Dear Reader:

Welcome to the first issue of "Fragments" - The Newsletter of the Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. The name of this publication was inspired by the motto: "Gather up the fragments that remain, least they be lost." This sage advice appears on the title page of the Rev. A.A. Lambing's book, A HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH AND ALLEGHENY published in 1880. Msgr. Andrew Arnold Lambing, the first historian of the Diocese, was one of the founders of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society. His motto is, at once, a description of both the purpose and style of this newsletter. It is hoped that "Gathered Fragments" will serve as a vehicle for communicating the news and views of the Society and disseminating bits and pieces of interesting information. Advice, constructive criticism, suggestions and, most of all, contributions (announcements, articles, book reviews, news items etc.) are encouraged. We look forward to hearing from you.

THE BEGINNING

Anticipating a celebration of the Centennial of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania was founded, May 27, 1940.

Its purpose, as stated in the Constitution was: "to further the study of American Catholic History, especially in Western Pennsylvania; to gather and correlate papers, documents and relics of our Catholic heritage; to investigate and research in this field; and to publish the result thereof from time to time."

Meetings were held quarterly. At each meeting there was a presentation on some phase of Catholic History. One meeting each year featured a speaker of national prominence in the field of Church History to present the "Andrew Arnold Lambing Memorial Lecture."

Under the auspices of the Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, in 1943, a symposium entitled: "Catholic Pittsburgh's One Hundred Years" was published.

In 1950, the Society sponsored commemorative events marking the declaration of the dogma of the "Assumption of Our Blessed Mother." These events were held at Saint Mary of Mercy Church, the Church nearest the location of the Chapel at Fort Duquesne which was erected in 1754 under the title: "The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Beautiful River."

In 1954, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the first place of public Christian worship in Western Pennsylvania, the Society sponsored the re-publication of Monsignor A.A. Lambing's 1885 edition of the "Register of Fort Duquesne." In this book, a very valuable recitation of the activities of the
French in Western Pennsylvania serves as a preface to the record of Baptisms and Interments at Fort Duquesne in the years 1753-1756.

In 1959, in observance of the City of Pittsburgh's Bicentennial, the Society published a small booklet: "From the Point to the Present", to indicate the growth of Catholicity in Pittsburgh.

Bishop Michael O'Connor

RIGHT REV. DR. MICHAEL O'CONNOR: FIRST BISHOP OF PITTSBURGH 1843-1860

Michael O'Connor was born in Cork, Ireland, on September 27, 1810. He completed his elementary studies in Queenstown where he attracted the attention of his Bishop. The Bishop, noting the boy's exceptional mental ability and religious bent, sent him to Rome to study for the priesthood. In the famous Propaganda, where he matriculated, he was easily recognized as primus inter pares-first among equals.

Because of a brilliant public defense and exposition of Catholic theology, the young student won the coveted doctorate in Sacred Theology. So outstanding was this exhibition of sacred learning that he received the praise of Cardinal Wiseman, rector of the English College in Rome and the public congratulations of His Holiness, Pope Gregory XVI. Although below the canonical age for ordination on the completion of his course, the Holy Father graciously granted him a special dispensation, and he was ordained priest in the Eternal City on June 1, 1833.

Shortly after his ordination and the reception of his doctorate, the young priest was appointed vice rector of the Irish College in Rome and, for a time, took over the duties of the rector. He was also professor of Sacred Scripture in the Propaganda. His experience in training young men for the priesthood was of great value to him in his newly assigned task.

Although the scholarly and religious atmosphere of Rome had definite attractions for Father O'Connor, he responded obediently to the call of his Bishop and returned to Ireland after a few years. It was there that he received a second invitation from a former fellow student, Francis Patrick Kenrick, now Bishop of Philadelphia (at the time - the entire state of Pennsylvania). Under Bishop Kenrick, Father O'Connor served as rector and professor in St. Charles Seminary, Philadelphia. Bishop Kenrick appointed him pastor of St. Paul's Church, Pittsburgh, and Vicar General of the western part of the state.

Although the need for a division of the unwieldy Philadelphia Diocese and the erection of a new See in the western part of the state has been a matter of importance to American churchmen for years, the recommendation to Rome was sent in May of this past year (1843) when the Fifth Provincial Council of Baltimore convened. The Council submitted the name of Michael O'Connor as first Bishop of the new diocese.

Fearing that the rumors of his possible appointment might be true, Father O'Connor left for Rome late in May to ask the Holy Father's permission to join the Society of Jesus. Imagine his surprise when Pope Gregory said, "You shall be a Bishop first, and a Jesuit afterwards."

Taken from booklet MERCY HOSPITAL HISTORICAL SKETCHES, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA. Archives of Mercy Hospital.
TV PROGRAM RECALLS
HISTORY OF PITTSBURGH DIOCESE

The Most Rev. Anthony G. Bosco, Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh, invited the Rev. Edward F. McSweeney, Diocesan Archivist, to be his guest this past June on his weekly TV Program, on Channel 9, "To Teach As Jesus Did" for two Sundays, June 16 and June 23. The first interview focused attention on the three Catholic churches in the City of Pittsburgh at the time of the establishment of the Diocese in 1843: St. Patrick's, St. Paul's Cathedral and St. Philomena's. The second dealt with a few incidents in the lives of the first six bishops of Pittsburgh from Michael O'Connor to Hugh C. Boyle.

PAST PROGRAMS OF THE SOCIETY

Since October, 1984, the Society has featured four local speakers at its meetings.

On October 21, 1984, Msgr. Francis A. Glenn, pastor of St. Paul Church, Butler, spoke of the early history of the Pittsburgh Diocese, especially the work of the historian Msgr. A.A. Lambing. Msgr. Glenn belonged to the Catholic Historical Society when it first began in the early 1940s.

Clyde Piquet, mayor of Industry, gave an address on April 21, 1985. Mr. Piquet authored a history of Presentation Church, Midland, and St. Christine Church, Industry. He also compiled the volume Birth and Growth of Catholicism in Beaver County, for the 225th anniversary of the First Mass in Beaver County.

The October 6, 1985 speaker was Russell Gibbons, director of Communications for the United Steelworkers of America. Mr. Gibbons spoke of some of the common roots of religion and labor. His was the first address that the society audio taped.

Mary Downey James, author of CCC...An Expression of Ministry, spoke on February 2, 1986. Mrs. James discussed her research for the work, which is a history of the Confraternity of Christine Doctrine in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

SEVEN SISTERS OF MERCY

When the Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael O'Connor arrived in Pittsburgh, he brought with him seven young Irish gentlewomen known as Sisters of Mercy, lately of Carlow, Ireland. These women belonged to a band formed officially in December, 1831, in Dublin by the then Miss Catherine McAuley, later known as Mother Mary Catherine. She had begun her work in Dublin to answer the needs of the poor, the sick, and those who lacked instruction in the Faith.

Miss McAuley's followers were later established in many parts of Ireland and England. It was to one of these establishments in Carlow, Ireland, that Bishop O'Connor repaired on his return from Rome where he had so recently been appointed Bishop of the newly formed Diocese of Pittsburgh. The new Bishop told the Sisters of the needs of his diocese and asked their help.

All twenty-seven sisters of the Carlow convent expressed their willingness to serve. The seven sisters who were chosen to accompany Bishop O'Connor were: Mother M. Frances Warde, superior of the group; Sister M. Josephine Cullen; Sister M. Elizabeth Strange; Sister M. Aloysia Strange; Sister M. Philomena Reid; Sister Veronica McDarby; and Sister Margaret O'Brien.

Mercy Hospital Archives.
Catholic are more numerous than any other religious denomination in Western Pennsylvania. There are over one million.

It was not always so. In the nineteenth century they were few in number and the Church functioned as a missionary establishment. The rapid growth of industrialization after the Civil War brought a demand for large numbers of cheap and unskilled labor. The availability of work brought large numbers of men and families to the region from other sections of this country and especially, from other countries. Bishop Hugh C. Boyle, in the Foreword to the Diocese's Centennial History, CATHOLIC PITTSBURGH'S ONE HUNDRED YEARS, 1843-1943, described what happened to the Church in Western Pennsylvania when he wrote:

The growth of the Diocese is in large measure the result of migration of Catholic people from other sections of this country and from other lands, to which often agents of the great industries were sent to keep up the labor supply needed, as the industries grew in size. These Catholic people were often ignorant of the language, were unacquainted with the way of life in American towns and cities, and were under the necessity of finding pastors who could minister to them and guide them in this new social environment. These pastors came with them, or were requisitioned from the diocese from which their parishioners came in other lands, by Bishops here in Pittsburgh. Both the people and their pastors were most desirable additions to the personnel of this Diocese, and their zeal and generosity soon provided them with parish buildings adequate to their needs and, architecturally, of good quality. They brought, in addition, the habits and custom of the countries in which they were reared, and so made valuable contributions to the Catholic life of the Diocese. Their zeal and devotion to the Faith have been of a high order, and their example has been an inspiration to all who are native to this country. They have become a homogeneous group with the Catholics whom they found here, and they and their children have been the largest contribution to the growth in population which occurred in the Diocese in the last century.

A further reading of this centennial history of Catholics in Western Pennsylvania does not reveal much about what happened to the immigrants who settled in the towns and villages which sprung up along with the mills and factories. A search of the literature reveals a few studies dealing with the Church and the immigrant. An excellent recent study on immigrants in Pittsburgh by John Bodnar, et.al., LIVES OF THEIR OWN: BLACKS, ITALIANS AND POLES IN PITTSBURGH, 1900-1960, devotes ten sentences (page 201) on the relationship of the immigrant and the Church.

Why has so little been written about the relationship between the Church and immigrant? It is impossible to answer this question in the limited space available; however, a few observations may be in order to explain this lack of attention to the subject. First, the immigrant press is full of stories about their relationship to the Church. There are stories of new buildings, ordinations, births, deaths, social activities in the parishes and biographies of prominent people of the Diocese. These papers were generally published in the native language and, as a result, have been ignored by scholars unfamiliar with the language. Secondly, though there are many sources from which this history can be written, they are scattered and difficult to access. The records of the Church in the Diocesan archives have not had the attention they deserve. The present Archivist, Father Edward F. McSweeney, has done an admirable job considering the lack of help and adequate financing. Thirdly, the hierarchy, the Catholic laity, and the academic community have simply ignored the subject. I can only speculate as to why so little research has been done on this subject. One reason may be a lack of interest, a feeling that nothing spectacular occurred. Another reason may be the fear that the rediscovered history could lead to hard feelings and renewal of bitter feelings. Whatever the reason, it is time to take a look at the history of Catholicism in Western Pennsylvania in general, and particularly at the Church history as it relates to the ethnic community.

One of the most interesting features of the Church in the area is the establishment of the large number of ethnic parishes. Changes in the nature of ethnicity, the Church, and in modern society makes it
imperative we study these parishes before they completely disappear. These parishes played an important role in the life of immigrants in a community. It was in the ethnic parishes that the immigrant found spiritual solace and fraternal, educational and social organizations which helped him to adjust to American life. It was the ethnic parishes that kept alive the language and culture of the old world and the development of ethnic identity. The Church was the center of not only family life but of the neighborhood. In hard times it was the parish which became the focal point of spiritual and material support.

The effect of the immigrant on the institutional character of the Church needs to be studied. The problem of how to deal with so many Catholics with a common belief but with many different customs and traditions must have created conflicts and resulted in innovative solutions.

The Pennsylvania Ethnic Heritage Studies Center of the University Center for International Studies at the University of Pittsburgh is prepared to aide in the study of the immigrant and ethnic Church in Western Pennsylvania. The Center's Archives contain a large amount of material useful in any project. The Center was established by the State Legislature in 1975 to assist in the study and preservation of the rich multicultural heritage of the Commonwealth. The Center attempts to do this through a small grants program, development of curriculum materials, teacher workshops on multi-culturalism, an archival and research program, and publication of research in an occasional paper series and newsletter. For more information about the Center and its programs contact Dr. Joseph T. Makarewicz, PEHSC, 4G31 Forbes Quad., University of Pittsburgh, Pgh. PA 15260. Tel. no 624-4936.

CUSHWA CENTER

For those interested in the study of American Catholicism, the Charles and Margaret Hall Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame publishes a Newsletter. The annual subscription rate is $3.00. To order the Newsletter, write to: The American Catholic Studies Newsletter, 614 Memorial Library, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind. 46556.

LAMBING LECTURE

The Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania will conduct the 1986 annual Andrew Arnold Lambing Memorial Lecture on April 20. Msgr. Lambing, the first historian of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, was one of the founders of the Society. He was the author of many articles and books on Catholicism in Western Pennsylvania.

The lecture has regularly featured speakers who have a major involvement in American Catholic life. In 1985 the speaker was Mr. Clyde Piquet, President of the Mill Creek Historical Society and author of THE BIRTH AND GROWTH OF CATHOLICISM IN BEAVER COUNTY.

SESQUICENTENNIAL SET

The first Sisters of Saint Joseph in the United States came from France to St. Louis, Missouri, in 1836. From St. Louis they extended throughout the nation. In 1869 the Sisters came to Western Pennsylvania and established a motherhouse in Ebensburg. They opened also Mount Gallitzin Academy, an elementary boarding school for boys. At the beginning of this century, the Sisters moved the motherhouse and school location to Baden, along the Ohio River. Today Mount Gallitzin Academy is a day school for girls as well as boys.

Saint Joseph Sisters throughout the country will celebrate their 150th anniversary in June in St. Louis, Missouri. The Sisters of Saint Joseph of Baden will mark the 150 years by celebrating with the people of three local dioceses. There will be Mass on March 17 at St. Joseph Church, New Kensington in the Greensburg Diocese, and at Holy Name Church, Ebensburg, in Altoona-Johnstown Diocese on March 18. On March 19, the feast of St. Joseph, Mass will be celebrated at Holy Rosary Church (Homewood) in the Pittsburgh Diocese.

VIDEO HISTORY OF CCD

The CCD office has prepared a special video history of the CCD program. To obtain information about the program contact Ms. Anne E. McCann, CCD Office, 111 Blvd. of the Allies, Pgh. Pa. 15222.
LOGO CONTEST

We are interested in a new logo. The one on the front of the Newsletter was designed in the 1940s. We are interested in a logo which combines the history and the spirit of Catholicism in Western Pennsylvania. If you have a design please submit to Professor Jerome Janssen, Duquesne University, c/o History Dept., Pgh, Pa. 15282.

The winning design will be selected on originality and historical relevance. The winner will receive a copy of CATHOLIC PITTSBURGH'S ONE HUNDRED YEARS, 1843-1943. Loyala University Press, 1943.

Local Research in Progress

Lois J. Kalloway, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh, is working on a history of Polish, German, Irish and Lithuanian religious sisters in Pittsburgh 1890-1940.

Sister Demetria King, O.S.B., Mount St. Mary Convent, 4530 Perrysville Ave., Pittsburgh, 15229, is preparing a biography of Mother Adelgunda Feldman, O.S.B., foundress of the Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh, and seeks to contact anyone willing to share material on the subject.

Duquesne University
History Department
Pittsburgh, Pa 15282

The following people helped put FRAGMENT together:
Msgr. Francis A. Glenn
Rev. Edward McSweeney
Sr. Anne Gibson, RSM
Sr. Sally Witt, CSJ
Dr. Jerome Janssen
Ms Blanche McGuire
Mr. Dennis McManus
Mrs. Bonnie L. Makarewicz

Editor this issue:
Dr. Joseph T. Makarewicz

You are invited to join the society. We meet three times a year and publish GATHERED FRAGMENTS three times a year. Dues are $5.00 annually. Checks payable to Catholic History Society of Western Pennsylvania. Mail to Dr. Jerome Janssen, History Department, Duquesne University, Pgh. Pa 15282.

NAME ____________________________

ADDRESS __________________________

Duquesne University
History Department
Pittsburgh, Pa 15282

NON-PROFILE ORG.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 390
Pittsburgh, PA