

Winter 1993

New Jersey Catholic Records Newsletter, Vol. 12, No.2

New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.shu.edu/njchc>



Part of the [History Commons](#), and the [Religion Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission, "New Jersey Catholic Records Newsletter, Vol. 12, No.2" (1993). *New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission newsletters*. 29.
<https://scholarship.shu.edu/njchc/29>



New Jersey Catholic Records Newsletter

VOLUME XII NO. 2

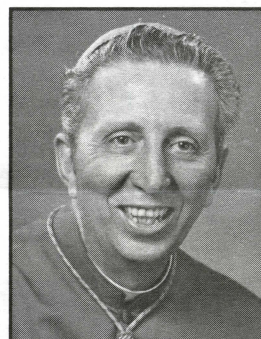
WINTER 1993

Commission to sponsor conference on preserving, writing local Catholic history

On Tuesday, March 30, 1993, the Commission will sponsor a conference on New Jersey Catholic history at Xavier Center on the campus of the College of St. Elizabeth at Convent Station, New Jersey. Entitled "Collecting, Preserving and Writing Local Catholic History in New Jersey," the sessions will address a wide range of topics relevant to the study and presentation of the history of Catholics in New Jersey. The conference should be beneficial to anyone interested in the general subject, but will be particularly helpful to individuals who in the next few years will be preparing a history of a given institution or activity. The Commission encourages participation by parishes, schools or other organizations which will be celebrating significant anniversaries in the near future.

After registration (and a refreshing cup of coffee) at 9:30 a.m., Bishop Dominic A. Marconi, chairman of the Commission, will welcome the participants. Monsignor William N. Field, archivist of Seton Hall University, will then give an overview of the topic, illustrating from his broad experience the range of activities involved. At 11 a.m. Ronald Grele, Ph. D., director of the Oral History Project at Columbia University, will speak on the methods and techniques of oral history. Grele's presentation will include special emphasis on oral history's role in preserving the history of those who do not leave extensive written records. Both talks will include opportunity for audience participation.

After lunch, Reverend Michael G. Krull will lead a panel of archivists and other speakers from several dioceses in a discussion of the holdings of various archives and their accessibility to researchers. During the program, the winner of the Archbishop Gerety Seminarian Award will be announced and the presentation made. The conference will conclude at 3 p.m. with closing remarks by Bishop Marconi and a light collation. A fee of \$25 covers registration and the luncheon. All who



*Bishop
Dominic A. Marconi*



*Monsignor
William N. Field*

wish to take part in the conference should register by March 15. (See registration form on page 3.)

For further information, contact Professor Joseph F. Mahoney, Department of History, Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey 07079-2696, telephone (201) 761-9385.



At a recent luncheon, the Commission honored Mrs. Miriam Murphy for her contributions during her 15 years as a member. Left to right, Monsignor Joseph C. Shenrock, Archbishop Gerety, Mrs. Murphy, Monsignor William N. Field and Bishop Marconi as Archbishop Gerety presented a small token of the Commission's appreciation to Mrs. Murphy.

A glimpse at Most Reverend Michael J. O'Farrell: The first bishop of Trenton



Bishop Michael Joseph O'Farrell

On December 13, 1876, Bishop Michael A. Corrigan of Newark sailed for Europe aboard the *Algeria* for his *ad limina* visit to the tombs of the Apostles. With him he carried his report to the Holy See on

the status of the diocese of Newark. Among its most important provisions was the recommendation that the See be divided into two for better service of Catholics in New Jersey. Corrigan's almost incessant pastoral journeys through the state convinced him that one bishop could not adequately provide for the needs of the faithful. The Catholic population, which by 1880 he estimated at 175,000, was growing rapidly, not only by natural increase but also from immigration, which continued, albeit somewhat slowed by the depression of the 1870s.

Corrigan recommended that the seven northern counties—Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Union—remain as the diocese of Newark, and that the 14 southern counties be constituted a new diocese with Trenton as the see city. When Corrigan was transferred to New York as coadjutor to Cardinal McCloskey, the bishops of the

province had to recommend two candidates for bishop to Rome—one as Corrigan's successor, and one to head the new diocese soon to be established. Wanting a scholarly man for Newark because of Seton Hall College, they recommended Father Michael Joseph O'Farrell for that see, and Father Winand Wigger for Trenton. Not for the first time Rome surprised the American bishops by appointing Wigger to Newark and O'Farrell to Trenton.

Michael Joseph O'Farrell was born in the city of Limerick, Ireland, on December 2, 1832. In 1848 he entered All Hallows College, which had been founded six years earlier to prepare diocesan priests for the English-speaking world. Upon completing his classical and philosophical studies there, O'Farrell was sent to St. Sulpice in Paris for his theological studies and joined the

continued on page 3

Meet the Commission

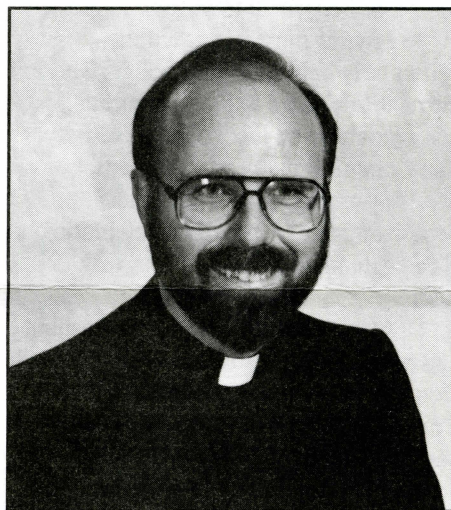
History has long been an interest of recently-appointed Commission member Reverend Michael G. Krull, of the Diocese of Metuchen. "My mother's family is really into their own history," he said, "and has had several editions of their family tree researched and published, which probably started me off."

Born in New Brunswick, New Jersey in 1958, Father Krull was baptized in St. Peter's Church there before moving to nearby Milltown a few years later. "Milltown," he noted, "was a town that was fascinated with its history, and a book of its history remains one of my favorites."

Father Krull attended public schools in Milltown, where he was a member of the school History Club in seventh and eighth grades. He attended St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen, where his interest in church history was whetted by the discovery of an old book—Father Joseph Flynn's *The Catholic Church in New Jersey*.

Graduating from St. Joseph's in 1976, he went on to Seton Hall University, which awarded him the baccalaureate in Art and Music in 1980. He recalls the establishment of the Commission while he was a student there, and remarks "I would never have guessed then that one day I would be a member." Entering Mount St. Mary's Seminary in 1982 Father Krull earned the master's degree in Divinity in 1985 and an M.A. in Church History in 1986. For his master's thesis he went back to his roots, writing: "Upon This Rock: A History of St. Peter's Church in New Brunswick, New Jersey."

Ordained to the priesthood in May, 1986, he has served at St. Augustine of Canterbury Parish in Kendall Park and St. Ambrose Parish in Old Bridge, and is now stationed at Our Lady of Peace Church in Fords. For the tenth anniversary of the Diocese of Metuchen in 1991 he wrote *Of This We Are All Witnesses*, a brief history of the diocese. He is



Reverend Michael G. Krull

currently at work on a history of Our Lady of Peace parish in anticipation of its 75th anniversary in 1994. When not pursuing his historical interests, he enjoys attending the opera, travel and walking. For the Commission, he serves on the Public Programs committee, and is intimately involved with the conference announced elsewhere in this issue.

Bishop O'Farrell

continued from page 2

Sulpicians while he was there. Ordained in Limerick on August 18, 1855, he returned to St. Sulpice after a short vacation at home, expecting to be sent to Canada. Instead, he first spent a year teaching dogmatic theology at St. Sulpice, after which his superiors sent him to teach at the Grand Seminary in Montreal. Failing health forced him to give up teaching after eight years, and he then engaged in pastoral work in Montreal, serving for a time as pastor of St. Anne's.

In July, 1869 he left the Sulpicians and went to New York City, where he served as assistant at St. Peter's, Barclay Street, and as pastor at Rondout, New York. In 1873 he returned to St. Peter's

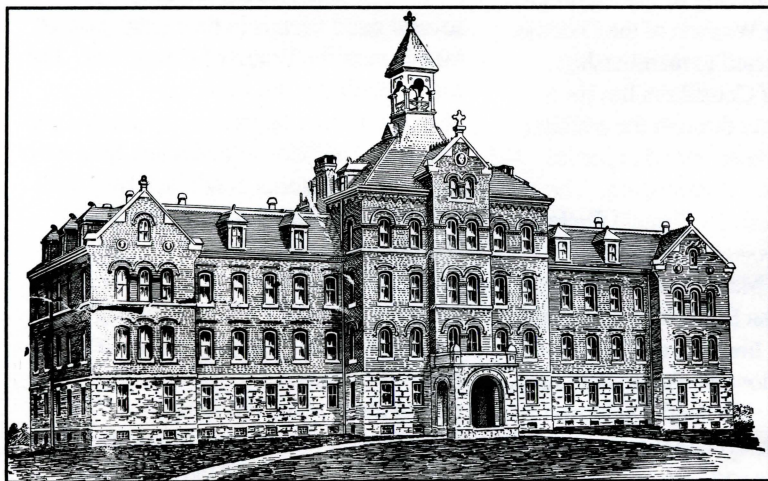
as pastor. There he opened a new school, which soon had 700 pupils, and the next year he added a school for girls which soon rivalled the boys' school. He also developed a reputation as a preacher and lecturer, not only in New York, but also in the diocese of Newark.

Thus, when he was consecrated bishop on November 1, 1881 in St. Patrick's Cathedral, in New York City, he was not entirely unknown at least by the clergy of his new see. Organizing a new diocese is onerous work, especially for a bishop who is new to the area. While Trenton had received the far larger portion of New Jersey as its territory, it had the smaller Catholic population and fewer resources. Bishop O'Farrell nonetheless soon had the administrative machinery in operation—

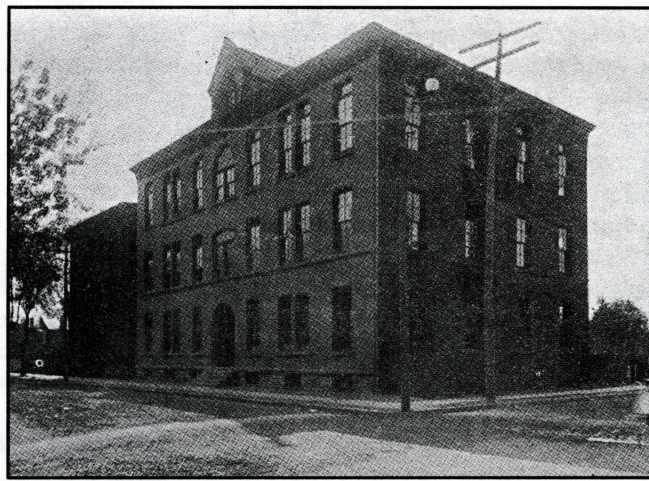
a simpler task in those days than now. Population increase and the impact of both industrialization and the development of seaside recreational communities led to the establishment of numerous parishes and missions during his tenure.

As immigration began to increase again after the depression of the 1870s, the diocese of Trenton, like the country at large, began to receive increasing numbers of newcomers from southern and eastern Europe—Italians, Hungarians, Poles, Slovaks, Greeks and others—who needed to be served in national parishes. Providing Mass and the sacraments and religious education to this rapidly growing multicultural population taxed the ingenuity and resources of the

continued on page 4



St. Michael's Orphan Asylum, Hopewell, planned by Bishop O'Farrell and built by his successor, Bishop McFaul



St. Joseph's Church and School, Trenton

The New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission

Collecting, Preserving and Writing Local Catholic History

I wish to register for the conference:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

I enclose check(s) in the amount of _____ for _____ person(s).
For multiple registrations, please attach the names of all attendees.

Mail to:

Professor J.F. Mahoney
Department of History
Seton Hall University
South Orange, New Jersey
07079-2696

Must arrive by March 15

Bishop O'Farrell

continued from page 3

bishop and people alike—but did not overtax them. Churches and schools were built, clergy and religious recruited, orphanages and homes for the aged begun.

O'Farrell remained always a teacher and lover of children. In his first two years as bishop he wrote two pastoral letters to his flock, one on Christian marriage and the other on Christian education, and made it evident in both that his prime concern was the Christian education of youth. In his last years he was planning the erection of an orphanage in Hopewell, and in his will left a substantial sum for the project.

Bishop O'Farrell suffered from Bright's disease in his later years, and by late 1893 his doctors had confined him to his home. He died on April 2, 1894, only 61 years of age, but his 13 years as bishop laid the solid foundations on which the diocese has built since then. When the Hopewell orphanage was completed, his remains were transferred to the chapel there, to rest, as the first historian of the diocese put it, "in a building he had seen only in fancy, near an altar he had never known . . . among the orphans he had loved in life."

Published by the New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission, Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey 07079-2696.

Most Reverend Dominic A. Marconi, D.D., *Chairman*; Reverend Monsignor Joseph C. Shenrock *Vice-chairman*; Bernard Bush; Dr. Rita C. Carney; Ms. Jo Ann Cotz; Reverend Augustine Curley, O.S.B.; Reverend Monsignor William N. Field; Reverend Monsignor Charles J. Giglio; Sister Mary Ellen Gleason, S.C.; Reverend Michael G. Krull; Reverend Raymond J. Kupke; Joseph F. Mahoney; Sister Margherita Marchione, M.P.F.; Reverend Monsignor Robert Moneta; George L.A. Reilly; Sister Irene Marie Richards, O.P.; Sister Thomas Mary Salerno, S.C.; Bernhard W. Scholz; Reverend Monsignor Francis R. Seymour; Reverend Monsignor Edwin V. Sullivan; Reverend Joseph Wallace; Reverend John F. Wrynn, S.J.; *Consulting Member*: Barbara Geller

Newsletter editor: Joseph F. Mahoney

Commission strengthened through personnel changes

At the November meeting of the Commission, Father Joseph Wallace of the Diocese of Camden was elected to membership.

The Board of Consultors has been strengthened recently through the addition of new members whose varied expertise will greatly assist the Commission. The new members include Dr. Ronald Grele of the Oral History Project at Columbia University, Arthur McGinnis, president of Simmons-Boardman Publishing Company, Louise Minervino, librarian of the State of New Jersey and Filomena Peloro del Olmo, professor emerita at Fairleigh Dickinson University. The Commission welcomes these new members and looks forward to profiting by their assistance and advice.

The Commission has also lost several good friends in the recent past, all members of the Board of Consultors. The sad list includes the Honorable Bernard Shanley, former appointments secretary to President Eisenhower and a one-time New Jersey gubernatorial candidate, Mrs. John Goepfert of Orange and Dr. Robert A. Murphy of Mount Holly. As we go to press, news has arrived that former governor Richard J. Hughes, a longtime supporter of the Commission and a member of the Board of Consultors, has passed away at his Florida home. The Commission mourns this loss and extends its condolences to their families. *Rest in peace.*



Seton Hall
University

South Orange, New Jersey 07079-2691

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Seton Hall
University