Our talk will focus on Svetlana Alliluyeva (often known in the US as Lana Peters), who was Stalin’s daughter and, because of her defection to the West, became a symbol of the Cold War. A woman who was raised in an atheist society, she developed a passion for religion, which she viewed as a feminine space, and converted to Roman Catholicism in 1982. Her interest in lecturing at Catholic colleges led her to an unexpected place – Mundelein College – where she met Sister Joan Frances Crowley, a Mundelein faculty member, and started a correspondence that lasted for several years. In particular, we will examine the collection of Svetlana’s letters held at the Women and Leadership Archive to explore broader questions about gender and religion during the Cold War.