

GRANT PROPOSAL  
FOR ORAL HISTORY PROJECT WITH SENIOR MEMBERS  
OF THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CARONDELET, ST. PAUL PROVINCE

November 3, 1975 will mark the beginning of 175 years of service which the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet have given to what is now the state of Minnesota. At that point of time when our first four Sisters arrived in St. Paul from St. Louis in 1851, our country was 75 years old. Minnesota had not as yet achieved the status of a territory. Since that date, our Provincial Archives show that 2427 Sisters from Europe, Ireland, England, Canada and 38 states of the U.S.A. have contributed uncounted years of service to the Church. Thousands of people, regardless of race, color or creed have benefited from the various institutions (schools, hospitals, orphanages, etc.) founded and staffed by the Sisters. (See sheets mared a and b.)

During the remainder of International Woman's Year and the coming Bi-Centennial Year, I have permission from our Province Director, Sister Miriam Joseph Cummings, to devote my time to an Oral History Project, interviewing/gathering information from some of the 110 Sisters whose median age is 80 (the oldest is 95) who now reside at Bethany Convent, 1870 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul.

In my research about the accomplishments of our Community of which I have been a member for over 40 years, I found that the CSJ's were the first to begin many significant works in Minnesota:

- St. Joseph's Academy, St. Paul (1851) designated as Minnesota's first girls' school and the state's first high school (1853) by the Minnesota State Historical Society. Until its demise in 1971, it was the oldest private school in the state.
- First Sisters to come to Minnesota (1851) at the invitation of Bishop Joseph Cretin.
- St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Paul (1853) first and oldest hospital in the state.
- First Sisters to begin a parochial school system - Cathedral, St. Paul (1855)
- Assumption School, St. Paul (1858) first national school in the state.
- First private woman's college in Minnesota - The College of St. Catherine, St. Paul (1905)
- Orphan asylums begun in conjunction with St. Joseph's Academy (1851) and St. Joseph's Hospital (1853)
- Safety School Patrol begun by Sister Carmela at Cathedral School, St. Paul (1921); now throughout the nation.
- Christ Child School for Exceptional Children, St. Paul, begun by Sister Anna Marie (1948)
- First junior college in the USA to offer Associate Degrees exclusively in the health care fields, St. Mary's Junior College, Minneapolis (1964)
- The Bridge for Runaway Youth, Minneapolis (1970) first family crisis center utilizing the runaway crisis to reach the family; founded by Sister Rita Steinhagen.

When young women sought to enter the convent and were trained as Sisters, they were discouraged from writing/talking about their accomplishments, their families, etc. Their names were never mentioned in catalogues and very seldom in any publications or on any works of art they might have produced. What correspondence, pictures, copies of speeches, diplomas, programs, theses, etc., they might have kept were usually destroyed at the time of their death. What they did was for the Lord and He would be their reward. It has not been until recently that there has been a keen interest on the part of our Community to build up our archives and flesh out statistics of projects, schools, hospitals and other institutions with the human interest element.

With my background of experience as a teacher and a Sister, I plan to tap these resources in the following manner beginning in September of 1975:

1. Live at St. Joseph's Provincial House, 1880 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul, which is adjacent to Bethany Convent, the Administration Center where our archives are kept, and the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, where Sister John Christine Wolkerstorfer is ~~chairman~~ <sup>chairman</sup> of that institution's oral history ~~department~~ <sup>department</sup>.
2. Tape interviews and conversations of senior Sisters. This would be preceded by a questionnaire/outline given the Sister ahead of time in order to help her prepare her material/information. The Sisters chosen to do this could be a) named/suggested by those who know something significant about them; b) those who represent the gamut of works our Sisters do/have done: schools (pre-school, kindergarten, grade, high, junior college, four-year college), hospitals, orphanages, health-care fields, domestic work, cultural (art, music, drama, etc.) as well as ethnic groups: Irish and Canadian contributions. This project and procedure has the whole-hearted and enthusiastic support of the coordinator/superior of Bethany Convent, Sister Sophia Matuseski.
3. Transcribe and type up recorded material since tapes break, get lost, need to be edited, etc.

I see that this material/information can be put to excellent use in a variety of ways:

- As a basis for further research
- Expanded into material for articles/books/lectures
- Made available to county and state historical societies as well as other institutions, universities, colleges, seminaries, archivists, news media, etc.
- Informing the public of significant contributions and work of the Sisters
- Learning from the past experiences of Sisters who have done the pioneer work
- Becoming aware of the work of the Sisters and developing a sense of profound gratitude to those who gave us a precious heritage
- Assessing our past in order to look to the future
- Human interest stories that have never been written down
- Lessons to be learned about adapting to the needs of the times

There is a need for such data gathering for:

- C.S.J. history
- Archdiocesan history: Role of Catholic women and Religious women in Church services
- Minnesota Mid-west history
- History of Education
- History of Health-Care in area
- Long history of woman leadership which needs to be written and (at least) recorded for good histories to be written. Sister John Christine as a historian-college teacher, is very much interested in writing history on the above topic. She would also use these materials and methods in further developing her course in Oral History in Local History which she started January, 1975 at the College of St. Catherine.

In pursuing this project, I found that I would need some equipment and personnel which would necessitate some funding if I were to make it a worthwhile contribution involving much time, effort and research. My present plan is to devote one year to it. If the Community sees that it is of importance, I no doubt will receive permission to pursue it further.

Equipment which I have tried out and found to be very good include:

- Portable Norelco Recorder Model 88	\$325.00
- Small Conference Mike for Recorder	15.00
- Transcriber	329.00
- Tape-Cassettes @ \$4.00 each	100.00
- Office supplies	150.00

There are cheaper recorders on the market; however, I found that Model 88 would serve the best, because the volume is louder and clearer. Since I will be working with Sisters who tend to become rather deaf with advancing years, it is necessary to replay the interviews immediately to be sure that facts, etc., are correct. An inexpensive recorder is not loud and clear enough for this purpose. Incidentally, I wrote my Master's thesis on The Effective Use of Audio-Visual Aids in the Field of Music Education.

My next biggest expense involves the services of a competent typist to transcribe the tapes. In discussing this factor with Barry Byrne who hires typists for St. Mary's Junior College and Claire Schwambach, recently named the Secretary of the Year for Minnesota and North Dakota, I found that a competent typist hired from Employer's Overload would cost \$3.83 an hour. I would not hire anyone by the month, because this kind of work would go in spurts.

The secretaries to whom I have talked and who have done this kind of work estimate that it takes one hour to type up a half-hour tape if the speech is clear and concise, etc. A rough draft would have to be made, then edited, refined and retyped.

Therefore, I would like to apply for a grant of \$3000.00 to do a worthwhile Oral History Project which could be a significant contribution to the state of Minnesota during our Bi-Centennial Year.

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet who have served in Minnesota since 1851 number 2427 plus 3 novices, 39 affiliates and associates. They came/come from the following countries:

#### U.S.A.

Minnesota . . . . .	1410
N. Dakota . . . . .	113
Wisconsin . . . . .	105
Illinois . . . . .	58
Iowa . . . . .	53
Michigan . . . . .	28
New York . . . . .	25
South Dakota . . . . .	32
Montana . . . . .	15
Missouri . . . . .	14
Pennsylvania . . . . .	13
California . . . . .	12
Nebraska . . . . .	11
Ohio . . . . .	9
Indiana . . . . .	9
Massachusetts . . . . .	6
Virginia . . . . .	4
New Jersey . . . . .	4
Washington . . . . .	3
Oklahoma . . . . .	3
Alaska . . . . .	1
Oregon . . . . .	1
West Virginia . . . . .	1
Vermont . . . . .	1
Connecticut . . . . .	1
Utah . . . . .	1
Kentucky . . . . .	1
Arizona . . . . .	1
Arkansas . . . . .	1
Louisiana . . . . .	1
Idaho . . . . .	1
Maine . . . . .	2
Maryland . . . . .	2
Texas . . . . .	2
Rhode Island . . . . .	2
Colorado . . . . .	2
Florida . . . . .	2
New Hampshire . . . . .	2

1947

No date or place . 12

#### Ireland - 200

Kilmore	Leitrim
Roscommon	Kildare
C. Down	Belfast
Kings C.	Ballyboughford
Donegal	Tyron
Wexford	Tipperary
Queen's C.	Galway
C. Clare	Tralee
Kerry	Dublin
Sligo C.	Gort
Feenagh	Kieldra
Monahan	Kilkenny
Cork	Londonderry
Limerick	Mayo

#### Europe - 30

Germany
Belgium
Switzerland
Holland
Norway
Bohemia
France
Poland
Hungary
Sweden
Prussia
Austria

#### England - 10

Lancashire
Manchester
London
Ramsbottom
Liverpool
Colton

#### Total

States	1947
No place/date	12
Ireland	200
Europe	30
England	10
Canada	228
	<u>2427</u>

#### Canada - 228

P.E.I.	Manitoba
Saskatchewan	Sanleek
Drummondville	Peterboro
Toronto	Ontario
Marcelline	Lotbeniere
Hawkesbury	St. Sophia de Leonard
Quebec	New Brunswick
Montreal	Newfoundland

CURRICULUM VITAE OF SISTER ANN THOMASINE SAMPSON, C.S.J.

Born July 18, 1915, Minneapolis, Minnesota (Frances-Anne Sampson)

Education by Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

- St. Lawrence Grade School, Minneapolis (1922-29)
- St. Margaret's Academy, Minneapolis (1929-32)
- College of St. Catherine, St. Paul (1932-34; 1937-39) B.A. in history
- St. Joseph's Novitiate, St. Paul (1934-37) entered convent in 1934

Further Study

- University of Minnesota (1938-39)
- Diocesan Teachers College, St. Paul (1938-40)
- Pius X School of Liturgical Music, Manhattanville College, New York (1941)
- Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois (1946-51) Master of Music
- Notre Dame University, Notre Dame, Indiana (1954)
- Loyola Institute of Pastoral Studies, Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois (1965-68)
- Private study of organ, voice and piano under many prominent teachers

Living (a); Teaching (b); Working (c) with Sisters of St. Joseph

- St. Joseph's Novitiate (a and b) 1934-37; 1937-38
- St. Joseph's Provincial House (a) 1937-38; 1971-72
- St. James Academy, Grand Forks, N.D. (a and b) spring of 1937
- St. Joseph's Academy, St. Paul (a and b) 1938-52; 1970-71
- St. John's Academy, Jamestown, N.D. (a and b) 1952-56
- Academy of Holy Angels, Minneapolis (a and b) 1956-64
- St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul (a and c) summer of 1957
- St. Margaret's Academy, Minneapolis (a and b) 1964-69
- College of St. Catherine, St. Paul (c) 1971-72
- St. Mary's Hospital, Minneapolis (a) 1972-75
- St. Mary's Junior College, Minneapolis (c) 1972-75

Teaching and Projects Experience

- 1938-71: Taught history, religion and music (see above b)
- 1940-41: Served on School Committee (Music) for Ninth National Eucharistic Congress, St. Paul-Minneapolis
- 1951-52: In charge of Pageant, Pontifical Mass and Publicity for Centennial Celebration of St. Joseph's Academy which involved working with approximately 800 students, faculty
- 1960: Organized and conducted a Choral Workshop for Teachers
- 1963: Chairman in charge of rewriting and publishing of Religion Outlines used by five high schools conducted by CSJs
- 1969-70: Granted a Sabbatical Year during which time I was a Visiting Lecturer in Ireland 8 months; spent the remainder of the year visiting 9 other countries in British Isles and Europe
- 1970-71: Collected and organized 120 years of archival material related to St. Joseph's Academy. SJA closed in 1971; transferred all material,

1957-64 Mission project for Japan and Peru - 20 tons of material / equipment for school and convents shipped over. Planning Committee St. Mary's Junior College

memorabilia, etc. to Administration Center where it occupies one whole room.

Researched and provided archival material needed for book, SCHOOL OF HAPPY MEMORIES, put out by SJA Alumnae Association

- 1971-72: Organized a Teachers Art Resource Center (books, magazines, slides, picture file), Visual Arts Building, College of St. Catherine, St. Paul
- 1972-75: Director of Public Relations, Alumni and Development (new position) at St. Mary's Junior College, Minneapolis
- 1972; 1973: Made two trips via towboat on the Mississippi River in order to retrace first steamboat trips our early Sisters made: 1) New Orleans to St. Louis in 1836; 2) St. Louis to St. Paul in 1851. Kept a meticulous diary of 71 single-spaced typewritten pages; took over 350 slides and made taped interviews and conversations relating to Community history as well as subjects relating to river (transportation, ecology, conservation; lock system, navigation, etc.)
- Also did research in our Generalate archives, St. Louis and in Ursuline convent archives, New Orleans, La.
- 1973: Attended the Society of American Archivists 37th Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Mo.

### Other Interests

- Have worked on family geneology for over 30 years; much oral history connected with this project.
- Have presented many slide/lectures about European travels and Mississippi River to schools, church groups, clubs and other organizations. Among the most interesting was at the National River Academy, Helena, Arkansas where men are trained to work on the river.
- Adjudicator for choral festivals in Minnesota and North Dakota
- Speaker at youth workshops, St. Paul Seminary, schools and organizations concerned with religion and music.
- Substitute organist at many churches throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area.
- Accessibility to archives of the following institutions:
  - St. Paul Province of Sisters of St. Joseph; Sister Antonine O'Brien, archivist
  - St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul; Rev. Clyde Eddy, librarian; Rev. Philip Weller, archivist
  - St. Louis Province Archives; Sister Dolorita Marie Dougherty, archivist
  - St. Louis Generalate Archives; Sister Thomas Bernard, archivist
  - St. Paul Cathedral; The Very Rev. Ambrose Hayden, rector
  - College of St. Catherine, St. Paul; Sister John Christine Wolkerstorfer in charge of Oral History department
  - Catholic Bulletin; Bernard Casserly, editor

### Organizations to which I belong

- CASE Council for Advancement and Support of Education
- Minnesota Geneological Society (French-Canadian special interest)
- Public Relations/Communications Group for Archdiocese of Minneapolis-St. Paul
- Ramsey County Historical Society
- Twin Cities Choirmasters Association (board member)