

Spring 2001

## New Jersey Catholic Records Newsletter, Vol. 20, 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. 20, No.3" (2001). *New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission newsletters*. 57.  
<https://scholarship.shu.edu/njchc/57>



## Appeal from China to New Jersey Issued 64 Years Ago

We in the West tend to think of World War II as having begun in September 1939, but one area of that conflagration had been burning since 1931. China and the Sino-Japanese war had been making world headlines for eight years by the time Hitler invaded Poland. Americans could follow the action taking place half a world away by means of the newspapers, evening news reports on the radio and newsreels in the movie theaters.

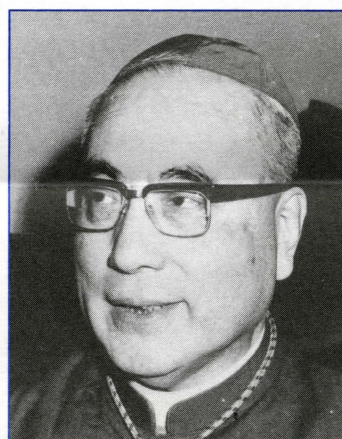
Many Christian bodies in the United States (and elsewhere) had sent missionaries to China. Reports from these men and women provided insights that most newscasts did not cover. The missionaries' co-religionists back home supported them with prayers and money, and listened

eagerly to reports from the mission field.

In the late 1930s, reports from China told of desperate shortages of medical supplies, of the horrors of bombing (not extensively available in World War I and to public consciousness a new manifestation of the depths to which mankind could sink), but also missionary success. Responding to the critical situation imposed on them, the Catholics of the Wuhan area of China formed "Chinese Catholic War Relief," described as a national association of Chinese Catholics.

The directors of the association were the vicars-apostolic: Most Reverend Paul Yu-Pin (Nanking); Most Reverend E. Massi, O.F.M. (Hankow); Most Reverend Edward Galvin (Hanyang); and Most Reverend Sylvester Espelage, O.F.M. (Wuchang).

*Archbishop Thomas J. Walsh and Reverend John J. Kiley examine the trophy to be awarded to the CYO group that would win the radio play contest on Station WAAT in the spring of 1942. (Archives of the Archdiocese of Newark on deposit at Seton Hall University)*



*Paul Cardinal Yu-Pin*

In a letter dated October 16, 1937, Bishop Galvin, on behalf of the association, wrote to Archbishop Thomas J. Walsh of Newark that the war had exacted a terrible toll on soldiers at the front and civilians in the interior cities that had been bombed.

"The plight of the wounded is seriously aggravated by the lack of medical means, and hospital accommo-

dation is woefully inadequate. Daily soldiers and civilians are dying, who with the most elementary medical care would survive.... Hankow is the center to which the wounded from various sectors are being sent.... We appeal to Your Excellency in the name of Christ Suffering to give whatever help possible. We are doing what we can, but the need is great and our resources limited."

Bishop Galvin supplied an address to which funds could be cabled and another to which medical supplies could be sent, and enclosed a list of the most needed medicines. He also noted that the vicars-apostolic were sending the appeal to "all the Catholic bishops of the world."

Several months later in April 1938, Bishop Galvin sent a further report. "In the Wuhan cities (Hankow, Hanyang and Wuchang) ... foreigners and Chinese are working shoulder to shoulder with a great fraternal spirit in a desperate effort to provide some shelter for the thousands of homeless people who have flocked here, and to care for the wounded who have been sent back from various fronts."

*continued on page 2*





## Appeal from China

*continued from page 1*

Mission buildings had been converted into shelters and hospitals. "We have air raids every few days. When the alarm goes off it strikes terror into the hearts of the people and we all run for what cover we can find. It is a terrible experience being under some kind of shelter, hearing bombs exploding, and never knowing when one may drop on us." An arsenal near the mission compound had been bombed repeatedly, but the mission personnel had escaped unharmed up until the time he wrote. Religious Sisters daily visited a military camp to provide care for some 2,000 wounded men, and the mission buildings sheltered some 160 refugees from all parts of China.

In the midst of the turmoil, the vicariate's normal work continued. "In fact, we have never had such an extraordinary influx." In one parish, 1,500 adults had been baptized over the previous five months, and 15,000 people were asking for instruction. Bishop Galvin was moving priests and sisters in from other parishes to help in this and a neighboring parish; he hoped to have a Catholic population of 10,000 by the end of the year.

"Last year we built a new church in one of these parishes, but the influx came just after the roof was put on. We had no time to paint anything, or to put in a floor. [The building] was converted into a women's catechumenate and there the nuns teach during the day and the women sleep at night.

"I should explain that most of the instruction is given in village schools throughout the parish, but we bring the women into a catechumenate for about three weeks where the Sisters' influence is invaluable, where they get to know each woman

personally, give her special instruction, and prepare her for baptism, confession and communion. It gives those pagan women an atmosphere of Christianity which they could get in no other way." Bishop Galvin professed himself unable to explain the sudden influx, but he characterized it as one of "the great things that God is doing in the midst of war."

The next letter, in April 1939, came not from Bishop Galvin, but from the Vicar-Apostolic of Nanking, Most Reverend Paul-Yu-Pin. Born in 1901, Father Yu-Pin studied at the seminary in his native Kirin in Manchuria, at Aurora University in Shanghai, then in Rome at the Propaganda and at the Royal University in Perugia. Ordained in Rome in 1928, he served on the faculty of the Propaganda until 1933. He then returned to China, serving as the national director of Catholic Action in China and as inspector general of Catholic schools in China until 1936. In that year, he became vicar-apostolic of Nanking.



*Most Reverend Amleto G. Cicognani, apostolic delegate to the United States (left), converses with Archbishop Thomas J. Walsh of Newark. (Archives of the Archdiocese of Newark on deposit at Seton Hall University)*

He was a co-founder and director of the Chinese Catholic War Relief Association, and, by 1939, he was in the United States as a special envoy of the Chinese government National Relief Commission. His mission, blessed by Pope Pius XI shortly before his death in 1939, was to gain material relief for the 30 million refugees in China. The Chinese Government scored a public relations coup in his appointment, since whenever he was introduced as "Vicar-Apostolic of Nanking" audiences were immediately reminded of the "Rape of Nanking," an atrocity perpetrated by Japanese troops and well-known in the West.

After the Communists came to power in 1949, Father Yu-Pin was exiled from his see. He resided in Taiwan, participated in the sessions of Vatican II and was made a cardinal in 1969. He visited New Jersey Catholics several times and received an honorary degree from Seton Hall University. He died in Rome in 1978,

in the interval between the death of Pope Paul VI and the beginning of the consistory that elected Pope John Paul I, and is buried in the cathedral of Taipei.

The Catholics of New Jersey, in common with many others around the world, played a small but useful role in the missionary endeavors in the Wuhan area in the late 1930s. The appeals of the bishops there and other calls kept reminding us that we are supposed to participate in the spread of the Gospel. Now, oddly enough, Wuhan and New Jersey are again tied together, in a program by which some faculty members of Seton Hall University and Wuhan University each year teach in the other university. It is an exchange mutually beneficial to the institutions and to the individuals.



## Three New Members Join The Commission

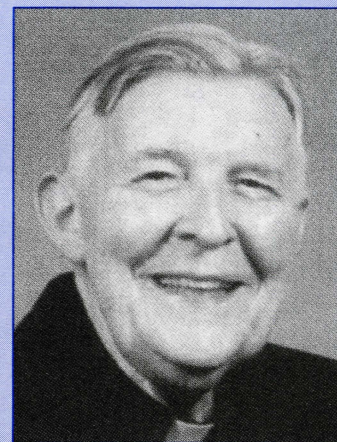
In the past few months the commission has invited three people to join it in the effort to research, preserve and publicize the history of Catholics and Catholicism in the state. We are very happy to announce that all three have graciously agreed to join us. Their knowledge, enthusiasm and dedication will certainly further the commission's efforts.

The new members are: Reverend Monsignor Manuel Fernandez, rector of the Cathedral of Saint Mary, Trenton; Olga Jimenez Wagenheim Ph.D., associate professor of history at Rutgers University, Newark; and Alan Delozier, archivist/librarian at Seton Hall University. The *Newsletter* will profile them in the column "Meet the Commission," beginning in this issue.

## Commission Establishes History Prize

To recognize achievement in researching and publicizing the history of Catholics in New Jersey, the Commission has established the Monsignor William Noé Field Prize, to be awarded biennially. An award will be made in each diocese for work done in or about the personnel or institutions that are or were active in that diocese. This does not preclude a study of personnel or institutions active also in a sphere broader than one diocese.

Although the Commission anticipates that most projects nominated for the prize will be of a literary nature, other projects are eligible if they deal with an appropriate topic, make a scholarly presentation thereof, and are not ephemeral. Scholastic papers below the level of master's theses will not normally be considered.



Monsignor William Noé Field

## Meet The Commission

Olga Jimenez Wagenheim, Ph.D. is associate professor of history and director of the Puerto Rican studies program at Rutgers University, Newark. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, she earned her baccalaureate degree from Inter-American University at San Juan, graduating *magna cum laude* in 1970 with a major in history, a minor in education and carrying off the Salvador Brau History Prize.

She received an M.A. in Latin-American history from SUNY-Buffalo in 1971 and her doctorate in Latin-American and Caribbean history from Rutgers University in 1981. She joined the history faculty at Rutgers-Newark in 1977 and won the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award in 1991, as well as several service awards from students, faculty and staff over the years.

Jimenez Wagenheim has published three books: *Puerto Rico: An Interpretive History from Pre-Columbian Times to*

*1900; Puerto Rico's Revolt for Independence; El Grito de Lares* (published in Spanish as *El Grito de Lares: sus causas y sus hombres*). She is co-editor with Kal Wagenheim of *The Puerto Ricans: A Documentary History*. She also has published numerous articles on Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans.

Her academic work has earned her a variety of grants and fellowships, including a Fulbright Fellowship in Argentina (1991), a graduate fellowship from the Ford Foundation (1973-76)

and two summer grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. She also has received several teaching and research grants for her oral history project on the migration experience of Puerto Ricans and other Caribbean settlers in New Jersey.

At present, she is creating a Hispanic Research and Information Center (HRIC) at the Newark Public

Library, with the collaboration of the librarian, Ingrid Betancourt. The HRIC will include an expansion of the existing Sala Hispanoamericana, the creation of a Hispanic Research Center and a Puerto Rican Community Archives. The research center aims to meet the needs of students and researchers seeking information on New Jersey's diverse Hispanic community, and the Puerto Rican Community Archives will focus on the heritage of New Jersey's Puerto Rican community, which comprises nearly one-half of the 1.1 million Hispanics in the state.

Jimenez Wagenheim collaborates with various community-based organizations, many of which have given her awards in recognition of her work. She is often invited to lecture on Latin issues by university groups, and is a host of radio and television programs. During the last year she has been teaching Caribbean history at Trenton State Prison.

Jimenez Wagenheim is married to Kal Wagenheim and has two grown children, David and Maria.



Olga Jimenez Wagenheim



Published by the  
New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission  
Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey 07079-2687

Most Reverend Dominic A. Marconi, D.D., *Chairman*; Reverend Monsignor Joseph C. Shenrock, P.A., *Vice Chairman*; Barbara Bari, Reverend James F. Betz, Reverend Christopher Ciccarino, JoAnn Cotz, Reverend Augustine Curley, O.S.B., Reverend Daniel A. Degnan, S.J., Alan Delozier, Reverend Monsignor Manuel Fernandez, Reverend Michael Krull, Reverend Monsignor Raymond J. Kupke, Joseph F. Mahoney, Sister Margherita Marchione, M.P.F., Elizabeth Milliken, Reverend Monsignor Robert G. Moneta, Sister Irene Marie Richards, O.P., Sister Thomas Mary Salerno, S.C., Reverend Monsignor Francis R. Seymour, Olga Jimenez Wagenheim, Reverend Joseph D. Wallace, Peter J. Wosh. Joseph F. Mahoney, *Newsletter Editor*



*Correction, please! In the Winter 2001 issue, we incorrectly identified, the clergyman seated to the right as Bishop Breen of Metuchen. He is in fact Most Reverend C. John Reiss, retired bishop of Trenton. Our apologies for the error.*

SHU152-3M-01

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Seton Hall  
University

1 8 5 6  
SOUTH ORANGE, NEW JERSEY 07079  
SETON HALL UNIVERSITY