**WESTERN NEW YORK ARCHIVISTS**

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2024, MEETING**

**WNY LIBRARY RESOURCES COUNCIL, AMHERST, NY**

**PRESENT:** S. Claire, Jay Barone, Deacon Mark Bialkowski, Kathleen DeLaney, Dan DiLandro, Dennis Frank, S. Mary Serbacki, Robin Raphael, Rachael Schultz, S. Mara Walton, Ellen Winger, Heidi Ziemer

Welcome: Mary and Heidi welcomed everyone.

Canisius Letter: After our last meeting, a letter was written and sent to both the president and board chair of Canisius University expressing our concern over the abrupt cessation of the archives department. To date there has been no acknowledgement of the letter from either party.

 Heidi reported that she had contacted Leecia Eve, daughter of Arthur and Constance Eve. By the end of the meeting Heidi had a response from Leecia who had no knowledge of the developments at Canisius where her mother’s papers are held. She expressed dismay and indicated that she would contact the Canisius president.

Member honored: Kathleen DeLaney has been chosen as a recipient of the 2024 Library All Star Award from the WNYLRC. We congratulated Kathleen on this well-deserved recognition!

Updates/Sharing:

* There was some general sharing regarding concerns about the lack of capable archives assistants, etc. With so many students doing courses totally on-line there has been a problem with availability of people locally. Would it be possible to develop some sort of informal internship program? There has been little to no response from UB.
* Robin has been working on building awareness of the collections by providing regular “From the Archives” contributions to the weekly newsletter of Network of Religious Communities.
* Mark shared about the new Father Baker comic book that has come out from OLV Charities in connection with Voyage Comics. He is also starting an oral history project in collaboration with Mike Frisch to try to capture what life was like at Father Baker’s. As the project to replace the basilica dome has begun, he has discovered that the original blueprints are missing and is engaged in an all-out effort to find the plans. Several suggestions were offered.
* Jay reported that they have added some scanning equipment at WNYLRC and it will be possible to do some smaller batch scanning—up to 1-2 hundred page documents.
* Dennis talked about the class project that is underway using the 154th NY Infantry material to design games. He also continues to get reference requests for WTU records which are held at SBU.
* Ellen is actively engaged in archiving transitions within the Allegany congregation. Of particular note at this time is the transfer of material from Bolivia where the sisters are winding down their presence.
* Mary spoke briefly about her continued work with the formation of a collaborative archives project for Franciscan congregations.
* Heidi is hoping to track down church records that had been microfilmed in an earlier project. There are/were sets or partial sets at Canisius, Buffalo and Erie County Public, Family Search Library, etc. If these can be located they could be scanned and digitized. This is especially pressing now in the face of the extensive closures within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo. She is also trying to track down records from the International Institute. Their early records were sent as a loan to Minnesota some years ago but now there is interest in setting up some sort of center in Buffalo.

**NEXT MEETING:** S. Mary will host the next meeting at Stella Niagara on January 9, 2025.

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