

Fall 1983

# New Jersey Catholic Records Newsletter, Vol. 5, No.1

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. 5, No.1" (1983). *New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission newsletters*. 12.  
<https://scholarship.shu.edu/njchc/12>





# *New Jersey* **Catholic Records Newsletter**

VOLUME V, NUMBER 1

AUTUMN 1983



*Parishioners of St. Mary's Greek Catholic Church, Trenton, in Carpatho-Russian costume for an Old Country Harvest Festival in the autumn of 1929.*



## Commission Receives Grant to Edit Corrigan Register

Bishop Michael A. Corrigan's episcopal register will be transcribed, edited, and ultimately published as the result of a \$10,000 grant received by the NJCHRC from the New Jersey Committee for the Humanities. This grant, combined with contributions from the Friends of the Archives and Seton Hall University, will enable Joseph F. Mahoney, Peter J. Wosh, and Monsignor William N. Field to edit, index, and prepare a publishable manuscript from the bishop's 300-page handwritten diary, which spans the period from 1872 through 1880.

Corrigan, one of America's youngest nineteenth-century episcopal leaders, was born in Newark on August 13, 1839, and enjoyed a long, prominent, and controversial ecclesiastical career. While many historians have described his tenure as New York Archbishop (1885-1902), his earlier years in Newark have not received much attention. Indeed, the Archbishop played a critical role in the bitter ideological divisions which polarized the nation's Catholic hierarchy during the late 1880s and 1890s, and his Newark years appear relatively calm and tranquil.

Still, the register offers suggestive insights into Corrigan's personality and, more critically, into New Jersey's nineteenth-century urban industrial milieu. A significant portion of the bishop's time was spent traveling throughout his see, visiting parishes, confirming the faithful, blessing cornerstones, resolving local controversies, and preaching sermons. Fortunately for future historians, Corrigan diligently recorded his observations in a small notebook and subsequently transcribed them into this episcopal register. In the process, he constructed a lively, detailed narrative and penned an intimate personal portrait of Catholic life.

The 1870s constitute an especially interesting decade in New Jersey's history. Large urban commercial and manufacturing centers like Newark, Paterson, and Jersey City, the smaller industrial towns of Trenton and Hoboken, seashore resort communities such as Cape May and Long Branch, and sparsely settled agricultural regions all appeared on the New Jersey landscape during this time and received Corrigan's candid first-hand commentary. Rapid urbanization and industrialization characterized the period, and



The Reverend M. A. Corrigan, D.D.  
President of Seton Hall College  
1868

*Bishop Michael A. Corrigan as he appeared in 1868 when he was president of Seton Hall College*

Corrigan's observations concerning the state's expanding metropolises, gritty factory towns, and failed urban experiments offer an interesting perspective concerning this dramatic social change.

Catholic immigrants and their children contributed significantly to New Jersey's demographic development, and Corrigan's account provides some clues to their thoughts, feelings, and struggles. In fact, the 1870s also constituted a depression decade. Working-class men and women suffered considerable hardship as a result of the Panic of 1873, and the register chronicles their hardships and adjustments during a period of intense economic distress. The human costs, strains, and stresses which accompanied industrial development receive some explication and hint at the ways in which past generations coped with economic disorder.

By making this document available, the NJCHRC hopes to stimulate scholars to reexamine this period in New Jersey history, and, more broadly, to suggest avenues of inquiry for social and cultural historians exploring the relationship between Catholicism and the nineteenth-century American environment. Transcription and editing work should be concluded by the summer of 1984, and we will have further information available as the project progresses.

## Seminary Donations

During the past several months, in anticipation of the Immaculate Conception Seminary's move from Mahwah to South Orange, Rev. Robert Wister (seminary professor and NJCHRC member) has searched out, boxed, and coordinated the transfer of a substantial body of archival and manuscript material from the Seminary to Seton Hall's archives. These collections not only document life at Darlington, but contain records and memorabilia from a wide range of Catholic institutions, organizations, and individuals throughout the state.

Several silent sixteen millimeter films from the late 1920s and 1930s highlight the recent accessions. This rare footage includes: Bishop Thomas McLaughlin's consecration at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Newark (1935); Archbishop Thomas J. Walsh baptizing Newark's 1000th black convert and administering confirmations at Queen of Angels Church in Newark and Christ the King in Jersey City (1939); and an Investiture Ceremony at Villa Walsh in Morristown (1940). Visual records such as these neatly complement available oral and written sources, and provide a valuable, direct glimpse of religious ritual and ceremony.

Some more traditional archival resources have also been transferred from the Seminary. Lengthy runs of several nineteenth-century newspapers, including the *New York Freeman's Journal and Catholic Register* (1840-1846; 1862-1864) and Brooklyn's *Catholic Review* (1872-1880) are now available for researchers at Seton Hall. New Jersey did not support a native Catholic press until *The Monitor* began publication in 1906; thus metropolitan area newspapers provided the only available coverage of the state's nineteenth-century ecclesiastical news.

Diocesan records discovered at the Seminary include: Newark Diocesan School Superintendents' reports (1912-1925); Society for the Propagation of the Faith reports (1925-1929); Diocesan Institute of Sacred Music correspondence, reports and programs (1934-1952); and yearbooks from Catholic secondary schools throughout New Jersey.

The most extensive body of material accessioned by Seton Hall's archives does not consist of seminary records. Nineteenth-century textbooks, faculty

(continued on page 4)



## Immigration Conference

On January 6, 1984, the Commission will sponsor a conference on nineteenth-century immigration and the Catholic Church. Dr. Ronald Cedric White, Jr., will set the tone of the day's discussions: his keynote address, entitled "The Dominant Protestant Culture of Nineteenth-Century America: A Challenge to New Immigrants," will establish the setting in which the newcomers worked out their futures, and emphasize the features which most challenged them. Dr. White is associate director of continuing education at Princeton Theological Seminary and editor of the *Princeton Seminary Bulletin*. Co-author of *The Social Gospel: Religion and Reform in Changing America*, he has also written numerous articles and is a member of the Roman Catholic/Presbyterian-Reformed Dialogue, a national ecumenical body.

After Dr. White's presentation, two scholars will address the situation of the earlier Catholic immigrants, the Irish and the Germans. Dr. John B. Duff, a founding member of the NJCHRC and now chancellor of higher education of Massachusetts, will speak on the Irish. Dr. Robert F. Streetman of Montclair State College will address the topic: "Catalysts in Theology: The Impact of German Immigration on American Religious Thought." Dr. Duff was professor of history at Seton Hall University and is the author of numerous articles and papers on the Irish in America. Professor Streetman directs the major program in religious studies at Montclair State College and is a frequent participant in the seminars and programs of the American Academy of Religion.

After lunch, the conference will focus on two of the ethnic groups that

arrived in large numbers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Poles and the Italians. Dr. Carolyn Golab will speak on the Polish experience. The author of *Immigrant Destinations*, she currently teaches American history at the University of Pennsylvania. Rev. Silvano Tomasi of the National Conference of Catholic bishops will discuss the Italian experience and the Catholic Church.

At the end of morning and afternoon sessions there will be opportunities for questions and discussions, and the day will close with a brief wrap-up session at 3:00 p.m.

The sessions will all take place in the Main Lounge of the Bishop Dougherty Student Center, Seton Hall University. Registration and luncheon fee is \$15.00. Registration is required.

### Conference Schedule

9:00 a.m.	Registration and coffee
9:30	Opening remarks
10:00	Keynote address - Dr. Ronald Cedric White, Jr. Princeton Theological Seminary
10:45	The First Major Waves of Immigration The Irish - Dr. John B. Duff, Chancellor of Higher Education, State of Massachusetts The Germans - Dr. Robert Streetman, Montclair State College
11:45	Discussion
12:00	Luncheon
1:30 p.m.	Turn of the Century Immigration The Poles - Dr. Carolyn Golab, University of Pennsylvania The Italians - Rev. Silvano Tomasi, National Conference of Catholic Bishops
2:45	Discussion
3:00	Wrap-up

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ registration(s) for the immigration conference, January 6, 1984.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission and mail to:  
New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission  
Seton Hall University  
South Orange, N.J. 07079

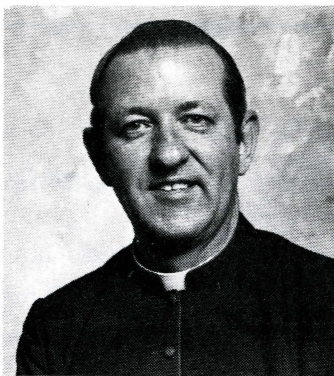
(Registration and luncheon: \$15.00; senior citizens (62 and over) and students, \$10.00).



## Meet the Commission

Monsignor Francis Seymour, a founding member of the New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission, was born in Bayonne, New Jersey, where he attended Our Lady Star of the Sea grammar school and then went on to St. Peter's High School on Staten Island. He entered Seton Hall University in 1955 as a student for the priesthood and in 1957 moved on to Immaculate Conception Seminary, where he completed his undergraduate studies and his theological program. He was ordained by Archbishop Thomas A. Boland in May 1963 and assigned as assistant at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Newark and simultaneously as chaplain at Beth Israel Hospital, Newark.

In 1969 Archbishop Boland appointed Monsignor Seymour to the position of archdiocesan archivist. From his grammar school days, the new archivist had shown an abiding interest in local history and Church history and had developed several collections of memorabilia and scrapbooks pertinent to his interests. As a seminarian, he had been instrumental in gathering the data for a published necrology of the priests of the archdiocese. His duties at the chancery office, however, were not limited to archival matters. He served also as an assistant in the matrimonial tribunal, then as assistant chancellor of the archdiocese, and in 1979 became director of Catholic Relief Services for the archdiocese. In addition he served on numerous *ad hoc* committees for the archdiocese and served several times as temporary administrator of various parishes while continuing his duties as



**Monsignor Francis R. Seymour**

archivist and assistant chancellor.

In 1979, Pope John Paul II appointed him a private chaplain to His Holiness with the title Reverend Monsignor. From 1980 to 1982, Monsignor Seymour held the position of rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newark. In December of the latter year, Archbishop Peter L. Gerety appointed him pastor of Guardian Angel Church in Allendale.

Monsignor Seymour participated in the discussions which led to the establishment of the Commission in 1976 and has been an active member since then.

### **Seminary Donations (cont'd.)**

papers, lecture notes, Board of Deputies minutes and reports, rectors' papers, spiritual directors' notes and sermons, catalogs, student organization files, correspondence concerning building construction, and photographs comprise the bulk of this documentation. Combined with the diocesan resources already available at Seton Hall, these archival treasures should prove invaluable to scholars interested in priests' training and Catholic educational philosophies.

## Publications

Mahoney, Joseph F., and Wosh, Peter J., "The New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission," *U.S. Catholic Historian* (3:1), 1983, pp. 42-52, discusses the founding, development, and recent projects of the Commission. This issue of the *Catholic Historian* contains a series of articles concerning Catholic archival projects throughout the United States.

Cronin, Richard J., *The Jesuits and the Beginning of St. Peter's College* (Peacock Publications: 1983) chronicles the establishment of this New Jersey institution in 1872 and its progression through the 1870s. Biographical sketches of the early faculty, appendices which reproduce and translate documents found at the Archives of the Society of Jesus in Rome, and chronological listings of the presidents, rectors, and resident priests at the College highlight this 91-page volume.

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

Most Rev. John J. Dougherty, S.S.D.,  
*Chairman*; Bernard Bush; Rev. Mark  
Dobrovolsky; John B. Duff; Rev. Msgr.  
William N. Field; Sr. Mary Ellen  
Gleason, S.C.; Rev. Raymond J. Kupke;  
Joseph F. Mahoney; Sr. Margherita  
Marchione, M.P.F.; Rev. Msgr. Robert  
Moneta; Peter M. Mitchell; Rev. M.  
Joseph Mokrzycki; Miriam L. Murphy;  
Rev. Msgr. Théodore A. Opdenaker;  
Carl E. Prince; George L.A. Reilly; Rev.  
Msgr. Francis R. Seymour; Rev. Edwin  
V. Sullivan; Rev. Robert T. Wister.

*Newsletter Staff:* Joseph F. Mahoney  
Peter Wosh



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 1  
So. Orange, N.J.