**Book Reviews**

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This is the moving story of how Pittsburgh architect Louis Astorino came to design the Chapel of the Holy Spirit inside the historic walls of the Vatican. The narrative is engaging and uplifting. The architectural renderings and photographs provide a rich backdrop to the text. The forward is by former Pittsburgh bishop, Donald Cardinal Wuerl. Franciscan Sister Margaret Carney is listed as a co-author.


This is the latest diocesan history published by the French Catholic publishing house of Editions du Signe. The Diocese of Wilmington includes all of Delaware and, for much of its history, also a part of Maryland and Virginia. This volume’s interest to Western Pennsylvanians lies in the fact that it contains extensive biographies of Wilmington’s first bishop, Thomas Becker (who was a native of Pittsburgh), and Saint Katharine Drexel (who undertook her novitiate with the Pittsburgh Sisters of Mercy and taught at St. Brigid School in the Hill District). The work is lavishly illustrated.


This is the 50th anniversary history of the Diocese of Fort Worth, one of the fastest growing dioceses in Texas. This attractively illustrated volume contains a lengthy history of Bishop Thomas P. Brennan — a native of the Diocese of Erie and at 37 the youngest Catholic bishop in the United States — who became the first bishop of the Diocese of Dallas and built St. Patrick Church that would later become the cathedral of the Diocese of Fort Worth. Brennan also established Texas’s first Catholic newspaper, *The Texas Catholic,* which is still in publication. The book presents an informed examination of the state’s rich Hispanic and Anglo Catholic history.


This detailed history of school choice debate in the United States beginning in the nineteenth century includes a fascinating account of an 1888 controversy in Pittsburgh. Tensions erupted when the city’s public Duquesne School rented empty classrooms to Father Morgan Sheedy whose nearby St. Mary of Mercy School in the then-residential downtown was overflowing with students, mostly Irish immigrants. The highly contested arrangement lasted but one year. Yet a single school occupied by both public school students and Catholic pupils — the latter far outnumbering the former — demonstrates the historical blurriness of a boundary that many mistakenly believe was absolute. The story of Father James McTighe serving as principal of a local public school, *sans* collar, and other Pittsburgh stories make this volume a necessary read.


A professor emerita of the University of St. Louis has authored the history of the Missionary Society of St. Columban, which was established in Ireland in 1916. Approved by the Vatican in 1918, the order soon opened a seminary outside Omaha, Nebraska. China was the focus of the society’s work, until the Communists expelled the last of the Columbans in 1954. The society expanded it mission to other Asian countries, including Korea (1933), and Latin America. This volume details the society’s growth in the United States and includes the history of how a Columban priest from Altoona, Pennsylvania, occasioned the commitment of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill in Greensburg to open a highly successful mission in Korea in 1969.


Two Carmelite priests came to the United States during the American Civil War, escaping Bismarck’s *Kulturkampf.* Exponential growth of the order led to formation of the American Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary. This volume recounts the Carmelite staffing of German parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh: New Baltimore in Somerset County (where a novitiate was established in 1870 and a house of studies in 1886), St. Peter in Butler, St. Wendelin...
in Butler County, St. Mary in Beaver Falls, Holy Trinity in Pittsburgh’s Lower Hill District (where a novitiate was established in 1878), and St. Leo on Pittsburgh’s North Side. The Carmelites closed their novitiates in Pittsburgh in 1906 and in Somerset in 1968, and withdrew from Pittsburgh in 1992. Authored by a Carmelite priest, this historical work preserves the story of the labors of a religious order in Western Pennsylvania over a century and a quarter.


The Catholic Students’ Mission Crusade (CSMC) was organized by two Divine Word seminarians to engender among American Catholic youth support for the foreign missions among American Catholic youth. This volume provides the history of the movement’s rise, decline, and end. Bishop Hugh Boyle of Pittsburgh was an enthusiastic supporter, including the staging of two musical extravaganzas in the 1920s at Syria Mosque to help grow the organization. Bishop William Connare of Greensburg was selected to deliver the coup de grâce in 1973 to formally extinguish CSMC, long after it had served its purpose and become moribund. The author of this exceptionally well-written work is editor of the *U.S. Catholic Historian* and professor of church history at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West/Athenaeum of Ohio in Cincinnati.

The Archives of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill recently released *Images of America: The Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill*. Co-authors Casey Bowser and Sister Louise Grundish, SC, drew upon over 200 images from the archives to highlight the sisters’ work in education, healthcare, social service, and pastoral ministry in places such as Western Pennsylvania, Arizona, and Korea. This new release is published by Arcadia Publishing.