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New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission

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New Jersey Catholic Records Newsletter

VOLUME XX NO. 3

AUTUMN 2001

Twenty-Five Years Old and Going Strong



Seated, Most Reverend Peter L. Gerety, Archbishop Emeritus of Newark; standing, left to right, Monsignor Raymond J. Kupke, Reverend Joseph D. Wallace, Bishop Dominic A. Marconi, Monsignor Joseph C. Shenrock, P.A.; Monsignor John B. Szymanski, V.G., Monsignor Francis R. Seymour, Reverend James S. Spera, Monsignor Robert G. Moneta.

On Sunday, October 14, current and former members of the New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission met at the Doral Forrestal Hotel in Princeton to commemorate the commission's quarter-century of activity, and to make the first presentation of the Monsignor William N. Field Award for the preservation and presentation of the history of Catholicism in New Jersey.

In 1976, under the leadership of Most Reverend Peter Leo Gerety, D.D., then Archbishop of Newark, the Catholic bishops of New Jersey established the commission to research, preserve and publicize the history of Catholics and Catholicism in the state. Most appropriately, Archbishop Gerety offered the invocation to begin this year's anniversary celebration, arranged by Monsignor Joseph C. Shenrock, P.A., pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Whiting, New Jersey, and vice chairman of the commission.

Monsignor Francis Seymour, a founding member of the commission, compiled a brief history of the commission's activities, and Joseph F. Mahoney, professor emeritus of history, commented briefly on some of the items the commission is planning for the near future. The newly installed Archbishop of Newark, Most Reverend John J. Myers, was unable to attend the festivities, but sent a warm letter of congratulations and good wishes. Monsignor Robert Sheeran, Seton Hall University president (Seton Hall has served as the home of the commission since its inception), also was unable to attend, but sent his congratulations and good wishes via letter, which was read to the assemblage.

The observance of the anniversary provided an occasion for current and former members to meet and recall their mutual

activities over the past 25 years and for those previously unacquainted to meet new friends and colleagues. Socializing may have been the best part of the afternoon for many of those present, although the dinner was undoubtedly good.

The principal activity of the afternoon consisted of the presentation of the first Monsignor Field awards. Named in memory of a long-serving faculty member at Seton Hall University who served as librarian and archivist, Monsignor Field was an industrious searcher for the artifacts of Catholic history in the state and was a founding member of the commission. The awards will be presented in alternate years for projects completed in the previous biennium. The commission



Bishop Dominic A. Marconi (left) and Monsignor John B. Szymanski examine the award.

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Going Strong

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hopes the award will stimulate interest in the study, preservation and presentation of New Jersey Catholic history in each of the Catholic dioceses of the state: the Roman Rite dioceses of Newark, Camden, Metuchen, Paterson and Trenton, and the Byzantine Rite Diocese of Passaic.

- Reverend Monsignor Charles J. Giglio, vicar for pastoral planning and budgeting of the Diocese of Camden: historical supplement to *The Catholic Star Herald*, the newspaper of the Diocese of Camden (Reverend Joseph D. Wallace, the diocesan representative on the commission, received the award on Monsignor Giglio's behalf);
- Reverend Monsignor Raymond J. Kupke, archivist of the Diocese of Paterson: ongoing series of columns



Some of the "Old-Timers" gather: (seated) Archbishop Emeritus Peter Leo Gerety (standing, left to right) Joseph F. Mahoney; Sister Margherita Marchione, M.P.F.; Reverend Monsignor Francis R. Seymour; Reverend Monsignor Carl D. Hinrichsen, a founding member of the commission, former professor of Church history at Immaculate Conception Seminary and retired pastor of the Church of Our Lady of Mercy, Park Ridge; and Reverend Monsignor Edwin V. Sullivan, a founding member of the commission and retired professor of sociology at Seton Hall University.

The presentation piece for the award is a silver cup, approximately six inches in diameter, mounted on a wooden base. A plate on the base is inscribed with the name of the award, the year, the commission's name, the name of the person receiving the award, and the reason for the honor.

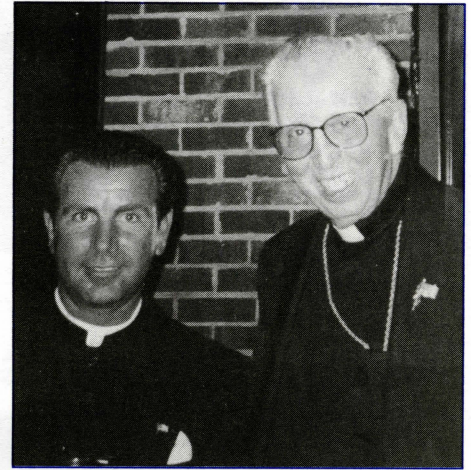
After the dinner, Bishop Dominic A. Marconi, chairman of the commission, presented the awards for projects resulting in reading materials that highlight aspects of New Jersey Catholic history. The following individuals were honored:

- Reverend Monsignor John B. Szymanski, vicar general of the Diocese of Metuchen: *Towards New Horizons: A History of Saint Thomas Church, Old Bridge;*

on diocesan history in *The Beacon*, the newspaper of the Diocese of Paterson;

- Reverend Monsignor Robert J. Wister, professor of church history at Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology: *One Hundred Fifty Years: Saint Patrick's Pro-Cathedral, Newark, N.J. 1850-2000* (Reverend Monsignor Francis R. Seymour, vice chancellor for archdiocesan archives and a founding member of the commission, received the award on Monsignor Wister's behalf); and

- Reverend Monsignor Joseph C. Shenrock, P.A., pastor of the Church of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Whiting: transcription of "A History of the Catholic Church in New Jersey." (This autograph manuscript by John



Reverend Joseph D. Wallace (left) and Bishop Dominic A. Marconi.

McCormick, a Trenton potter and publisher of the late 19th-century, was fortunately saved from a fire that destroyed much of the archives of the diocese of Trenton. The first step toward publishing it was to determine its exact language and thus be sure that the manuscript reflected the author's intention. The commission hopes to bring it out in the near future.)

Reverend Joseph Bergha, pastor of Saint Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church in Amherst, New York, and Reverend Michael Sopoliga, pastor of Saints Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Church in Fort Pierce, Florida, were honored for their contributions to the television series "Light of the East," for Eternal Word Television Network. This series dealt



Reverend James S. Spera and Reverend Monsignor Robert G. Moneta share a laugh with Bishop Dominic A. Marconi after the presentations.



Archbishop Emeritus Peter Leo Gerety (left), Bishop Dominic A. Marconi (center) and Monsignor Joseph C. Shenrock share a quiet moment before the festivities began.

with the history of the Rusin people in Eastern Europe, their immigration to the United States and their experiences in this new society. Neither Father Bergha nor Father Sopoliga could be present for the ceremony, since their pastoral duties kept them at their parishes, one in Florida and the other in Buffalo. (The Diocese of

Passaic extends the length of the eastern seaboard.) In their absence, Reverend Monsignor Robert G. Moneta, pastor of the Church of St. George in Newark's Ironbound section, and Reverend James S. Spera, director of Campus Ministry at Seton Hall University, accepted the awards.

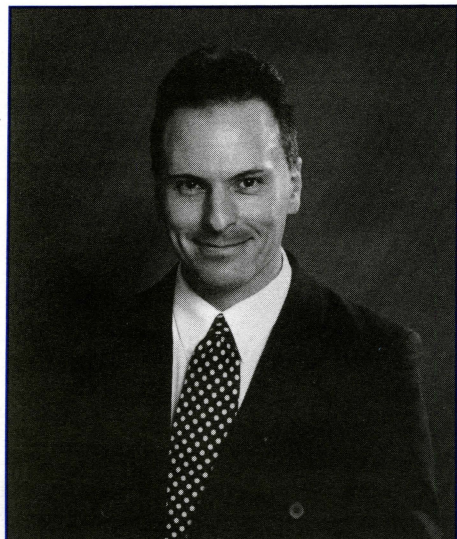
The commission hopes that in two years there will be another group of historians of the New Jersey Catholic experience to be similarly honored. There is a great deal to be learned, preserved and publicized. If you know someone who is doing a project on New Jersey Catholic history, please let the commission know and advise the researcher to make his or her project known to the commission. We may be able to put researchers in touch with others whose work is tangential to their own.



Bishop Dominic A. Marconi (right) presents the award to Monsignor Raymond J. Kupke.

Meet the Commission

A native of Trenton, Alan Delozier received his early education in his hometown, graduating from Ewing



Alan Delozier

High School. He went on to pursue a degree in radio and telecommunication at Mercer County College, and followed that up by earning a bachelor's degree in mass communication at Saint Bonaventure University in Olean, New York. While a student there, he was a member of the lacrosse team and served as an announcer and newscaster on the campus radio station, WSBU. After graduation, he worked at radio station WTTN in Trenton and WXTU in Philadelphia and concurrently earned an M.A. in History from Villanova University and then a master's degree in library science from Rutgers, The State University.

Prior to coming to Seton Hall, where he serves as archivist, he held the same position at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, the

Historical Research Center of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and Saint Peter's College in Jersey City. Delozier has presented papers at historical conferences and has published a number of articles relating to New Jersey and Catholic history.

The commission looks forward to the benefits his experience and insight will provide, and to a long and fruitful relationship.

CORRECTION

The previous issue of this newsletter, identified as "SPRING, 2001," was incorrectly numbered Volume XIX, No. 3. The correct number for that issue is Volume XX, No. 2.



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Most Reverend Dominic A. Marconi, D.D., *Chairman*; Reverend Monsignor Joseph C. Shenrock, P.A., *Vice-Chairman*; Barbara Bari; Reverend James F. Belz; Reverend Christopher Ciccario; JoAnn Cotz; Reverend Augustine Curley, O.S.B.; Reverend Daniel A. Degnan, S.J.; Reverend Michael G. Krull; Reverend Monsignor Raymond J. Kupke; Joseph F. Mahoney; Sister Margherita Marchione, M.P.F.; 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*