Our Authors

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Sister Miram Fidelis Guinagh (1903-1994) entered the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill in 1926. She earned a B.A. from Seton Hill College in 1942 and her M.A. in History from the University of Pittsburgh in 1949. She taught in the congregation's schools in Western Pennsylvania and later served as Assistant Dean of Women at Seton Hill College. In 1944, she became Mistress of Novices for the Congregation. During her 20 years in that role, she oversaw the formation of over 600 new sisters. She then returned to the classroom and served as an educator until her retirement in1994.

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Katherine Koch is a Renaissance woman who lives in San Antonio, Texas — a member of Phi Beta Kappa and a *summa cum laude* graduate of Kent State University with a B.S. in computer science. By day she is a professional web developer, digital marketing specialist, and graphic designer. By night she is an independent scholar, historian, and novelist. She is captivated by stories of the Passionist missionaries in her family, all of whom had a peculiar knack for tumbling into harm's way during history's most fascinating time periods.

Blanche G. McGuire is a graduate of the MBA program at the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh. She also holds a B.A. in History and English and a M.A. in English from Baylor University. She is the former Director of Marketing Strategy for Ketchum Directory Advertising and current President of the Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. A direct descendant of Captain Michael McGuire, she thoroughly enjoys researching and writing about her family tree — a lifelong passion.

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Kathleen M. Washy is Archivist for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, a position she has held since 2013. Prior to that, she served as Archivist for Mercy Hospital/UPMC Mercy for more than twenty years. Since 1992, she has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, holding many offices, including her current one of Treasurer. She holds a B.A. in History and Anthropology from Gannon University, a M.A. in History from the University of Toronto, and a M.A. in History and Archival Administration, with a Certificate in Museum Studies, from Case Western Reserve University.