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New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission

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The Recorder



Volume II No. 1

New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission

Winter/Spring 2009

New Chair of Commission Named

The Most Reverend John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark, has appointed Reverend Monsignor Francis R. Seymour chairman of the New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission.

Monsignor Seymour was born in Bayonne, New Jersey. His parents were the late George and Mary Boyle Seymour. He attended St. Mary Star of the Sea Grammar School, Bayonne; St. Peter's High School, Staten Island, New York; Seton Hall University, South Orange; and Immaculate Conception Seminary, then located at Mahwah, New Jersey.

The late Archbishop Thomas A. Boland ordained him a priest on May 25, 1963, in Sacred Heart Cathedral Basilica, Newark. One month later, he was appointed parochial vicar of St. Charles Borromeo Church, Newark where he remained for six years. During this time he also served as chaplain at Newark Beth Israel Hospital.



In 1969, he was named archdiocesan archivist and also an assistant in the Matrimonial Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Newark. At the same time, he was assigned to residence at Holy Cross Rectory, Harrison. While there, he served as moderator of the Holy Cross Catholic Youth Organization. He was appointed vice chancellor of the Newark Archdiocese in 1973, and the following year, Archbishop Peter L. Gerety named him director of Catholic Relief Services.

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Report of the Executive Director

Extension and Outreach. These are complementary actions at which we as a Commission have been actively working in order to strengthen intra-collaborative initiatives statewide and beyond the banks of the Delaware and Hudson Rivers.

Attention to detail along these lines has been encouraged in relation to our steadfast goal of sustaining the history of Catholic New Jersey in all of its varied forms. This focus has taken on wider significance especially since the appearance of our first on-line newsletter last year and further perpetuated through such logical avenues as this, and future editions of *The Recorder*.

In line with the growth of this periodical, recent extension and outreach efforts have included postings on various list-serves throughout the Garden State as a starting point to help broaden our constituency overall. Indicative of this swelling support has been the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey who passed along our request for interested mail recipients and provided promotion in the form of an article on our organization in their own newsletter. This action also illustrates the beauty of collaboration and a mutually supportive environment between groups who promote historical enterprise.

A word-of-mouth campaign has been another fine means of bringing further awareness to individuals who have entered our orbit as well. In this spirit, we have instituted what has loosely been coined the "Friends of the New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission," which is designed to be a central group for people to share ideas, innovations and inspiration to further move our efforts in more creative and positive directions than ever before. The work of our sub-committees (Programs, Publications, Scholarship) and continual input made by our core Commission members has been a vital component in keeping the momentum moving on long-standing projects.

Aside from the aforementioned newsletter, more detailed publications in the form of journal articles, books and other like projects are continually moving towards completion (or have seen the light of print) whether they be Commission-sponsored or initiated by the members of the body as scholarship opportunities present themselves.

Additional supportive measures that have been planted as of late include Internet homepage updates, participation in New Jersey Archives Day (October) and the inauguration of a Speakers' Bureau where members of the Commission can be called upon to deliver talks on topics in their own respective area of expertise. Please see the fuller reports on these activities and services in this newsletter.

Outreach and Extension are evidently key to our varied efforts, having finished 2008 and moved into the current year, 2009, which promises to be even brighter. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Alan De Lozier, *Executive Director*

Metuchen Diocese Workshop for Parish Historians

On Saturday, September 20, 2008 the Diocese of Metuchen held its annual workshop for parish historians at St. James Church in Woodbridge. Sponsored by the Diocesan Commission for Historical Records, last year's workshop drew approximately 40 attendees and focused on Catholic education, as well as highlighting the Diocese's Year of Prayer for Vocations.

The morning's keynote speaker was Father Edward Leahy, O.S.B., headmaster of St. Benedict's Prep in Newark, who spoke of his own formation as a student at St. James School as well as at St. Benedict's. He also addressed the history of Benedictine education in the United States.

In the afternoon, a panel presentation was given by Sisters Eileen MacNamee, Helen Neder and Marlene Fritz, all members of the Sisters of Mercy who were educated by the Sisters of Mercy in New Jersey. Sister Elizabeth O'Hara, a member of the NJCHC and archivist for the Sisters of Mercy gave a presentation on Mercy education in the Diocese of Metuchen.

Participants were able to view displays focusing on parish schools and vocations, as well as sharing what their parishes were doing to promote and preserve their history.



Commission member Father Michael Krull who took part in the recent Diocese of Metuchen Parish History event held on September 20, 2008 in Woodbridge.

The Recorder is a quarterly newsletter published by the New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission

**Editor - Gregory Tobin
Chairman - Msgr. Francis Seymour
Executive Director - Alan De Lozier**

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Necrology

Sr. Irene Richards, O.P.

Sister Irene Richards, member of the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell and member of the NJCHRC, died on December 27, 2007.

Mr. Thomas Murray

Mr. Thomas Murray, former faculty member at Essex Catholic High School and former member of the NJCHC, died on June 14, 2008.

Rev. Msgr. Robert G. Moneta

Msgr. Robert G. Moneta, pastor of St. George Byzantine Catholic Church in Newark and member of the NJCHRC, died on April 29, 2007.

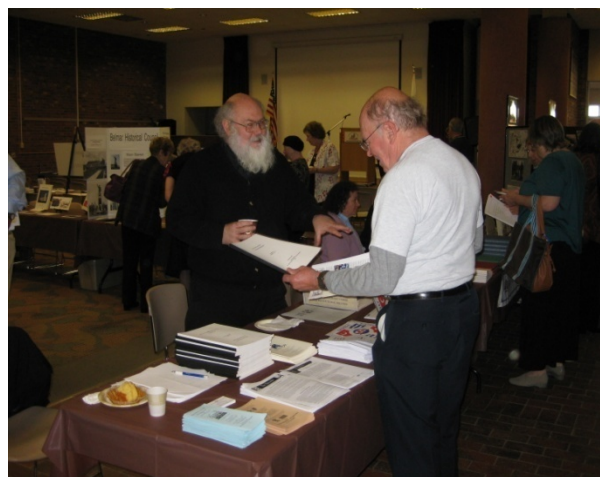
New Members of Commission

Sr. Patricia McKearney, O.P.
Archivist

Dominican Sisters
Mount St. Dominic of Caldwell

Sr. Catherine Thibault, S.S.J.
Records Analyst/Archivist
Diocese of Trenton

Rev. Joseph D. Wallace
Christ the King Rectory
Archivist
Diocese of Camden



Father Augustine Curley, O.S.B. talks to a new friend of the Commission at the recent Archives Day in New Jersey event held in Manalapan on October 11, 2008.

News from the New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission

- The Passionist Historical Archives will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the deaths of three Passionist priests in China with a special exhibition and of their portraits, on Friday, April 24, 2009 at 526 Monastery Place, Union City, New Jersey 07087. For information, contact Father Robert Carbonneau, C.P., Ph.D. at 1-888-806-6606, ext. 7033.
- Msgr. Francis Seymour went to the biennial conference of the Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists at the University of St. Mary in Mundelein, Illinois, September 28-October 2, 2008. There were 72 attendees from all over the United States; 35 attended for the first time.
- Father Augustine Curley, O.S.B., Dr. Fernanda Perrone and Executive Director Alan De Lozier attended the New Jersey State Archives Day in Monmouth County on Saturday, October 11, 2008, representing the NJCHC with a table.
- Both Father Curley and Dr. Perrone attended the New Jersey Historical Commission annual meeting on Saturday, November 22, 2008 in Trenton.
- Commissioner Greg Tobin's revised and updated book, *Selecting the Pope*, will be published in March 2008 by Sterling Publishing. It is a nonfiction history and analysis of the papal elections.
- Father Michael Krull reported on a parish history workshop sponsored by the Diocese of Metuchen, held Saturday, September 20, 2008 at Saint James Church, Woodbridge, with approximately 40 people in attendance.
- The NJCHC received a mention in the newsletter of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey by Linda Barth, a Friend of the Commission. The Commission has been a member of the League for the past decade plus.
- The Seton Hall University Archives & Special Collections has entered into an information sharing partnership with the Mother Seton Parish of Whiting, New Jersey. Along with sharing the title of the same Patron Saint, we have been building onto our catalog of general Catholic history via donations of books that do not fit into their parish library collecting focus and serves to benefit our large church-research constituency as a result.
- Longtime Commissioner Sister Margherita Marchione, visited Rome to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of Pope Pius XII (1939-58), whose canonization cause continues. She was interviewed on the Catholic News Service Website. Sister Margherita notes, in addition, that the 70th anniversary of Pius XII's coronation was March 12, 2009. She has most recently published *The Truth Will Set You Free*, with a foreword by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican Secretary of State, who notes, "How profoundly unjust it is to judge the work of Pius XII during the war with the veil of prejudice," ignoring the enormous work of charity that the pope promoted in support of persecuted people in Europe.
- Various collections continue to be acquired on a regular basis as part of an ongoing mission to enhance institutional history resources. Included among our recent acquisitions are nearly 400 volumes on the life and works of Abraham Lincoln from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day by local physician Dr. Jules C. Landenheim. These books will compliment the Pierce Byrne and George Murphy Civil War Collections already found in our Rare Book Catalog. Science tomes donated through the estate of alumnus Roger Cockerline, '52 will be integrated into our historical Setonia primer and text book collection.

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Editor's note: News from other New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission members, friends, institutions and related enterprises will be featured in forthcoming editions of *The Recorder*. If any of our readership has news of note to report please feel free to forward to us by e-mail at: delozial@shu.edu or via postal mail at: New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission; Msgr. William Noé Field Archives & Special Collections Center; Seton Hall University; Walsh Library-First Floor; 400 South Orange Avenue; South Orange, NJ 07079

Spring 2008 NJCHC Parish History Workshop

The parish history workshop was held on Saturday, April 12, 2008 in the Walsh Library at Seton Hall University from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Twenty-three attendees representing 15 parishes from four of the five dioceses in New Jersey: Newark, Metuchen, Paterson and Trenton. Most were currently engaged in writing a parish history and many had been encouraged to attend by their pastor. The event was advertised in local diocesan newspapers, but letters were also sent to parishes that are currently or will soon be celebrating anniversaries.

After a brief welcome by Professor Thomas Rzeznik, the organizer of the workshop and chair of the New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission's programming committee, the program began with a talk by Monsignor Robert Wister, an associate professor of church history at Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall University. He spoke about the importance of writing parish history and explained how to go about the process. He offered participants practical advice on how individuals can find information about their parishes and discussed the range of sources available to researchers.

Drawing on his extensive knowledge of the history of Catholicism in New Jersey, Monsignor Wister entertained participants with colorful stories of parish life, from rectory fist-fights to inter-parochial competition to see who could build the grandest church.

The second speaker was Mr. Lou Guarrieri, the president of Cooke Publishing Company (Warminster, Pennsylvania), a custom publisher with more than 50 years of experience working with parishes in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware on their anniversary books. He offered an overview of the publishing process, describing the range of printing options available and the cost structures associated with each.

After lunch, the program resumed with a talk by Ms. Maura Kenny, the processing archivist at Seton Hall University. She provided an introduction to archival research and spoke about the materials available at Seton Hall as part of the archives for the Archdiocese of Newark. She reminded those in attendance, however, that parishes themselves tend to be the best repositories for their history. Ms. Kenny encouraged participants to use the anniversary year as an opportunity to establish a formal parish archives, or to expand on one that already exists.

The day concluded with a presentation by Dr. Thomas Rzeznik, an assistant professor of history at Seton Hall. Parish histories are more than just a chronicle of key events in the life of a parish, he stated, speaking about different ways that authors can frame the narrative. As he noted, "Writing history is the ability to take *facts* and turn them into a coherent *narrative*. It's not just the information you convey, but how you tell the story." He also suggested ways to broaden the standard institutional narrative by incorporating often-overlooked themes, like art and architecture, prayer life and spiritual practice, and a parish's relationship with the broader community.

Historical Papers Presented to Conference of American Catholic Historical Association

The New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission was represented by three Commissioners at the spring conference of the American Catholic Historical Association, held at Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana on April 3-5, 2008. All three NJCHC members presented papers, from which we present the following extracts.

- Professor Alan De Lozier, Seton Hall University" Robert I. Gannon, S.J. and the Rebirth of Saint Peter's College, 1930-1936"

Although he is typically remembered as the past president of Fordham University in New York, and as the author of books on higher education theory, Father Gannon was the academic architect of the modern Saint Peter's College, Jersey City.

The presentation traced his life: born in 1893 in Staten Island, New York, a graduate of Georgetown University in 1913, then a Jesuit seminarian, he received a doctorate in sacred theology from the Gregorian University in Rome.

Gannon, as dean of students at Saint Peter's from 1930 to 1936, envisioned making the school an American Cambridge where a small, select student body would have the highest quality and concentrated education possible, within the Jesuit tradition. His tenure began when there were 85 students, and today the college has around 3,200 undergraduates and 500 graduate students.

- Reverend Augustine Curley, O.S.B., St. Benedict's Prep "The Radical Protestant Reaction to the Appointment of a Bishop for Newark"

The year 1853 saw the establishment of ten new dioceses in the United States, including the Diocese of Newark. This did not sit well with the radical Protestant factions, who were opposed to the great influx of immigrants, especially Roman Catholic ones.

For several months, beginning from the time of the announcement of James Roosevelt Bayley's appointment as first bishop through his episcopal ordination on October 30, 1853 and subsequent installation, Newark was the scene of a number of anti-Catholic lectures, sometimes more than one on a given day.

Some of the lectures were given by traveling preachers, others by local Protestant ministers. They warned of the coming papal invasion, of the threat to the character of the public schools and to the general character of America. The general rancor, for a while limited to words, would culminate in the Know-Nothing attack on St. Mary's Church, Newark, in 1854.

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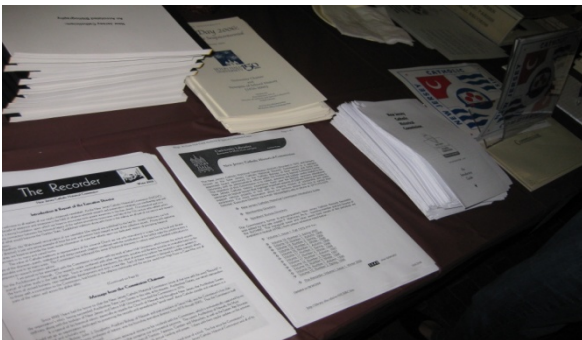
Historical Papers

(Continued from Page 4)

- Professor Fernanda Perrone, Ph.D., Rutgers University "Gone and Forgotten? New Jersey's Catholic Junior Colleges "

Unlike other New Jersey Catholic colleges, many of which were founded for lay students, all of New Jersey's Catholic junior colleges had their origins in the need provide higher education for young members of religious orders. During the period 1923 to 1965, eight junior colleges were founded in New Jersey for the education of sisters, and four for the education of priests. By 1976, however, only one Catholic junior college, Assumption College for Sisters, remained in the state.

This presentation explored why New Jersey's Catholic junior colleges did not survive, placing them in the late 1960's, Catholic junior colleges briefly flourished in New Jersey's northern suburbs. A confluence of factors—chiefly the need to fill places in colleges that had served women religious and an increasing in the context of the educational, religious, economic, and social changes of the late 1960's and early 1970's.



Examples of Commission publications such as brochures, booklets and flyers available at public events and by request through the NJCHC (see contact information on Page 2)

News from the Commission

(Continued from Page 3)

- Various updates to our Homepage have been made over the past few months including a new site that links various visual and digital-centered projects that our repository is involved with at the present time. This particular page includes on-campus, local South Orange community preservation events and different ecumenical based affiliations. The whole Homepage can be viewed via the following link - <http://library.shu.edu/sc-homepage.htm>

New Chair Named

(Continued from Page 1)

The following year he became associate director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith while retaining his responsibility for the retired priests. At that time, he took up residence at St. Cecilia's Rectory, Kearny.

During his many years of service in the Archdiocese of Newark, Monsignor Seymour has served as temporary administrator of more than two dozen parishes. He has also worked on the arrangements and preparations for most of the major liturgical functions that took place in our Cathedral Basilica.

In 1990, he was appointed secretary to Archbishop Emeritus Gerety. Since 1994, Monsignor Seymour has served as editor of the annual Directory and Almanac of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Monsignor Seymour is a charter member of the New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission and was a member of the Board of Trustees of Seton Hall University. He also served as secretary of the Archdiocesan College of Consultors. Currently, he serves as chaplain to the police and fire departments of Harrison.

When Pope John Paul II visited New Jersey in 1995, Monsignor Seymour served as the commentator for WWOR-TV's live coverage of that visit. The Holy Father elevated him to the rank of Prelate of Honor in 1999. The following year he was appointed full-time to Seton Hall University where he fulfills his position as archdiocesan archivist.

Friends of the Commission

The establishment of a Friends of the New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission group began recently. Promotional work has commenced through announcements made via various state-wide listservs. This new endeavor is designed to add those interested in the history of Catholicism in New Jersey as part of our information sharing circle over time. More information about this organization and to be added to the mailing list can be obtained through Alan De Lozier, Executive Director by e-mail at - delozial@shu.edu

Announcing the Speakers' Bureau Directory

The New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission is proud to sponsor a Speakers' Bureau as part of its mission to promote an interest in the history of Catholicism in the Garden State. Interested groups should contact the speakers directly, or Dr. Thomas Rzeznik, programming coordinator for the NJCHC for more information about speakers and topics. Please email Dr. Rzeznik at rzeznith@shu.edu. Some of the speakers and their respective areas of specialization currently available include:

Father Augustine Curley, O.S.B., Newark Abbey and St. Benedict's Prep: Benedictines, genealogy, Irish in NJ [acurley@sbp.org]

Mr. Alan De Lozier, Seton Hall University: Archival science, Catholicism in NJ, Irish and French in NJ, Athletics [delozial@shu.edu]

Ms. Maura Kenny, Seton Hall University: Archival science, preservation of family history [kennymau@shu.edu]

Msgr. Raynond Kupke, Diocese of Paterson: NJ Catholicism – general and specific areas [kupkeray@shu.edu]

Sr. Margherita Marchione, M.P.F., Villa Walsh: Pope Pius XII, Religious Teachers Filippini [Sr.Margherita.Marchione@att.net]

Dr. Fernanda Perrone, Rutgers University: Women and Catholicism, women's religious orders [hperrone@rci.rutgers.edu]

Dr. Thomas Rzeznik, Seton Hall University: Catholic philanthropy, Sister Katharine Drexel, writing parish history [rzeznith@shu.edu]

Mr. Greg Tobin, Seton Hall University: Popes and the papacy, Catholic literature, St. Patrick [tobinggr@shu.edu]

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