Digitizing the Pittsburgh Catholic
by Thomas E. White

In recent years, the Gumberg Library at Duquesne University has been working to preserve the Catholic heritage of western Pennsylvania by digitizing the Pittsburgh Catholic, America's oldest continually published Catholic newspaper in print since March 16, 1844. Almost as old as the Diocese itself, the paper documents the growth of Catholicism in the region and the challenges Catholics faced. It also provides the Catholic perspective on important social and political issues across the years.

Until now, researchers and interested individuals could only access the paper by tediously searching through microfilm or hard copies. The Gumberg Library simplified access to the paper by putting it online and making it keyword searchable. Anyone with an Internet connection can now access the newspaper anywhere and anytime.
The digitization project began in 2008 with issues dating from 1844 to 1864. Archival copies of microfilmed editions were scanned, uploaded and made available on the library website. The library then received a $20,000 Library Services and Technology Act grant to digitize additional years of the *Pittsburgh Catholic*. The grant made it possible to digitize the issues from February 27, 1864 through December 2, 1923. A third batch, which will cover 1924 up to 1950, is in the final stages of processing and will be added to the site.

The online version of the *Pittsburgh Catholic* can be accessed at [http://digital.library.duq.edu/cdm-pc/](http://digital.library.duq.edu/cdm-pc/)

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