**WESTERN NEW YORK ARCHIVISTS**

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2023, MEETING**

**BUFFALO ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART**

**PRESENT:** S. Claire, Deacon Mark Bialkowski, Kathleen DeLaney, Dan DiLandro, Dennis Frank, S. Nancy Kaczmarek, S. Mary Serbacki, S. Jean Thompson, S. Mara Walton, Ellen Winger, Heidi Ziemer

Welcome and Introductions: S. Mara welcomed everyone to SHA. After self-introductions, S. Mara gave a brief introduction to the Academy including the history of the building and the expansion of its footprint both externally and internally. She offered to give anyone who was interested a brief tour after our meeting.

Future Meeting Schedule: 1/11/2024 Catholic Center

5/16/2024 Buffalo State

General Sharing: There was some general conversation which followed S. Jean’s statement that she needs to prepare for an ultimate move of the diocesan archives when the Main Street building is sold. Here major concern is what is really necessary to keep and what is not so important. For example, she questioned the need to maintain newspapers; the sheer volume is prohibitive, but they are a resource. Perhaps digitization is the answer?

It was noted that there are several sources for newspapers and one of them might be of assistance in trying to do a digitization project. Mentioned were the New York State Newspaper Project and Heinonline which deals with legal publications. Shane Marmion is the president of the latter. A suggestion was made to contact State Senator Tim Kennedy who might be able to sponsor some sort of appeal for assistance.

There is also the issue of the former seminary library and the “rare book” items. How these may be disposed of is a cause for concern.

Mary gave a brief mention of the Franciscan Central Archive Initiative which will provide an ultimate home for the archives of Franciscan congregations as the congregations themselves come to completion. This archive will be located in Chicago as part of the Chicago Collaborative Archive Center. The issue of how to provide for collections and preserve the record of the legacy of religious congregations and organizations is a very pressing one. Mention was made of the planned-for repository at Boston College; both the Franciscans of the Neumann Communities and the Grey Nuns have made arrangements to transfer their archives to Boston College.

S. Jean wondered about Nelson Baker materials held at the diocese. Some of these things really are part of the diocesan record and other things would be best maintained at Our Lady of Victory.

S. Claire asked if there are guidelines for what records religious congregations should be maintaining. The short answer is “yes.” Both the Society of American Archivists (SAA) and Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR) are resources for assistance with this.

Mark spoke about the Catholic Charities adoption records which were sent to the OLV Archives. Human Services at OLV also has orphanage records. There is a possibility of digitizing these.

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, January 11, 2024

The Catholic Center, Buffalo

**REMINDER: CHECK OUT THE WNYA WEBSITE--** <http://www.archives.sbu.edu/wnya>