

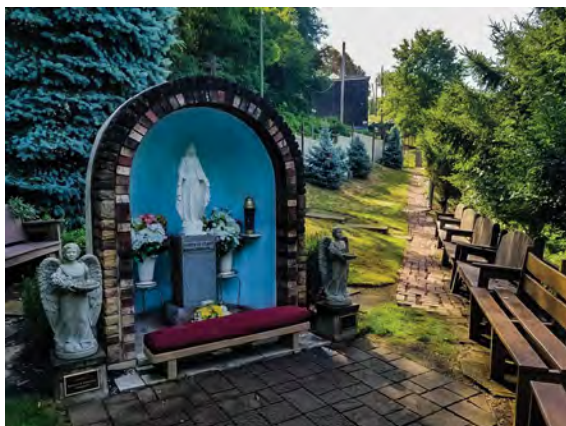
# NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Happenings

The former **St. Mary Magdalene Church** in Homestead re-opened in September 2020 as the Dragon's Den. The 60-foot-high interior is now filled with wood poles and platforms connected by ropes, cables and planks, including a 160-foot zip line from the choir loft to the former high altar — as a twenty-first century community center for children. The church was built in 1896 and rebuilt after a fire in 1936, then closed in 2009. This is the latest in local church repurposing, which include: St. John the Baptist in Lawrenceville (now Church Brew Works brewpub); St. Helen in East Pittsburgh (Holy Grail Garage for high-end automobile storage); Visitation (Croatian) Church in Rankin (now Mary's Vine wine bar); St. Michael (Slovak) Church in Munhall (now This Is Red ad agency and event space); St. Elizabeth (Slovak) in the Strip District (first as the Altar Bar and now a nondenominational church); St. Mary Assumption (Slovenian) Church on 57th Street (now 57th Street Studios housing several arts-related businesses); St. Ann in Millvale (now Mr. Small's Funhouse, a recording studio); and St. Justin Church (now a 46-unit apartment building).

## Recognitions

On October 6, 2020, Pittsburgh City Council approved designation of the **Shrine of the Blessed Mother** — also known as **Our Lady of the Parkway** — as a city historic landmark, following unanimous approval by the city's Historic Review Commission and the city Planning Commission. The shrine, created in 1956 by the late Anna Cybak of Ambridge in memory of her deceased son Paul Cybak who was killed while fighting in the Pacific in World War II, occupies a cliffside perch in South Oakland overlooking



**Our Lady of the Parkway**

Source: Rev. Aleksandr J. Schrenk



**Dragon's Den**

Source: "Course Faqs," Dragon's Den, September 14, 2021,  
<https://dragonsdenpgh.org/our-course/>.

the Parkway East traffic. The shrine was blessed in September 1956 by Rev. Thomas Hornyak, pastor of St. Joachim Church. The site, off Wakefield Street, is inaccessible by vehicle but reachable by descent on a long steep brick walkway. Fencing, lighting, benches, and additional statues now surround the grotto. A Wikipedia article on "Shrine of the Blessed Mother" provides a detailed history.

On March 10, 2021, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission announced approval of 23 new Pennsylvania Historical Markers, including two for prominent Western Pennsylvania Catholics: (1) **Andy Warhol** (1928-1987), a twentieth-century pop artist from Pittsburgh, and (2) **Stan Musial** (1920-2013), a famed St. Louis Cardinal baseball player from Donora in Washington County. Traditional blue signs with gold lettering will later be erected for both.

Preservation Pennsylvania, a nonprofit dedicated to the protection of historically and architecturally significant buildings, released its 2021 list of at-risk structures on May 28, 2021. The list included the former **St. Agnes Church** in Oakland. Designed by famed Catholic architect **John Theodore Comès** (1873-1922), the church was built in 1917, closed in 1993, and sold to Carlow University which is proposing to demolish the church for a new 10-story health science building. A Pennsylvania historical marker honoring Comès was unveiled outside the building in 2013. A biography of Comès was published in the 2013 *Gathered Fragments*.

On June 23, 2021, the Pennsylvania Historical and Muse-

um Commission and the **Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden** dedicated a Pennsylvania Historical Marker for *Hysong v. Gallitzin School District*, a famed 1894 court case that affirmed the right of garbed religious women to teach in public schools in Pennsylvania — a result undone the following year by the state legislature’s enactment of the “garb law” which forbade public school teachers from wearing religious attire. The marker is located at the Gallitzin Tunnels Park in Cambria County.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill unveiled and dedicated a Pennsylvania Historic Marker honoring the **Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill** on August 28, 2021. The site is the corner of Seton Hill Drive and College Avenue (Route 130) in Greensburg.

### Passings

**Casimir J. Pellegrini, Jr.**, died on August 4, 2021. The 93-year-old architect had attended St. Philomena School in Squirrel Hill, Central Catholic High School, and Carnegie Institute of Technology. He joined Casimir J. Pellegrini Associates, the architectural firm of his father (d. 1967), which designed several Catholic buildings: St. Fidelis Chapel and recreational facility (Herman), Calvary Cemetery Oratory (Greenfield), Pittsburgh Oratory (Oakland), St. Anthony Home for Exceptional Children building (Oakmont), Our Lady of Loreto Church and school (Brookline), North American Martyrs Church and school (Monroeville), St. James Church (Sewickley), Mount Assisi Motherhouse Chapel (Bellevue), and renovations to St. Mary of Mary Church at the Point (Downtown) and Most Holy Name Church (Troy Hill).

### Publications

The Fall 2020 issue (Vol. 131, No. 3) of *American Catholic Studies*, journal of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia, contained an article by William John Shepard entitled “**Lawrence Flick (1856-1938): Medical Crusader and Catholic Historian.**” Flick was a native of Carrolltown in Cambria County who studied at St. Vincent College in Latrobe. As a medical doctor, he became famous for his contributions to the eradication of tuberculosis. He was also a founder of the Catholic Historical Society in Philadelphia in 1884.

The Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia’s Summer 2021 issue (Vol. 132, No. 2) of *American Catholic Studies* contained an article by **Kathleen M. Washy** — archivist of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, treasurer of the Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and co-editor of the Society’s journal *Gathered Fragments* — on the subject “Sister Mary Dennis Donovan, Catholic Action, and Human Relations in the Diocese of Pittsburgh in the 1940s

through the 1970s.” This article is reprinted in this issue of *Gathered Fragments*.

Society member **Father Justin Pino**, archivist and historian of the Diocese of Erie, authored an article that appeared in the December 2020 issue of *Faith Magazine*, “100 Years: The Enduring Legacy of Archbishop John Mark Gannon” — marking the centenary of the prelate’s installation as fifth bishop of Erie.

In the past five years, *Western Pennsylvania History*, a magazine of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, published several articles pertaining to Catholic history in Western Pennsylvania: (1) Winter 2020-2021 issue — **Sister Cyril Aaron** of the Seton Hill Sisters of Charity and her decades of service caring for the poor in Pittsburgh’s Hill District, (2) Spring 2020 issue — a collection of 1960s photographs from **St. Mary’s High School** in Sharpsburg. We had previously noted earlier articles: (3) Fall 2017 issue — **Father James Cox** of St. Patrick’s Church in the Strip District and his many religious pilgrimages, (4) Fall 2016 issue — women conservators of the **Maxo Vanka** murals at **St. Nicholas Croatian Church** in Millvale, (5) Summer 2016 issue — the Maxo Vanka murals at the same church, and (6) Spring 2016 issue — architecture of the now-closed **SS. Peter and Paul Church** in East Liberty.

### Research

Kristin M. O’Malley completed her doctoral dissertation in 2019 at the University of Pittsburgh: *Performance of Faith: Post-Vatican II American Catholicism on the Professional Secular Stage*, which treats the history of representations of Catholicism on Broadway and off-Broadway stages. A copy is available through ProQuest Dissertations Publishing.

### Changes

The **Carmel of the Holy Family Monastery** in Erie closed in November 2020, and the three remaining nuns relocated to other Carmelite monasteries. The monastery had opened in 1957 on the grounds of St. Mark’s Seminary at the invitation of Archbishop John Mark Gannon of Erie. The Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life in Rome issued a decree to suppress the monastery.



**Carmelite Monastery**

Source: “Carmelites,” *The Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie, Pa.*, accessed September 27, 2021, <https://www.eriecld.org/carmelites>

In November 2020, the Diocese of Erie announced that the all-male **Cathedral Preparatory School** and all-female **Vil-la Maria Academy** would combine at Cathedral's campus in September 2022. The schools had merged administratively in 2010. The remaining campus is part of the St. Peter's Cathedral complex.

On June 10, 2021, Yeshiva Schools — a Squirrel Hill-based Jewish day school for elementary and high school students — announced that it would close on the purchase of the former **St. Rosalia School** complex of elementary and high school buildings with convent in Greenfield for \$1.2 million. The boys school will move from Squirrel Hill to the new site and serve the growing Orthodox Jewish community. The parish high school closed in 1971 and the elementary school closed in 2018. St. Rosalia Church is a worship site within St. Paul Cathedral parish.

**Tours**

Doors Open Pittsburgh sponsored several tours: (1) a February 1, 2020 tour of "Houses of Freedom: Black History Tour" that included **St. Benedict the Moor Church** in Pittsburgh's Hill District; (2) a June 26, 2021 tour of Homestead and Munhall that included three former Catholic churches: **St. Michael (Slovak) Church** — designed by famed Catholic architect **John Theodore Comès** with Art Nouveau/Art Deco features — that is now "This Is Red," an exhibition and event venue; **St. Mary Magdalene Church** — an Italian Renaissance structure rebuilt after successive fires in 1932, and 1977 — that is now an interactive community structure; and **St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cathedral** — a Renaissance Revival structure with soaring 125-foot twin towers designed by Hungarian-born architect **Titus de Bobula** (1878-1961) — that is now the headquarters of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society; and (3) an August 1, 2021 tour of the Strip District that included two churches that are part of the "Shrines of Pittsburgh" (**St. Patrick Church** with its Holy Stairs, and **St. Stanislaus Kostka Church**) and the former **St. Elizabeth Slovak Church** (now Orchard Hill Church).

**Updates to Previous Issues of *Gathered Fragments***

An abridged version of **James K. Hanna's** 2020 article "A Brief History of Saint Anne School in Castle Shannon" appeared in the Winter 2020 issue of *The Chronicle of Saint Paul of the Cross Parish*.

The 2014 *Gathered Fragments* published a list of articles relating to the history of Western Pennsylvania Catholicism. That list is updated as follows:

Sister Raphael Dimond, S.C., "Francis Joseph Tschan: A Contemporary Catholic Scholar," *Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia*, Vol. 71, Nos. 1-2 (March, June 1960), 31-39 [Tschan was a founder of the Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania].

"Gallitzin Source Material," *The Catholic Historical Review*, Vol. 26, No. 3 (October 1940), 335-348.

Richard J. Purcell, "Missionaries from All Hallows (Dublin) to the United States, 1842-1865," *Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia*, Vol. 53, No. 4 (December 1942), 204-298 [Irish seminarians and priests who immigrated to the Diocese of Pittsburgh].

Sister Damien Tambola, O.S.B., "James F. Edwards, Pioneer Archivist of Catholic Church History of America," *Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia*, Vol. 72, Nos. 1-2 (March-June 1961), 3-32 [Andrew A. Lambing].

Francis J. Weber, "American Catholic Historical Societies," *Church History*, Vol. 31, No. 3 (September 1962), 350-356 [Andrew A. Lambing, Ohio Valley Catholic Historical Society, Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania].

The 2014 *Gathered Fragments* (with *Supplement*) contained 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 154 prelates. The update for 2021 is:

**David Joseph Bonnar**

Born: February 5, 1962 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Diocese of Pittsburgh)  
 Ordained a priest of Pittsburgh: July 23, 1988 by Bishop Donald Wuerl in St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin Church, Whitehall (Allegheny County), Pennsylvania  
 Appointed Bishop of Youngstown: November 17, 2020  
 Ordained Bishop of Youngstown and installed: January 12, 2021 by Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr of Cincinnati in St. Columba Cathedral, Youngstown, Ohio

**Kurt Richard Burnette**

Appointed: October 20, 2020 as Apostolic Administrator of the Eparchy of Saints Cyril and Methodius (Slovak), Toronto, Canada

**Gerald Nicholas Dino**

Died as Eparch Emeritus of Phoenix (Ruthenian), Arizona: November 14, 2020 in Phoenix, Arizona  
 Funeral: December 3, 2020 in Phoenix, Arizona

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

Died as Bishop Emeritus of Kimbe, Papua New Guinea: January 19, 2021 in UPMC Shadyside Hospital, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
 Funeral Mass: January 25, 2021 in St. Augustine Church (Our Lady of the Angels Parish), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
 Buried: January 25, 2021 in St. Mary of the Assumption Cemetery, Herman, Summit Township (Butler County), Pennsylvania

**Larry James Kulik**

Born: February 24, 1966 in Leechburg, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania (Diocese of Greensburg)  
 Ordained a priest of Greensburg: May 16, 1992 by Bishop Anthony G. Bosco in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg, Pennsylvania  
 Appointed Reverend Monsignor: May 21, 2014  
 Elected Administrator of the Diocese of Greensburg: September 15, 2020  
 Appointed Bishop of Greensburg: December 18, 2020  
 Ordained Bishop of Greensburg and installed: February 11, 2021 by Archbishop Nelson J. Perez of Philadelphia in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg, Pennsylvania