



Photo credit: Immaculate Conception Province

Siobhan O'Dwyer, OFS, in the ICP Franciscan Library

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OFM PROVINCE CREATES FRANCISCAN LIBRARY IN NEW YORK CITY

by Fr. André Cirino, OFM

On May 5, 2011, Provincial Minister, Fr. Primo Piscitello, OFM, sent a letter to several friars regarding the *Francescana* collection of Immaculate Conception Province, seeking advice about safeguarding and preserving these Franciscan works with the possibility of making these resources more widely accessible for research and education.

Since that time, our efforts to collect, conserve, and catalogue the Franciscan resources of our Province have progressed. To date, all of the *Francescana* of the Province has been brought to the Provincial Curia. The books are being separated into categories and computerized into a system that will make them more easily accessible. The Province has also received a grant for the purchase of current works.

Siobhan O'Dwyer, OFS, who has a master's degree from the Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University, has been hired to work with **Fr. Paul Rotondi, OFM**, for the organization and classification of our collection. To sustain and support the work that has been accomplished thus far, the Provincial has set up a committee, appointing André Cirino, OFM, coordinator of this project. The members of the committee are: **Fr. Paul Rotondi, OFM; Fr. André Cirino, OFM; Fr. Richard Martignetti, OFM; Fr. Michael Della Penna, OFM; and Siobhan O'Dwyer, OFS.**

Since June 12, 2014, Fr. Paul Rotondi and Siobhan O'Dwyer, a Secular Franciscan from _____ Fraternity, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, have unpacked, shelved, and been cataloguing our collection of *Francescana* that have been assembled from various houses in the Province. This library, named by our Provincial: *The Immaculate Conception Province Franciscan Library*, is being set up for several reasons.

- This collection will serve as a resource for research and education:
- for the friars of our Province, especially our students and friars working in formation;
 - for Franciscan men and women of the greater New York City area;
 - for anyone [cleric, religious, lay person] involved in an academic Franciscan project;
 - for commissions of the Order to facilitate their work and service;
 - for the 22 schools of the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities [AFCU] in the USA.

The ICP Franciscan Library will also sponsor special events, the first of which will be a poetry reading presented by **Fr. Murray Bodo, OFM**, on June 14, 2015.

More information on this and other planned events will be made available.

