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'Women & Spirit' exhibition makes world premiere at Cincinnati Museum Center, May 16

By Richard O Jones | Friday, May 15, 2009, 12:52 PM



"Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America," May 16-Aug. 30, Cincinnati Museum Center, 1301 Western Ave., Cincinnati. (513) 287-7000.

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"Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America," created by the [Leadership Conference of Women Religious \(LCWR\)](#) in association with Museum Center, tells of the innovative, action-oriented women who played a significant role in shaping the nation's social and cultural landscape.

First arriving on America's shores almost 300 years ago, Catholic sisters altruistically built and led schools, hospitals, orphanages, colleges, and other social institutions that have continued to serve millions of Americans in the intervening years. Remarkably, they created these enduring institutions at a time when most women had few, if any, professional opportunities.

"Few people are aware of the tales of the brave women who came to this country to help immigrants assimilate into the fabric of America," said Jane Burke, SSND Executive Director of LCWR, in a press statement. "Their heroic presence during many of the formative periods of our nation is an important part of American history and the legacy of the Sisters."

"This is an important and unique exhibit," said Douglass W. McDonald, President and CEO of Museum Center. "The artifacts and materials featured in the exhibit tell a compelling story. We are proud to both serve as the premiere venue and care for these historic materials as the institution of record and exhibit registrar."

Exhibit visitors of all ages will discover the pivotal presence of these very self-determined women at many of our nation's dramatic turning points, including the Civil War, the Depression, the Civil Rights Movement and Hurricane Katrina.

The untold stories of these unsung heroes will be recounted through rare, heretofore unseen artifacts, vivid first-person accounts, photographs and both modern and archival video.

"The Sisters were contemporaries of the early American heroes recognized in standard text books," McDonald said. "They made a significant impact on our country through selfless service to the pioneers, immigrant communities and America's children. Finally, their perspective is documented."

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Eric Robinette keeps you updated on things to do throughout Butler and Warren counties, offers his perspective on the local entertainment scene and welcomes yours. Eric writes about arts entertainment for the the Middletown Journal, the Hamilton JournalNews and The Pulse-Journal newspapers in West Chester and Mason.

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