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Sr. Alice Gallin Manuscript Collection

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Sr. Alice Gallin Manuscript Collection

Alice Gallin grew up in the city of New Rochelle and attended The Ursuline School for high school. Appreciating the intellectual rigor of her Ursuline teachers, she enrolled in the College of New Rochelle from which she graduated in 1942 as a history major. In college she was president of the Council of Debate and developed skills that would serve her well in the future. She briefly taught in high school before applying for a position in military intelligence in Washington, D.C. where she re worked until the end of World War II. In 1946, she joined the Order of St. Ursula, an international order of women primarily dedicated to the teaching of girls.

Having completed a MA in History at Fordham University, in 1951, she joined the faculty of her alma mater, first teaching a course in Christian Tradition and Culture. In 1954, she completed a doctorate in modern history at The Catholic University of America. Her dissertation was on German Resistance to Hitler. The dissertation would be the subject of her first book.

She then returned in 1954 to the College of New Rochelle where she was appointed Acting Academic Dean. Between 1963 and 1967, she served as the Dean of Students (while continuing to teach part-time). The 1960's were years of great change and turmoil: Vatican II, the civil rights, movement, curriculum reform, the Vietnam War. Student activism reached a high point. During these years, the calm, level-headed leadership of Sister Mary Alice continued to keep dialog open among students, faculty, Ursulines, college administration, and alumnae. The experience in the Council of Debate had honed her skills in open-minded and respectful dialog!

In 1976, Sr, Alice left CNR to work with the US bishops in preparation for the national "Call to Action" Assembly scheduled for October of that year. It was a meeting to discuss ways of dealing with social issues raised at Vatican II and brought both bishops and laity together. Following this experience, Sr. Alice was appointed as Associate Executive Director of the College and University Department of the National Catholic education Association (later, the Association of Catholic colleges and Universities). In 1980 she was appointed Executive Director and served until 1992. Representing the nation's Catholic colleges and universities to other national groups such as the American Council on Education and National Association of Independent Universities, she was able to focus on some of the issues of social concern to both the Church and to universities. Her background and religious perspective were often sought by colleagues as they dealt with questions of academic freedom and relations with governments in other countries.

A major part of her work was collaboration in the development of "*Ex Corde Ecclesiae*" (1990) and most of the documents regarding that project are in this archive. The following decade was devoted to the document concerning the implementation of ECE in the United States. As ACCU Director, Sr. Alice traveled widely to US Catholic colleges and universities. She also participated in the Council meetings of the International Federation of Catholic Universities. Participating in the IFCU and the Congregation of Catholic Education, Sr. Alice worked with US bishops and Catholic college presidents to present their unique position and reality in the formation of a papal document, *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* which was issued in

1990 by Pope John Paul II. For the next ten years she worked on implementing this document for the United States.

In 1992, Sr. Alice resigned from ACCU and served as interim President of St. Bonaventure University. Thereafter, she devoted herself to scholarship, served on boards of several Catholic colleges and universities, lectured widely, and conducted research. Her long and deep experience has resulted in several key publications on the subject of American Catholic Higher Education since Vatican II. In 1997, the College of New Rochelle named her Scholar-in Residence and she has been honored several times by her alma mater. She continues to mentor scholars and doctoral students.

In recognition of her services to Catholic higher education, she has been awarded twenty one honorary degrees from various colleges and universities.

In 2007 Sr. Alice Gallin began to donate her personal and professional papers to the College of New Rochelle Archives. Some of the most important archives are being digitized and will serve an important purpose for those searching for first-hand, serious scholarship on the subject of Catholic higher education in the United States in the 20th Century.

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