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New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission

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New Jersey Catholic Records Newsletter

VOLUME XIII NO. 2

WINTER 1994

Conference on Caribbean Immigration to be Held

On Saturday March 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 30 years ago wrote frequently of "the end of the immigrant Church," and dated the change from the severely restrictive legislation enacted by Congress in the '20s. Jay Dolan, for example, entitles

one section of his notable history of American Catholics "The Immigrant Church, 1820-1920." And it is true that immigration fell off after Congress limited entry in the early 1920s.

In the decade before World War I over 8,300,000 immigrants entered the country, but in the decade after the war only 4,107,169. The Great Depression and World War II saw the entry of only 699,395 during a 15-year period.

No wonder, then, that the age of immigration seemed to be over and that the Catholic Church, whose numbers had

swelled enormously because of immigration, seemed to have come to a new era.

With the end of World War II, however, immigration into the United States began to grow again, and while it has not reached the pre-World War I proportions, Catholics in large numbers have again flowed into the nation, specifically into New Jersey.

Where in 1914 about 88 percent of those entering in any year came from Europe, since 1945 the migration has

continued on page 2

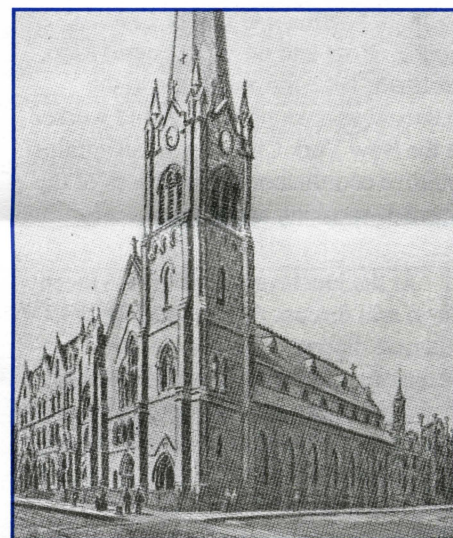
New History of Trenton Diocese Now Available

In October 1993 the first copies of a new history of the diocese of Trenton rolled off the presses. Edited by Monsignor Joseph C. Shenrock, diocesan archivist and a member of the Commission, *Upon This Rock* covers the history of Catholics in the area of what is now the Trenton diocese. The history is divided into three major headings: Part One, Before the Diocese; Part Two, The Diocese of Trenton, 1881-1993; and Part Three, Faith in Action.

In three short chapters Part One deals with the colonial era, the jurisdiction of Baltimore, New York and Philadelphia over the area, and finally the years 1853-1881 when the diocese of Newark covered all New Jersey.

Part Two examines general diocesan development under the eight bishops who have headed the See since Michael J. O'Farrell became its first bishop in 1881. The last part examines the development of individual parishes, other institutions and religious communities in the diocese. An interesting feature of the work is the inclusion of pastoral letters of the bishops on many topics over the years. A series of appendices lists vicar-generals of the diocese, and priests of the diocese, living and deceased. A comprehensive index concludes the work.

Upon This Rock fills a notable need for the last history of the Trenton diocese was Reverend Walter T. Leahy's 1906 study. The nine authors and the editor



St. Mary's Cathedral, Trenton

have provided a comprehensive view of the development of the diocese. Copies may be ordered from Monsignor Joseph C. Shenrock, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 30 Schoolhouse Road, Whiting, New Jersey 08759. Make your check for \$39 payable to "Diocese of Trenton."

Caribbean Immigration

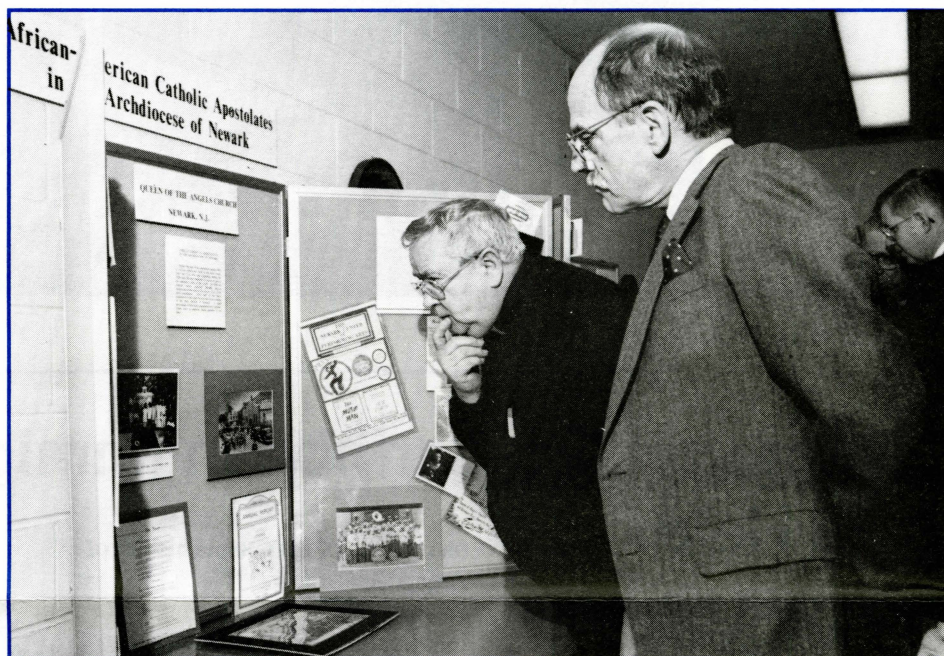
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been more widely spread. Koreans, Japanese, Vietnamese, Indians, people from the Middle East and Latin America have predominated. Many among them have been Catholics, particularly those coming from the Caribbean area. Cubans, Haitians and others have 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 March 12 will look at how the Catholic Church in New Jersey has attempted to serve these communities, at the problems the in-comers 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 during the early years of massive Puerto Rican migration into the city, from the time of Cardinal Spellman to that of Cardinal Cooke. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, 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.

At the luncheon Monsignor Vincent Puma will discuss the activities of the Paterson diocese in its early efforts during the 1950s and 1960s to address the needs of the rapidly growing Hispanic population of the diocese. Monsignor Puma was one of the first priests of the diocese engaged in the field and in 1963 he became the first director of the diocesan apostolate to the Hispanic community.

The fee for registration and the luncheon is \$25. All those wishing to attend the conference should register by March 7, 1994. (See the registration form on page 3.)



Participants examining a display at last year's conference sponsored by the Commission.

SCHEDULE

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 9:30 a.m. | Registration and Coffee |
| 10 a.m. | Welcoming Remarks -
Most Reverend
Dominic A. Marconi |
| | Introduction -
Joseph F. Mahoney |
| 10:30 a.m. | Post-World War II
Migration from the
Caribbean to New Jersey -
Ana Maria Diaz-Stevens,
Rutgers University |
| 11:30 a.m. | Discussion |
| noon | Luncheon |
| | Reverend Monsignor
Vincent Puma,
Diocese of Paterson |
| | Concluding Remarks -
Most Reverend
Dominic A. Marconi |

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 for approximately 1/2 mile to Seminary Drive. Turn right into Seminary Drive. The Center is approximately 1/2 mile down 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 jug handle 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.

A Teaching Bishop – James A. McFaul of Trenton

Bishops have always been recognized as teachers of faith and morals in the Catholic Church, as Canon 753 recognizes in its description of the bishop as "authentic teacher." Their manner of teaching has varied as the circumstances of time and of their own personalities have permitted or prescribed. A radio or television apostolate, as practiced by the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen or Bishop John J. Dougherty, became possible only in the 20th century. Preaching and teaching by example are as old as the Church itself. Almost as old is the practice of using pastoral letters, as the works of Peter, Paul and other Apostles testify. A notable practitioner of this teaching method was the second bishop of Trenton, James A. McFaul.

Born in County Antrim, Ireland in 1850, McFaul was brought to New Jersey as a child and studied for the priesthood at Seton Hall College and Immaculate Conception Seminary, then located on the same campus in South Orange. Ordained in 1877, he served in a series of parishes around the state – St. Patrick's in Jersey City, St. Patrick's in Newark, St. Peter's in New Brunswick and St. Mary's in Trenton – as a curate. When Trenton became a separate diocese in 1881, he was still at the last-named, which became the cathedral of the new See.

In 1884 Bishop Michael J. O'Farrell appointed him pastor of Our Lady, Star of the Sea parish in Long Branch, where he remained until 1890. In that year O'Farrell recalled him to Trenton as pastor of the cathedral parish and chancellor of the diocese, as well as secretary to the bishop.

In 1892 McFaul became vicar general of the Trenton diocese and, upon the death of Bishop O'Farrell in 1894, was consecrated second bishop of Trenton, where he served until his death in 1917.

The diocese of Trenton then comprised the 14 southern counties of the state. Its Catholic population was scattered over the area, with heavy concentrations in a few centers – Trenton, New Brunswick, Camden and some other locales – but with many small groups of Catholics somewhat isolated from others. The new bishop visited his flock regularly, but soon began the practice of writing pastoral letters so that he could reach them more frequently than his personal visits allowed.

The climax of this activity was a series of letters written early in this century and circulated to the diocese in



James Augustine McFaul, second bishop of Trenton

Lent of succeeding years. The first of these was "The Christian Home" in 1905, in which McFaul delineated the relations which should exist within the family and also addressed some of the problems which his flock faced.

Of tenement slums he wrote: "In these unhealthy, crowded buildings it is well nigh impossible to be free from moral contamination. Municipal authorities should root out these obnoxious hovels, and assist the poor to have clean, commodious, well-ventilated, healthy apartments. The outlay would be more than repaid by the increase of physical and moral strength given the community." The style may be dated, but the

continued on page 4

The New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission Caribbean Immigrants and the Catholic Church in New Jersey March 12, 1994

I wish to register 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.

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

Must arrive by March 7, 1994.

Bishop McFaul

continued from page 3

problem remains unfortunately very contemporary.

McFaul's advocacy of direct public housing activity was in the forefront of progressive thinking at the time.

Over the next several years Bishop McFaul continued his efforts to form in his flock an integrated Catholic view of life. "The Christian School" (1907), "Some Modern Problems" (1908), and "The Christian Church" (1912) complete the cycle begun with "The Christian Home." In the latter he had written that there "are three great educational institutions: the *Christian home*, the *Christian Church* and the *Christian school*. In his letters on these subjects McFaul described their proper functions and relations, addressed some of the problems they faced and suggested some courses of action to help his flock develop a clear understanding of how each related intimately to the individual's life and society's development.

As bishop of Trenton, of course, McFaul had many obligations to meet – administration, development of new parishes, provision of social services and many others. The diocese was growing rapidly and the demands on the Church diversifying as immigration brought new groups to the area. But McFaul remembered always that a bishop is a teacher, and took every means available to get his teaching across.

Published by the New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission, Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey 07079-2696.

Most Reverend Dominic A. Marconi, D.D., *Chairman*; Reverend Monsignor Joseph C. Shenrock *Vice Chairman*; Bernard Bush; Jo Ann Cotz; Reverend Augustine Curley, O.S.B.; Reverend Monsignor William N. Field; Reverend Monsignor Charles J. Giglio; Sister Mary Ellen Gleason, S.C.; Reverend Michael G. Krull; Reverend Raymond J. Kupke; Joseph F. Mahoney; Sister Margherita Marchione, M.P.F.; Reverend Monsignor Robert Moneta; George L.A. Reilly; Sister Irene Marie Richards, O.P.; Sister Thomas Mary Salerno, S.C.; Bernhard W. Scholz; Reverend Monsignor Francis R. Seymour; Reverend Monsignor Edwin V. Sullivan; Reverend Joseph D. Wallace; *Consulting Member*: Barbara Geller; *Newsletter Editor*: Joseph F. Mahoney



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