

Book Notes

Sisters of the North Country: The History of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Watertown, New York. Sally Witt, CSJ. Watertown, NY: Sisters of St. Joseph, 2005. 300 pages. \$27.

This book chronicles the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Diocese of Ogdensburg from their beginnings in 1880 through 2002. Western Pennsylvania plays a supporting role. In the early 1900s, the sisters taught at St. Thomas Grade School in Braddock and staffed the new high school there—the first parish high school in the diocese. Because the parish was “literally in the shadow of the Edgar Thompson Steel Works,” novices would take turns getting up at 4 a.m. before school to tackle the huge amount of laundry necessitated by the soot and smoke released by their “neighbor.” The sisters also taught at St. Brendan’s School in Braddock and later at Corpus Christi in East Liberty.

The sisters left the Pittsburgh area in 1932. Their time spent here would, however, affect community

life “up north” for years. Between 1913 and 1932, about half the sisters who entered the community were from the Pittsburgh diocese.

The book is available at LaRoche College bookstore or from the Sisters of Saint Joseph, 1425 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

St. Paul Cathedral Parish: The Early Years, 1834-1903. James W. Garvey. Houston, PA: J. Pohl Associates, 2005. 80 pages, illustrated. \$20.

The current St. Paul Cathedral in Oakland, which is celebrating its centenary year, is actually the diocese’s third. The first two cathedrals, also dedicated to St. Paul, were located in downtown Pittsburgh. For many people, their history is murky. Fr. James W. Garvey’s history sheds much-needed light on those first two mother churches, answering questions about the historical situation of the parish’s founding and the decision to move the cathedral to Oakland. This thought-provoking work is available locally from Kirner’s, the Diocesan Purchasing Commission, the publisher (724-746-1178) and the author.

Harry, Tom, and Father Rice: Accusation and Betrayal in America’s Cold War. John P. Hoerr. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2005. 311 pages. \$29.95.

This latest work on Pittsburgh’s famed “Labor Priest” was authored by a veteran labor journalist and author of the 1988 book *And the Wolf Finally Came*, a dramatic account of the decline of the steel industry, especially in Pittsburgh. The author focuses on three individuals in his latest work: his uncle, U.S. Congressman Harry Davenport; his uncle’s principal union supporter, Tom Quinn; and Msgr. Charles Owen Rice. Their lives clashed over communists in the labor movement. Rice is treated harshly for his efforts to rid unions of communist “fellow-travelers,” which included cooperation with government investigators as the notorious House Un-American Activities Committee pursued Communist Party connections.

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