
In 1988, former Allegheny County Commissioner Bob Cranmer purchased his childhood home in the Pittsburgh suburb of Brentwood. Soon, the family began experiencing strange phenomena, including bleeding walls. Cranmer made contact with then-Pittsburgh Bishop Donald Wuerl. Passionist Father Michael Salvagna from St. Paul of the Cross Monastery in Pittsburgh visited the home dozens of times during 2004-2005. An exorcist was involved, successfully. Cranmer returned to the Catholic Church. Those who have seen the movie "The Exorcist" can relate to the happenings described in this book.


This is the first complete edition of Father Demetrius Gallitzin's epistolary (collection of letters), compiled by the Roman Postulator of the cause of canonization of the famed Russian-born priest who served in Western Pennsylvania. The purpose of this publication, supported by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, is to make available the basic historical sources of this "Servant of God". The editor recognizes the foundational work of spouses Betty and Frank Seymour (Loretto) in collecting copies of existing letters, and the multi-language translations by Fr. Albert Ledoux (Gallitzin) and Raymond Seymour (Loretto). A short biography, index, and bibliography accompany the letters.


This book encompasses martyrs from other continents who served in North America as well as natives of this continent who died during missionary work in other lands. Included is McKeesport native and Maryknoll missionary, Fr. Gerard Donovan, who was martyred in China in 1938. A chapter is devoted to Father Donovan. The author is a frequent guest on EWTN.


Pittsburgh has a rich history of individuals who have achieved local, national, and international prominence. This volume in the Arcadia series highlights a wide variety of "local legends" who have left an indelible mark on the Steel City. Among the Catholics profiled are former Pittsburgh mayors David L. Lawrence and Richard Caliguiri, Thomas Murrin of Duquesne University's Business School, and Sister Liguori Rossner of the Jubilee Soup Kitchen. Attention is also given to the San Rocco Festa and the Church Brew Works (the former St. John the Baptist parish complex).


This cultural history of the apparel worn by American Catholics reveals the significance of clothing in developing identity, unity, and respectability for a largely immigrant religious group seeking to establish itself in a hostile Protestant environment. The story begins in the 1830s and involves priests, sisters, and school children. Clothing became a form of expressive Catholic language in the United States. The Sisters of Mercy played a key role. Pittsburgh emerges as a place where Sisters were taunted for their dress in the 19th century, but by the mid-20th century the influence of sodalities resulted in the placing of "Marylike" tags on dresses determined sufficiently modest for purchase and wear!


This story of an Alsatian family that emigrated to the United States in the 19th century focuses on their ultimate location in the Pittsburgh suburb of Mt. Lebanon. Of particular interest is the chapter devoted to the family's life in St. Bernard of Clairvaux parish, and the children's recollections of their education at the parish school under the tutelage of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden.


The emphasis on service to the poor that has characterized the pontificate of Pope Francis has reverberated in the publication of several biographies of the second American-born Catholic saint, who entered religious life in the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Mercy in Pittsburgh — in preparation for the establishment of her own order devoted to the care of Native Americans and African-Americans: the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. A descendant of the saint’s grandfather, Francis Drexel, authored the first work.


These are two light-hearted journeys from Western Pennsylvania to the eastern part of the state, which include entertaining tales of present/former Catholic institutions in Western Pennsylvania. The first volume notes Pius Monk Dunken at the former St. John the Baptist Church (now the Church Brew Works) in Pittsburgh, and the encounter of deceased performer Liberace with the White-Robed Nun at St. Francis Hospital (now replaced by Children’s Hospital) in Pittsburgh. The latter book includes tales from Mercy Hospital, Duquesne University, Seton Hill University, St. Xavier Convent and School, and St. Vincent College. The author, a retired policeman, is president of the Ligonier Valley Writers.


This work chronicles the highlights of the twenty-year working relationship between the Hassidic rabbi who directed the Department of Psychiatry at St. Francis Hospital in Pittsburgh and the Sisters of St. Francis who operated the institution. While spearheading a groundbreaking rehab program, the rabbi also tended to the spiritual and psychological needs of the Sisters during a time of significant change. It is an engrossing account of faith, interfaith relations, and human frailty and strength.


This work presents 21 portrait photographs of the founder of St. Vincent Archabbey, Archabbot Boniface Wimmer — accompanied by quotations from his letters and excerpts from the Pittsburgh Dispatch, tracing Wimmer’s life as an early American missionary priest until his death. This is a revealing look at the founder of Benedictine monasticism in North America.


The recently-retired chairman of the History Department at Erie’s Mercyhurst University invested six years in producing only the second history of the school, which was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1926 as the first women’s college in northwestern Pennsylvania. This volume candidly analyzes the forces beyond the control of the Sisters that shaped the school’s direction. Regrettably, the narrative ends at the turn of the 20th century — leaving to a future historian the telling of the story of the transition to university status in the years since 2000.


This volume by a liturgical studies lecturer at the Catholic University of America addresses the role of women in the American liturgical movement during the first half of the twentieth century, and concludes that their role was integral and not marginal. The intersection of liturgy with the labor, peace, interreligious justice, lay, catechetical, and family movements are portrayed through some of the principal figures in the narrative, including Dorothy Day, Mrs. Paul D. Wright of the Catholic Forum of Pittsburgh, and liturgical consultant Ade Bethune — whose first commission came from Father Joseph L. Lonergan at St. Paulinus Church in Clairton in 1936 and produced stained glass, woodcarvings, and paintings in the course of working with both female and male parishioners to craft the art used in the church. The book’s narrative reports the dialogue between the pastor and Bethune about use of the parishioners: “They don’t know anything about art” to which Bethune retorted “Oh, art is bunk. I can teach them.” This book will teach readers about the significant role that women, and women connected to Pittsburgh, played in the liturgical movement. Pittsburgh’s historical treatment of women in choirs is also noted.

The last single-volume encyclopedia of American Catholic history was *The Encyclopedia of American Catholic History* by Michael Glazier and Thomas Shelley at 1,567 pages, which was published in 1979. Thirty-four years later, the Bunsons have produced a volume that covers the intervening decades in one-third fewer pages. The work includes a timeline through 2011, the standard A to Z information, and appendices covering American saints, missionaries, Catholics in Statuary Hall, and cathedrals/shrines. Current/former Society board members Mike Aquilina and Bob Lockwood are acknowledged for their contributions to the work.


This is the fifth in a series of PHLF guidebooks on the architectural heritage of Pittsburgh, which has been described as one of the "greatest and wealthiest" of American cities. The book is illustrated with a visually stunning collection of 281 color and 40 black and white photos. Included in this guide to hundreds of buildings, structures, and landscapes in Allegheny County designed and erected between 1900 and 1999 are several historic Catholic structures: Holy Rosary in Homewood, Sacred Heart in Shadyside, St. James in Wilkinsburg, the former St. John the Baptist Church in Homestead (now the National Carpatho-Rusyn Cultural Center), the former St. Agnes Church in Oakland (now part of Carlow University) — along with pictures of St. Mary of Mercy, Epiphany, and St. Benedict the Moor churches. The book also notes the local work of famed Catholic architects John T. Comès, Titus de Bobula, and Carlton Strong. This volume makes the case for the preservation of these notable local landmarks.


The participation of Catholic laity in church affairs underwent a dramatic transformation in the 1960s, spurred both by long-developing cultural changes as well as by changes resulting from the Second Vatican Council. This book collects 11 essays that examine the laity's relationship with the hierarchy before and after Vatican II, attempting to connect pre-existing lay activism with the new understanding of laity. Considerable attention is given the role of Bishop John Wright and developments in the diocese of Pittsburgh, as well as his predecessor John Dearden's significant role. The Sisters of Mercy are also highlighted in this intriguing work. One of the contributors is Jeremy Bonner, former history professor at Duquesne University. The book is part of a series devoted to the historical study of Catholic practices.


In the 1640s, eight Jesuit missionaries were martyred by native Americans in Ontario; in 1930, these men were canonized and have popularly been termed the "North American Martyrs." The author traces their cult and attendant controversies: Indian Catholics martyred with the Europeans have yet to be canonized, U.S.-Canadian rivalries reflected in competing shrines, French-speaking versus English speaking, and Protestants versus Catholics. Archbishop John Mark Gannon of Erie drove the American opposition by leading an ultimately abortive attempt to beatify a rival large group of Catholic missionaries (Jesuits, Franciscans, Sulpicians, and Dominicans) who had served and died exclusively within the geographic confines of the United States.


Issued in anticipation of the 250th anniversary of the sole remaining building from the British Fort Pitt (successor to the French Fort Duquesne), this book traces the story of the construction of the defensive redoubt to a key British fort during the French and Indian War. In 1894, the blockhouse was gifted to the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The site's curator authored this volume, which includes historical references to the work of historian Msgr. Andrew A. Lambing, and reprints the rendition of the blockhouse from Lambing's 1880 diocesan history book.


This book traces the role of the Redemptorist Fathers in the development of parishes serving German-Americans in Maryland and Pennsylvania, including the work of St. John Neumann and Blessed Francis Seelos in Pittsburgh. The story of the arrival of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in St. Marys, Pennsylvania (then a part of the diocese of Pittsburgh) and their prompt departure for the better conditions of Baltimore is presented. Other early German Catholic figures in Western Pennsylvania history are also included. The book is profusely illustrated with historic photographs and useful maps. This volume by a non-academician reflects a wealth of research and is an excellent testament to the importance of ethnicity in the story of Mid-Atlantic Catholicism.

This book is an examination of several movements for change and reform during the Great Depression era. A chapter is devoted to Fr. James R. Cox of St. Patrick Church in Pittsburgh's Strip District, who is described as "activist, community builder, politician." The book notes the priest's involvement in the "Blue Shirts"—a national organization of some 200,000—and the priest's ill-fated attempt to establish a bungalow community in present-day Fox Chapel for the poor, unemployed, and homeless. Despite the lack of success of several of his initiatives, Cox evidenced that a single person can devise solutions to society's problems. The chapter leaves the reader wanting to read more about the life of this famed Pittsburgh priest.


J. F. Powers is best known for his National Book Award-winning novel, *Morte D'Urban*, and as a master of the short story. Powers' fiction dwelt chiefly on the lives of Catholic priests. In this work, the author's daughter, Katherine Powers, presents the life of the artist, constructed from some of the thousands of letters he wrote. Powers' encounters with Pittsburgh priests Louis Farina and John Hugo confirmed his conscientious objection to war, leading to his imprisonment during World War II. The book also portrays Powers' encounters with such diverse figures as Thomas Merton, Frank O'Connor, and Dorothy Day.


The Second Vatican Council and its aftermath are told through the eyes of men and women who were students in Rome during the Council (1962-1965). Members of this "Council Class" reflect back with a half-century's hindsight. Included are extended comments from former Pittsburgh priest Philip Gallagher and Duquesne University's former president, Fr. Donald Nesti. The exuberance of youth and the spirit of the Council are captured in this work.


Pittsburgh, during its peak years 1830-1930, had more millionaires than New York City. Affluence produced wealthy neighborhoods and a small army of renowned architects constructed extravagant mansions for the ruling class, which was white, Anglo-Saxon, and Protestant. This pictorial book is a testament to the most prominent of those massive homes, including Herbert DuPuy's 24-room Jacobean Revival home on Warwick Terrace (designed by Olaf Toft) which became the residence of the Catholic bishops of Pittsburgh in 1949 and remained in diocesan hands until its sale in 2009. The wealth generated from ownership of Pittsburgh's steel mills and manufacturing plants is evidenced in striking photographs of how the city's elite lived a century ago.


The 1930s and early 1940s were characterized by the organization of large numbers of people to protest war and fascism, and to form labor unions. The author was intimately involved in those struggles as a reporter, columnist, and editor for peace and labor publications. He came into conflict with Pittsburgh's labor priest, Father Charles Owen Rice, and his Catholic Radical Alliance regarding fascism and communism. The work provides a unique perspective on labor and peace issues that confronted the nation over several decades. The author died in 2003 before publication of his manuscript; his son has brought the work to print.


This recent volume focuses on the life and historical role of Amalie von Gallitzin (1748-1806), mother of the prince-priest Demetrius Gallitzin. The work focuses on the European significance of the Berlin-born princess's intellectual circle in the period of the rationalistic Enlightenment, and that influence which led her son to embrace Catholicism and ultimately priesthood—lived out in Western Pennsylvania. This volume includes a mini-biography of Prince Demetrius Augustine von Gallitzin (by Ilse Pohl) and an annotated bibliography of his works and works referencing him. The German-British author holds a philosophical doctorate in Catholic theology and history. This is the English translation of the original German work.

Born in Pittsburgh in 1930, James Faley attended both St. Xavier Academy and St. Bernard School and later entered the Third Order Regular Franciscans in Loretto, Pennsylvania in 1948, taking the name Roland. Ordained in 1952, Fr. Roland obtained degrees from the Pontifical Biblical Institute and the Angelicum, both in Rome. He successively served as rector of St. Francis Seminary in Loretto, then Vicar General of the Franciscans, and finally Minister General of the Order at the headquarters in Rome. He later became executive director of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men. During these assignments the noted Scripture scholar authored 10 books on Biblical subjects. This volume was his last, and reflects his life and 50 years of work as a Franciscan. It is a very readable account of a brilliant scholar who maintained his humility, humor, and ability to connect with readers. He died on January 4, 2014 at Christ the King Manor in DuBois, Pennsylvania.


Mercy Sister Mary Jeremy Daigler has authored a history of the women’s ordination movement in the United States; it does not explore the canonical, theological, or social issues relating to the ordination of women to priestly ministry. The book depicts a patterned social acceptance of women’s spiritual leadership (including non-Catholic examples) and strains to include such occurrences in the movement. The absence of sources must be balanced against the reality of writing about a living social movement for which no archives exist that may be consulted. The real value of the work lies in the author’s piecing together the broad story of a movement of individuals and small groups whose actions, largely not committed to writing, would otherwise be lost to future historians. This is only possible since the author had been involved in the movement for a quarter-century. The work notes the roles played by several natives of Western Pennsylvania: Erie Benedictine Sr. Joan Chittister and Benedictine Archibishop Rembert Weakland. The first American ordination of women occurred in Pittsburgh in July 2006, involving twelve women aboard the Gateway Clipper boat Majestic while sailing on local rivers.


The authors have focused on the five saints who lived and died as American citizens. Two of these are part of Western Pennsylvania Catholic history: St. Katharine Drexel and St. John Neumann. The authors are a retired college professor and his attorney-daughter.

Steve Piskor, Gypsy Violins: Hungarian Slovak Gypsies in America (Cleveland: Saroma, 2012), table of contents, illus., 244 pp.

This is the history of Hungarian-Slovak gypsies who came to the U.S. in the late 19th century, bringing their ancestral music. The author recounts the challenges of their emigration to Braddock and Homestead in Allegheny County. Drawn by the availability of jobs in the steel mills, these immigrants formed thriving communities of Roma. The vintage photographs capture their story — including gypsy violin accompaniment of the deceased to burial in Braddock Catholic cemetery. For anyone who has heard or danced to spirited folk music, this volume captures the rich traditional life of those people and documents a rapidly disappearing way of life.


This work examines the efforts of Catholic bishops and the Democratic Party to use the service of immigrant volunteers in the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848 as a weapon against nativism and anti-Catholicism. In this story, the Pittsburgh Catholic emerges as a nationally recognized newspaper that vigorously defended its newest citizens, primarily Irish and German Catholic immigrants — pointing to their hard work, love of liberty, and willingness to sacrifice for their adopted country in the antebellum period. The book is the author’s 2009 Ph.D. dissertation at Purdue University, “Punishing the Lies: Catholic and Immigrant Volunteers in the U.S.-Mexican War and the Fight against Nativism.”


This volume supersedes the original 1991 manual for diocesan archives. As technology and practice affecting archives and records management have evolved, the need for contemporary guidance has been met with the publication of this work. The contribution of Kenneth White, archivist of the diocese of Pittsburgh, is noted. This collaborative work is for the non-archivist interested in diocesan history, an eye-opener to the complexities involved.


The author is a graduate of, and decades-long teacher and administrator at, the celebrated Franciscan university in western New York state: St. Bonaventure’s. The work presents the institution’s history — a beautifully illustrated work with some 250 photographs, designed for alumni. The university’s current president, Pittsburgh native Sister Margaret Carney, O.S.F., figures prominently in the history and the Franciscan story.

The author, a history professor at the University of Pittsburgh, explores New Deal political mobilization by ordinary people through his examination of the changes that union organization brought to Pittsburgh over four decades. Critical to the story are several Pittsburgh labor priests: Charles Owen Rice, George Barry O'Toole, Carl Hensler and the lesser known Clement Hratanek, Joseph Altany, and Thomas Lappan. The role of Bishop Hugh C. Boyle behind the scenes is noted. As a grassroots labor history, this book is essential reading.


Dorothy Day (1897-1980), founder of the Catholic Worker Movement and a prophetic voice in the American Catholic Church, has been proposed as a candidate for sainthood. In this lavishly illustrated biography, the author provides a compelling portrait of her heroic efforts to live out the radical message of the gospel in our time. The author stresses Day's unique spiritual vision that underlay her dramatic witness — a vision brought to fruition through the ministry of Pittsburgh's Father John Hugo. This is a substantially revised and enlarged edition of *Love Is the Measure: A Biography of Dorothy Day*, originally published by Paulist Press in 1986 and later published in revised edition by Orbis Books in 1994.


This work celebrates the 20th year of the absorption of the former Redemptorist Seminary of St. Mary's in North East (Erie County) into Mercyhurst University in the city of Erie. It includes the century-plus history of the Redemptorists' years there. The McAuley Career Division now operates as a junior college at the site, with an extensive associate degree program. The author is an assistant professor at the university and a former Erie County Executive.


The turmoil and persecution of the French revolution caused an emigration of French priests to the United States — the beginning of a wave of émigré religious who would influence the development of the Catholic Church in the colonial and western expansion periods as they ministered to pockets of Catholics in the Appalachians and led the evangelization of much of the trans-Appalachian West over the course of the 19th century. This work makes clear the role of Pittsburgh as a transportation center, both by water and land, to the West. Some of the missionaries passed through and established long-term relationships with Pittsburgh priests and bishops, who were themselves functioning as missionaries in undeveloped Western Pennsylvania. These French priests had an historic impact on the developing Catholic Church in a great swath of the United States.


These companion volumes complete the publication of Dorothy Day's personal papers, part of the Dorothy Day-Catholic Worker Collection housed at Marquette University's library in Milwaukee. Pursuant to Day's instructions, these materials were sealed for 25 years after her death in 1980. The volumes make clear the seminal role played by Pittsburgh priest John Hugo, whose retreats that Day attended emphasized the universal call to holiness and intensified Day's already demanding spirituality. Father Louis Farina and other Pittsburgh priests are also memorialized in Day's writings. The editor is a former editor of the Catholic Worker newspaper.


The author-screenwriter delves into religious artifacts in this work, whose front cover displays the sanctuary of St. Anthony Chapel in Pittsburgh's Troy Hill neighborhood. The chapel has its own chapter in this work, which treats of relics as well as "supernatural myths." The work does not pretend to be a history or a religious study; indeed, where the sales pitch for the work describes Lourdes and Fatima as "the locations [of] supernatural and eerie activities," the reader is clearly forewarned. The work is the journey of self-realization for the author.

The author, a priest of the Cincinnati Archdiocese, recounts the history of the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade, which engaged millions of Catholic school students from World War I to 1971 to provide financial and spiritual support, and religious vocations, for Catholic missions throughout the world. The book traces the history of the Holy Childhood Association, which was entrusted to the Holy Ghost (Spirituan) Fathers at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. While the organization passed from existence, many of its members — today's baby boomers — are still active in mission support. This volume provides an excellent insight into American missionary efforts — which included many Western Pennsylvanians who joined the Capuchins, Spiritans, Passionists, and the Society of Divine Word expressly for overseas missionary work.


This is the recent reprint of Dorothy Day's autobiography, originally published in 1952 by Harper & Row. With the backing of Day's daughter and an introduction by Robert Coles (the Pulitzer Prize-winning author and biographer of Day), the original work — which chronicled her lifelong association with Peter Maurin and the genesis of the Catholic Worker movement — appears anew. The role of Pittsburgh's Father John Hugo in Day's spiritual actualization was seminal. Day was unstinting in her commitment to peace, nonviolence, racial justice, and the poor. She inspired later activists such as Thomas Merton, Daniel Berrigan, and César Chávez.


This work examines how Catholics developed their faith in the Ohio Valley in the midst of the Protestant Second Great Awakening. The Catholic determination to plant and nourish the faith was successful and occurred during a period of relative harmony with Protestants, despite the pressures to Americanize. It is an informative and inspiring tale of how frontier priests, like Demetrius Gallitzin and Thomas Heyden, adapted a European-based church to an oppositional American frontier environment. The author is executive director of the National Council on Public History.


The Benedictines of St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe undertook missionary work among German immigrants in various parts of the United States during the 19th century. Perhaps no part of the country better demonstrates their impact than Minnesota, especially Stearns County. This volume details the history of the fifty Catholic churches built in that county where there is a unique density of Catholic hamlets that comprise two-thirds of the population. The Benedictine influence is apparent in the magnificently large German-style churches. The work is profusely illustrated.


This concise work reviews the contribution of the American bishops to liturgical music since Vatican II. The author evaluates four statements issued by the bishops on music in worship, comparing and analyzing the documents. Pittsburgh's priest-composer Father James Chepponis contributed to the history, which also notes the 40-year role of famed Pittsburgh organist Paul Koch at St. Paul's Cathedral. While prepared for those involved in church music, the work will inform the general reader. The Capuchin author is a professor of liturgy and music at the Catholic Theological Union.


This provincial history was commissioned in 2006 in response to an Order directive that all provinces should publish histories. The result is a detailed history of the Franciscans headquartered at Loretto (Cambria County), Pennsylvania. Irish Franciscans, invited by Pittsburgh's first bishop Michael O'Connor, arrived in 1847 to establish a school on land donated by Fr. Demetrius Gallitzin. Over time, universities were developed in Loretto and in Steubenville, Ohio. The province's missionary efforts in India, Brazil, and South Africa are included — as are the several friars who became bishops.


This book is the biography of Joseph P. Hurley, an American priest assigned to the Vatican before War II. Named bishop of St. Augustine (Florida) in 1940, he was the first American named a papal nuncio (to Yugoslavia) in 1945. Returning to his bishopric in 1950, his final years were focused on preventing the transfer of assets to the newly established diocese of Miami in 1958 — which was headed by former Pittsburgh auxiliary bishop Coleman Carroll. The years-long dispute is a window into the life story of Bishop Carroll. The book also covers Vatican diplomatic policy before, during, and after World War II. The Jesuit author has made an outstanding contribution to American Catholic history.
This is the monument collection, and translation, of the surviving letters of the Bavarian-born Redemptorist priest, who served in Pittsburgh as assistant to St. John Neumann and then as superior of the community at St. Philomena's in the Strip District from 1844 to 1853. He successfully resisted becoming bishop of Pittsburgh in 1860 — but died tragically at age 48 during a yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans in 1867. Seelos was beatified in 2000. These letters, and the accompanying annotations by the Redemptorists' archivist, provide real insight into Seelos' spiritual strength and active life.


The author, Father George Tavard (1922-2007), is a former chaplain to the Sisters of Mercy of Pittsburgh and an instructor at then-Mt. Mercy College. A native of France, he joined the Augustinians of the Assumption and came to the U.S. as a permanent resident in 1952. He was named a peritus at the Second Vatican Council and a consultant to the Pontifical Secretariat for the Unity of Christians. An emphatic supporter of ecumenism, Father Tavard voted for the Decree on Ecumenism at the Council. The Decree and the challenges posed by ecumenical dialogue are the subjects of this, his final work. The role of Pittsburgh's Bishop John Wright in shaping the Decree is noted.


This is the sole English translation of the 1971 German edition of the memoirs of Father Peter Lemke — the German-born Lutheran priest who converted to Catholicism in 1824, emigrated to America and served under Father Demetrius Gallitzin in Western Pennsylvania. Lemke laid out Carrolltown in 1838, and succeeded Gallitzin as pastor in Loretto upon the latter's death. Instrumental in bringing the Benedictines to the New World, Lemke later entered the Benedictine order at St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe in 1852. After a missionary period in Kansas, where he laid the foundation for the establishment of a Benedictine abbey in Atchison, he spent the final years of his life back in Carrolltown.


The Academy of American Franciscan History (originally based in Washington, D.C., and now located in Oceanside, California) undertook the publication beginning in 1966 and continuing through 2006 of an indispensable finding aid: a complete calendar of all American documents in the Archives of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith (Propaganda Fide). The Congregation was established in 1622 by Pope Gregory XV to foster the spread of Catholicism and regulate ecclesiastical affairs in non-Catholic countries, and had jurisdiction over the missionary United States until 1908. Anton Debevec, a Slovenian layman, was the Rome-based researcher/compiler of the calendar until his death in 1987, when Giovanna Pisini succeeded to that demanding task. Father Finbar Kenneally served as the original editor, and was succeeded by several Franciscan confreres. The archival calendar provides summaries of hundreds of letters from/to Western Pennsylvania bishops, priests, sisters, and laity on a spectrum of issues. The first volume begins with documents in 1673, and the most recent volume carries the calendar through to 1879. A cumulative index was published at the conclusion of Volume Seven. While the Academy plans to continue and ultimately complete the original plan, resumption of publication remains uncertain. Historian John Gilmary Shea was the first American to use documents from this archive, which is the richest source for the early history of the Catholic Church in the United States.


In 1897, the Berwind-White Coal Mining Company founded Windber as a company town for its miners in the bituminous coal county of Somerset. This book traces the history of unionization in that community, from the 1890s flood of European immigrants seeking work, through the New Deal of the 1930s when the miners' rights to organize and join the United Mine Workers of America were achieved after decades of bitter struggle. Woven into this history is the story of that overwhelmingly Catholic immigrant population of twenty-five different nationalities, and the significant role that ethnic Catholic parishes played — under the successive jurisdiction of the Diocese of Pittsburgh (until 1901) and the Diocese of Altoona (as of 1901).


Saint Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe was the first Benedictine monastery in the New World, established by Boniface Wimmer in 1846. Saint Vincent's, in turn, established abbeys in other parts of the United States and beyond. The first of these was St. John's in Collegeville, Minnesota in 1856. Wimmer retained oversight of the new establishment for the first ten years. This volume consists of a series of essays, and accompanying photographs, to commemorate the sesquicentennial of this Benedictine community — covering the abbey with its internationally known modern church, and its adjacent university. The editor is the president emeritus of Saint John's University.

This book chronicles the ground-breaking attempt by the National Catholic Welfare Conference (NCWC) to mold the newly-established United Nations in the image of a Catholic world order through the NCWC Office for UN Affairs. Monsignor Howard Carroll — Pittsburgh native from Holy Rosary Parish in Homewood and one of three famed priest-brothers — played a critical role in this effort, given his position as general secretary of the NCWC. With the advent of the Cold War, the NCWC sought to thwart international Communism and advance Catholic social and political objectives. Pittsburgh Bishop John Wright's role is also examined in this study.


This is the history of the Barber family of Erie — one of the most influential Catholic families in the city and diocese who were responsible for the creation of the Gertrude Barber Center of Erie. The principal writer is the former president of Mercyhurst College in Erie.


The author, a native of Western Pennsylvania, tells the story of his great-great grandparents' life in pre-famine Ireland and their subsequent emigration to the United States. After an odyssey through Dublin, New York, Pittsburgh, and Wheeling, the newly married couple settled in 1842 in Brownsville, Fayette County — some 30 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. Brownsville was a thriving town on the National Road (Route 40) and rivaled Pittsburgh as the potential location for the first Catholic bishopric in Western Pennsylvania. Life for the family centered around historic St. Peter's Church, a beautiful stone edifice built by imported Irish masons and consecrated by Bishop Michael O'Connor in 1845. The book is a retelling of what drove so many Europeans, regardless of nationality, to forsake their land of birth for a better life in America. The challenges are realistically portrayed, as are the characters and traditions, places and events, from an age that has long passed.


This work by a Benedictine professor of liturgy at St. John's University is a scholarly near-encyclopedic history of the evolution of sacred art and architecture in the Western Church. It is also an introduction to the major monuments — and influential monastic examples such as St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe — of these arts. This eminently readable volume illuminates the record of worship spaces and their adornment.


Four thousand Irish-born and Irish-seminary educated priests have served in the United States, and some 1,250 currently serve here. Their upbringing distinguished them from their American-born counterparts. They included many early priests in the Pittsburgh and Erie dioceses — including bishops Michael O'Connor, James O'Connor, John Tuigg, Richard Phelan, and Tobias Mullen. These priests have left an indelible mark in the United States, but are vanishing due to an increasing mortality rate and the dearth of vocations to the priesthood in Ireland. The last Irish-born diocesan priest in Pittsburgh was Father Michael Carmody, who studied at both All Hallows Seminary in Ireland and St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe before his ordination in 1932. He died some 40 years ago. This book is an excellent cultural analysis and suggests that similar studies of other ethnic groups of priests who emigrated to the U.S. are overdue.


This is a memoir of St. Mary (Immaculate Conception) School in Altoona (Blair County), Pennsylvania, authored by a priest in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, who retired from active ministry in 2011.


Lawrenceville native Matt Cvetic worked inside the Western Pennsylvania Communist Party in Pittsburgh between 1941 and 1950. This book staunchly defends Cvetic — countering several works critical of Cvetic's role during the Cold War. This volume examines Cvetic's Catholic faith. Father Daniel Lawless (pastor of St. Mary at the Point in Downtown Pittsburgh) specially dispensed Cvetic from Mass and the sacraments to avoid exposure by fellow Communists. Reading this work should lead to a reading of Cvetic's 1959 autobiography, *The Big Decision: The Story of Matt Cvetic, CounterSpy.*

Sisters founded more than 150 Catholic colleges in the United States. This work provides a history of these institutions and the broader educational challenges they encountered. Examined are the founders' missions, administration, and student life — as well as the dramatic changes that began in the 1960s with reduced enrollments, the movement toward co-education, restructuring with lay control, and funding. Included in this work are the Western Pennsylvania institutions: Carlow in Pittsburgh, Villa Maria in Erie (as of 1989, merged into Gannon University), LaRoche in Pittsburgh, Mercyhurst in Erie, and Mount Aloysius in Cresson.


This work represents the last publication of the first community of Benedictine Sisters in the New World — St. Marys in Elk County — that dissolved in 2014, due to a decline in membership and the expense of maintenance of the original buildings.


This is an incisive analysis of Pittsburgh's industrialization and de-industrialization, focusing on the forces of labor, business, and government that helped shape the greater Pittsburgh area. The working-class struggle for rights and wages involved not only several prominent Catholic priests but enormous numbers of committed Catholic ethnics.


The author — a freelance writer who lives in Monroeville (Allegheny County) — interviewed more than 2,500 priests across the United States in order to portray the human side of the priesthood. This volume provides an inside look into priesthood: candid reflections on vocational call, ministerial demands and sacrifices, rewards and adventures. Included are accounts from now-deceased Cathedral rector Leo Vanyo, Michael Deczewicz, Edward Schleicher, Robert Boyle, Michael Caridi, John Vojtek, John Marcucci, Robert Zajdel, and others. The stories — some of which will bring tears to your eyes — reveal that like all of us, priests are people, too.


Many books have been written about the leading American Catholic of the twentieth century, Archbishop Fulton Sheen. This volume presents, better than any of the others, the connection of Sheen to Pittsburgh — through its priests, labor unions, radio programming, and fight against Communism. The author provides a compelling in-depth portrait of a noted churchman and intellectual, who confronted the world with piety and brilliance. The life of this complex prelate is presented in the context of the social history of the American Catholic Church.


Over 100 original documents from the earliest days of American Catholicism to the beginning of the present millennium are presented to illustrate the editors' view that gender is a prime determinant of social position in both church and society. The texts and commentary depict changing attitudes, the plurality of ideas about gender among American Catholics, and the tension between competing attitudes. The book includes the contributions of several Western Pennsylvania Catholics, including Archabbot Boniface Wimmer OSB, Sister Joan Chittister OSB, and Sister Elizabeth Carroll RSM. Editor Paula Kane is Marous Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of Pittsburgh.


This volume offers six perceptive interpretations of the Catholic missionary agenda globally. The first is that of Sister Sung-Hae Kim, Korean Provincial of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill (Greenburgh). The Charity Sisters sent 10 long-term missionaries to Korea from 1960 to 1984. Her essay addresses the transformation from the original education/skills needs of the people to the challenge of a Christian presence in developed societies with highly sophisticated cultural traditions. This informative volume raises fundamental questions regarding Christian mission in the global world. Neither the book nor the issues can be ignored.

This work focuses on early missionary activity that led to the formation of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, which is the oldest agency in the American Catholic Church, formed in 1874. Monsignor Paul Lenz (a native of Gallitzin) of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown served as the bureau’s sixth executive director 1976-2007. Considerable attention in the book is given to St. Katharine Drexel, who undertook her formation with the Sisters of Mercy in Pittsburgh. The introduction to the volume is by Native-American Archbishop Charles Chaput, who attended the Capuchin seminary in Herman, Butler County (Diocese of Pittsburgh). While the book’s focus is on Indian affairs in the western United States, Western Pennsylvanians will appreciate the parallelism between our area and the West — including shared historical persons. Monsignor Lenz, following his retirement, became vice-postulator of the cause of Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680), “Lily of the Mohawks,” who was later canonized on October 2, 2012.


This is the biography of Thomas Lieb, who entered the Franciscan Friars Third Order Regular (T.O.R.), graduated from St. Francis Seminary in Loretto, went to India in 1938 as a missionary, and remained there until his death in 1978. The priest’s roots were in Cambria County, and the book is filled with old photos of the Cresson area. One of the authors is Fr. Lieb’s brother, who followed in the steps of his older brother — including service in India, before becoming pastor of St. Agnes in Oakland, and serving as chaplain at Mercy Hospital and John Kane Hospital.


This work follows the standard format of parish history and genealogical information for one of the oldest parishes in the diocese of Erie. A congregation of Irish Catholics existed in Girard (Erie County), when the Diocese of Erie was established in 1853.


Saint Arnold Janssen established a mission society in the Netherlands in 1875 and the first member arrived in the United States twenty years later. In 1912, the order established a seminary/college at Girard in Erie County. Many Western Pennsylvanians were educated there, and a good number of those entered the order for missionary service. The seminary closed in 1966 and the facility became a branch campus of Mercyhurst University in Erie in 2006 (but is slated to close in 2014). This volume celebrates the history of the order and recounts the importance of the Western Pennsylvania seminary and the natives of this area who joined the order.


This is a comprehensive study of the Catholic Church in post-war Papua New Guinea (the eastern half of the large island immediately north of Australia) — mission territory entrusted to several orders including the Society of Divine Word, Spiritans, Capuchins, and Passionists. A number of priests who were natives of Western Pennsylvania, or were educated at seminaries here, are noted in this missionary work. Included is famed “flying Bishop” Leo Arkfeld, who was educated at the Divine Word seminary in Girard, Erie County, and served in three episcopal assignments in PNG from 1948 to 1987.


This work charts the ministry of the Capuchin friars, headquartered at St. Augustine Monastery in the Lawrenceville section of Pittsburgh, over five decades — from World War II through the Second Vatican Council. The volume is attractively illustrated.


This work is unique: a synthetic history of the liturgical movement in the United States and its leaders, based on the principle that liturgy and social justice are inseparable. The liturgical rationale of Father Thomas Cookley in building Sacred Heart Church in Shadyside is comprehensively presented. Pittsburgh’s Father Hans Reinhold receives considerable attention. The role of the Benedictines at St. Vincent Archabbbey is also noted. The author is both a professor of liturgical history at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute at Sant’Anselmo and an instructor at the Pontifical Gregorian University, in Rome.

World War II anniversaries have focused attention on religious aspects of the war, including the role of Catholic chaplains. This premier study of Catholic chaplains has not been surpassed by any of the very recent books on American military chaplains. This Jesuit author’s painstaking research drew upon several archives in Western Pennsylvania: Diocese of Pittsburgh, Capuchins, Spiritans, and Passionists — in addition to those of religious orders such as the Redemptorists and Holy Cross Fathers which contributed chaplains who were natives or studied in Western Pennsylvania. Included among these is William McCarty — a native of the diocese of Erie who became a Redemptorist, enlisted as a chaplain, and then became auxiliary bishop of the Military Ordinariate in 1943. The work is a social history combining thumbnail sketches of key battles with portraits of a number of the better-known chaplains.


This work is the publication of the doctoral dissertation (Duquesne University) by a senior pastor in the diocese of Pittsburgh. It presents the history of church doctrine regarding an employee’s right to a just wage. A survey of parish employees in Allegheny County showed low wages and inadequate benefits. The author presents twelve axioms for implementing a just wage and challenges church administrators to implement it. The work is part of the series in American University Studies on Theology and Religion.


The author was a native of Uniontown in Fayette County, when that area was part of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The first chapter of this book recounts the seminarian’s life under Pittsburgh Bishop Hugh C. Boyle and chancellor Mgr. Edward Misklow — and how he ended up as a priest in the Diocese of Columbus, which later split to form the Diocese of Steubenville. His history of the latter diocese is well written. The author served as chancellor of the Columbus diocese and as editor of the Steubenville diocesan newspaper. He later became an official of the National Federation of Priests’ Councils and wrote its history, *Priests in Council: A History of the National Federation of Priests’ Councils* (1979). In retirement, in 1986, he authored a history of the Association of Pittsburgh Priests. Father Brown died in Butler County at age 80 in 1996.


The author was a graduate of Duquesne University (1950), director of Duquesne’s public relations and development (1950s), and a finalist for its presidency (1988). He served as American ambassador to Burundi, Uganda, and the Vatican (1989-1993). This volume is the story of his diplomatic years at the Vatican during the papacy of Pope John Paul II, when the Communist bloc in Eastern Europe collapsed. Melady played a key role in moving the Vatican toward recognition of the State of Israel, which occurred in the year following the end of the author’s Vatican posting. Melady, a prolific author, died at age 86 in January 2014.


The first work is the moving historical account of the first decade of a great proselytization effort of the Passionists — whose original American foundation was at St. Paul of the Cross Monastery in Pittsburgh — that was undertaken in Hunan Province, China, beginning in the 1920s. A number of Western Pennsylvanians were among these missionaries, and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden (Beaver County, Diocese of Pittsburgh) worked along side the Passionists. The second work details the missionary efforts of the Sisters of Charity of Convent Station (New Jersey) who also worked with the Passionists in China. Privation, death, martyrdom, Japanese invasion, Communist takeover, and ultimate expulsion from China are part of both stories. Still awaited is a volume telling the story of the missionary work of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden in China.


This is the biography of the Passionist Superior General whose cause for beatification was introduced in Rome in May 2008. He was the former superior of St. Paul of the Cross Monastery on Pittsburgh’s South Side. He guided the Passionists world-wide 1964-1974 and sought unity and peace during a period of significant change in light of the Second Vatican Council. He is remembered in Pittsburgh as a warm person and a highly popular confessor, whose confessional lines were very long during his years here.

This is a collection of the sermons and essays of William Clancy (1922-1982), a former professor of English at Notre Dame University, religion editor at *Newsweek*, associate editor of *Commonweal*, and founder of *Worldview* magazine. Ordained a priest in 1964 by Bishop John Wright of Pittsburgh, Clancy served as provost of the Pittsburgh Oratory, ministering to the many Catholic students attending Pittsburgh's secular universities in the Oakland area. He was a vigorous opponent of McCarthyism. His writings cover a spectrum of issues. The book will attract those seeking a straight course through the conservative-liberal storms in both church and society.


This historical-sociological study examines the lives of East Central European (Slovaks, Hungarians, Croatians, Slovenians, Poles, Ukrainians and others) immigrants to Johnstown — during the mass peasant migration of the late nineteenth century — and their adaptation to an American industrial urban society. The bulk of these immigrants to Johnstown were Catholic, both Latin and Byzantine Rites, and this played out in the formation of "national" parishes. The city was part of the Diocese of Pittsburgh until 1901 when it became part of the newly established Diocese of Altoona. The text is incisive; the many illustrations include a Polish First Communion class, a Slovak theatrical group, and a Slovenian church.


This work by a Jesuit scholar — based upon years of research in Roman, diocesan, and national archives — is an incisive study of the history of American Catholicism and the role of American bishops and Vatican prelates in shaping the American Church over the span of almost a century. Bishops who were natives of, or served in, Pittsburgh figure prominently: Michael Domenec in his vote against papal infallibility at the First Vatican Council, John F. Canavin and his role in the NCWC, and John Wright in the midst of the Feeney controversy and the decision-making at the Second Vatican Council. Two of Pittsburgh's Carroll brothers (Howard as secretary of the NCWC, and Walter as the papal diplomat during and after World War II) receive significant treatment. Monsignor John Tracy Ellis, the dean of American Catholic historians, provided the foreword to this volume on ecclesiastical history.


Monsignor Basil Shereghy (1918-1988) — a leading Ruthenian Catholic priest who emigrated to the United States in 1946 and became a professor at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh — authored these four works that present the history of the Byzantine Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and its people.


This is an historical account of Father Gallitzin and his Russian relatives by a Lithuanian historian. The book has a dual focus: (1) Gallitzin's genealogy and family, which is traced to Lithuanian descent from 14th century Grand Duke Gediminas, and (2) the wilderness life in Cambria County, which relies heavily on the account of Father Lemcke. The author's presentation is simplistic in style, but the subject of the book remains a fascinating person worthy of an additional book.


This is the biography of Thomas Albert Andrew Becker, who was born in Pittsburgh in December 1832 to German Protestant parents. He attended the Allegheny Institute and the Western University of Pennsylvania (now the University of Pittsburgh), completing his studies at the University of Virginia. In May 1853, at age 20, he converted to Catholicism and was baptized in Richmond, Virginia. He decided to enter the priesthood and went to Rome where he was ordained in 1859, as a priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. His first priestly assignments were to western Virginia (now the state of West Virginia), where his churches were turned into barracks during the Civil War. At age 35, he was named the first bishop of Wilmington (then comprising all of Delaware, and parts of Maryland and Virginia). Eighteen years later, he was named bishop of Savannah where he served for the next 13 years until his death. This book tells the story of a missionary bishop who worked in areas where Catholics were a despised minority, overcoming enormous challenges to firmly ground the Catholic Church in the five states in which he labored.

The Sisters of Mercy of Erie established Mercyhurst in 1926 as a Catholic women's college. This is the institution's first published history, written by a former Mother General of the order on the occasion of the institution's golden anniversary.


This is the historical account of the largest Catholic hospital, established by the Sisters of St. Joseph, in the Diocese of Erie. In late 2012, Pittsburgh-based Highmark acquired the Erie health system (which had been operating with significant financial losses), thus ending the hospital's Catholic ownership and identity.


Gerard Donovan (1904-1938) was one of three priest-brothers from McKeesport who were members of the Maryknoll missionary society. Assigned to China in 1931, "Father Jerry" was taken prisoner by bandits in Japanese-occupied Manchukuo (Manchuria) in 1937; his body was found the following year. As the first Maryknoll priest to die a violent death in China, his passing attracted international attention and spurred many to enter Maryknoll for mission work. The author of Donovan's biography was a Superior General of Maryknoll, who also established the Fides News Service to disseminate mission information.