

THE NAFRA NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Annual Report - 2015

by Sharon Deveaux OFS,
NAFRA Archivist



Introduction

The National Fraternity (NAFRA) Archives was founded in 2004. The purpose was and still is to collect and preserve the records and materials relating to the activities and duties of the National Fraternity. This includes the National Council, committees and commissions, appointees and Spiritual Assistants. The records include council meeting minutes, financial records, *TAU USA*, *QC*, OFS records from OFM Provinces, Formation, Franciscan Youth and International Fraternity. The records are mainly written material and photographs. Our earliest dated record is a directory with an entry from the 1890s. This material is the history of Secular Franciscan Order in the United States and why it is so important to properly preserve it.

The archives are located at St. Bonaventure University in New York, 65 miles south of Buffalo. This is a Franciscan University, and they have allowed us to maintain a safe and neutral location for our archives. Before we had this location the records were spread throughout the United States in various home basements, spare rooms and garages. As a result, many records were lost or severely damaged. But those that survived have eventually been sent to our Archives for safekeeping.

The NAFRA Archives in New York is for National Fraternity records only. Regional records should stay with the Regions, and local fraternity records stay with the fraternity. If regional or fraternities need information about saving archives please contact Sharon Deveaux, OFS, at s.deveaux@att.net.

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I traveled to St. Bonaventure University last July for four days. There were a number of boxes that had been mailed in for processing. These included:

- Regionalization records from Richard Morton
- Regional files and Duns Scotus Records from Bill Wicks

- Misc. NAFRA materials
- NAFRA Minutes from Jan Parker
- Apostolic Blessing from Pope Benedict XVI for 17th QC
- Three panoramic photographs from 1936, 1947 and 1931 of early QCs
- One panoramic photograph of the 1943 Peace Day

I also received requests for information from members of two fraternities.

- Christine Martin, OFS, from San Francisco asked for any material regarding their fraternity because they are writing a fraternity history. I did find an early history and sent her a copy of it. She was excited to get it.
- Kenton Miller, OFS, of Tulsa OK requested information about a de-activated fraternity. I found a short reference to it in the 1967 and 1972 directories.

Two other items of interest:

- Anne Mulqueen is looking for a copy of *St. Francis of Assisi* by Aldo Fontini. We do not have a copy in the archive,s and it is selling for a very high price on Amazon, so hopefully someday a copy will surface at an affordable price or free.
- I discovered 12 “Hour of St. Francis” episode tapes of the TV program. Is there interest in converting these to modern media ?

We now have 243 boxes of records, not including the books and some misc. material not in boxes.

I am anticipating that 2016 will be the same situation with the exception of having to buy more archival boxes from Gaylord Archival Co.