**WESTERN NEW YORK ARCHIVISTS**

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2025, MEETING**

**SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS ARCHIVES, STELLA NIAGARA, NY**

**PRESENT:** S. Claire, Kathleen DeLaney, Dan DiLandro, Dennis Frank, Bill Parke, S. Mary Serbacki, S. Jean Thompson, Allison Vazquez,S. Mara Walton, Ellen Winger, Heidi Ziemer

Welcome: Mary welcomed everyone. Allison Vazquez is a new attendee and so there were introductions all around.

Announcements/Updates: Heidi shared that she would be retiring from WNYLRC. The council is looking to hire a new person. Heidi also spoke about an upcoming (April) meeting during which Jenn Northup would like to inform librarians who have archival duties about WNYA. These are primarily people in the southern tier and she wondered if they would be able to come to our meetings rather than trying to establish a separate group. Our response was positive; additional people would be welcome.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

* Dennis noted that Paul Spaeth has been working with the collection at the former Christ the King Seminary. He is trying to take some of the items but has specific questions regarding the WNY Catholic issues; is there any point to trying to take these? No.
* According to S. Jean, everything has been removed from the former seminary. She stated that they would like to have a professional consultant come in to assist with determining what records need to be kept, etc.
* Kathleen noted that although the Canisius Archives and Special Collections is closed, the material is still there.
* Allison said that currently Trocaire College and, by extension, the library is currently in limbo. Mercy Hospital is seeking to take over the space. They are looking for a DHPSNYA assessment grant.
* Heidi stated that administration personnel don’t understand the importance of archives. One needs to talk money with them. Many information sources are threatened. The Internet Archive is at risk due to funding issues. The DPLA (Digital Public Library of America) has gone under
* Just because records are physically housed somewhere doesn’t mean they are processed or accessible for research use.
* Ellen share that she has a researcher coming in to look at information on their sisters in Jamaica.
* Bill has been using his collection to promote the church. He talked about the Lincoln Building, a promotional video, and his own experience of being interviewed on Channel 2 regarding the history of the Christmas tree in Buffalo—one of the “Untold Stories.”
* S. Mara explained that in the past, Sacred Heart Academy had one two time capsules. They are now planning for the school’s 150th anniversary.
* Heidi spoke about a traveling and on-line exhibit on urban renewal in New York State. She also announced that February 5 would be library advocacy day in Albany.
* S. Mary spoke about the recently concluded celebration of the 150th anniversary of the presence of the Sisters of St. Francis in North America. She also spoke about the work she is doing on a congregation history.
* Dan said that he had been working from home recently. Also, they have a collection from the New Phoenix Theater. Unfortunately much of it is moldy. It is very subjective as to what can be saved.

**NEXT MEETING:** May 22, 2025 St. Bonaventure University Archives

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