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New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission

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Commission Hosts November Conference on Caribbean Immigration

On Saturday November 12, 1994, the New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission will hold the next in its series of conferences on Catholicism in New Jersey at the Vincentian Renewal Center in Plainsboro, New Jersey.

Historians, sociologists and others who studied American Catholicism a generation ago frequently referred to the period between the Civil War and the end of World War I as “the era of the immigrant church,” and assumed that the congressional legislation of the Twenties which severely restricted immigration marked the close of that period and the beginning of another. True, immigration declined precipitously after 1920 and only about one-half as many people entered the country in the 25 years until 1945 as had done so in the 10 years before 1914. Church and society both turned their attention to issues other than the assimilation of newcomers.

With the end of World War II, however, immigration into the United States began to grow again, and while it has not attained pre-1914 levels, Catholics in large numbers have again flowed into the nation and specifically into New Jersey. In the decade before World War I about 88 percent of those entering in any year were from Europe but since 1945 the sources of the migration have been more widely spread: Korea, Japan, Vietnam, India, the Middle East and Latin America have predominated. Many newcomers have been Catholic, particularly those coming from the Caribbean area. Cubans, Haitians and others have been largely Catholic. Not strictly immigrants, since they are American citizens, Puerto Ricans have nonetheless been popularly lumped with the immigrants since their movement from the island to the mainland.

The conference on November 12 will look at how the Catholic Church in New continued on page 2

Gugliotta Wins Gerety Award

At a meeting of the New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission on May 10, 1994, Kevin A. Gugliotta, a second-year theology student at Immaculate Conception Seminary, received the Archbishop Gerety Seminarian Award. Established by the Archbishop Emeritus to foster the study of church history, the prize is given each year to the seminarian who writes the best essay based on original research into a question of ecclesiastical history. Gugliotta examined the activity of laity in the early 20th century and won the award with his essay entitled “The Participation and Influence of the Laity in the Beginning Years of the Newark Holy Name Society Diocesan Union, 1904-1915.”
Caribbean Immigration Conference

Jersey has attempted to serve these communities, at the problems the in­comers faced and the solutions they have been developing.

The principal speaker will be Professor Ana Maria Diaz-Stevens of Rutgers University. Her book, Oxcart Catholicism on Fifth Avenue, recently published by the University of Notre Dame Press, examines the interaction of Puerto Rican Catholics with the official structures of the Archdiocese of New York from the time of Cardinal Spellman to that of Cardinal Cooke. Born and raised in Puerto Rico herself, Professor Diaz-Stevens came to the mainland as a young woman and worked in the New York Chancery as an administrative coordinator in the offices of the Spanish-speaking apostolate.

Professor Yolanda Prieto of Ramapo College will next discuss her research on St. Augustine’s parish in Union City. So many of the early post-Castro immigrants settled in the area that this parish was almost entirely Cuban in population, but more recently other Caribbean groups have been entering the parish, and Professor Prieto has been researching the interaction of the various elements. Time for questions and discussion will be provided.

After lunch, the afternoon session will commence with Monsignor Vincent Puma discussing the activities of the Diocese of Paterson in supporting immigrants from the Caribbean. Monsignor Puma was one of the first priests of the Paterson diocese engaged in working with the rapidly growing Hispanic population in the 1950s and in 1963, he became the first director of the diocesan office coordinating this apostolate.

The final presentation will discuss recent historical developments and their impact on the pastoral plan for ministry to the Hispanic population in the Archdiocese of Newark. The presenters will be Monsignor William J. Reilly, archdiocesan director of the Hispanic apostolate, and Maricela Quintana de Vega, administrative assistant in the apostolate.

Following questions and discussion, Bishop Marconi will close the day with his concluding remarks.

The fee for registration and lunch is $25. All those wishing to attend the conference should register by November 4, 1994.

Professor Ana Maria Diaz-Stevens

DIRECTIONS TO THE VINCENTIAN RENEWAL CENTER
Plainsboro, New Jersey

From the North: Take U.S. Route 1 southbound toward Princeton. Follow Route 1 to College Road (the exit for Princeton Forrestal Village and Marriott Hotel). Make a right onto College Road and go approximately 1/2 mile to Seminary Drive. Turn right into Seminary Drive. Upon arrival, go to St. Vincent’s Hall for the conference.

From the South: Take U.S. Route 1 north from its intersection with Routes I-195/I-295 for about five miles and after a railroad overpass look for Kingston/Plainsboro Road (also called Lake Road). Take the jughandle exit and cross Route 1, following Lake Road (Kingston/Plainsboro Road) about 1 1/2 miles to the Center. Upon arrival go to St. Vincent’s Hall for the conference.

In case of difficulty, the Center’s telephone number is (609) 452-1448.

SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. Registration and Coffee
10:00 a.m. Welcoming Remarks - Most Reverend Dominic A. Marconi, D.D.
10:20 a.m. Introduction - Joseph F. Mahoney
10:40 a.m. Post-World War II Migration from the Caribbean Islands to New Jersey and Its Impact on New Jersey Catholic History - Ana Maria Diaz-Stevens, Ph.D., Rutgers University
11:30 a.m. Dynamics of Change in St. Augustine’s Parish, Union City, New Jersey - Yolanda Prieto, Ph.D., Ramapo College
12:15 p.m. Luncheon
1:15 p.m. Historical Overview of the Experience of the Paterson Diocese with Immigration from the Caribbean - Reverend Monsignor Vincent E. Puma
2:00 p.m. Recent Developments and the Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry in the Archdiocese of Newark - Reverend Monsignor William J. Reilly, Maricela Quintana de Vega
2:45 p.m. Concluding Remarks - Most Reverend Dominic A Marconi, D.D.
Participants in the conference held at Xavier Center on the campus of the College of St. Elizabeth examine part of the exhibit on the African-American apostolate in New Jersey.

Fall Gerety Lecture Scheduled

On Tuesday, November 29, 1994, Immaculate Conception Seminary will sponsor the next in the Archbishop Gerety Lectures in Ecclesiastical History. Stephen L. Carter, professor in the Yale University School of Law and author of Reflections of an Affirmative Action Baby and the more recent The Culture of Disbelief: How American Law and Politics Trivialize Religious Devotion, will address particular aspects of the latter book’s concerns in his talk, “The Culture of Disbelief.” The lecture will take place in the Chancellor’s Suite, Bishop Dougherty Student Center, Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey at 8 p.m. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Participants in the previous Commission conference pose for a celebratory remembrance. Left to right are Dr. Ronald Grele, Archbishop Emeritus Peter L. Gerety, Reverend Mr. Peter R. Cebulka, Sister Mary Ellen Gleason, chairwoman of the program committee and Bishop Dominic A. Marconi, chairman of the Commission.

The New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission

Caribbean Immigrants and the Catholic Church in New Jersey

November 12, 1994

Please register the undersigned 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.

Make checks payable to New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission.

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

Must arrive by November 4, 1994.
Sammartino Study Published

In August, Commission member Sister Margherita Marchione, M.P.F. published Peter and Sally Sammartino (Biographical Notes), a preliminary study of the co-founders of Fairleigh Dickinson University. A long-time friend and associate of the Sammartinos, and Professor Emerita of Fairleigh Dickinson University, Sister Margherita has addressed a series of topics — early life, research, public life and others — which are keys to understanding the couple and their impact, but the author has explicitly denied any attempt at a formal biography. This, rather, is “an attempt to understand highly motivated individuals who played a unique role in higher education.”

Especially valuable for subsequent biographers will be the extended reminiscences of many of the couples’ associates, which convey a feeling for Peter and Sally Sammartino which no mere recital of accomplishments could do.

The book is available from Cornwall Books, 440 Forsgate Drive, Cranbury, New Jersey 08512 for $24.95.

Sister Margherita Marchione, M.P.F.