Our Authors

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Grant Gerlich is Archivist of the Mercy Heritage Center in Belmont, NC. He is a Certified Archivist with over 15 years’ experience in the museum and archival field. He has worked as the Curator of Collections at Soldiers and Sailors Military Museum in Pittsburgh PA. Grant then represented West Overton Museums in Scottdale PA and Georgia’s Old Capital Museum in Milledgeville GA as Executive Director. In addition, Grant has served on the board of several historical societies including the Lawrenceville Historical Society. He taught a course in Museum Studies and Historical Organizations at Georgia College and has instructed several archival seminars. Before becoming Archivist and Director of the Mercy Heritage Center, Grant was archivist for the McGeral Center for Dominican Historical Studies in River Forest IL. Grant has an M.A. in History with a concentration in Archival, Museum and Editing studies from Duquesne University and a Master of Library and Information Science from Dominican University.

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Katherine Koch is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and a summa cum laude graduate of Kent State University, with a B.S. in computer science. She has many Passionists in the family tree, including Fr. Viktor Koch, C.P., the founder of the Passionist German-Austrian foundation, and Fr. Basil Bauer, C.P., one of the many missionaries who worked in China. She is an independent scholar of Passionist history. She is finishing a historical fiction novel about Fr. Viktor’s travails in Nazi Germany, presently titled The Sower of Black Field. Additional information is available at www.viktorkoch.com and at the Passionist historical archives website at http://cpprovince.org/archives.

Blanche McGuire is a graduate of Baylor University (B.A., M.A.) and the University of Pittsburgh (M.B.A.). She is a retired Senior Vice President of Marketing Strategy for Ketchum Directory Advertising. Her special interest is Catholic history in colonial Maryland and Pennsylvania. Many of her ancestors were Prince Gallitzin’s parishioners. She is Acting President of The Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania as well as former President and Vice President. She is a published author.

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Kathleen Washy is Archivist for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, a position which she has held since 2013. Prior to that, she served as Archivist for Mercy Hospital/UPMC Mercy for more than twenty years. Since 1991, she has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, holding many offices, including her current role as Treasurer. She also has served as Consulting Archivist for Mercy Behavioral Health. She holds a B.A. in History & Anthropology from Gannon University, a M.A. in History from the University of Toronto, and a M.A. in History & Archival Administration, with a Certificate in Museum Studies, from Case Western Reserve University.

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