

NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Dr. Gertrude Barber

Source: Barber National Institute

HAPPENINGS

In December 2019, Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico announced the opening of the Cause for Canonization of Erie native **Dr. Gertrude A. Barber**. Monsignor Thomas McSweeney was announced as diocesan postulator for the Cause. Barber (1911-2000), an educator in the Erie City School District, formed the Barber Center in 1952 to address the needs of children with developmental disabilities. In 2003, the center became the Barber National Institute; it currently employs 2,600 in several cities in Pennsylvania.

In mid-March 2020, Carlow University removed the Pennsylvania historic marker honoring Catholic architect **John T. Comès**, which had stood outside the former **St. Agnes Church** in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh since 2013. The church, which is neither a designated City of Pittsburgh Historic Landmark nor listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is slated for demolition and replacement

by a ten-story university structure.

In March 2020, publication of the **Pittsburgh Catholic** newspaper was suspended by the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Recognizing the enormous value of the *Catholic* to Catholic historical research, the Society funded microfilming of the diocesan newspaper beginning in 1950 by Duquesne University, which today provides electronic access to a now-digitized *Catholic* for the years 1844-2001 through its Gumberg Library

Digital Collection: <https://digital.library.duq.edu>.

On June 23, 2020, the Benedictine monks at **Saint Vincent Archabbey** in Latrobe elected Father **Martin de Porres Bartel, O.S.B.**, 64 and a former president of St. Vincent College (1995-2000), as the new archabbot. He succeeds Archabbot Douglas Nowicki, who resigned in May after 29 years in the position upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 75.

A Mass for Blessing of the Twelfth

Archabbot was held in the archabbey basilica on July 10, 2020.

In June 2020, the board of directors of the Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania conferred the title of Emeritus member to **John C. Bates** in honor of his 18 years of dedicated service to the Society.

PASSING

Delma Tallerico, author of a series of volumes on the architects of American Catholic churches, died on August 14, 2020. Her work preserved the architectural history of some of the most prominent Catholic churches in Western Pennsylvania

PUBLICATIONS

On May 26, 2020, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kansas, announced the publication of the order's history — *Beyond the Frontier*:



Sister Sally Witt, C.S.J.

Source: Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden

The History of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, KS — by **Sister Sally Witt, CSJ**, former archivist of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden. How the Concordia history book came to fruition is the subject of a posting at the website: <https://www.csjkansas.org/index.php?s=sally+witt&x=0&y=0>. Sister Sally has also authored histories of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the Diocese of Ogdensburg (*Sisters of the North Country*) and the Sisters of the Holy Spirit in the Diocese of Pittsburgh (*A Hidden Spirit*).

On June 9, 2020, the Vatican News website published a June 4, 2020 “farewell letter” from Bishop Frank Nubuash of Gaborone, Botswana, addressed to George Perry Floyd, Jr. (1973-2020). The bishop, who was then a graduate student at **Duquesne University** in Pittsburgh, met Floyd during a Pirates baseball game at Three Rivers Stadium on the city’s North Side in 1991. Floyd, then on a trip to the Steel City, would die tragically while pressed to the ground by a police officer on May 25, 2020 in Minneapolis, triggering protests and riots around the world calling for the end of systemic racism. The letter may be viewed at the website: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/africa/news/2020-06/botswana-s-bishop-nubuash-mourns-george-floyd-a-friend.html>. Nubuash resided at the Society of Divine Word Mission Office residence at 207 Lytton Avenue in Schenley Heights in Pittsburgh’s Oakland district during his studies (1990-1992). The residence functioned as the regional headquarters for the Divine Word Fathers who served as chaplains at several hospitals in Oakland and as mission procurators 1960-2012. The property was sold in May 2017 and the order withdrew from the diocese.

Retired La Roche University history professor **Edward T. Brett** and **Donna Whitson Brett** authored a new book, *Martyrs of Hope: Seven U.S.*

Missioners in Central America (Orbis Books, 2018) and received Honorable Mention in the biography category from the Catholic Press Association.

RESEARCH

Joseph Mannard of **Indiana University of Pennsylvania** received a Mother Theodore Guerin Research Travel Grant from the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame in connection with his research project on “America’s First Runaway Nun: The Two Lives of Sr. Ann Gertrude Wight, 1799-1867.”

Erica Doss of the University of Notre Dame received a Mother Theodore Guerin Travel Grant to research “Sister Corita Kent and **Andy Warhol**.” The grant program is designed to support scholars seeking to feature Catholic women more prominently in modern history.

Art historian Sylvia Rhor of the University of Pittsburgh’s art gallery will curate 130 drawings donated to the Society to Preserve the Millvale Murals of Maxo Vanka by Vanka’s granddaughter, Marya Halderman. Vanka made the drawings while planning the 25 murals he painted in **St. Nicholas Croatian Church** in Millvale in 1937 and 1947 to depict the Croatian immigrant experience.

EVENTS

The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh staged the exhibition “**Andy Warhol: Revelation**” from October 20, 2019 through February 16, 2020. It was the first exhibition to comprehensively examine the Pop artist’s complex relationship between his Byzantine Catholic faith and his artistic work” — which frequently included explicit and metaphorical religious motifs from Eastern and Western Catholic art history, reframed within the context of Pop.

Architect **Louis D. Astorino** delivered a lecture, “A Pencil in God’s Hand,” at St. James Church in Sewickley on February 21, 2020, which dealt with his book detailing his design of the Holy Spirit Chapel inside the Vatican.

TOURS

Father Nicholas Vaskov, director of the Shrines of Pittsburgh, conducted a tour of **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church** in Pittsburgh’s Polish Hill neighborhood on January 2, 2020 for the National Association of Pastoral Musicians in Pittsburgh. In addition, Dr. Neil Stahurski presented “The Customs and Traditions of Poland.”

Doors Open Pittsburgh sponsored a February 1, 2020 tour of “Houses of Freedom: Black History Tour” that included **St. Benedict the Moor Church** in Pittsburgh’s Hill District.

RECOGNITIONS

Michael Rizzi’s article on “Catholic Higher Education: Its Origins in the United States and Western Pennsylvania” — published in the 2018 issue of *Gathered Fragments* — was recognized in the *American Catholic Studies Newsletter* (Volume 46, No. 2, Fall 2019) of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame.

In 1946, the **Pennsylvania Historical Marker Program** was devised to mark notable people, places, and events throughout the Keystone State. On March 10, 2020, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission announced the addition of 24 new state historical markers to the existing list of 2,600+ markers which included two reflecting Catholic history in Western Pennsylvania: (1) **Hysong v. Gallitzin School District** — an 1894 court case that allowed the religious garb of nuns to be worn in public schools [Note: In 1895, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed the Garb Law forbidding religious garb

in public schools, thus reversing the court ruling. Pennsylvania remains the only state with such a law still on the books in 2020.] and (2) the **Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, Greensburg, Westmoreland County** — this congregation was founded in 1870 and established Seton Hill College (University, today) in 1918.

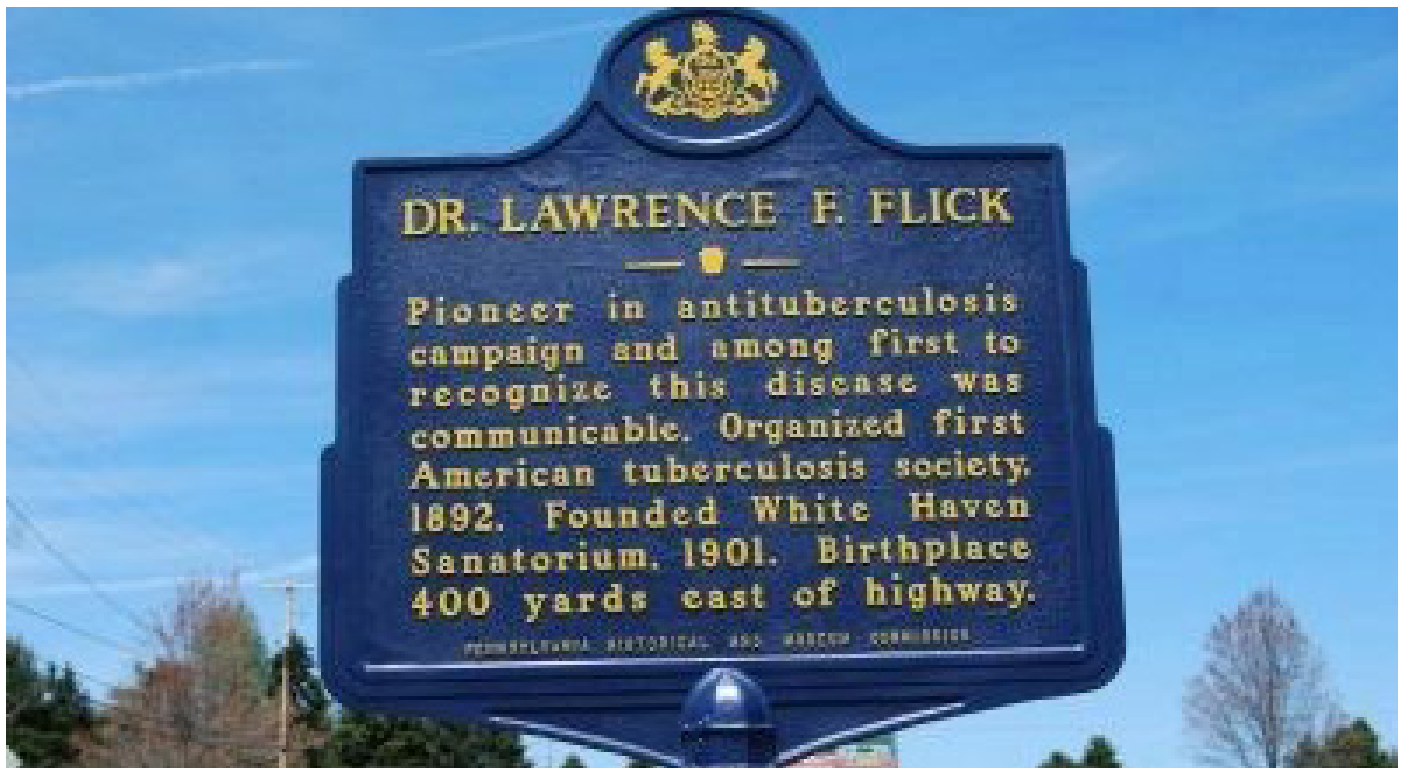
The medical challenge presented by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 serves to highlight a Pennsylvania state historical marker that memorializes the contribution of a Catholic native of Western Pennsylvania, **Dr. Lawrence Francis Flick** (1856-1938), to the solution of an earlier medical challenge. An eminent doctor who pioneered research in tuberculosis, Flick was born near Carrolltown in Cambria County; his parents were among the early settlers attracted by Father Demetrius Gallitzin. After attending St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Flick attended Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. He was a founder of the American Catholic Historical Society

of Philadelphia, serving twice as its president. He received the Laetare Medal from the University of Notre Dame in 1920. Flick's name was given to the Lawrence Flick State Hospital in Cresson (1956-1982) and the Lawrence Flick Memorial Center in Philadelphia, a tuberculosis clinic that opened in 1998. The state marker is located just south of Carrolltown on US Route 219 — some 400 yards from Flick's birthplace.

The Spring 2020 (Volume 131, No. 1) issue of *American Catholic Studies* — quarterly journal of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia — contains an article by Peter Wash entitled “Retrospective: Leo Francis Stock.” Stock (1978-1954), a native of Gettysburg, taught at the then-Pittsburgh College (Duquesne University, today). He received his Ph.D. from the Catholic University of America and taught there 1919-1941, while also serving on the staff of the Carnegie Institution in Washington 1910-1945. Stock was president of the

American Catholic Historical Association in 1928 and an editor of the *Catholic Historical Review* 1921-1939. Among his many writings are two seminal works: *United States Ministers to the Papal States* (1933) and *Consular Relations Between the United States and the Papal States: Instructions and Despatches* (1945). The article reviews Stock's career and the lasting accomplishments that resulted from his decades of dedicated historical research.

Kathleen Washy's article on the architectural history of Sacred Heart Church in Pittsburgh's Shadyside neighborhood — entitled “Designing in God's Name: Architect Carlton Strong” that appeared in the Fall 2016 issue of *Gathered Fragments* — was cited by Preservation Pittsburgh as support for its May 2020 nomination of the Gallagher House at 234 North Dithridge Street in Oakland as a City of Pittsburgh Historic Landmark. Patrick Gallagher was president of the construction company that built Sacred Heart Church.



Historical Marker of Dr. Lawrence Flick

Source: Jenn Wintermantel

UPDATES TO THE PREVIOUS *GATHERED FRAGMENTS*

The 2014 *Gathered Fragments* (with *Supplement*) published a list and the biographies of the prelates who were natives of, educated in, or served in Western Pennsylvania. Yearly updates have been provided for the list that now totals 152 prelates. The update for 2020 is:

Charles Joseph Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

- Retired: January 23, 2019 as Archbishop of Philadelphia

William Regis Fey, O.F.M. Cap.

- Retired: October 18, 2019 as Bishop of Kimbe, Papua New Guinea

Giorgio Demetrio Gallaro

- Appointed: February 22, 2020 as Secretary of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches
- Appointed: February 22, 2020 as Archbishop *ad personam*
- Ceased: February 22, 2020 to be Bishop of Piana degli Albanesi (Italo-Albanese), Italy

Edward Charles Malesic

- Appointed: July 16, 2020 as Bishop of Cleveland
- Installed: September 14, 2020 as Bishop of Cleveland in the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist by Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr

Franklyn (Frank) Atese Nubuasah, S.V.D.

- Born: July 7, 1949 in Likpe Abozome, Ghana
- Ordained: July 26, 1980 as a priest of the Society of Divine Word (S.V.D.)
- Educated: Fall 1990-May 1992 at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, obtaining a M.A. in Formative Spirituality
- Appointed: June 27, 1998 as Vicar Apostolic of Francistown, Botswana, and Titular Bishop of *Pauzera*
- Ordained: November 7, 1998 as bishop by Bishop Boniface Tshosa Setlalekgosi in the open air at Francistown, Botswana
- Appointed: August 9, 2017 as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Gaborone, Botswana
- Appointed: October 2, 2017 as first Bishop of Francistown, Botswana (in the Province of Pretoria, South Africa)
- Appointed: June 6, 2019 as Bishop of Gaborone, Botswana (in the Province of Pretoria, South Africa)
- Installed: August 17, 2019 as Bishop of Gaborone, Botswana, in the University of Botswana Indoor Sports Arena by Archbishop Dabula Mpaka

William Charles Skurla

- Resigned: June 24, 2017 as Apostolic Administrator of Parma (Ruthenian)