

NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PERSONS

On November 23, 2015, Society Board Member **Dennis Wodzinski** assumed the position of Archivist of the Diocese of Greensburg and Director of the Diocesan Heritage Center. He had formerly served as archivist of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God in Whitehall (Allegheny County). The diocese of Greensburg includes many historic Catholic sites. Congratulations, Dennis!

On March 13, 2016, Society Treasurer **Kathleen Washy**, Archivist of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden conducted the Second Motherhouse Tour – devoted to the history, architecture, and use of the chapel that was designed by Catholic architect Carlton Strong (1862-1931). A video of the tour may be found at www.youtube.com under the title “Stroll Through Time: Explore the Sisters of St. Joseph Chapel.”

The January 2016 issue of *The Recorder*, published by the New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission, featured an article by Society Secretary **John C. Bates**, entitled “New Jersey and Western Pennsylvania Catholic Historical Societies.” An electronic version of the issue may be viewed at the Commission’s website: blogs.shu.edu. Another article by Mr. Bates is scheduled to appear in the next issue of *The Recorder*.

PASSINGS

Msgr. Robert G. Barcio, who had served as historian and archivist of the Diocese of Erie from 1986 to 2010, died on September 30, 2015, at age 94. A former professor and chairman of the History Department Gannon University, he authored several volumes of Erie diocesan history: *Tobias Mullen and the Diocese of Erie, 1868-1899* (1965), *Cathedral in the Wilderness: A History of the Diocese of Erie 1853-1920* (1991), “*That You Love One Another*”: *The Life and Times of Archbishop John Mark Gannon – A History of the Diocese of Erie: Volume II* (1996), *Shepherds*

and Sheep: A History of the Diocese of Erie, Volume III (2002), and *Pictorial History of the Diocese of Erie 1853-2003* (2003). He also co-authored *The Story of Gannon University: Education on the Square* (1985).

Sister Rosaire Kopczenski, O.S.F. of the Sisters of St. Francis (Millvale) died on December 14, 2015. She obtained a master of Fine Arts from Catholic University of America. The campus of Mount Alvernia in Millvale is adorned with her art. Her international reputation stemmed from her casting of the bronze image of Mother Marianne Cope (1838-1918), the Franciscan sister who ministered to lepers on the island of Molokai in Hawaii for 35 years (continuing the work of St. Damien de Veuster) and was canonized a saint in 2012. The statue, unveiled in Kewalo Basin Park in 2010, depicts the saint striding forward, veil swept by the wind, and a foot taller than her 5-foot height.

Michael Timothy Loya, age 69, fell asleep in the Lord on April 25, 2016. The McKeesport native was the youngest of the 17 children of Rev. Stephen Loya. He attended SS. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh and obtained a B.S. from Duquesne University. He pursued a vocation as an iconographer of the Eastern Church. Internationally known, his works were the subject of publication including Kay Zekany’s *Windows into Heaven at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church* (2015).

Sister Ann Frances Pulling, R.S.M. (formerly known as Sister Mary Lucina), a member of the Mid-Atlantic Community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, died in Dallas, Pennsylvania on May 14, 2016 at age 85. She entered the Sisters of Mercy in Dallas in 1948. She taught in elementary schools and was on the faculty of Mount Aloysius College in Cresson. She was the author of 12 books published by Arcadia. These books contained the local history of the towns where she taught. She also authored the history of the Sisters of Mercy of Loretto-Cresson.

Rev. Robert J. Levis, Ph.D., of the diocese of Erie, died on May 26, 2016 at age 94. He had served as a priest for 67 years. Long a member of the faculty of Gannon University in Erie, he is best known for his appearances on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) series “Web of Faith.” Among historians, he is remembered for chairing the writing of the history of Gannon University.

Rev. Henry A. Szarnicki, author of the biography of Pittsburgh’s first bishop, died on July 13, 2016, at age 88. He held a Licentiate in Sacred Theology, and had obtained his Ph.D. in history from Catholic University of America in 1971. His doctoral dissertation was “The Episcopate of Michael O’Connor, First Bishop of Pittsburgh, 1843-1860” which was subsequently published in 1975 as *Michael O’Connor, First Catholic Bishop of Pittsburgh ... 1843-1860*.

UPDATES TO PREVIOUS GATHERED FRAGMENTS

The Spring 2016 issue of the *American Catholic Studies Newsletter*, published by the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at Notre Dame University listed no less than eight articles from the Fall 2015 issue of the Society’s journal, *Gathered Fragments*, among the select number of “Recent Journal Articles of Interest.” Congratulations to all of our writers for achieving such national and international recognition!

Further research has identified three other bishops who are part of the history of the Catholic Church in Western Pennsylvania. This brings to 149 the number of prelates who are natives of, educated in, or served in Western Pennsylvania. A list and the biographies of 143 appeared in the 2014 *Gathered Fragments* (with Supplement); three prelates were added in the 2015 *Gathered Fragments*. Three additional prelates are added with this issue of *Gathered Fragments*.

John Michael Botean

Born: July 9, 1955 in Canton, Ohio (Diocese of Youngstown)
Educated at St. Fidelis Seminary, Herman, Butler County, PA: 1974-1977
Ordained a priest of the Eparchy of St. George the Martyr, Canton, OH (Romanian): May 18, 1986 by Bishop Vasile Louis Puscas in St. George Romanian Catholic Cathedral, Canton, OH
Appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Eparchy of St. George the Martyr, Canton, OH (Romanian): 1993-1996
Appointed bishop of the Eparchy of St. George the Martyr, Canton, OH (Romanian): March 29, 1996
Ordained bishop and installed: August 24, 1996 by Archbishop Lucian Muresan of Fagaras si Alba Julia (Romanian) in St. George Romanian Catholic Cathedral, Canton, OH

Joseph John Gerry, O.S.B.

Born: September 12, 1928 in Millinocket, Maine (Diocese of Portland)
Entered the Benedictine Novitiate at St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Westmoreland County, PA: 1947
Professed vows as a Member of the Order of St. Benedict (O.S.B.) at St. Anselm Abbey, NH: July 2, 1948
Ordained a priest of the Order of St. Benedict: June 12, 1954 by Bishop Matthew F. Brady in St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester, NH
Elected Abbot of St. Anselm Abbey: January 6, 1972
Appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester/Titular Bishop of *Praecausa*: February 4, 1986
Ordained bishop: April 21, 1986 by Bishop Odore J. Gendron in St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester, NH
Appointed Bishop of Portland: December 21, 1988
Installed: February 21, 1989 by Bernard Cardinal Law in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Portland
Retired as Bishop of Portland: February 10, 2004
Administrator of Diocese of Portland: February 10, 2004-March 31, 2004

Joseph (Giuseppe) Rosati, C.M.

Born: January 12, 1789 in Sora, Campania, Kingdom of Naples (Archdiocese of Naples)
Joined the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians): June 23, 1807
Professed as a member of the Congregation of the Mission (C.M.): April 1, 1808
Ordained a priest of the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians): February 10, 1811 by Bishop Giovanni Menochio, O.S.A, in Rome
Immigrated to the United States: 1816
Labored in Pittsburgh while awaiting transport to Bardstown, KY: September-October 1816
Appointed Titular Bishop of *Tanagra* and Vicar Apostolic of Mississippi and Alabama: August 13, 1822 (to which was added the Two Florida on January 21, 1823)
Refused the Vicariate: May 6, 1823
Appointed Coadjutor Bishop of Louisiana and the Two Floridas, *c.j.s.*: July 14, 1823
Ordained bishop: March 25, 1824 by Bishop Louis DuBourg, S.S., in the Church of the Ascension, Donaldsonville, Louisiana
Appointed Apostolic Administrator of St. Louis and New Orleans: July 18, 1826
Appointed first Bishop of St. Louis: March 20, 1827
Resigned as Apostolic Administrator of New Orleans: August 4, 1829
Appointed an Assistant at the Pontifical Throne: 1840
Appointed Apostolic Delegate to Haiti: April 30, 1841
Appointed again as Apostolic Delegate to Haiti: 1843
Died: September 25, 1843 in Rome
Buried: Old St. Louis Cathedral, St. Louis, MO

The 2014 *Gathered Fragments* also listed four “others” to complete the list of bishops: two were bishops (one was buried in Pittsburgh, and the second died in Pittsburgh) and two were priests (one resigned his episcopal appointment, and the other exercised episcopal functions without ordination as a bishop). For completeness of record, three *additional* “others” are herewith added to complete the list of those whom Rome appointed bishops but were not ordained to the episcopate – for a new total of seven “others.” Of these, two were appointed as coadjutor bishop of Pittsburgh, while the third was a Western Pennsylvania priest (who became a Pittsburgh diocesan priest upon formation of the diocese in 1843) appointed to a see in Mississippi.

John Baptist Byrne

Born: 1821 in Maryland

Resident of LaSalle County, IL

Educated at Mount St. Mary's Prep School (1833-1835) & College (1835-1839 – A.B.), Emmitsburg, MD

Returned to and practiced law in Illinois

Received into the Catholic Church

Educated at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, MD: 1845-1849

Ordained a priest of Baltimore: June 1849 by Archbishop Samuel Eccleston of Baltimore

Professor at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, MD: 1849-1851

Served as pastor of St. Matthew Church in Washington, D.C.: 1856-1857

Appointed: Coadjutor Bishop of Pittsburgh: May 9, 1857

Arrived in Pittsburgh: late August 1857

Introduced to congregation of St. Paul Cathedral, Pittsburgh: October 11, 1857 and episcopal ordination announced for October 25, 1857, but twice postponed due to the opposition of Archbishop Francis Kenrick of Philadelphia

Declined episcopal ordination in letter to Pope Pius IX: November 21, 1857

Bishop Michael O'Connor returned the bull of appointment to Rome: December 6, 1857

Professor at Mount St. Mary Seminary, Emmitsburg, MD: 1857-1861

Professor at St. Charles Borromeo Major Seminary in Philadelphia, PA & Minor Seminary in Glen Riddle, PA: 1861-1864

Received last rites: December 6, 1864

Died: December 11, 1864 at St. Charles Borromeo Preparatory Seminary, Glen Riddle, Delaware County, PA

Buried: Cathedral Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA

Edward Purcell

Born: March 31, 1808 in Mallow, County Cork, Ireland (Diocese of Cloyne)

Immigrated to the United States

Educated: Mount St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, MD

Studied law under future U.S. President James Buchanan and was admitted to the Bar of Pennsylvania in Lancaster, PA: early 1830s

Seminary training: 1834-1840

Ordained a priest of Cincinnati by Bishop John Purcell in old St. Peter Cathedral, Cincinnati: March 10, 1838

Served as Vicar General of Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Appointed Coadjutor Bishop of Pittsburgh: September 1, 1858

Arrived in Pittsburgh, but declined episcopal ordination and returned to Cincinnati: November 11, 1858

Pope Pius IX ordered Purcell not to be proposed again as an episcopal candidate: December 24, 1858

Died: January 21, 1881 at Ursuline Convent, Saint Martin, Brown County, OH

Buried: Ursuline Convent Cemetery, Saint Martin, Brown County, OH

[Younger brother of Archbishop John B. Purcell (1800-1883) of Cincinnati (1833-1883)]

Thomas Heyden

Born: December 21, 1798 in County Carlow, Ireland (Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin)

Immigrated to the United States and settled in Bedford, Bedford County, PA

Ordained a priest of Philadelphia by Bishop Henry Conwell in the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist: May 21, 1821

Appointed pastor of St. Paul Parish, Pittsburgh: April 1, 1837

Appointed first Bishop of Natchez, Mississippi: July 28, 1837

Declined the letter of episcopal appointment: 1837

Incardinated into the Diocese of Pittsburgh upon its formation: August 11, 1843

Served as pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bedford, PA: 1837-1870

Died: August 25, 1870 in Bedford, PA

Buried: Old St. Thomas the Apostle Parish cemetery, Bedford, Bedford County, PA

The following information will update the 2014 *Gathered Fragments* article as to these prelates:

<p>Giuseppe Antonio (Joseph Anthony) De Andrea Ordained priest in: Turino, Italy Entered diocese of Greensburg: 1958, incardinated in 1965 Named canon of St. Peter's Basilica, Rome: 1999 Died: June 29, 2016 at Gemelli Hospital in Rome, Italy Funeral in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome: July 1, 2016 Buried: Family vault, Cemetery of <i>Rivarolo Canavese</i> [a municipality in the Metropolitan City of Turin], Province of Turin, Piedmont Region, Italy [next to his brother, Arbp. Giovanni De Andrea (1928-2012)]</p>
<p>Gerald Nicholas Dino Retired as Bishop of Holy Protection of Mary of Phoenix (Ruthenian): May 7, 2016</p>
<p>Bernard Anthony Hebda Appointed Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis: March 24, 2016 Installed as Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis: May 13, 2016 by Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Paul, St. Paul, MN.</p>
<p>John Michael Kudrick Resigned as Bishop of Parma (Ruthenian): May 7, 2016</p>
<p>Richard Stephen Seminack Born: March 3, 1942 Died: August 16, 2016 at Alden Poplar Creek Rehabilitation Center, Hoffman Estates, IL Buried: St. Mary's Cemetery, Elkins Park, Montgomery County, PA</p>
<p>William Charles Skurla Appointed Apostolic Administrator of Parma (Ruthenian): May 7, 2016</p>



Coat of Arms of Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
 Source: Ecclesiastical Heraldry



Coat of Arms of Ukrainian Archeparchy of Philadelphia
 Source: Ukrainian Archeparchy of Philadelphia