

Fall 1995

New Jersey Catholic Records Newsletter, Vol. 15, No.1

New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission

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New Jersey Catholic Records Newsletter

VOLUME XV NO. 1

AUTUMN 1995

Commission Hosts Conference on Women Religious and Ministry in New Jersey

On Saturday, October 28, 1995, the New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission will hold the next in its series of conferences on Catholicism in New Jersey at the Bishop Dougherty Student Center, Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey.

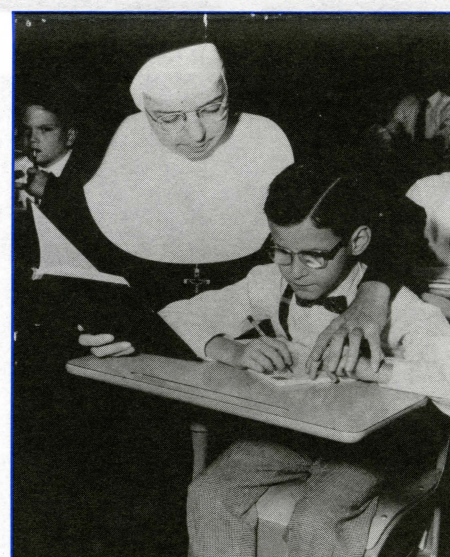
One of the most familiar symbols of Catholicism in this country until Vatican II was the habited and vowed woman religious – “Sister,” as she was known to Catholics and non-Catholics alike. One need only recall how frequently movies or television used the robed figure to help set the *mise en scene* without words. Not until about the time of Vatican II, however, did scholars begin to examine the life and work of the tens of thousands of women who constituted this vast resource of Catholicism.

The New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission focuses in its next conference on the ministry of women religious in the state, from its earliest beginnings until today. This conference

can examine only the broad outlines of the story, with illustrative examples and hypotheses that will need further examination. No one-day conference can hope to encompass the entire saga.

Sister Margherita Marchione, M.P.F., will set the tone of the day in her keynote address. Professor Emerita of Italian Studies at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Sister Margherita is well-known for her work on the career of Philip Mazzei, the eighteenth-century Italian thinker and friend of Jefferson. Her latest work is *Peter and Sally Sammartino*, biographical notes of the late president of Fairleigh Dickinson and his wife, with whom she was long and closely associated.

Following the keynote address, Sister Honora Werner, O.P., will look at the activities of women religious in the field of education, perhaps the ministry for which they have been best known. After a brief discussion period, Sister Catherine Francis, M.S.B.T., will examine the field of social work, in which the communities



Sister works with a student in a special education class.

have been engaged since the beginning.

After lunch, Father Peter Cebulka of the Diocese of Metuchen will turn the group's attention to the contributions of the contemplative communities. Father Cebulka won the Gerety Seminarian Award for his research in this topic. Thereafter Sister Barbara Conroy, S.C., of Saint Joseph's Medical Center in Paterson will provide insight into the extensive work of women religious in the field of health care. The day will conclude with brief remarks by the Director of the Commission, Professor Joseph F. Mahoney.

The fee for registration and lunch is \$20. All those wishing to attend the conference should register by October 16, 1995.

continued on page 2



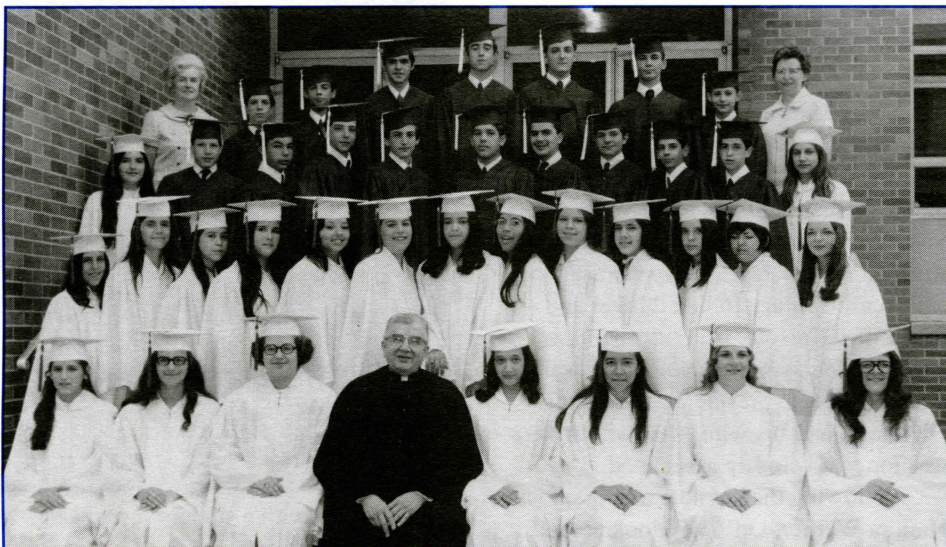
Nursing staff of St. Michael's Hospital, Newark, 1888

Commission Hosts Conference

continued from page 1



Academic procession at the dedication of St. Alphonsus College, Woodcliff Lake, 1967



1971 graduating class of St. James School, Newark



Female residents of St. Joseph's Home for Girls, Jersey City, circa 1908

Directions to Seton Hall University South Orange, New Jersey

From the Garden State Parkway:

Take the Parkway to Exit 145; take I-280 westbound; follow directions for 280 West.

From the New Jersey Turnpike:

Take the Turnpike to Exit 15W; take I-280 westbound; follow directions for 280 West.

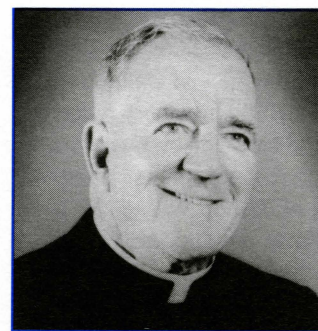
From 280 West: Take Exit 10, West Orange/South Orange. Proceed to the first light and turn left onto Northfield Avenue. Go three lights and turn left onto Gregory Avenue. Continue straight to the end of Gregory Avenue (Gregory Avenue becomes Wyoming Avenue). At the end of Wyoming Avenue, turn left onto South Orange Avenue. Drive through the Village of South Orange; the campus is approximately 1 1/2 miles on the right.

From 280 East: Take Exit 9, Mt. Pleasant Avenue/West Orange/Montclair. Stay on Brennan Drive to the end. Make a right onto Northfield Avenue. Go two lights and turn left onto Gregory Avenue. Continue straight to the end of Gregory Avenue (Gregory Avenue becomes Wyoming Avenue). At the end of Wyoming Avenue, turn left onto South Orange Avenue. Drive through the Village of South Orange; the campus is approximately 1 1/2 miles on the right.



Saint Anne Villa, Convent Station, residence of aged and infirm Sisters

Monsignor Sullivan Retires



Monsignor
Edwin V.
Sullivan

One of the founding members of the New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission, Monsignor Edwin V. Sullivan, retired from the board this past summer.

A native of Eastport, Maine, he completed his studies at Seton Hall University and Immaculate Conception Seminary at Darlington and was ordained in 1946. Assigned to the faculty of Seton Hall Prep, he taught there until 1953, when he joined the University faculty.

He earned a master's degree at Fordham University and continued his studies at New York University and the University of Ottawa, where he received his doctorate in 1956. As chairman he built up and expanded the newly-established Sociology Department and headed it for several years. Like all faculty members, he participated in advising and mentoring students, and for many years he travelled with the University baseball team as its chaplain.

Since his retirement from active teaching he has been revising his edition of the *Journal of Bishop Bayley* for publication. *Ad multos annos!*

PROGRAM

9:30 a.m.	Registration and Coffee
10 a.m.	Welcoming Remarks: Most Reverend Dominic A. Marconi, D.D., Chairman, New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission
10:05 a.m.	Keynote Address: Sister Margherita Marchione, M.P.F.
10:30 a.m.	Ministry of Education: Sister Honora Werner, O.P.
11 a.m.	Discussion
11:15 a.m.	Ministry of Social Work: Sister Catherine Francis, M.S.B.T.
11:45 a.m.	Discussion
noon	Luncheon
1 p.m.	Ministry of Contemplation: Reverend Peter Cebulka
1:30 p.m.	Discussion
1:45 p.m.	Ministry of Health Care: Sister Barbara Conroy, S.C.
2:15 p.m.	Discussion
2:30 p.m.	Concluding Remarks: Joseph F. Mahoney, Director, New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission

New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission Women Religious and Ministry: Exploring the Catholic Experience in New Jersey October 28, 1995

Please register the undersigned for the conference:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I enclose check(s) in the amount of _____ for _____ person(s).
For multiple registrations, please attach names of all attendees.

Make your check payable to:
New Jersey Catholic Historical
Records Commission.

Return by October 16, 1995 to:
Professor J. F. Mahoney
Department of History
Seton Hall University
South Orange, New Jersey
07079-2696

Wigger Letterbook Reconditioned

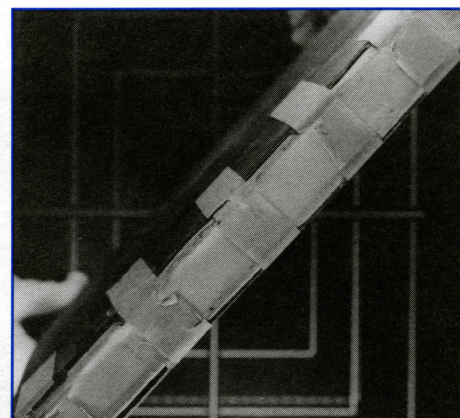
As reported in this newsletter previously (Spring, 1994), the Special Collections Center at Seton Hall University received a grant from the New Jersey Department of Education to recondition and preserve the letterbook of Bishop Winand Wigger, who presided over the Diocese of Newark from 1881 to 1901. Some idea of the condition of the letterbook can be gleaned from the accompanying photo.

Conservator Janet Koch began the process of restoration and preservation by first flattening and repairing the individual pages. The material was then sent to the bindery of Ocker and Trapp, where each sheet was deacidified and encapsulated in mylar to preserve it. Next, the pages were re-assembled into three volumes and bound. The visible differences are manifest in the second picture.

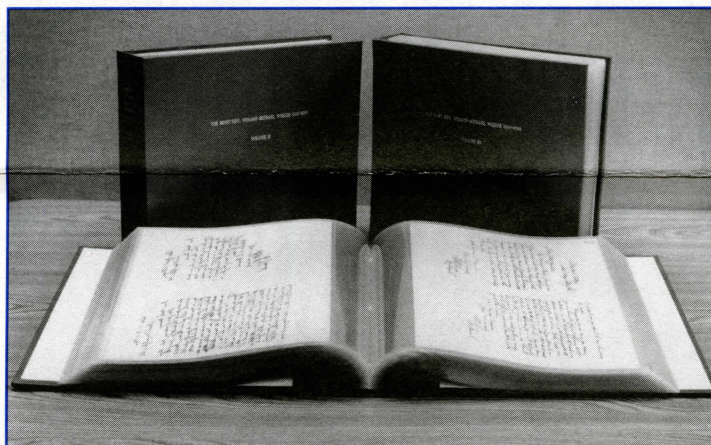
An important discovery not evident in the pictures is that the work will now have to be called the Corrigan-Wigger letterbook, since the first 75 letters are outgoing correspondence of Wigger's

predecessor, Michael Augustine Corrigan, for the years 1878-79. The Wigger letters cover the period 1886-1890.

The Special Collections Department at Walsh Library is looking for a serious volunteer willing to spend a few hours a week to calendar the materials in order to facilitate research by scholars studying the era.



(above) Damaged binding of the letterbook



(left) Letterbook after restoration and preservation

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Most Reverend Dominic A. Marconi, D.D., *Chairman*; Reverend Monsignor Joseph C. Shenrock, *Vice Chairman*; Bernard Bush; Reverend Robert E. Carbonneau, C.P.; JoAnn 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; Barbara Geller, *Consulting Member*; Joseph F. Mahoney, *Newsletter Editor*.



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