Catholic Historical Society Programs for the Sesquicentennial Year
by Sister Anna Mary Gibson, R.S.M.

When the Catholic Historical Society Program Committee was planning for the Sesquicentennial year, we discovered that, although few American citizens were canonized saints, three of them had close ties to the early history of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Consequently, we built our year's program around these saints: John Nepomucene Neumann, C.SS.R.; Elizabeth Ann Seton, S.C.; and Katherine Drexel, S.B.S.

On Sunday, October 11, 1992, Father John W. Kelly, C.SS.R., spoke about St. John Neumann, who served as a parish priest at St. Philomena's Church from 1842 to 1847. He later became the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia.

Sister Susan Jenny, S.C. spoke on Sunday, February 21, 1993, about St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who although she died in 1821, was present in her daughters, the Sisters of Charity, who staffed the orphanage and schools from 1835 to 1845 (the Sisters returned to and are still serving the Diocese from 1879 to the Present).

In October, 1993, a Sister of the Blessed Sacrament will talk to the Society about Blessed Katherine Drexel, their founder, who made her novitiate in Pittsburgh at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Mercy. While she was in Pittsburgh, she worked among the poor Blacks in the Hill District.

Each year a prominent speaker delivers the Lambing Lecture on the Sunday nearest to April 17, the anniversary of the first mass celebrated at the Point in 1754. This year, the nearest Sunday, April 18, was the occasion of the Sesquicentennial celebration of the religious priests, brothers, and sisters of the Diocese. The Catholic Historical Society, therefore, cosponsored the event with the religious of the Diocese the two speakers: Father Demetrius Dumm, O.S.B., who spoke on "Letters from the Present", and Sister Clare Fitzgerald, S.S.N.D., who spoke on "Letters unto the Future." The celebration (which was not a mass) took place at Our Lady of Grace Church in Mount Lebanon.
The Board of  
The Catholic Historical Society  
of Western Pennsylvania  

Overview of Business

Presently, the Board has been working on the incorporation of and the financial independence of the Society. The Society will continue to maintain its close ties to the Diocese while establishing itself as an independent organization. The Society is seeking to be listed in the Kennedy Directory as well.

Members of the Oral History Committee have been slowly compiling oral histories. The Diocese and the Society are working together on this project.

The Society had a very successful membership drive in 1993, increasing its membership by 40% since 1992. The Board hopes to attract more members to the Society in 1994.

Several of the Board members have been involved in the various Sesquicentennial activities, such as those concerning religious communities, social outreach, and ethnic groups.

The Board's Speakers Bureau gave a presentation on some of the history of the Diocese at Our Lady of Grace.

The President of the Board and a few of the Board members attended the recent dedication of the Diocesan Archives at Synod Hall.

The Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania presents

Mother Katherine Drexel  
Founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament

Sr. Patricia Lynch, SBS speaker

Part of a series of lectures featuring American Canonized Saints who played an active role in the early history of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Sunday, October 3, 1993  
2:30 pm  
Synod Hall  
125 North Craig Street, Oakland

A reception will be held immediately following the lecture.
Twenty-Seventh Annual Duquesne University History Forum and The Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania present the following session:

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh: The Last 150 Years

Friday, October 15, 1993
3:15-5:30pm,
Room 608, Duquesne's Student Union

Papers to be presented:

"Bishop Tuigg and the Railroad Riots of 1877"
by Anthony P. Joseph, Jr.

"Father Cox and the Church of Pittsburgh in the 1940s"
by Sally Witt, C.S.J.

"Response of Religious Women to the Needs of Immigrants to the Pittsburgh Diocese"
by Anna Mary Gibson, R.S.M.

"Letters of Reverend William F. X. O'Brien, First Pastor of a Catholic Parish in Pittsburgh,"
by Paul Dvorak

"Patterns of Conflict and Cooperation in the History of Roselia Founding Asylum and Maternity Hospital"
by Rev. Joseph C. Scheib

Also,
Duquesne University History Forum presents:

Plenary Address
Friday, October 15, 1993, 7:00 pm

Most Rev. John B. McDowell
Vicar General, Diocese of Pittsburgh

150 Years of Catholicism in Pittsburgh

With an introduction by:
Anthony P. Joseph, Jr.
President, The Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania

Members of the Society are welcome to attend the above lectures.
Upcoming lecture in 1994
Sr. Margaret Carney, OSF will be speaking. She has recently completed a book on St. Clare, who was the founder of the women’s religious branch of the Franciscans.

Speakers Bureau
The Board’s Speakers Bureau is available to give presentations on various aspects of the history of the Diocese. Please contact the Board of the Catholic Historical Society for more information.

Dues Reminder
This is a reminder that dues will be coming up soon. Information will be sent out to members in the upcoming months.

Gathered Fragments
If you have any submissions to the Gathered Fragments newsletter, please submit them to the Catholic Historical Society at Synod Hall.

Members of the Board
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Rev. Joseph C. Scheib - Treasurer
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