

Summer 1984

New Jersey Catholic Records Newsletter, Vol. 5, No.3

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.3" (1984). *New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission newsletters*. 18.
<https://scholarship.shu.edu/njchc/18>



New Jersey Catholic Records Newsletter

VOLUME V NO. 3

SUMMER 1984



Most Rev. Thomas J. Walsh, bishop of Newark, joins in the Silver Jubilee celebration of Holy Trinity Church, Perth Amboy, in 1924. To his right is Rev. Joseph Suchy, pastor from 1909 to 1931.

Slovak Parish Records

A significant body of research material pertaining to the early history of Slovak Catholics in New Jersey will be available to scholars at the Commission's archives, as a result of an agreement worked out between Msgr. Michael Churak, pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Perth Amboy and the NJCHRC. The records, which consist primarily of parish documentation, date to the church's founding in late 1899. Surveyors working on the NJCHRC's recent NEH-sponsored church records survey originally discovered the documentation in the Holy Trinity rectory basement last summer. The archivists were especially impressed with the scope and completeness of the ledgers, mass announcement books, annual reports, scrapbooks, and office files, which document the congregation's struggles to build a successful ethnic church in a heavily Eastern European

community. In addition, the paucity of source material relating to Slovak Catholicism in the State contributes to the collection's value.

Unfortunately, the documents had suffered a considerable amount of physical damage over the years. The NJCHRC offered to perform some basic conservation work on the material, and Msgr. Churak agreed that the records might profitably be placed on deposit at Seton Hall University, where scholars pursuing ethnic and religious history might find them useful. They are now being processed and will be available shortly. The archives at Seton Hall is interested in exploring similar agreements with other parishes and institutions. Anyone with historically valuable material, or who simply wishes to clean out the rectory but is not sure whether to keep or discard documents which have been accumulating for years, should contact the archives at Seton Hall.

Accessions

The New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission archives at Seton Hall has expanded its microfilm holdings in recent months in an effort to build a better research base for historians. New acquisitions include:

The Monitor

(1954-) (32 reels)

Trenton's official diocesan weekly newspaper began publication on February 5, 1954, so that "the cause of religion generally and the particular interests of the Church's many institutions could be advanced more effectively" according to the first issue. In addition, its editors expressed a desire to "bring the people of the widely scattered parishes together in a closer bond of friendship and unity." Early issues contained a diverse blend of international, ecclesiastical, and local news. Readers pursuing the paper in 1954 could find information concerning Catholicism in France, missionary work in Africa, efforts to form an Ancient Order of Hibernians chapter in Keansburg, and the Middlesex County Catholic Bowling League standings. One consistently conspicuous feature of the early issues was the space devoted to activities of the Catholic Legion of Decency. This organization's motion picture classifications, efforts to influence Hollywood productions and network television programming, and weekly reviews of controversial films received extensive coverage. In 1983, *The Monitor* began publishing a special weekly edition for the newly created diocese of Metuchen, and this is also available at the NJCHRC archives.



Holy Trinity Church, Perth Amboy, N.J., completed in 1902. The growing Slovak community of Perth Amboy began organizing a parish in 1895, and established Holy Trinity Parish in 1899. The picture shows the third structure used for Mass. The first was a church rented from the Congregationalists; the second a small frame building erected by the men of the parish.

Accessions (Cont'd.)

The John Ireland Papers, edited by Scott Jesse, Minnesota Historical Society, 1984 (1825-1948) (23 reels) Sponsored by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, this microfilm edition is based on manuscript collections housed at the Catholic Historical Society of St. Paul, archives of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, archives of the Diocese of Duluth, archives of St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, MN, and archives of the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul. Though very little of the material relates directly to New Jersey Catholicism, Archbishop John Ireland was a major figure in the late nineteenth-century ecclesiastical hierarchy and a leading spokesman for the "Americanist" faction in the Church. He carried on a running feud with Michael A. Corrigan (Newark's second bishop) and Bernard J. McQuaid (first president of Seton Hall College and subsequently bishop of Rochester), which lasted for many years and culminated in Pope Leo XIII's issuance of the letter *Testem Benevolentiae*. Ireland's papers touch on virtually every major issue that divided the Catholic hierarchy in the 1880s and 1890s, including: Protestant-Catholic relations; the hierarchy's position on labor organiza-

tions; attempts to develop an accommodation with the public school system; plans to colonize the west with Catholic immigrants; papal bans on American fraternal organizations; the Spanish American war and American activity in the Philippines; Vatican politics and the appointment of an Apostolic Delegate to the United States; and temperance. In addition to an author index and a published guide to the collection, one intriguing feature of this microfilm edition is the decision to film the editors' working notes and include them as a supplemental finding aid for researchers.

Catholic Directories

(1817-1899) (18 reels)
Several nineteenth-century Catholic publishing houses compiled directories of priests, women religious, churches and institutions throughout the United States, Canada, Ireland, and Central America. Prior to 1864, these directories were published under a number of different titles and varied widely in content, comprehensiveness, and accuracy. While the archives now has scattered directories from the 1817-1864 period, we possess a complete set of *Sadliers' Catholic Almanac and Ordo* (1864-1896) and *Hoffman's Catholic Directory, Almanac and Clergy List*

Quarterly (1886-1899). These volumes are particularly useful for tracing clerical careers over time and for gauging the growth and development of America's Catholic population and Catholic institutions.

Catholic Newspapers

(1825-1842; 1857-1864) (16 reels)
One problem for scholars working in New Jersey Catholic history concerns the lack of extant newspapers prior to the *Monitor's* first appearance in September 1908. Therefore, the archives has made a special effort to collect volumes from the New York religious press. While these papers do not provide extensive coverage of New Jersey Catholic events, there is considerable information concerning public and parochial school conflicts in Newark and Jersey City, New Jersey legislative battles concerning freedom of worship in state-sponsored institutions, and accounts of other significant Church events. The archives now has microfilm runs of the following newspapers: *The Truth Teller* (1825-1842), a New York Irish Weekly; *Metropolitan Record* (1859-1864), a New York Catholic weekly which was known as the *New York Vindicator and Metropolitan Record* beginning in 1864; and the *New York Tablet* (1857-1863), another metropolitan Catholic weekly.

ORDER FORM

Please send me _____ copies of:

Wosh, **Guide to Northern New Jersey Catholic Parish and Institutional Records**, at \$35.00/copy.

Name _____

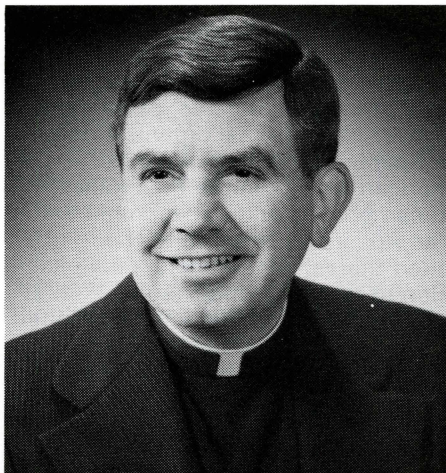
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make check payable to: New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission, and mail to the Commission at Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey 07079.

Meet the Commission

Rev. Msgr. Robert G. Moneta represents the Byzantine Eparchy of Passaic on the New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission. Born in Endicott, New York, in 1926, he completed his elementary and high school studies in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, and then attended St. Procopius Seminary in Lisle, Illinois, receiving his A.B. degree in 1947. Msgr. Moneta then completed his theological studies at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was ordained on June 17, 1951, by Bishop Daniel Ivancho.



Rev. Msgr. Robert G. Moneta

The young priest's first assignment was as assistant pastor of St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania where he remained until 1956, serving during part of this time also as vocation director for the Eastern Pennsylvania district of the diocese. Msgr. Moneta then served as administrator of churches in Perryopolis, Pennsylvania, New Britain, Connecticut and Minersville, Pennsylvania until 1963. In that year he was appointed secretary and assistant chancellor to Most Reverend Stephen J. Kocisko, the first bishop of Passaic.

While fulfilling the numerous duties involved in this new assignment, Msgr. Moneta served also as director of lay retreats, managing director of *Eastern Catholic Life*, and as weekend assistant at parishes in the area. In 1968 he was appointed pastor of St. George Byzantine Church in Newark, a post he still fills.

Msgr. Moneta was named a Papal Chamberlain in 1966, and Prelate of Honor in 1977.

In addition to serving as pastor of St. George's, Msgr. Moneta has been active as chairman of the diocesan Commission on Church Music, Director of Holy Name Societies, and in other capacities.

Grant Received

The Commission is happy to announce the receipt, as we go to press, of a supplemental grant from the New Jersey Committee for the Humanities to further the Corrigan Diary project.

The Friends of the Archives, a group which has supported the development of the Seton Hall University Archives, donated \$1,170.00 to the Commission in support of the project to edit and publish the diocesan journal of Most Rev. Michael A. Corrigan, second bishop of Newark (1872-1880). Under the grant program of the NJCH, this money was matched by the Committee on an 80 per cent basis.

The funds will enable the editors, Joseph F. Mahoney and Peter J. Wosh, to complete the necessary research. A finished document should be available by the end of the year.

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

Newsletter Staff: Joseph F. Mahoney
Peter Wosh

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.; Peter M. Mitchell; Rev. M. Joseph Mokrzycki; Rev. Msgr. Robert Moneta; Miriam L. Murphy; Rev. Msgr. Theodore A. Opdenaker; Carl E. Prince; George L. A. Reilly; Rev. Msgr. Francis R. Seymour; Rev. Edwin V. Sullivan; Rev. Robert T. Wister.



**Seton Hall
University**

South Orange, New Jersey 07079

*Wosh ST.
9/84*

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