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the Hospital continued to provide quality health care while overcoming the obstacle of no electricity. Emergency care was given by the light of a small generator, 700 trays of food were distributed throughout the hospital through a human chain, and a woman gave birth to twins by flashlight.

During the Panic of 1873 and the Great Depression, Mercy Hospital struggled to maintain its commitment to the community. In 1873, The Sisters greatly reduced their own meals to almost nothing in order to help feed the patients. Through these sacrifices and patron donations, the Hospital continued to exist through these hard days, continuing to provide care to the sick poor. Once again during the Great Depression of the 1930s, the Sisters managed to contribute free care to the community — in 1931, the hospital donated more than $600,000 worth of health care services, when one day in the hospital cost under $4.00.

In the 1960s, Mercy Hospital refused to bend to the pressures of Allegheny County’s Hospital Planning Association to relocate to the suburbs where it would not be able to provide care to the poor. By the 1970s, Mercy started taking its health care to other sections of the community, through Primary Care stations and a Caremobile. In 1983, the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System was established to further expand the Sisters care for the community. Today, the System’s focus on patient care includes the long-term care at St. Pius X Residence and St. Joseph Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, a community hospital with Mercy Providence Hospital, primary care centers, home health services, and mental health/mental retardation and drug and alcohol services. The System also continues its dedication to providing education to physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals.

In the first half of this year, Mercy Hospital has celebrated its 150 years through a fundraising dinner, the money from which will go to the Hospital’s Care for the Poor program. In the second half of this year, the Hospital will unveil an historical exhibit. Some of the other activities of the sesquicentennial include a get-well card contest for school children, a quilt show, volunteer projects to help the community, participation in several parades, and the establishment of a walk with commemorative plates. The Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Hospital, and the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System continue to provide quality health care to the community — a 150-year commitment.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Oct. 12 Meeting at St. John the Baptist (Byzantine) Cathedral, Munhall
The Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania fall meeting will be a tour of St. John the Baptist (Byzantine) Cathedral at 210 Greentree Road, Munhall. Please plan to arrive at St. John’s at 2 p.m. Sunday, October 12. Father Robert Karl, the pastor, will conduct a tour of this recently constructed classical Byzantine Church and explain the art and architecture. Please pass the word to any other individuals or groups who might be interested. Refreshments will be served following the tour.

St. John the Baptist is the cathedral of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Pittsburgh. The archdiocese includes Catholics of the Byzantine Ruthenian Rite. It was established as an eparchy February 25, 1924, and made an archeparchy February 21, 1969. (The eparchy is the Eastern equivalent of the Western diocese.) The Most Rev. Judson Procyk, D.D., is the third metropolitan of the archeparchy. He was rector of the cathedral when the new building was raised. St. John the Baptist was consecrated June 12, 1994.

St. John’s is a magnificent new building incorporating the traditional features of Byzantine church architecture. Many of these features can be traced back to the sixth century and earlier. A distinctive feature of Byzantine art is the icon. Seventy-two icons are found within the cathedral. They are the work of Michael Kapeluck, who worked closely with the architect, Grant Scott.

The new building incorporates the bells and stained-glass windows from the previous church. In every respect the old is made new in St. John the Baptist Cathedral. It is a splendid exemplar of living tradition.

Directions: Parkway East; Squirrel Hill/Homestead Exit. Follow the arrow for Homestead. Go over the Homestead high level bridge, straight up the hill past the old hospital. At the T, make a right turn onto
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West Run Road. Go 1.3 miles. St. John's Byzantine Cathedral is on the right.

General Meeting Oct. 26
A general meeting for the full membership of the Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania will be held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, October 26, at Synod Hall, Oakland. The Board felt that it was important to hold a single-purpose meeting so that our members might be given an opportunity to make suggestions, offer recommendations for future speakers, and help chart a course for the future. We must also address the issue of recruiting new members, plan the meetings for 1998, consider future oral-history projects, and solicit suitable articles for Gathered Fragments, our semi-annual publication. Your participation in the ongoing affairs of this organization is requested.

—Father James Garvey

History On Line
Ann Kearney, Ph.D., a native of Western Pennsylvania, is a professor of history at Jefferson Community College, the University of Kentucky. Since 1991 she has moderated an electronic discussion group, AMERCA\(\text{TH}\). This discussion group is limited exclusively to the topic of the history of Catholicism in North America. Messages include questions and feedback for research, announcements of meetings and conferences, bibliographies, and miscellaneous other items relating to the history and teaching of American Catholicism. To subscribe, send email to LISTSERV@LSV.UKY.EDU. On the first line of the body, type: SUBAMERC\(\text{TH}\) Yourfirstname Yourlastname.

Dr. Kearney may be contacted by email: JCCANNK\@UKCC.UKY.EDU.

—Father Joseph Scheib

Gift of History
The Catholic Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the gift of Mrs. Darlene Buffington presented on behalf of the estate of her mother-in-law, Anna Franz Buffington. This gift consists of memorabilia of St. Michael's Parish, South Side, collected by Anna Franz Buffington. The collection includes a copy of the history of St. Michael's published for the parish's seventy-fifth anniversary and the program for the celebration of its anniversary in 1923.

Book Notes
Father Clement Pavlik, C.P., has published the third volume of The Historical Record of St. Paul of the Cross Monastery, Pittsburgh: Superiors and Highlights of Their Administration. This volume brings his history up to 1997. For more information, call (412) 381-1188 or write: Father Clement, C.P., St. Paul Monastery, 148 Monastery Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15203-1432.

The cause of Pennsylvanian Father Walter J. Ciszek, S.J., has been introduced for canonization. Father Ciszek spent 23 years in Soviet labor camps, convicted of being a “Vatican spy.” He documented those years of struggle in two books, With God in Russia and He Leadeth Me — the first title is more strictly autobiography; the second draws lessons for the spiritual life. Both are available from Ignatius Press: 1-800-651-1531.

Two recent books take a second look at a much-misunderstood period of history, the years just before
the Protestant Reformation. *Stories of the Rose: The Making of the Rosary in the Middle Ages* (Pennsylvania State University Press, $28.50) shows the remarkable vitality of Catholic spirituality in Europe of the late-medieval period. Author Anne Winston-Allen, assistant professor of German at Southern Illinois University, demonstrates how the Rosary effectively taught the mysteries of Christ to populations largely illiterate. She documents the widespread popular faith that was nurtured by this practice of piety. The book is beautifully illustrated with period artworks.