

News from The Catholic Historical Society

PERSONS

Sister Sally Witt, CSJ, a former Society Board Member and former Archivist of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, announced the publication in September 2014 of her latest history, *A Hidden Spirit: The Sisters of the Holy Spirit of the Diocese of Pittsburgh*. She is presently working on the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kansas.

Rev. James W. Garvey, Board Member Emeritus, saw publication of his latest book in November 2014: the 125th anniversary history of St. Anne Parish in Castle Shannon (Allegheny County), PA. He was also pictured in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* coverage of the anniversary Mass that concluded the celebration.

Kimberly Lytle, curriculum director for the **Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Erie**, has self-published *The Catholic Community of Pennsylvania: Past and Present* in order to educate fourth through sixth grade students about the history of Catholicism in the Keystone State. Both a Student Workbook (with 31 lessons and 70 pages of handouts) and a Teacher Manual are now in use in schools and home schools. Detailed information appears at the website: www.teachcatholichistory.com.

Rev. Thomas E. Smith, Pittsburgh's "Singing and Dancing Priest" died April 20, 2015 at age 90. After roles in the Ziegfeld Follies

and Billy Rose's Diamond Jubilee Horseshoe Night Club, he entered St. Vincent Seminary and was ordained a priest of the diocese of Pittsburgh in 1951. He then organized parish musical and theatrical shows, and took to the stage himself. Bishop John Wright approved his theatrical evangelism. Smith appeared on national TV and joined with priest friends as the "Four Fathers" at dinner theater productions.

Paul Dvorchak, former Society Board Member, presented a paper on Dorothy Day at the "Dorothy Day and the Church: Past, Present, and Future" conference held at Saint Francis University in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, on May 13-15, 2015. His paper was entitled "Dorothy Day and Pittsburgh's Catholic Radical Alliance." At the same conference, Society member **Jim Hanna** presented "Detachment as a Hallmark of Dorothy Day's Spirituality." The two presentations will be included in a book to be published before Christmas by Solidarity Hall Press of Valparaiso, IN. Inquiries can be directed to Dr. Lance Richey, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, Indiana at Lrichey@sf.edu or (260) 399-8112. Other presenters, among the more than 40 papers delivered, included the Archbishop of Los Angeles, the editor of Day's diaries and letters, and Day's granddaughter.

Rev. Cyprian Davis, O.S.B., who delivered the Society's Lambing Lecture on April 14, 1991 on the topic "Black Catholics in the United States," died on May 18, 2015 at age 85. A Benedictine for 65 years, he was professor of Church History at St. Meinrad's Seminary in Indiana.

Architect Stanley S. Pyzdrowski, who oversaw the construction and design of more than 200 Catholic churches, schools, convents and nursing homes in Western Pennsylvania, Ohio and Western Virginia, died at age 98 on August 21, 2015. His work, and that of his father Anthony, spanned the period 1918 through 2004. His architectural works included St. Margaret of Scotland in Greentree, St. Hilary in Washington, St. Germaine and St. Valentine in Bethel Park, St. Gabriel in Whitehall, St. Norbert in Overbrook, and St. Teresa of Avila in Perrysville — as well as the renovation of St. Paul Cathedral in Oakland in 2004.

Rev. Joseph Mele, Rev. Michael Conway, Pittsburgh seminarian **Alexander Schrenk**, and Society Secretary **John Bates** met on August 24, 2015 to plan the research and writing of a commemorative history that will celebrate the 50 years of **St. Paul Seminary** in Pittsburgh. The collegiate institution opened in September 1965, with students attending Duquesne University.

Three more bishops from Western Pennsylvania!

- (1) **Gregory John Mansour**: Born November 11, 1955 in Flint, MI (Diocese of Lansing). Ordained a priest of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn (Maronite) on September 18, 1982 by Bishop John Chedid at Our Lady of Lebanon Church in Flint, MI. Served as pastor of St. George Maronite Church in Uniontown, PA (Fayette County), 1983-1994. Incardinated as a priest of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles (Maronite) on February 19, 1994. Appointed Bishop of Saint Maron of Brooklyn (Maronite) on January 10, 2004. Ordained bishop on March 2, 2004 by Nasrallah Cardinal Sfeir (Patriarch of Antioch-Maronite) in Lebanon. Installed as bishop of Saint Maron of Brooklyn on April 27, 2004 in the Maronite Cathedral of Our Lady of Lebanon in Brooklyn, NY.
- (2) **George Demetrius (Giorgio Demetrio) Gallaro**: Born January 16, 1948 in Pozzallo, Province of Ragusa, Sicily, Italy (Archdiocese of Palermo). Immigrated to the United States and was ordained a priest of Los Angeles on May 27, 1972 by Archbishop Timothy Manning in St. Vibiana Cathedral, Los Angeles, CA. Incardinated into the Melkite-rite Eparchy of Newton, MA, in September 1987. Served in the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh-Ruthenian 2005-2015 as judicial vicar, professor at SS. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Seminary, and administrator of St. Andrew Byzantine Parish in Gibsonia, Allegheny County. Appointed bishop of Piana degli Albanesi in Sicily, one of three dioceses forming the Byzantine Italo-Albanian Catholic Church, on March 31, 2015. Ordained bishop and installed on June 28, 2015 by Bishop Donato Oliverio of Lungro degli Italo-Albanesi in the Cathedral of *San Demetrio Megalomartire* [St. Demetrius the Great-Martyr] in Piana degli Albanesi.
- (3) **Edward Charles Malesic**: Born August 14, 1960 in Harrisburg, PA (Diocese of Harrisburg). Ordained a priest of Harrisburg on May 30, 1987 by Bishop William H. Keeler in St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, PA. Appointed bishop of Greensburg on April 24, 2015. Ordained bishop and installed on July 13, 2015 by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg, PA.

These episcopal ordinations bring to 146 the number of bishops who either were natives of or worked in Western Pennsylvania. Biographies of the other prelates appeared in the 2014 *Gathered Fragments* issue, including its special Supplement devoted exclusively to those bishops. In addition, Pittsburgh native **Bernard A. Hebda**, coadjutor archbishop of Newark, was appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis on June 15, 2015.

EVENTS

The Archbishop of Atlanta honored **Fr. Emmeran Bliemel, O.S.B.** (1831-1864), on the 150th anniversary of the latter's death (August 31, 1864) as the first chaplain to die in an American military battle (the battle of Jonesborough, Georgia). The Bavarian-born Benedictine had studied and was ordained at **St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe** by Pittsburgh Bishop Michael O'Connor. After several years of service in Western Pennsylvania parishes, Bliemel was assigned to Nashville where he volunteered as a Confederate chaplain to the 10th Tennessee Regiment. He was decapitated by a cannonball while administering the last rites to a dying Confederate colonel on the battlefield. Initially buried near the battlefield by the Holliday family (later famous because of two members, gunfighter Doc Holliday and *Gone with the Wind* novelist Margaret Mitchell), Bliemel was posthumously awarded the Confederate Medal of Honor. A military service at historic Clayton County Courthouse, a Mass, and luncheon comprised the memorial activities. During the ceremony, Father Brian Boesel, O.S.B. of St. Vincent Archabbey (and a doctoral candidate in Church History at Catholic University of America) recounted the life of Bliemel, who is known as one of the "Sons of Thunder" of Georgia.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission unveiled a new **Pennsylvania State Historical Marker** at the entrance to **St. Vincent College** (near the entrance booth and the Fred Rogers Center) on September 10, 2014. The original marker had been placed in 1946 on Route 30 near St. Vincent Drive. After decades in that location, the marker had disappeared. Reference the article on this subject in the Fall 2013 issue of *Gathered Fragments*.

St. Vincent College in Latrobe hosted its **5th Nationwide Juried Catholic Arts Exhibition** October 28–December 7, 2014. Nationally renowned artist Janet McKenzie was the Juror. She is known for her distinctive iconography of sacred subjects. Her solo exhibitions included Carlow University in Pittsburgh. Her works can be found in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Carnegie, PA. The book, *The Way of the Cross – The Path to New Life*, features her Stations of the Cross with reflections by religious writer **Sr. Joan Chittister, O.S.B.** The St. Vincent Gallery also contains exhibits on "Sacred Relics of Saint Vincent Archabbey" and "Boniface

Wimmer, O.S.B.: Visions of a Founder." Complimentary booklets accompany both exhibits. The Gallery is located on the third floor of the Robert S. Carey Student Center on the college campus.

An era in Pittsburgh Catholicism ended with the death of the last member of the **Ursuline Sisters of Pittsburgh** in November 2014. While the Pittsburgh-based order had merged into the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, Kentucky, in 1958, the Sisters here continued to operate Ursuline Academy in the Bloomfield section of Pittsburgh until 1981.

Dennis Wodzinski, Society Board Member and Archivist of the **Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God**, conducted a holiday tour of the order's Motherhouse in suburban Whitehall on December 11, 2014. He guided guests through 90 years of history and holiday traditions in the festively decorated Mount Providence Motherhouse and Mary Immaculate Chapel.

The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh hosted the Exhibit "Someday is Now: The Art of Corita Kent" from January 31 to April 19, 2015. This was the first major museum show to survey the entire career of **Sister Corita Kent** (1918-1986) as the "**World's Only Pop-Art Nun.**" A member of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Los Angeles until her departure in 1968, she chaired the order's college art department. She was a designer, teacher, feminist, and activist for civil rights and anti-war causes. Her thousands of posters, murals and signature serigraphs reflected her passion for faith and politics. Kent was one of the most popular graphic artists of the 1960s and 1970s, and her works have become iconic symbols of those turbulent decades. She designed the U.S. Post Office's "Love" stamp in 1985.

The **Diocese of Greensburg** conducted a book signing on February 1, 2015 for the newly published history of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral at the Bishop William G. Connare Center. A resin cathedral replica was also unveiled. A tour of the Diocesan Heritage Center was offered. The book (which is reviewed in this issue of *Gathered Fragments*) and the cathedral replica are available through the cathedral parish and the diocesan pastoral center.

An Exhibition entitled "Behind the Murals: Histories and Other Stories" was held Feb. 7–March 27, 2015, to present the history of the **Maxo Vanka murals in St. Nicholas Croatian Church in Millvale** and provide an update on the conservation project that has been shepherded by the nonprofit Society to Preserve the Millvale Murals of Maxo Vanka, which were created by the famed Croatian artist between 1937 and 1941. There are 22 murals, covering 11,000 square feet. Two scholarly lectures were given: on February 27, Dr. Sylvia Rohr spoke on "Vanka in Context: Pittsburgh's Mural Culture in the Early 20th Century"; on March 13, Dr. Charles McCollester spoke on "Out of Depression and War: Transcendent Hope and Maternal Protection." The Society conducted its second annual fundraising event, "Cocktails and Conservation," on March 6 at the church.

In mid-February 2015, **Duquesne University's Gumberg Library** announced completion of its **digitization project** of more than 150 years' worth of America's oldest Catholic newspaper in continuous operation, the *Pittsburgh Catholic*. The digitization project began in 2008, based on microfilm reels of the newspaper that had been undertaken by the Catholic Historical Society in 1950. Users can now access issues published between 1844 and 2001. In March 2015, the Gumberg Library completed digitization of all issues of the Society's journal, *Gathered Fragments* — covering the period from 1986 to 2014. Both the *Pittsburgh Catholic* and the Society's *Gathered Fragments* are accessible in the Gumberg Library Digital Collections at <http://digital.library.duq.edu/>. All issues of both publications are word-searchable. Kudos to Duquesne University archivist and Society Board Member Thomas White for preserving, for future generations of researchers and scholars, these fundamental documents that tell the story of Western Pennsylvania Catholic history.

Pittsburgh Tours & More offered shuttled tours every Friday from February 20 to March 27, 2015, as "**Fish Fry Friday Tours: Pittsburgh Lenten Series.**" Each tour included a visit to a Pittsburgh-area Catholic church along with a fish-fry meal, some for lunch and others for dinner. The churches included St. Maximilian Kolbe in Homestead, St. Scholastica in Aspinwall, Most Holy Name of Jesus in Troy Hill, Epiphany in the Lower Hill District,

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St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Carnegie, and Holy Angels in Hays. The tours celebrated Pittsburgh's heritage of historic churches, neighborhoods, cultural traditions, and iconic foods.

On April 11, 2015, the Diocese of Greensburg opened its second public exhibition, "**The History of the Diocese of Greensburg: A View of the Bishops,**" at the Diocesan Heritage Center. The exhibit includes a section devoted to each of the first four bishops of Greensburg (Hugh Lamb, William Connare, Anthony Bosco, and Lawrence Brandt) with photographs, episcopal vestments, and other items. The center is located in the Bishop William G. Connare Center on Route 30 near Greensburg.

The first **South Side Church Crawl** took place on Sunday, April 19, 2015, as visitors stepped inside eight churches on the South Side Flats and Slopes and marveled at their history and beauty. Participating in the guided tours were five Catholic churches: St. Adalbert Church and St. Peter Church (comprising Prince of Peace Parish, which was a 1992 merger of seven parishes), St. Paul of the Cross Monastery, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Church, and St. John the Baptist Byzantine Church. The churches also rang their bells simultaneously in the "Calling of the Bells."

The Washington County History and Landmarks Foundation conducted a historic church tour on April 19, 2015 that included **SS. Mary and Ann in Marianna**, which was dedicated on July 4, 1913 by Bishop J.F. Regis Canevin. The church is now part of St. Oliver Plunkett parish.

Fr. Robert Carbonneau, C.P., Passionist historian and executive director of the U.S. Catholic China Bureau in Berkeley, California, gave a presentation to the **Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden** at their Motherhouse on April 29, 2015 on the topic "Come See Hunan with Me! Photographs of CSJ Baden in 1920s China." The Sisters of St. Joseph worked with the Passionists in the province of Hunan, China, 1921-1948. Fr. Carbonneau is overseeing the digitization of the Passionist China Collection — consisting of over 5,000 photographs from Hunan Province, and some 50,000 letters and documents — at the Ricci Institute in San Francisco, which tell the story of the order's work in China 1921-1955.

On May 2, 2015, the Catholic Historical Society co-sponsored "History and Witness before the Suffering Cross: Pittsburgh Passionist Missionaries in World War II Germany and Twentieth Century China" — consisting of two lectures: **Father Robert Carbonneau, C.P.**, on "Using Photography to Reinterpret Passionist Missionaries' Religious and Political Relationships in 20th Century China" and **Katherine Koch** on "An American Priest in Nazi Germany: The Story of Fr. Viktor Koch, C.P." The afternoon of lectures was followed by a reception, Mass in the retreat house chapel, and dinner in St. Paul of the Cross Monastery complex on Pittsburgh's South Side Slopes. Society Secretary **John Bates** introduced the lecturers. Ms. Koch's presentation is available on YouTube, and can be accessed at the website <http://www.viktorkoch.com/pittsburgh>.

Kathleen Washy, Society Treasurer and Archivist of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, conducted a **Stroll Through Time: A Walking Tour of the Baden Campus of the Sisters of St. Joseph** on June 18, 2015. The evening tour of the Beaver County campus included the Motherhouse and Mount Gallitzin Academy (opened in 1902), as well as Villa St. Joseph (a long-term care facility opened in 1997). The tour provided historical highlights and anecdotes about the Motherhouse, grounds (including labyrinth, community gardens, and an orchard), grotto, statues, and cemetery. A reception for participants followed. The event marked the Year of Consecrated Life, which Pope Francis proclaimed to celebrate religious vocations. A YouTube video of the event appears at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2N2Hu6Q1ps>.

On June 20, 2015, a **Pennsylvania State Historical Marker** was unveiled for **St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Croatian Church** at the site of the former first Croatian church on East Ohio Street on Pittsburgh's North Side — along with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the **Interpretive Panels and Memorial Wall at the St. Nicholas Church Historic Site**. The guests included Josko Paro, Croatian ambassador to the U.S. Pictures of the dual event appear at the website of the Preserve Croatian Heritage Foundation: www.stnicholasns.org.

June 24, 2015 marked the 400th anniversary of Franciscan presence in North America.

On June 24, 1615, two Recollect priests, who had accompanied Samuel de Champlain in his journey to New France, celebrated the first Mass on Montreal Island — the beginning of Catholic religious life in North America. The Recollects were a reform branch of the Franciscans (founded by St. Francis of Assisi in 1209) who served as chaplains to the military in France and French Canada. These included **Father Denys Baron**, who was the chaplain at **Fort Duquesne** (1754-1756) and celebrated the first Mass in what today is the city of Pittsburgh. This year also marks the 125th anniversary of the Order's restoration in Canada after a 127-year absence following the British conquest of French Canada in 1763 and legislative suppression. The 400th anniversary included a June 11-13 symposium organized by the Institute of Cultural Heritage, in collaboration with Université Laval's Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences. June 24 is *Saint Jean Baptiste* Day, which honors the patron saint of French Canadians.

The popularity of food and Catholic churches was reflected in Myers Coach Lines of Export, PA (Westmoreland County), offering a "**Faith & Food Historic Churches Dine-A-Round**" to Cumberland, MD. Two tours, in June and August 2015, included St. Paul Catholic Church (ca. 1849) with its colonial religious history and German strudel.

St. Alphonsus Church in Wexford celebrated the 175th anniversary of the dedication of its first church on July 19, 2015. The parish also marked the 125th anniversary of the parish school. Both buildings are landmarks in suburban Wexford (Allegheny County). Redemptorists who initially served the parish included **St. John Neumann** and **Blessed Francis Seelos**. The anniversary reception included the display of historical photos, items, and sacramental record books with signatures of Neumann and Seelos. **Father Suitbert Mollinger** was the parish's first resident pastor before becoming founding pastor of Most Holy Name of Jesus parish and building the famed St. Anthony Chapel in Pittsburgh's Troy Hill neighborhood.

St. Ann Parish in Waynesburg (Greene County) celebrated its 175th anniversary on July 25, 2015. An archives room, with a docent to answer questions, was part of the celebration. The history of Catholicism in Greene County

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goes back to 1785, when 70 Catholic settlers in the area appealed to Bishop John Carroll of Baltimore to have a priest visit them at least once a year.

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation's 2015 tours included both a July 25 "Oakland Walking Tour: Mellon Institute, **Central Catholic**, and More" and a November 7 "**John Comès Churches: A Bus Tour to Lawrenceville, Etna, and Oakland**" of 6 hours. Tour details appear at <http://www.phlf.org/>.

The **Pittsburgh Steelers** celebrated 50 years of Summer Training Camp at **St. Vincent College** in Latrobe (Westmoreland County) with the arrival of the team and its first practice on July 27, 2015. The practice field is just a few minutes walk from St. Vincent Archabbey. The college published an anniversary book (which is reviewed in this issue of *Gathered Fragments*) in connection with the 50th Summer Training Camp.

The **garden courtyard of St. Patrick Church** in Pittsburgh's Strip District was the scene, on August 1, 2015, of the inaugural event commemorating the centenary of the Irish Easter Rising of 1916. The Pittsburgh 1916 Easter Rising Committee hosted a re-creation of Pdraig Pearse's oration at the gravesite of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa that is considered to be the triggering event that led to the Rising — the opening battle in Ireland's war for independence which ended with establishment of the Republic of Ireland comprising 26 of Ireland's counties. A year of activities will follow the theme "Easter 1916: Pittsburgh Remembers."

Mt. Nazareth Commons, a 42-unit apartment complex located in the former Motherhouse of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in Ross Township (Allegheny County), opened in 2015. The \$8 million transformation of the interior of the former motherhouse on the 32-acre site was designed for low- to moderate-income seniors. Some 200 children attend day care at Mt. Nazareth Learning Center in the building, which is adjacent to Holy Family Manor, a personal care home located on the campus. The Motherhouse, at 250 Nazareth Way, was sold to Ross Presbyterian Senior Housing LP in March 2014 for \$530,000.

On September 10, 2015, St. Vincent Gallery of St. Vincent College in Latrobe opened an Exhibition of artwork by four

Benedictine monks, entitled "**Monk-Artists of Saint Vincent.**" The featured artists were Benedictines: Father Vincent de Paul Crosby (liturgical linens), Brother Mark Floreanini (stained glass, spun and crocheted wool), Brother Etienne Huard (photography), and Father Robert Keffer (oil painting); their works included a variety of media and styles. The Exhibition concluded on October 4.

The **Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities** celebrated 150 years of service in Western Pennsylvania with an open house on September 20, 2015 at St. Francis Convent on the campus of **Mount Alvernia in Millvale** (their former Motherhouse, prior to merger with the Syracuse Franciscans), which included guided tours covering historical, cultural and artistic topics.

OTHER

Most of **Msgr. Andrew A. Lambing's** publications — including those he authored, edited, and translated — are now available in reprint editions through **Amazon.com** and **AbeBooks.com**. Simply search using his initials "A. A. Lambing". Lambing founded the first Catholic historical society in Western Pennsylvania in 1884 and served as the first Pittsburgh diocesan historian.

The **Catholic Historical Society's 1943 published history of the diocese of Pittsburgh** — *Catholic Pittsburgh's One Hundred Years 1843-1943* — is available electronically at the website of Historic Pittsburgh: <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/images/pittsburgh/>.

Further information as to churches designed by famed **Pittsburgh Catholic architect John T. Comès** has surfaced. Supplementing the extensive list of churches contained in the Fall 2013 *Gathered Fragments* are the following: (1) **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church**, Camden, South Carolina (Diocese of Charleston) — a 300-seat Spanish-style building with campanile, completed in 1914, which is located within the City of Camden Historic District listed on the National Register; (2) **St. Paul Church**, Weirton, West Virginia (Diocese of Wheeling), completed in 1918 and demolished in 1972; (3) **St. Benet Hall** at St. John University, Collegeville, MN — a five-story brick classroom and dormitory in Spanish-Romanesque style, with an attached archway, completed in 1922; and (4) **St. Aloysius Church**, Bowling Green (Diocese of Toledo), completed in 1925; its

immense sanctuary mural by Felix Liefertucher was restored in January 2015.

The 2013 *Gathered Fragments* article "John T. Comès, Catholic Architect" listed the many area Catholic buildings he designed. Of those, the former **St. Jerome School** (which operated until 1992, when it was renamed Madonna Regional School, ultimately closing in 1998) in Charleroi has since been demolished.

Further research has identified an additional thesis relating to Western Pennsylvania Catholic history: Timothy J. Harrington, *Edward P. McManaman, Priest, Educator, Bishop* (B.A. Thesis, Mercyhurst College, 1988).

Paul Dvorchak's article published in the 2014 *Gathered Fragments* — "Dorothy Day and the Beginning of St. Joseph House of Hospitality in Pittsburgh, 1936-1941" — was added to the blog "Friends of St. Joseph House of Hospitality, appearing at <http://fosjhob.blogspot.com/>.

Katherine Koch's article published in the 2014 *Gathered Fragments* — "An American Priest in Nazi Germany: The Story of Fr. Viktor Koch, C.P." — has been added to her website, www.viktorkoch.com.

Rev. Rene Kollar's article published in the 2014 *Gathered Fragments* — "An Old Tradition and a New Beginning: The Evolution of Freshman Orientation at Saint Vincent College" — was noted in the Winter 2014-2015 issue of St. Vincent Archabbey's magazine, *Heart to Heart*.

In mid-August 2015, the **Diocese of Greensburg** advertised the position of **Curator/Collections Manager of the Diocesan Heritage Center and Archivist** of the diocese. While the diocese was established in 1951, its territory includes rich history dating back to colonial times.

On August 17, 2015, Arcadia Publishing released Gerard F. O'Neil's new book, *Pittsburgh Irish: Erin on the Three Rivers*. This work credits the Catholic Historical Society's Archives for several included photographs, cites the Society's 1943 diocesan history (*Catholic Pittsburgh's One Hundred Years 1843-1943*), and includes the Society in the list of archival sources. The book also includes a photograph of famed Irish political leader **Éamon de Valera** (1882-1975) with the mayor of Pittsburgh and the maternal grandparents of Society Secretary **John Bates**, during de Valera's 1930 visit to Pittsburgh.

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In mid-September 2015, Pittsburgh City Council began consideration of whether to begin the process that would culminate in the nomination of **Lawrenceville** as a historic district with the National Register of Historic Places. Historic **St. Augustine Church** and several other now-closed Catholic churches in that neighborhood would fall within the district's boundaries. There are 29 designated historic districts in the city.

Set for publication in 2016 are:

- (1) a biography of **Passionist Fr. Fabian Flynn** (1905-1973) by Sean Brennan, associate professor of history at the University of Scranton. Flynn spent the years 1943-1962 in Europe. He served as the first Catholic chaplain at the International War Crimes Tribunal in Nuremberg, and later served with Catholic Relief Services. The book is to be entitled *The Life of Father Fabian Flynn: A Catholic Warrior of the Second World War and the Cold War*. Professor Brennan recently published "From Harvard to Nuremberg: Father Fabian Flynn's Service as Catholic Chaplain to the 26th Infantry Regiment, 1942-1946" in the *U.S. Catholic Historian* (Vol. 33, No. 1, Winter 2015), 1-24. Professor Brennan also delivered a lecture on this topic on April 9, 2015 at the Weinberg Memorial Library on the campus of the University of Scranton. Additional information appeared on the blog "Religion in American History" at <http://usreligion.blogspot.com>.
- (2) Shannen Dee Williams's *Subversive Habits: Black Nuns and the Struggle to Desegregate Black America after World War I*. This work by an assistant professor of history at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville will be the first historical monograph to examine the lives and labors of black Catholic Sisters in the 20th-century United States. It will include the story of Patricia Muriel, who was denied admission to the **Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden** in 1960, only to become the first black sister in the **Sisters of Mercy of Pittsburgh** in 1961 — Sister Martin de Porres, R.S.M.
- (3) Katherine Koch's *The Sower of Black Field*. This historical fiction novel follows the travails of **Fr. Viktor Koch, C.P., an American Passionist from Sharon, PA**, who was sent to co-found a new branch of his monastic order in 1920s Germany. While struggling to lead the Province through the chaos of Nazi rule, Fr. Koch became the revered spiritual leader to citizens of the devout Catholic town of Schwarzenfeld. His influence and presence in the Bavarian town proved especially vital in the final days of World War II, when American forces discovered a mass grave on Schwarzenfeld's border and threatened reprisals against the townspeople. Additional information about the book and Fr. Viktor's story can be found at the website: <http://viktorkoch.com>.

LOOKING FORWARD:

- (1) In 2018, the **Diocese of Pittsburgh** will celebrate the **175th year of its establishment** on August 11, 1843 by Pope Gregory XVI's papal bull, *Universi dominici*. The diocese would have been established in the early 1830s had Philadelphia Coadjutor Francis P. Kenrick been able to overcome the opposition (in the several Provincial Councils of Baltimore) of Bishop John England of Charleston to the division of the see of Philadelphia.
- (2) **St. Bernard of Clairvaux parish in Mt. Lebanon** will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its establishment in 1919. The parish has begun work on its archives and parishioner Dennis Roddy is working on an updated parish history — a sequel to Father Thomas R. Wilson's monumental *St. Bernard Church* (1995).



Lectures at St. Paul of the Cross Monastery (May 2, 2015). L to R: Katherine Koch, Rev. Robert Carbonneau, C.P., and John C. Bates.

Source: Gary Koch