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Parish History Program
Coming September 28

The next in the Commission's series of public programs will be held at Seton Hall University on September 28, 1996. Entitled "Writing Parish History," the program seeks to assist those who research and write the history of local communities and institutions to find data, assemble it into a coherent story, and locate that story in the broader study of Church and nation.

Every year some parishes in the state celebrate a 10th or 25th or some other anniversary we customarily mark, but over the next few years an unusually large number of local churches will be celebrating their 50th anniversary. These churches were all established during the period of rapid suburbanization of New Jersey in the decade after World War II.

The great Depression from 1929 onwards, and then American participation in the Second World War from 1941 to 1945, forced many people to postpone marriage and practically stopped the building of new housing. When the war ended, the clamor for housing by newly married couples, or couples finally able to set up housekeeping on their own, led to extensive building of suburban housing on tracts that only the year before had been onion farms or other agricultural land. The baby boom was upon the nation.

The Church naturally had to follow its communicants in order to serve them, and so new churches, rectories, schools and convents began to sprout in suburbia. Whatever else has happened to them over the past 50 years, these churches are now coming up on a golden jubilee.

To facilitate writing of community histories which frequently mark this anniversary, and to help authors make them as useful and interesting as possible, the Commission is sponsoring "Writing Parish History," on September 28. The program introduces the inexperienced parish historian to available resources and to some possible approaches. The program also points out some of the pitfalls in what sometimes seems a simple task.

The speakers are all experienced in dealing with local Catholic history. Father Raymond J. Kupke, archivist of the Diocese of Paterson, teaches church history at Immaculate Conception Seminary, and is the author of Living Stones: A History of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Paterson. Father Michael G. Krull, pastor of St. Anthony's Church in Port Reading, is a member of the church history committee of the Diocese of Metuchen, and has practiced

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enable all of us to integrate these materials more effectively into new work.

Father Armand Mantia is a careful student of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark and will provide some sharp insights into telling the story of a church.

At the conclusion of the talks Monsignor William N. Field, University Archivist and a member of the Commission, will offer a tour of the Archives and Special Collections. Serendipitously, the Archives is opening an exhibit that day (see page 4 of this issue), and visitors will be able to enjoy that also.

The fee for registration and the luncheon is $25. The Commission cordially invites you to come and share the day with us.

Professors Yolanda Prieto (left) and Ana Maria Diaz-Stevens find their conversation at the 1994 conference interrupted by a persistent photographer.

Sister Lois Curry, O.P. discusses the role of women religious in Catholic education in New Jersey at the 1995 conference.

Key participants in the Commission’s 1994 conference on immigration to New Jersey from the Caribbean area. Left to right are Professor Yolanda Prieto, Bishop Dominic A. Marconi, Professor Ana Maria Diaz-Stevens, Monsignor William J. Reilly, Maricela Quintana de Vega and Monsignor William E. Puma.

Part of the exhibit at the 1995 conference which reflected the wide variety of ministries of women religious in New Jersey.

The audience listens in rapt attention to one of the speakers at the 1995 conference on “Women Religious in Ministry.”
Recent Publications of Interest

McGreevy, John T. Parish Boundaries: The Catholic Encounter with Race in the Twentieth-Century Urban North. This book seeks to understand how and why urban Catholics in the northeastern quadrant of the country reacted to the open-housing crusades of the 1960s and how the tangle of issues confronted then has shaped American Catholicism since. Although references to New Jersey directly are infrequent, the work suggests insights into local happenings during the period.

Dolan, Jay P., “The Search for an American Catholicism,” The Catholic Historical Review LXXXII:2 (April, 1996), pp. 169-186. A prominent historian of Catholicism in the United States tries to find a theme to clarify our understanding of American Catholic history. This publication may be particularly useful to those who are planning a history of some aspect of local Catholic life.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please register the undersigned for the conference “Writing Parish History” on September 28, 1996.

Name ____________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________

City __________________________ State __________ Zip ___________

I enclosed 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

Return by September 15 to: Professor J.F. Mahoney, History Department, Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey 07079-2696
Seton Hall Archives Announce New Exhibit

A new exhibit, "Treasures from the Special Collections Center," opens in the gallery of Walsh Library on Saturday, September 28 and runs through Friday, November 1, 1996. The Center holds the archives of Seton Hall University and the archives of the Archdiocese of Newark, as well as several other collections. Among these are the Meagher J. MacManus Irish Collection, the Gerald Murphy Civil War Collection and an extensive rare book collection.

The exhibition features memorabilia of early student life at Seton Hall during the mid- and late-nineteenth century, as well as items from the various episcopal administrations. Items illustrative of parish Catholic life over the past century and a half are also on display.

The gallery is located on the first floor of Walsh Library on Seton Hall’s campus.

Gerety Lecture Scheduled for November 13

The first in the series of Gerety Lectures in Church History for the academic year 1996-1997 will be held in the chapel of the Immaculate Conception Seminary on Seton Hall campus on November 13, 1996 at 8 p.m.

Virgilio Elizondo will address the topic “Pope Paul VI and Latino Evangelization.” Elizondo holds a doctorate in theology from the Institut Catholique de Paris and one in philosophy from the Sorbonne. He was the founder and first president of the Mexican-American Cultural Center in San Antonio, Texas and is the executive producer of Nuestra Santa Missa de Las Americas, the only internationally televised Mass in the American hemisphere. Elizondo has been a visiting professor at Boston College, the University of Seattle, Union Theological Seminary and the Methodist School of Theology at Claremont.

Admission is free, and all are welcome.