

MARY BETH FRASER CONNOLLY

Purdue University Northwest
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EDUCATION

PhD, American History, The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, 2006. Doctoral dissertation project: “‘Devoted to the Interest of the Italians’: The Sisters of Charity and the Santa Maria Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio, 1890-1930.”

MA in American History, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY, 1994
Master’s Thesis: “Regardless of Wealth or Creed: The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul and the Early History of Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Hospital, Binghamton, NY 1924-1940.”

BA in History, John Carroll University, Cleveland, OH, 1992
Minor in French, Concentration in Secondary Education

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Gender and Religion in nineteenth and twentieth century America; American Catholic women history; United States women’s history

RECENT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Continuing Lecturer of History and Concurrent Enrollment Liaison for History/Political Science, Purdue University Northwest, Westville, IN, Fall 2015 – present.

Taught “Women in America,” “US History to 1877,” “US History Since 1877,” and “Women and Gender Politics in the Progressive Era.”

Assistant Director, Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts, Valparaiso, IN, August 2010 – 2015.

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN, Fall 2012 – 2015.
Taught “First-Year Freshmen Core Program.”

Historian, Sisters of Mercy, Chicago Regional Province, Chicago, IL, July 2006 – 2012.
Manuscript: *Women of Faith: The Chicago Sisters of Mercy and the Evolution of a Religious Community*, (New York: Fordham University Press, 2014).

Lecturer, Purdue University North Central, Westville, IN, Spring 2005—2010.
Taught “Women in America,” “Episodes in American Religious History,” “Women and Religion in America,” “US History to 1877,” and “US History Since 1865.”

Instructor, Franklin Pierce College, Rindge, NH, Fall 2002-Spring 2004.
Taught “Senior Liberal Arts Seminar: New Worlds of Love and Work,” “The American Experience,” “American Women’s History,” and “Comparative American and European Women’s History.”

Archives Assistant, Department of Archives, Manuscripts and Museum Collections, The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, 1996-2001.

Executive Secretary, Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR), National Office, Washington, DC, 1998-2001.

P U B L I C A T I O N S

Books:

Women of Faith: The Chicago Sisters of Mercy and the Evolution of a Religious Community, (New York: Fordham University Press, 2014).

Empowering the People of God: Catholic Action Before and After Vatican II, co-editor with Jeremy Bonner and Christopher Denny, (New York: Fordham University Press, 2013).

Book Chapters and Articles:

“Women Religious,” in Margaret McGuinness and Thomas Rzeznik, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to American Catholicism* (Cambridge University Press, 2020), forthcoming.

“Sister Justina Segale and Americanization: The Making of Catholic Italian Americans,” *Vincentian Heritage Journal* Vol. 33, Issue 2, Article 4,
<http://via.library.depaul.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1465&context=vhj>.

“Reaching Out to the People of God: The Implications of Renewal for the Sisters of Mercy in Parish Schools,” *Empowering the People of God: Catholic Action Before and After Vatican II*, Jeremy Bonner, Mary Beth Fraser Connolly, and Christopher Denny, eds., (New York: Fordham University Press, 2013), 171-196.

“New England Industrial Workers,” *Perspectives in American Social History*, Ed. Mark Cheatham, (ABC-Clio, Inc. 2008), 117-31, Co-written with Michael J. Connolly.

“‘A Good Girl Has Reason to be Satisfied with her Condition in Life’: George Deshon and the *Guide for Catholic Young Women*,” *Paulist History*, 7(1998): 43-54.

Encyclopedia Entries:

“Mary Gordon” and “Mother Mary Harris Jones,” in Timothy J. Meagher, ed., *The Columbia Guide to Irish American History*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2005).

Online Publications:

“The Journal of Sister Justina and the Santa Maria Institute,” with M. Christine Anderson and Judith Metz, SC, *The American Catholic History Classroom*, American Catholic History Research Center and

University Archives, The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, 2017,
<https://cuomeka.wrlc.org/exhibits/show/justina-and-blandina-segale>.

Book Reviews

Kathleen Sprows Cummings, Timothy Matovina, and Robert A. Orsi, eds., *Catholics in the Vatican II Era: Local Histories of a Global Event*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018), in *British Catholic History*, Vol. 34, Issue 4 (October 2019): 681-683.

Mary Navarre, OP, *Tapestry in Time: The Story of the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1966-2012*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2015), in *Michigan Historical Review* Vol. 42, No. 2 (Fall 2016), 123-124,

Mary C. Sullivan, *The Path of Mercy: The Life of Catherine McAuley*, (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2012), in *History of Women Religious of Britain and Ireland*, (<https://historyofwomenreligious.org/books-reviews-n-s/>), August 2012.

Kathleen Sprows Cummings, *New Women of the Old Faith: Gender and American Catholicism in the Progressive Era*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009), In *History Women Religious News and Notes*, 2010.

Catherine A. Brekus, *The Religious History of American Women: Reimagining the Past*, (Chapel Hill: North Carolina Press, 2007), in *The History of Women Religious of Britain and Ireland*, (<http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Bedford-Centre/history-women-religious/>), October 2009.

Deborah A. Skok, *More Than Neighbors: Catholic Settlements and Day Nurseries in Chicago, 1893-1930*, (Northern Illinois University Press, 2007), in *American Catholic Studies*, Vol. 120, No. 2 (Summer 2009), 84-86.

Janet Nolan, *Servants of the Poor: Teachers and Mobility in Ireland and Irish America*, (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2004), in *The Catholic Historical Review*, October 2008.

Teresa A. Flaherty, RSM, *Crossings in Mercy: The Story of the Sisters of Mercy Papua New Guinea, 1956-2006*, (St. Mary's, S.A.: Openbook Howden Design & Print, 2008), in *The History of Women Religious of Britain and Ireland*, (<http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Bedford-Centre/history-women-religious/>) October 2008.

Amy L. Koehlingher, *The New Nuns: Racial Justice and Religious Reform in the 1960s*, (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2007). In *History Women Religious News and Notes*, 2008.

Bruce Watson, *Bread and Roses: Mills, Migrants, and the Struggle for the American Dream*, (New York: Penguin Books, 2005). In *H-NewEngland* (<http://www.h-net.org/~nengland/>), April 2008.

Rosa Bruno-Jofré, *The Missionary Oblate Sisters: Vision and Mission*, (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2005), in *The History of Women Religious of Britain and Ireland*, (<http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Bedford-Centre/history-women-religious/>), September 2007.

"Finding 'Good Hearts' in Chicago's Past: The Influence of Women Religious on the History of the Growth of a City," *Cushwa Center Newsletter*, Spring 2007, Book Review of Suellen Hoy, *Good Heart: Catholic Sisters in Chicago's Past*, (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2006).

P R E S E N T A T I O N S

Chair of Panel, "Building Catholic Networks in New York City," 100th Annual Meeting of the American Catholic Historical Society, New York City, NY, January 3-5, 2020, forthcoming.

"Teaching Digitally: Or How Sr. Blandina and Sr. Justina Segale Will Save My Teaching," Eleventh Triennial Conference on the History of Women Religious, St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN, June 23-26, 2019.

Chair of Panel, "New Perspectives on Catholic Women's Education in 19th Century America," Eleventh Triennial Conference on the History of Women Religious, St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN, June 23-26, 2019.

"'Souls are Trained and Prepared for the Other': The Mercy Charism and Catholic Female Education in Chicago, 1840s-1940s, A Comparative Study," Women, Religion, and Social Change in Chicago and the Midwest, The Newberry Library, Chicago, IL April 21, 2018.

"History Matters Colloquium: The Sisters of Mercy in Chicago and Peru," Purdue University Northwest, Westville, IN, April 13, 2017.

"The Effect of Missioning on the Missionary: The Sisters of Mercy in Chicago and Peru," Too Small a World: Catholic Sisters as Global Missionaries, Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, Notre Dame, IN, April 6-8, 2017.

"The Fate of Religious Archives," Catholic Archives in the Digital Age – The Fate of Religious Order Archives, The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, March 29, 2017.

Chair of Panels, "Picture in 1,000 Words I & II," and Presenter, "Navigating the Challenges of a History-for-Hire," Tenth Triennial Conference on the History of Women Religious, Santa Clara University, San Jose, CA, June 26-29, 2016.

"'The Power of the Positive Woman': Phyllis Schlafly and the History of Women and Conservatism in Twentieth-Century United States," Historiography Lecture for Professional Development Day, Concurrent Enrollment Program, Purdue University North Central, May 1, 2015.

"Women and World War I," Guest Lecture, Purdue University North Central, Westville, IN, April 7, 2015

Growing in Wisdom, Age, and Grace: Monthly Experiences in Spiritual Growth - Lecture Series, Mercy Circle, Chicago, IL, March 7, 2015

“Women of Faith: the Chicago Sisters of Mercy,” Mercy Tea and Tradition, Saint Xavier University, Chicago, IL, March 24, 2014

“The Journal of Sister Justina, the Santa Maria Institute, and the American Catholic History Classroom,” American Catholic Historical Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, January, 2014.

Chair of Panel, “Virgin or Whore? Perceptions of Christian Women,” American Catholic Historical Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, January 2014.

“Women’s History is the Santa Maria Institute,” Guest Lecture, Introduction to Historiography, Purdue University North Central, Westville, IN, November 13, 2013.

Chair of Panel, “Race and Religion in the United States,” The Ninth Triennial Conference on the History of Women Religious, St. Catherine’s University, St. Paul, MN, June, 2013.

“Women of Faith: A Historical Overview of the Role of Women in American Catholicism,” St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Student Center, Adult Formation Committee and Social Justice Commission, Valparaiso, IN, May 3, 2013.

““Reaching Out to the People of God: The Implications of Renewal for the Sisters of Mercy in Parish Schools,” American Catholic Historical Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 2013.

“What Is Women’s History?: The Origin and Evolution of the Field and Why Nuns Matter,” Guest Lecture, Introduction to Historiography, Purdue University North Central, Westville, IN, October 3, 2012.

““Change is Blowing Hard’: The Sisters of Mercy and Renewal of Religious Government, 1960s-1970s,” Eighth Triennial Conference of the History of Women Religious, Scranton, PA, 2010.

“Sister Justina Segale and Americanization: The Making of Catholic Italian-Americans,” Seventh Triennial Conference of the History of Women Religious, Notre Dame, IN, 2007.

“Religious and Lay Women United: The Santa Maria Institute Confronts the Protestant Missionaries, 1897-1930,” Sixth Triennial Conference of the History of Women Religious, Atchison, KS, 2004.

“Sewing Circles and Sodalties: The Sisters of Charity and the Gender Lessons of the Santa Maria Institute,” Spring Meeting of the American Catholic Historical Society, Portland, OR, 2002.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Catholic Historical Association – Communication Board Member, 2013-present

American Historical Association

Conference on the History of Women Religious – Program Committee, Tenth Triennial

Conference, June 26-29, 2016, and Eleventh Triennial Conference, June 23-26, 2019