



# CALDWELL VII

A Convocation on St. Catherines Island, March 9–11, 2014

## Abstract

An extraordinary event took place on St. Catherines Island in early March 2014. A convocation brought together Spanish Borderlands scholars from across the United States, Franciscan historians, archaeologists, and Indians for a mind-changing meeting.

Lorann P. Thomas

Lsap@amnh.org

Photographs by Nicholas Triozzi (AMNH). Illustration of the Virgin in the Island by Elizabeth Cottrell.

*We hold history  
in our hands  
and  
in our hearts . . .*



Archeologists and historians  
touch the past,  
inform the present,  
and should the fates allow – or Heaven grant,  
glimpse the truth of where we came from and how we got here.  
Being wiser than most,  
historians and archeologists know to leave even greater mysteries.

Who are we?

What is our future?

Why are we here?

to that other part of our nature,  
the artist and dreamer, fool and theologian – all often one and the same!

On St. Catherine Island,  
we helped one another touch the past and glimpse the truth.  
May we long continue to awaken the artist and dreamer,  
the fool and theologian – within each of us.

Thank you.

*Jack Clark Robinson, OTM*  
26 March 2014





## ST. CATHERINES ISLAND CONVOCATION AND CALDWELL VII CONFERENCE

Twenty-seven celebrated Spanish Borderlands scholars joined forces on St. Catherines Island in March 2014 (fig. 1). The group consisted of nine Franciscan Friars (board members of the Academy of American Franciscan History), 14 academic Borderlands archaeologists/historians representing universities and museums from across the country, the editor of the Franciscan History Journal, and a film crew from the Hispanic Research Center at Arizona State University. Several of the academics are American Indians, which adds further diversity to the mix.



Figure 1. St. Catherines Convocation participants.

The purpose of this convocation was spiritual and intellectual; it provided a chance to hear each other's ideas and personalize the Borderlands experience from varied points of view. The Franciscans asked to join us on St. Catherines Island to connect spiritually with one of the oldest churches in North America, a place where two of their Franciscan brothers were martyred in 1597 (fig. 2). The academics were there to learn more about a successful mission experience that lasted on St. Catherines Island for at least 100 years. The Indian scholars (fig. 3) brought with them a variety of Native American views that sometimes diverged markedly from the Franciscan perspectives.



Figure 2. Franciscans celebrating Mass at Santa Catalina de Guale at the altar.



Figure 3. Native American scholar, Dr. Michael Wilcox, receiving communion from Fra. Jack.



St. Catherines Island was magical, as usual; her tranquil setting facilitated easy conversation and spontaneous give-and-take of ideas. The personalization of the disparate points of view fostered open minds and pointed inquiries. Everyone seem to come away fundamentally changed by the experience.

On the final day, a full Catholic Mass was celebrated in the church (fig. 4), only the seventh such occasion in the past 325 years.



Figure 4. A full church during Mass at Santa Catalina de Guale.

At the conclusion of their board meeting, the board members of the Academy of American Franciscan History named David Hurst Thomas a Fellow, only the eighth such person to receive this award for his importance to the work of the Academy (fig. 5).



Figure 5. Fra. Jack and David Hurst Thomas.

The trip to St. Catherines preceded a three-day conference on these topics in St. Augustine, FL, which will be published next year.



Thanks go to the St. Catherines Island and Edward John Noble foundations for keeping the island a unique place of learning. Thanks, as well, to Royce and Christa Hayes for their many efforts hosting this historic event.



Figure 7. David Hurst Thomas and friars standing in the *convento* at Santa Catalina de Guale.

## PARTICIPANT LIST

### ST. CATHERINES ISLAND CONVOCATION AND 7TH CALDWELL CONFERENCE

March 10–12, 2014

- Brian Belanger, O.F.M. (Board Member, Academy of American Franciscan History; St. Bernardine of Siena Friary, Loudonville, NY) [bbelanger@siena.edu](mailto:bbelanger@siena.edu)
- Elliot Blair (Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley; American Museum of Natural History) [elliott.blair@berkeley.edu](mailto:elliott.blair@berkeley.edu)
- Jeffrey Burns (Director, Academy of American Franciscan History, Berkeley, CA) [AcadAFH@fst.edu](mailto:AcadAFH@fst.edu)
- Michael Cusato, O.F.M. (Board Member, Academy of American Franciscan History; Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, Washington, D.C. 20017) [MCUSATO@sbu.edu](mailto:MCUSATO@sbu.edu)
- Kathleen Deagan (Distinguished Research Curator Emerita, Florida Museum of Natural History) [kd@flmnh.ufl.edu](mailto:kd@flmnh.ufl.edu)
- Dan Dwyer, O.F.M. (Board Member, Academy of American Franciscan History; St. Bernardine of Siena Friary, Loudonville, NY) [ddwyer@siena.edu](mailto:ddwyer@siena.edu)
- Christa Hayes (Ecologist, St. Catherines Island) [christafhaves@icloud.com](mailto:christafhaves@icloud.com)
- Royce Hayes (Director, St. Catherines Island) [rhhayes@scisland.net](mailto:rhhayes@scisland.net)
- John Johnson (Curator of Anthropology, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History) [jjohnson@sbnature2.org](mailto:jjohnson@sbnature2.org)
- Glen Keeton (Staff Archaeologist, Nels Nelson North American Archaeology Laboratory, American Museum of Natural History) [gkeeton@amnh.org](mailto:gkeeton@amnh.org)
- Matthew J. Liebmann (Associate Professor of Anthropology, Peabody Museum, Harvard University) [Liebmann@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:Liebmann@fas.harvard.edu)
- Kent Lightfoot (Professor of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley) [klightfoot@berkeley.edu](mailto:klightfoot@berkeley.edu)
- Mark T. Lycett (Director, Program on the Global Environment; Interim Director, Center for International Studies, University of Chicago) [m-lycett@uchicago.edu](mailto:m-lycett@uchicago.edu)

Melanie Magisos (Senior Member and Head of Digital Initiatives, Hispanic Research Center, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-5303) [melanie.magisos@asu.edu](mailto:melanie.magisos@asu.edu)

Rochelle Marrinan (Professor of Anthropology, Florida State University) [rmarrinan@fsu.edu](mailto:rmarrinan@fsu.edu)

Patrick McCloskey, O.F.M. (Board Member, Academy of American Franciscan History; St. Anthony Messenger, Cincinnati, OH) [pmccloskey@franciscanmedia.org](mailto:pmccloskey@franciscanmedia.org)

Very Rev. Dominic Monti, O.F.M. (Board Member, Academy of American Franciscan History; St. Francis Friary, New York, NY) [dmonti@hnp.org](mailto:dmonti@hnp.org)

Santiago Moratto (Director Community Outreach and International Programs, Hispanic Research Center, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-5303) [Santiago.Moratto@asu.edu](mailto:Santiago.Moratto@asu.edu)

Matthew Napolitano (Supervisor, Nels Nelson North American Archaeology Laboratory, American Museum of Natural History) [mnapolitano@amnh.org](mailto:mnapolitano@amnh.org)

Brandon Ortega (Cinematographer and visual editor, Hispanic Research Center, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-5303) [bmortega@asu.edu](mailto:bmortega@asu.edu)

Lee M. Panich (Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Santa Clara University) [lpnich@scu.edu](mailto:lpnich@scu.edu)

Very Rev. John Puodziunas, O.F.M. (Board Member, Academy of American Franciscan History; Provincial Offices, Franklin, WI) [lituva@aol.com](mailto:lituva@aol.com)

Jack Clark Robinson, O.F.M. (Board Member, Academy of American Franciscan History, San Antonio de Padua Friary, San Antonio, TX) [jcrofm@ymail.com](mailto:jcrofm@ymail.com)

Tsim D. Schneider (UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Barbara) [tschneider@anth.ucsb.edu](mailto:tschneider@anth.ucsb.edu)

Anna Semon (Archaeology Transfer Specialist, Nels Nelson North American Archaeology Laboratory, American Museum of Natural History; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) [asemon@amnh.org](mailto:asemon@amnh.org)

David Hurst Thomas (Curator of Anthropology, American Museum of Natural History) [thomasd@amnh.org](mailto:thomasd@amnh.org)

Lorann Pendleton Thomas (Director, Nels Nelson North American Archaeology Laboratory, American Museum of Natural History) [lsap@amnh.org](mailto:lsap@amnh.org)

Nicholas Triozzi (Archaeology Photo/Mapping Specialist, Nels Nelson North American Archaeology Laboratory, American Museum of Natural History) [ntriozzi@amnh.org](mailto:ntriozzi@amnh.org)

Michael V. Wilcox (Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Stanford University) [mwilcox@stanford.edu](mailto:mwilcox@stanford.edu)