

Book Marks

Rare today are the virtues of friendship, loyalty, and gratitude. Yet history depends upon all three; for these forms of affection — far more than their opposites — will inspire someone to record the deeds of another.

Pittsburgh's Auxiliary Bishop John B. McDowell is spending a fruitful retirement by recording the lives of great Catholics he has known and admired. In his recent volume, *Water, Death, and Grace*, he tells the story of the man who ordained him, Hugh Boyle, the sixth bishop of Pittsburgh.

The small details of *Water, Death, and Grace* make it a lively history. Bishop McDowell knows how to evoke a sense of place, even for readers in a time far removed. He brings us to Bishop Boyle's ancestral Ireland; he takes us, in

steerage, on a voyage across the Atlantic; he brings us to the pub owned by the Boyle family in Johnstown. But nowhere is the drama so moving as in the account of the Johnstown flood. Of the 11 members of the Boyles' immediate family, only three survived.

The oldest boy at the time of the flood, Hugh, would be ordained a priest in 1898, and be consecrated Bishop of Pittsburgh in 1921 at age 48. He would preside as Pittsburgh's bishop longer than any of his predecessors or successors. Bishop Boyle died at 77 in 1950.

He has a worthy memorial in *Water, Death, and Grace* — a book that, along the way, tells a generous portion of the history of the Diocese of Pittsburgh as well.

Water, Death, and Grace may be ordered from Kirner's for \$9.50 plus \$2 shipping and handling. To order, call 261-2326.

Bishop McDowell's next book, *Catholic Schools, Public Education, and American Culture* is due out from Our Sunday Visitor in early 2000.

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The Diocese of Pittsburgh will soon publish *The World's First Christmas: Jubilee 2000*, a collection of Nativity meditations and artwork from throughout Christian history. The book includes meditations from the Fathers of the Church, many saints, popes, and sages, as well as Pittsburgh priests and faithful. Due out in December, the volume is edited by Regis Flaherty and historical society vice-president Mike Aquilina. Bishop Wuerl provides an introduction. Almost every page is adorned with full-color classic art. The purpose of the book is to restore the sacred character of the holiday.

Are You On Line?

If you can receive e-mail, please let us know. We would like to send members timely announcements of events. And we are considering sending *Gathered Fragments* in an electronic format, for those who would prefer to receive it that way. Please address your message to the society's president, Father James Garvey:

JGarvey@compuserve.com.

Your Dues Make Our Work Possible

With thanks for your past support, we request your membership renewal for 1999.

Sustaining Member \$25	Institutional Member \$15
Individual Member \$10	Individual Vowed Religious \$5

Additional donations help the society to complete research, publishing, and preservation projects in local Church history. Send check to Catholic Historical Society of Western Pa., Synod Hall, 125 North Craig Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-1510.

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