John C. Bates, Esq. is a graduate of Duquesne University (B.A., M.A., and J.D.). He is the retired Chief Counsel of the Pittsburgh Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Secretary of the Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and a former president of the organization. He is the author of the Society’s recently published history.

Kerry Crawford is the author of three books, each exploring a journey of faith. Her latest book awaiting publication traces the history of the Felician Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Province between 1978 and 2009. Lourdes Today: A Pilgrimage to Mary’s Grotto examines the heart of the modern-day pilgrim. And, her first book, In This Time of Grace, explores the calling to religious life and ministry among the Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh. Kerry trained as a journalist (Penn State) and worked for many years as a focus group facilitator. She later returned to school, earned a graduate degree in education (University of Pittsburgh), and taught in a Catholic school.

Paul J. Dvorachak is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, with a M.A.T. from that university and a M.A. from Duquesne University. He served as Assistant Director of St. Joseph House of Hospitality in Pittsburgh 1987-2001 and as Director 2001-2012, retiring in 2012.

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 in 1994.

James K. Hanna holds a B.A. in Social Sciences from the University of Pittsburgh and an M.A. in Theology from Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit. He is an online instructor for the University of Notre Dame’s Satellite Theology Program (STEP) and a freelance writer whose articles have appeared in OSV Newsweekly. He is retired from St. Paul of Cross Parish in Castle Shannon where he served as Pastoral Associate and Coordinator of Social Ministry.

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.

Michael T. Rizzi is Assistant Dean at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. He holds a Doctor of Education and an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh, and a B.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University. He is a Pittsburgh native and a graduate of Canevin High School. His articles have appeared in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Journal of Catholic Education, the Journal of Catholic Higher Education, the Newman Studies Journal and other publications.

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.