

## ***Ann Harrington, BVM Papers 1966-2012***

### *Preliminary Finding Aid*

**Creator:** Ann Harrington, BVM (1939-2024)

**Extent:** 1.5 linear feet

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago

### **Administration Information**

**Access Restrictions:** None

**Usage Restrictions:** Copyright for the materials created by Ann Harrington, BVM was transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives.

**Preferred Citation:** Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Ann Harrington, BVM Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

**Provenance:** Materials in the collection were donated to the Women and Leadership Archives by Ann Harrington, BVM in 2014 and 2015 (WLA2014.22, WLA2014.23, WLA2015.19).

**Processing Information:** This collection is unprocessed. Information in this preliminary finding aid was gathered through an initial inventory. Preliminary finding aid created in 2022.

**Separations:** None

**See Also:** The Mundelein College Records, Mundelein College Photograph Collection, Mundelein College History Project Records at the WLA. There is also an oral history interview of Harrington in the WLA's Voices from Mundelein Media Portal online.

An interview with Ann Harrington, BVM is available on the WLA's Voices from Mundelein: Media portal.

### **Biographical History**

Ann Mary Harrington, BVM was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on July 15, 1939. She joined the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVMs) in 1957. Harrington was given the religious name Sister Mary St. Remi, which she used until going back to her birth name in the 1960s.

She attended Mundelein College, graduating with her bachelor's degree in French in 1962. Harrington earned a master's degree in Asian Studies from Washington University in 1967,

followed by another Master's in French Language and Literature from the University of Illinois, Chicago in 1986. She earned a PhD from Claremont Graduate University in 1977, where she majored in Modern Japanese and Chinese History and minored in Pre-modern Chinese History and Modern European History.

Harrington taught high school in Missouri and Kansas before returning to her alma mater Mundelein College to join the faculty in 1969. Tenured in 1977, she taught French and History, specializing in history of Japan and East Asia. In the 1970s, Harrington established the Asian Studies program and served as its coordinator. During her over two decades at Mundelein, she also taught in Mundelein's Weekend College, served as chair of the History Department, and was Director of the Liberal Studies Graduate program. Harrington traveled to China, Japan, and France in the 1970s and 1980s for research and to lead tours for Mundelein students.

After Mundelein College affiliated with Loyola University Chicago in 1991, Harrington continued to teach in Loyola's history department and the successor to Weekend College, Mundelein College at Loyola.

In 1997, Prudence Moylan and Harrington co-directed a project sponsored by the Gannon Center for Women and Leadership to document Mundelein's history. The project resulted in a collection of historical essays published in the book *Mundelein Voices*.

Like her teaching field, Harrington's early research focused on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Japanese and East Asian history. She published a number of works on Japanese history, including articles and book reviews in academic journals and the book *Japan's Hidden Christians* (1993). One project researching 19<sup>th</sup> century French nuns in Japan persuaded her of the importance of studying the history of women religious. In 2001, the BVMs invited Harrington to research the congregation's founder, Mary Frances Clarke. She published the book *Creating Community: Mary Frances Clarke and Her Companions* in 2004 and another book on BVM history in 2014, *Expanding Horizons: the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 1919-1943*.

Over the course of her career, she earned numerous awards for her scholarship, including the 2010 Living Tradition Award from the Loyola University Hank Center for Catholic Intellectual Heritage for exemplifying the Catholic tradition in life and research.

Sister Ann Harrington passed away at the age of 85 in Dubuque, Iowa on December 18, 2024.

### **Scope and Content**

The Ann Harrington, BVM Papers consist of 1.5 linear feet and span the years 1966-2012. The papers relate to Harrington's time as a faculty member at Mundelein College and other professional work.

Materials include writings, presentations, newsletters, professional correspondence, Mundelein College History Department reports, address book, brochures and publicity, publications, photographs, and buttons. There are also audiocassettes of interviews Ann Harrington conducted of Ann Ida Gannon, BVM and Jean Dolores Schmidt, BVM (Sr. Jean).