

A Letter from John C. Bates, CHS President

TO THE MEMBERSHIP of The Catholic Historical Society:

Following inauguration of an internet website for The Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania at www.catholichistorywpa.org, the Board of Directors in Spring 2006 decided to undertake additional initiatives to further the collection of Catholic historical information in our area and to disseminate that rich history.

First, we have begun an aggressive expansion of the Archives of the CHS, located at Duquesne University's Gumberg Library. (See Tom White's article on page 26.) We are in the process of acquiring published parish histories as well as manuscript (unpublished) histories of parishes and institutions, and other western Pennsylvania Catholic history works. Please consider donating to CHS any histories of parishes, religious orders, institutions, or persons involved in Catholic history in western Pennsylvania (or beyond) that you may presently possess. When people move or elderly Catholics die, the question often arises: what to do with Catholic history books that the person has accumulated over the years. Donating such works to CHS will make them available to future generations.

Second, another part of our initiative involves *Gathered Fragments*. We are transitioning from a simple 4-sided newsletter to a more formal historical journal. That transformation has necessitated the consolidation of the formerly twice-a-year publication of *Gathered Fragments* into a single annual publication, with an enlarged format and additional

content. Thus you receive today a *Gathered Fragments* which includes a greater variety of local Catholic historical information—articles, book reviews, notices, etc. The board of directors plans further changes to ultimately provide the membership with a true historical journal—which was the concept of our original founder, Msgr. Andrew A. Lambing, more than 100 years ago.

To achieve that ultimate objective, we are actively soliciting your participation in this ongoing effort. We are open to receive for consideration for publication the following:

(1) Articles dealing with any of the countless topics involving Catholic history in western Pennsylvania since the arrival of the French more than 250 years ago. These might involve the history of a parish, or the biography of a priest, religious sister or brother, or prominent lay person who played a role in carrying on the faith in the hundreds of parishes and many religious institutions that have dotted our landscape. Not infrequently, these stories may entail turning oral history into print, to preserve them for the future.

(2) Book reviews of an increasing number of published works that bear upon persons, issues, and institutions affecting Catholic life in western Pennsylvania.

(3) Other brief notices highlighting local Catholic history—lacking the length of more formal articles, but important nonetheless to sensitize our readership to the richness of our area's Catholic history.



These submissions may be directed to our CHS mailing address: P.O. Box 194, Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0194. If you wish to discuss possible subjects for research/writing/submission to CHS, please feel free to contact me at (412) 343-0860. This offer of consideration of submitted works for publication in *Gathered Fragments* is not restricted to our membership—so if you know of any “history buffs” who would be interested in submission of publishable topics involving western Pennsylvania Catholic history, please encourage those persons to get in touch with us and submit.

Finally, we are planning to add to the CHS Board of Directors, and are taking this opportunity to solicit your interest in considering that opportunity. If you would like to be considered for service—which entails your commitment to furthering the preservation of western Pennsylvania Catholic history—please contact me or any of our board members who would be very happy to discuss what's involved. We would *continued on page 31*

provides the vehicle for the catechesis to "proceed" and the organization behind that. Fr. Kris Stubna relates in his essay the importance of catechesis to evangelization, i.e., evangelization hinges on knowledge of the faith.

Finally, in the final four essays we return to Fr. Ronald Lawler. Patrick G. D. Riley details the evolution and a brief assessment of Fr. Lawler's *The Teaching of Christ: A Catholic Catechism for Adults*. William Saunders writes a personal testimony to the impact of Fr. Lawler on his life. In the next essay, we hear directly from Fr. Lawler himself, in "Has Christ Only One Church." Robert Lockwood wraps the whole book together with an acknowledgement of the impact of Fr. Lawler on the lives of all he encountered, both young and old.

Kathy Washy

Continued from page 5

request that you get in touch with us by the end of December 2007 regarding board membership.

The CHS Board of Directors joins with me in thanking you for your continued support of our efforts and in assuring you of better things yet to come for CHS.

Please note, for clarification, the two addresses below for the Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania.

Legal address:
c/o Synod Hall
108 N. Dithridge St.
Pgh PA 15213

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 194
Pgh, PA 15230-0194

BOOK NOTES

The St. Paul Book Committee has announced the arrival of the newly published, highly anticipated book, *A Reflection of Faith: Saint Paul Cathedral, Pittsburgh 1906-2006*.

The latest historical work by retired Aux. Bp. John McDowell is his autobiography, *Memories of a Catholic School Educator*.

Look for reviews of these books in the next issue of *Gathered Fragments*.

CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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