

History Society Established at St. Paul Seminary

Jack Demnyan

As founding president, I am pleased to announce that historical interest among the seminarians studying at St. Paul Seminary (located in Crafton) is alive and well with the establishment of the St. Paul Seminary History Society in October 2010.

The idea to create a history society occurred to me as I noticed that several members of the seminary community frequently enjoyed having historical conversations at the dinner table and during the commute to and from Duquesne University.

After consultation and approval from the then Rector, Father Dennis Yurochko, I sent out an email to the seminary community ascertaining their level of interest in a group. –The results were overwhelmingly positive! Out of a total of 20 seminarians, eight wanted to join the society! Fellow history society member and brother seminarian, Christopher Mannerino, jokingly remarked that “it only takes a third of the population to start a revolution!”

As a further pleasant surprise, there is diversity among the members in their area of historical interest and expertise ranging from ancient civilizations to

Russian culture!

Of course, the underlying interest for all of us is Church history which provides for us a great framework for historical inquiry. (For example, I am currently researching the role Catholics had in the antebellum South and in the Confederacy, but more on that later!)

So far, the History Society has gone on two field trips. The first one was to the completely original and recently restored Grand Army of the Republic, Capt. Thomas Espy Post located inside the Carnegie Free Library in Carnegie. The second one was to Old Economy Village where two of our members have volunteered. Currently, we are exploring the possibility of visiting the Prince Gallitzin shrine and the Columbus Chapel both located in Central Pennsylvania.

Jack Demnyan is a seminarian for the Diocese of Pittsburgh. He is now in his first year of Theological Studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Md. Saint Mary's is the first Catholic seminary established in the U.S. (1791).

CHSWP News

The Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania welcomes two new Board members: Pat Boyle is President of the Pastoral Council at St. Anne's Parish in Castle Shannon. He has served on the Boards of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and Catholic Charities. The Rev. Peter P. Murphy is pastor of Saint Alphonsus parish in Wexford.

CHSWP Fall Lecture Scheduled

Rabbi Alvin Berkun, Chairman of the National Council of Synagogues, will speak to the Catholic Historical Society on Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. at the Seminary.

His topic will be “Interfaith Relations: We’ve Come a Long Way!” Mark your calendars.

Congratulations to Board member, the Rev. Joseph Mele who is the newly appointed Rector of St. Paul's Seminary.