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# New Jersey Catholic Records Newsletter, Vol. 6, No.1

New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission

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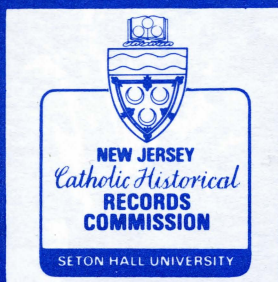
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# *New Jersey* Catholic Records Newsletter

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AUTUMN, 1986



*Bishop Dougherty in his most characteristic activity, announcing the Good News of Jesus Christ.*



## Bishop John J. Dougherty: A Man of Significant Accomplishments



*Robed for the liturgy.*

The death of Most Reverend John J. Dougherty on March 20, 1986 deprived the Archdiocese of Newark of one of its most prominent clergymen and the New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission of its founding chairman.

Born in Jersey City, New Jersey on September 16, 1907, John Dougherty was the eldest of five children. He attended St. Aloysius parochial school and St. Peter's Prep in his hometown before enrolling at Seton Hall College to pursue his studies for the priesthood. At both St. Peter's and Seton Hall he participated in sports, especially football, and in other extracurricular activities. Years later he told the story of his first public speech. One of the Jesuits at the Prep recruited him to address a school assembly. The teacher carefully reviewed young John's speech for content and style, then told him to memorize it. "But he failed to rehearse me," continued the Bishop. At the appointed hour, John rose to speak. "The first few words were understandable," but after that, the speech was one express-train roar of sound, lacking pause and inflection, and unintelligible. An inauspicious beginning for a notable career in preaching and public speaking.

Upon completing his philosophy course, Dougherty was selected

to attend the North American College in Rome, where he was ordained on July 23, 1933. He remained in Rome for advanced study at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, whence he received the Licentiate in Sacred Scripture in 1937. Returning to the United States, he assumed the professorship of Sacred Scripture at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington, where he remained until 1959. During this period he published articles in the *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, *Worship* and numerous other journals. He also translated the Book of Deuteronomy for the Confraternity Edition of the Old Testament.

While at the seminary, Father Dougherty began to be in demand as a speaker at various Catholic affairs, frequently on his special subject of Scripture, but equally as often on tangential topics. His growing reputation led eventually to an invitation to appear on radio's "Catholic Hour" and then on its television counterpart. Probably his best-known presentation was the series "Rome Eternal," which won a Sylvania Award in 1958 "for exceptional merit" and which contributed to his being one of the first winners of the Catholic Television Arts Award (1959).

In the autumn of 1959 the then-Monsignor Dougherty was selected as president of Seton Hall Univer-



*Young Father Dougherty and friends.*

sity. His appreciation of scholarship and his determination to make the university the best it could be led, over the next decade, to a notable expansion of facilities and more importantly to a broadening and deepening of academic programs. His open, friendly manner and his manifest interest in everyone he met developed on the campus a sense of common participation in a worthy educational and cultural project; his emphasis on the Seton Hall community as a "family" was reflected in everyone's sense of belonging. *(continued on page 4)*



*Confirmation at St. Gabriel's Church, Upper Saddle River.*



## Meet the Commission

Joseph F. Mahoney, born in Jersey City, New Jersey, attended parochial grammar and high schools there. He completed his high school course in Cincinnati, Ohio. He received his A.B. degree from Duns Scotus College, Detroit, Michigan, in 1949. During the Korean War he served with the United States Army in the Far East. After his separation from active duty he continued his military association, serving with the U.S. Army Reserve in New Jersey's 78th Division and thereafter with the Office of the Chief of Military History in Washington, DC. He retired from active service in 1982 with the rank of Colonel.

Upon return to civilian life, Mahoney worked for some years in the aviation industry. He continued his studies, first at Seton Hall University, where he received the M.A. in History in 1958, and then at Columbia University, from which he received his Ph.D. in 1964. In 1959 he joined the faculty of Seton Hall University's history department, of which he is now a senior member. Mahoney served as department chairman from 1969 to 1972.

Professor Mahoney's research interests center around New Jersey and Catholic history. He has



Joseph F. Mahoney.

published articles in *American Quarterly*, *New Jersey History* and the *U.S. Catholic Historian* and has contributed to the *Dictionary of American Biography* and to the *Biographical Dictionary of New Jersey Governors*. He has delivered papers at the annual symposium on New Jersey History at Trenton and before other gatherings of professional historians or popular audiences.

Currently, he is editing the diocesan journal of Bishop Michael Corrigan during his Newark episcopate (1872-1880) and working on a study of the Newark diocesan clergy from 1853 to 1981. From 1969 to 1979 he edited *New Jersey History*, the quarterly journal of the New Jersey Historical Society. He has been a member of the Commission and its director since its inception.

## Personnel Changes

Peter J. Wosh, who has served as Seton Hall University Archivist since 1977 and close co-worker with the Commission, has left the University to take another archival position. Mr. Wosh was responsible for the organization of the Newark Archdiocesan archives deposited at the University. He actively sought and gained accessions to the Commission's collections, and established the archives on a sound professional basis. In addition, he wrote much of the *Newsletter* and participated actively in all Commission projects.

He compiled the Commission's *Guide to Catholic Parish and Institutional Histories in the State of New Jersey*, and directed the project which resulted in the Com-

mission's recent *Guide to Northern New Jersey Catholic Parish and Institutional Records*. He is well known to users of the archives for his helpfulness and encyclopedic knowledge of the collections. The Commission wishes him Godspeed and success in his new endeavors. Fortunately, he is not entirely lost to us, since he will continue to serve on the project to edit the journal of Bishop Michael A. Corrigan.

Ms. Barbara Geller is the new University Archivist. A native of Brooklyn, New York, she did her undergraduate and graduate work at New York University, combining her interests in medieval history, American history and archival work. While there, she was the first recipient of the Marco Polo Travel Award given by the Depart-

ment of Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Prior to her appointment at Seton Hall, she worked as an archivist for the New York City Department of Records and Information Services, for Chemical Bank, Bowery Savings Bank, and at Trinity Church Archives in New York. Upon arrival at Seton Hall, Barbara supervised the relocation of the archives to more spacious quarters on the campus.

The Commission has also lost the services of Professor George P. Browne as director of the oral history program. Professor Browne has assumed new duties at the University as assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and will no longer have the time to devote to the oral history project. The Commission wishes him every success in his new position.



## Commission Honored

On Saturday, December 1, 1984, the New Jersey Historical Commission honored the activities of the New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission by the presentation of its Award of Recognition. The award is granted annually to individuals or organizations for "outstanding service to public knowledge and preservation of the history of New Jersey." Professor Henry N. Drewry, of Princeton University, chairman of the New Jersey Historical Commission, presented the award; in the unavoidable absence of Bishop John J. Dougherty, president of the NJCHRC, Professor Joseph F. Mahoney accepted on behalf of the Commission.

The citation accompanying the Award commended the NJCHRC particularly for its publications, *The Bishops of Newark* and *A Guide to Northern New Jersey Catholic Parish and Institutional Records* and for its public conferences, particularly "Capturing the Usable Past" and "Immigration and the Growth of the Catholic Church."

The NJCHRC is both proud and grateful on the occasion of this public recognition of its work.

## Dougherty (continued from page 2)

On January 24, 1963 John J. Dougherty was consecrated bishop and became one of several auxiliaries to the Ordinary of the Archdiocese of Newark. Although this involved extensive new obligations, he continued his work as president of Seton Hall and numerous other activities. He was an early activist in the opposition to the Vietnam War, served on the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgical Apostolate, the Episcopal Committee on Priestly Formation, the Governor's Committee on Civil Disorders, and was for many years state chaplain to the Knights of Columbus. Wherever he served, he insisted always on participating, not merely lending his name.

In 1969 Bishop Dougherty retired from the University presidency and assumed new duties as pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish, Short Hills. While throwing himself into this new and very congenial task, he continued most of his earlier associations. In 1976 he was instrumental in establishing the New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission, and served as its chairman until death. In 1977, he retired from active pastoral work and returned to

Seton Hall as scholar-in-residence. Afflicted by a stroke, he fought back and fortunately recovered his speech and most of his mobility. His persistent efforts to overcome the results of the stroke, and his unwavering good humor under the circumstances were among the most notable of the examples he set for all.

His spirit is perhaps best expressed in a poem he composed on the golden anniversary of his ordination:

May my prayer rise like incense  
with the fragrance of thanksgiving,  
For Thee, Jesus, through Whom I have  
known the father,  
For the Spirit,  
gift of the Father and the Son,  
For the Eucharist and Holy Orders;  
For brother sun,  
and sister moon,  
and gentle rain,  
For lilies of the field  
and the birds of the air,  
For family and friends and little child,  
companions of the pilgrimage;  
For illness and healing,  
For teachers and books and students,  
and strange and distant places.  
And, O my God,  
for Thee.

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