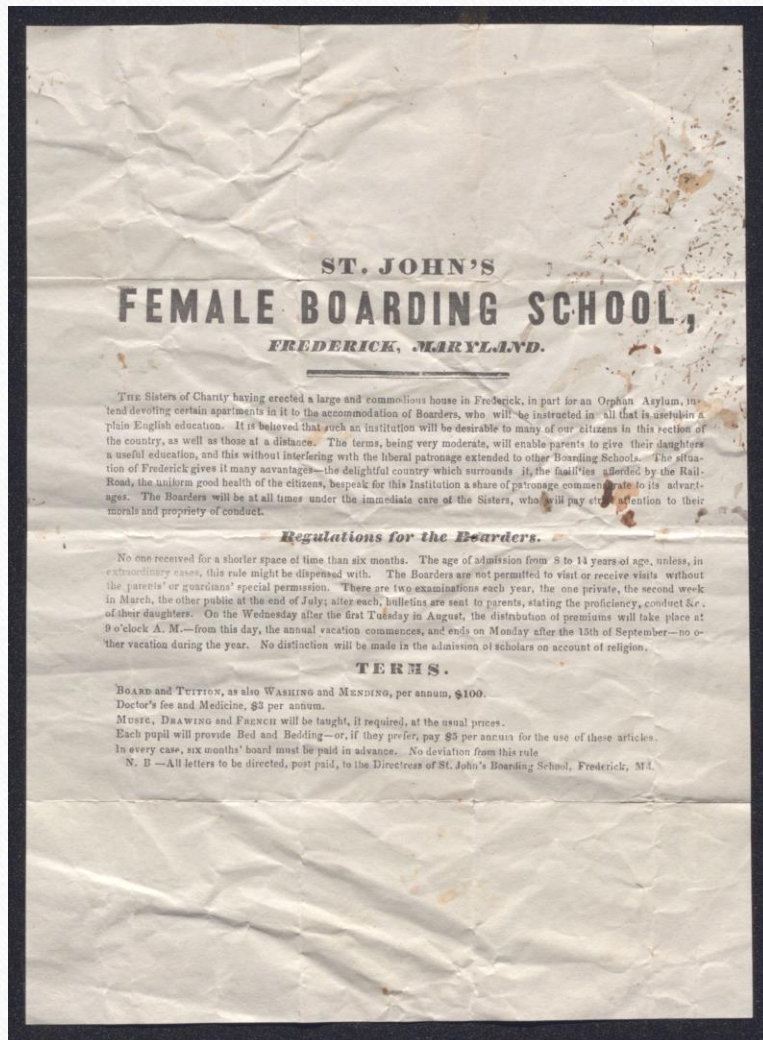


# Future Plans #1: Digital Outreach and Access

- Goal to make some materials available systematically
- Have on-site digitization capability, but not ability to host or provide an access portal



## Partners



# DIGITAL MARYLAND

Avenue, St. Joseph's College and Academy



### Item Description

Identifier	sjap008
Title	Avenue, St. Joseph's College and Academy
Creator	C. T. Colorchrom;
Subject	<a href="#">Saint Joseph's College and Academy (Emmitsburg, Md.)</a> <a href="#">Postcards--Maryland</a> <a href="#">Universities and colleges--Maryland</a> <a href="#">Emmitsburg (Md.)</a>
Description	Image of the Burlando Building and the college chapel of St. Joseph College, viewed from the avenue to Seton Avenue. There is a statue of St. Joseph in front of the chapel with a set of trees lining the road.
Holding Institution	Daughters of Charity Provincial Archive, 341 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, MD 21727

# Partners



Vincentian Heritage Works ♦ Open Journals ♦ Theses and Dissertations ♦ Scholarly Works ♦ Open Access



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## VINCENTIAN HERITAGE COLLECTIONS

## Mother Seton Guild Bulletin

ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE THE CANONIZATION OF MOTHER ELIZABETH ANN SETON

Approved by  
The Holy See



Official Publication  
Of the Vice Postulator

NUMBER 10

EMMITSBURG, Md.

FEBRUARY, 1944

### Mother Seton and the Early American Bishops

IT IS one of the most interesting and significant facts of Mother Seton's life after she entered the Church that she was held in the highest esteem and admiration by so many ecclesiastics who, in the designs of Providence, were sent to the young American Church to guide its destiny during the first and precarious years of its existence. There were Bishop Carroll, the first American Bishop and Archbishop of Baltimore, and Bishop John Cheverus, missionary Bishop of New England, first Bishop of Boston and afterwards the saintly Cardinal Archbishop of Bordeaux. There were four other Bishops, all natives of France and all associated

with the death of her husband. It was the Filicchi whose lives of extraordinary devotion to the spiritual practices of the Church turned Mrs. Seton's mind towards the true faith. It was the Filicchi who sent to Bishop Carroll and also to Father John Cheverus letters of introduction exhorting them to interest themselves in the spiritual life of her whose short stay among them had so deeply impressed upon their minds the nobility of her character. Through the Filicchi, then, Mrs. Seton came to know the Bishops of the young hierarchy of America. *Archbishop Carroll's Friendship*



# Expanding Project

- Use these as models – semi-post-custodial sharing of materials with local institutions
- Researchers will have access at the institutions they would most likely go to – shared custody agreements
- Help keep the Daughters memory and work alive in places they are no longer active

## Five Technicians Complete 6-month; Earn Certificates

(Photograph on page two)  
Certificates for completing a six month course in the theory and practice of operating room techniques were presented to five technicians at Hotel Dieu in ceremonies held December 5. Sister Scholastica, administrator, presented the certificates to Mrs. Lotte Batard, Miss Alice Guillory, Mrs. Amalia Fortunato, Mrs. Carolyn Lewis and Miss Viola Mautner.

### First Class Held At Hotel Dieu

This was the first class of this type to be graduated from Hotel Dieu. The program was conducted by Sister Anna Marie, operating room supervisor, and by members of the surgical section of the Hotel Dieu Medical Staff, who had presented formal lectures as part of the training program.

The instructions were begun June 5 for the purpose of furnishing a foundation of knowledge and training for women interested in serving as technicians in the hospital field of surgery.

### Selections Made After Extensive Screening

The applicants were selected after a very extensive educational and psychological screening.

These specially trained personnel assist professional nurses working in the operating rooms. They are qualified to serve under the direct and continuous supervision of nurses in the care of patients and to assist in the care, preparation and maintenance of sterile and unsterile supplies and equipment.

## Joseph Henican Honored As Distinguished Alumnus

Joseph P. Henican Jr., member of the Hotel Dieu Advisory Board and a vice-president of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith of New York, was named the distinguished alumnus of the Tulane University School of Business Administration.

Nov.-Dec., 1961  
Technicians Page 1  
Alumnus Elected Page 3  
Staff Loss Page 4  
Vol. 12 No. 7  
Hotel Dieu  
New Orleans

## Esprit de Corps

### Season's Greetings

*And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be to all the people; for today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you, Who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men of good will."*

—St. Luke

### STUDENTS HAVE WINNING SMILES



# Future Plans #2: Ending Handshake Agreements

- Archives both distributed materials throughout the campus, including to the Museum, without paperwork, loan agreements, or tracking
- Past archivists also just claimed things were under Archives purview with no accession information, or taking them into custody, with the chain and info now lost



# Prevention in the Future

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Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul  
Archives of the Province of St. Louise (APSL)

*Archives Manual*  
*Policies and Procedures*

333 South Seton Avenue  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727-9297 USA

Phone 301-447-6041/6067  
FAX 301-447-7169  
E-mail: [archives@doc.org](mailto:archives@doc.org)

Corrected and Revised: September 2022

Approval from Visitatrix: October 26, 2022

- Many staff members at the Museum still do not understand why we are implementing forms and documents
- Policy is only as good as enforcement and as the people following it



# Some concluding thoughts...

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Thank you!

Scott Keefer

Provincial Archivist

Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise

Emmitsburg, MD

301-447-6067



***Congregational  
Archives and Records***  
*Notre Dame, Indiana*



- 
- 1841 - Basil Anthony Moreau, CSC establishes the community of sisters in Sainte-Croix, LeMans, France
  - August 4, 1841 – Sisters Mary of the Cross, Mary of the Compassion, Mary of Calvary, and Mary of the Seven Dolors receive the holy habit in the monastery chapel of the Good Shepherd Sisters.

LE TRP MOREAU FONDATEUR de S-CROIX BENT  
PREMIERES RELIGIEUSES PARTANT POUR L'AMERIQUE

- 
- August 5, 1841 - Seven men depart Le Mans, France to begin a mission in the state of Indiana in the United States of America.
  - November 1842 – The University of Notre Dame is founded by Father Edward F. Sorin, CSC.
  - May 30, 1843 -Departure of the first sisters for Indiana, accompanied by two priests, one brother, and one seminarian to join Father Sorin and six Holy Cross brothers at Notre Dame du Lac.



- July 16, 1841 – First establishment of the sisters in Bertrand, Michigan
- September 8, 1844 – the habit is given for the first time in the United States of America in Bertrand Michigan.
- August 15, 1855 – Sisters move from Bertrand, Michigan to Saint Mary's of the Immaculate Conception, a 185 acre property adjoining the University of Notre Dame.



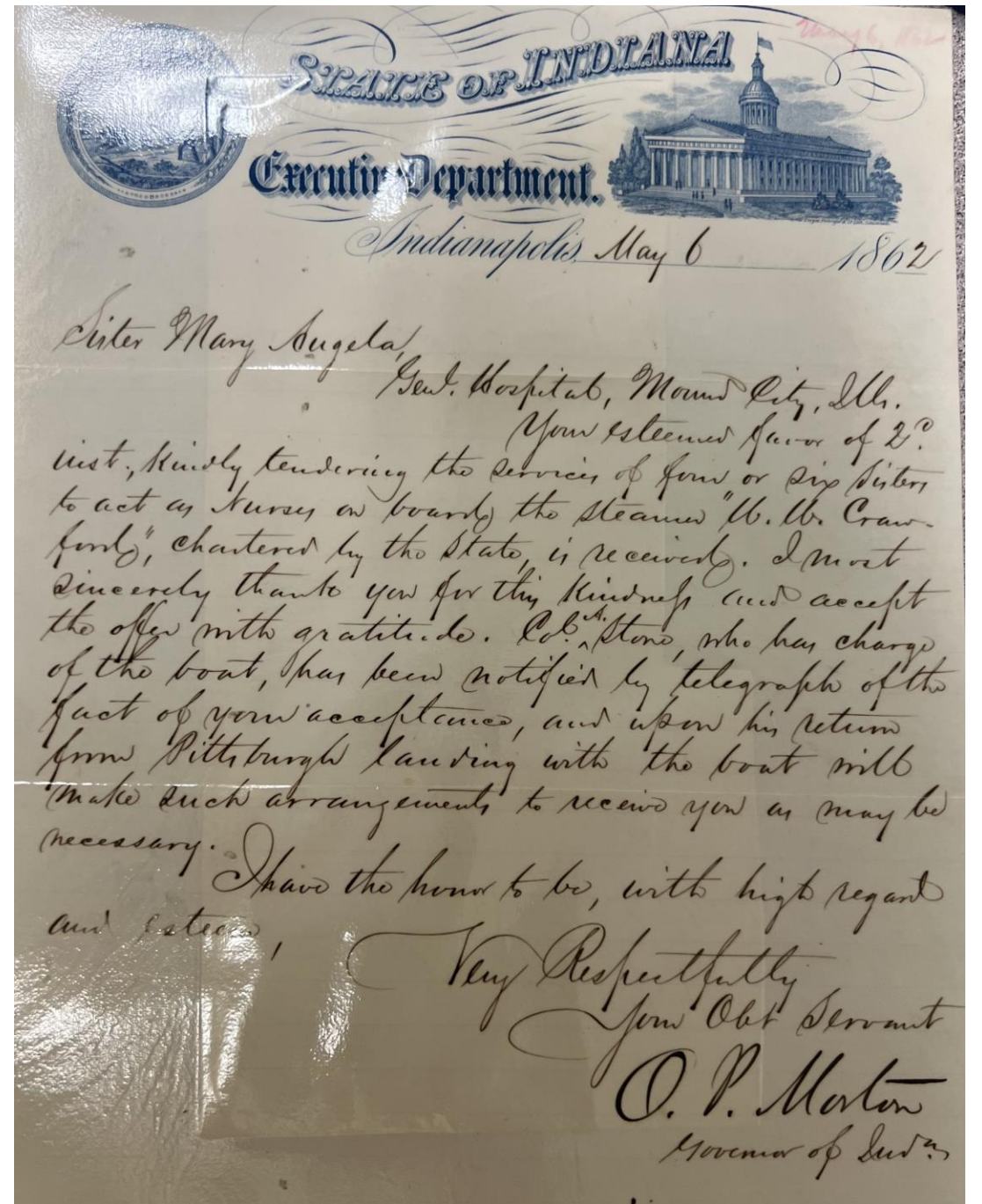
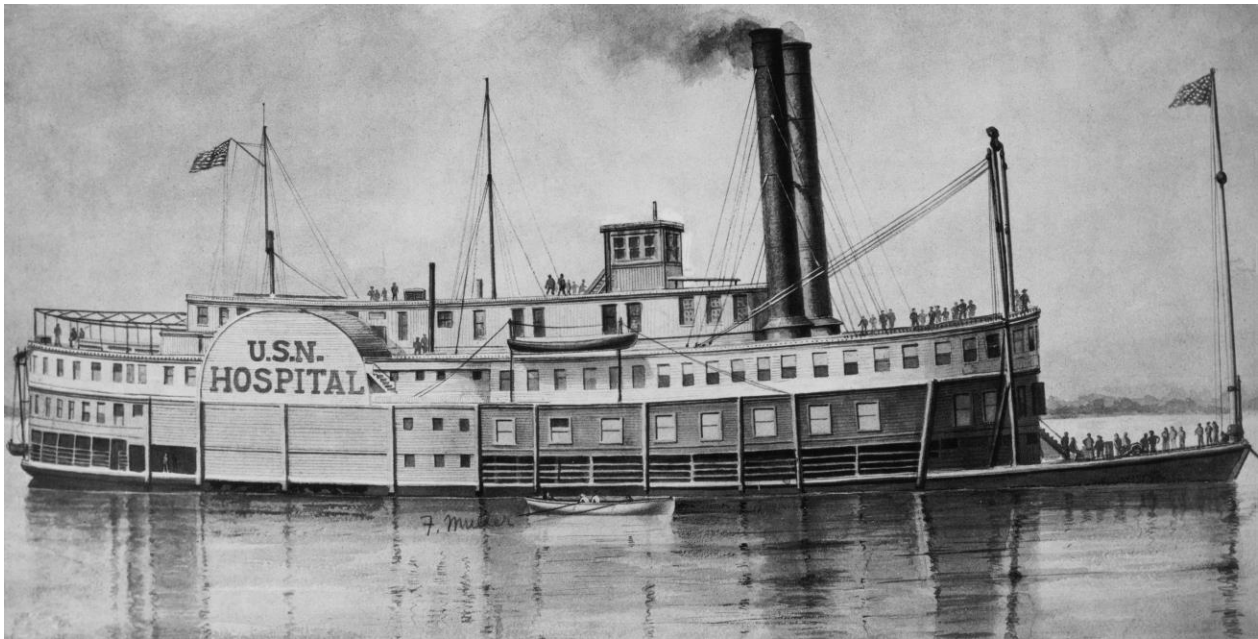
# Sisters of the Holy Cross

## Mission Statement

We, the Sisters of the Holy Cross throughout the world,  
are called to participate in the prophetic mission of Jesus  
to witness God's love for all creation  
Compassion moves us to reflect on the signs of the times,  
discern needs, and respond. We respond in solidarity  
with the poor and the powerless.  
Our life together enriches and strengthens us  
to foster community wherever we are.

- April 12, 1861 – Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter in South Carolina's Charleston Harbor. The Civil War in the United States had begun.
- Call for Nurses
  - October 21, 1861 on behalf of Indiana Governor Andrew Morton, a messenger arrived at Notre Dame to relay a request from General Grant for Sister Nurses in Cairo, Illinois.
  - Mother Angela and Sisters Adele, Anna, Magdalene, Veronica and Winifred set off to help on the condition that they would aid soldiers from both sides of the conflict.

June 1862 – Sisters of the Holy Cross became “forerunners of The Navy Nursing Corps” when they boarded the *Red Rover*, the first hospital ship of the United States Navy





- Between 1861 and 1865, over 80 Sisters of the Holy Cross served as Nurses on the Red Rover and in military hospitals :
  - Paducah and Louisville, Kentucky
  - Mound City and Cairo, Illinois
  - Memphis, Tennessee
  - St. Louis and Franklin, Missouri
  - Washington, D.C.



Responding to the needs of the world

Spanish-American War (1898)  
Cambodia (1979-1980)  
Lebanon (1982-1983)

What  
is  
next  
for the  
Sisters of the Holy  
Cross?

## The Heritage and Research Center at Saint Mary's

- 
- Sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Cross
  - Archives collaborative of 10 congregations of women religious and their sponsored ministries
  - To be located on the shared campus of the Sisters of the Holy Cross and Saint Mary's College; Notre Dame, Indiana

