

# NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## PUBLICATIONS

A book launch for *Subversive Habits, Black Catholic Nuns in the Long African American Freedom Struggle* by **Dr. Shannen Dee Williams** was held on June 11, 2022, at Duquesne University's Power Center. The book is the first full history of Black Catholic nuns in the United States. The event was co-hosted by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden and Duquesne University. The Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania was one of nearly a dozen additional supporting organizations. In 1968, the Diocese of Pittsburgh was the site of the first gathering of the National Black Sisters Conference whose founding director, Dr. Patricia Grey (former Sister M. Martin de Porres, R.S.M.), attended the event along with current leaders of the organization. Representatives of the nation's three Black sisterhoods — the Oblate Sisters of Providence, Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, and Sisters of the Holy Family — shared remarks followed by Dr. Williams. More than six hundred guests attended in person or virtually.

**Dr. Michael T. Rizzi**, who has been a contributor to *Gathered Fragments*, has authored *Jesuit Colleges and Universities in the United States: A History*. This work is the first comprehensive history of Jesuit higher education in this country.

*The Remarkable Life of Bishop Bonaventure Broderick: Exile, Redemption, and a Gas Station*, written by Society board officer and *Gathered Fragments* contributor **James K. Hanna**, was recently released.

## PASSINGS

**Velma (Toni) Uricchio** died on January 10, 2022, at age 98. She spent two summers at the diocesan mission in Chimbote, Peru, volunteering as a public health nurse serving the indigenous population. That formed the subject of her lecture for the Society in October 1998 on "Experiences in the Peru Mission."

**Sister Cecilia Murphy, R.S.M.**, died on June 22, 2022, at age 84. She was a Pittsburgh Sister of Mercy for 65 years. Her Ph.D. dissertation at the University of St. Louis (1974) was "A Reevaluation of the Episcopacy of Michael Domenec, 1860-1877, Second Bishop of Pittsburgh and Only Bishop of Allegheny." Sister Cecilia served as president of the Pittsburgh Sisters of Mercy from 1974 to 1982. For more than 20 years, she served at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe as associate professor, academic dean, and director of field education — in addition to serving on several national accreditation commissions. She was interred in St. Xavier Cemetery in Latrobe.

## HAPPENINGS

The Society worked with the Catholic Studies Department

of Duquesne University and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden as organizers and co-sponsors of the March 26, 2022 **Preserving our Heritage Summit: Catholic Archives in Western Pennsylvania**. The event was held at Duquesne University. Videos of all speakers are accessible through Duquesne University Conference & Event Services YouTube Channel.

On May 22, 2022, a memorial prayer and waterscape garden in front of **St. Stanislaus Kostka Church** rectory in Pittsburgh's Strip District was dedicated to the memory of parishioner Christian Cochran, who died at age 23 of a rare liver cancer. The garden's centerpiece is a stone angel replica of an antique statue from Italy, with water flowing between large boulders. A video of the memorial garden appears at the parish's Facebook page.

On July 30, 2022, Father Kevin Dominik of St. Andrew the Apostle Church in the Mid-Mon Valley blessed the new historical marker plaque for **Stan "The Man" Musial** (1920-2013), a Donora native and St. Louis Cardinals baseball great. The plaque, dedicated immediately after the blessing, was awarded by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Musial, born Stanislaw Franciszek Musial, was a native Western Pennsylvania Catholic of Carpatho-Rusyn and Polish descent.

## CHANGES

The Westmoreland Land Trust has reached an agreement to purchase about 250 acres of the former **St. Xavier Academy** in Unity Township (Westmoreland County) from the Sisters of Mercy. The property is located off Route 30, across from the Wimmerton housing development near St. Vincent Archabbey. A Pennsylvania historical marker informs that the

academy opened in 1845. A fire on March 16, 1972, damaged the academy and convent, which were subsequently demolished. The Sisters of Mercy will retain ownership of the cemetery where six of the original seven sisters from Carlow (Ireland) are buried; they established the order in the then-Diocese of Pittsburgh. The Land Trust plans to conserve the acreage as a sanctuary with public access to



### St. Xavier's Academy, Westmoreland County

Source: "St. Xavier's Historical Marker,"  
Explorepahistory.com, accessed November 16,  
2022, [https://explorepahistory.com/hmarker.  
php?markerId=1-A-373](https://explorepahistory.com/hmarker.php?markerId=1-A-373)

trails and walkways. A \$1.1 million grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will assist in the purchase.

The former **St. George’s Lyceum** in the Allentown neighborhood of Pittsburgh has been converted into Bottlerocket Social Hall, an alternative comedy club and bar.

The former **Villa Maria Academy** in Erie will now serve as a campus for Erie County Community College.

The former **Bishop Boyle High School** in Homestead is being converted into apartment use.

## TOURS

The South Hills Knights of Columbus Council sponsored a “Knights Pilgrimage to Byzantine Churches” on April 23, 2022 that included St. John Chrysostom Church in Pittsburgh, SS. Peter and Paul Church in Braddock, and Ascension Church in Clairton.

## CITATIONS OF GATHERED FRAGMENTS

The 2018 *Gathered Fragments* article entitled “Portraits of Catholics with Western Pennsylvania Connections: The Famous, the Forgotten, and the Unknown” by **John C. Bates** is now cited in Wikipedia’s article on “An Altar Boy Named Speck.”

The 2019 *Gathered Fragments* article entitled “Father Daniel A. Lord, S.J., and Catholic Action in Western Pennsylvania 1925-1954” by **John C. Bates** is now cited in Wikipedia’s article on “Daniel A. Lord.”

Stephen Werner, author of *The Restless Flame, Daniel Lord, S.J.: Thinking Big in a Parochial World!* (2021), has advised **John C. Bates**, author of the 2019 *Gathered Fragments* article “Father Daniel A. Lord, S.J., and Catholic Action in Western Pennsylvania 1925-1954,” that the latter’s article will be included in the bibliography of the forthcoming revised edition of Werner’s book, which will be available through Amazon.

**Michael T. Rizzi** cited the Fall 2017 *Gathered Fragments* article by **John C. Bates**, entitled “Rev. Clifford M. Lewis, S.J. — Journalist, Husband, Priest, College Co-Founder, and Historian,” in Rizzi’s new book, *Jesuit Colleges and Universities in the United States: A History* (Washington D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2022).

## UPDATES TO PREVIOUS ISSUES OF GATHERED FRAGMENTS

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 156 prelates.

The update for 2022 is:

<p><b>Kurt Richard Burnette</b> Appointed Apostolic Administrator of Saints Cyril and Methodius Apostolic Exarchate of Toronto (Slovakian): March 3, 2022</p>
<p><b>Mark Anthony Eckman</b> Born: February 9, 1959, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Diocese of Pittsburgh) Ordained a priest of Pittsburgh: May 11, 1985, by Bishop Anthony J. Bevilacqua in St. Paul Cathedral, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Appointed Titular Bishop of <i>Sitifis</i> and Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh: November 5, 2021 Ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh: January 11, 2022, by Bishop David A. Zubik in St. Paul Cathedral, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania</p>
<p><b>Gabriel Mendy</b> Born: April 9, 1967, in Lamin, Gambia (Diocese of Banjul) Took perpetual vows in the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (C.S.Sp.): August 31, 1996 Ordained a priest of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit: November 15, 1997, in Banjul by Bishop Michael J. Cleary, C.S.Sp. Studied at: Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, obtaining a M.A. in Theology (1998) and a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology (2009) Appointed Bishop of Banjul, Gambia: November 30, 2017 Ordained Bishop of Banjul: February 3, 2018 by Archbishop Edward T. Charles in Independence Stadium, Bakau, Gambia Installed as Bishop of Banjul: February 4, 2018, in the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption, Banjul, Gambia</p>
<p><b>Robert Mikhail Moskal</b> Died: August 7, 2022, in Parma, Ohio as Bishop Emeritus of the Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma (Ukrainian) Burial: Holy Trinity Catholic Cemetery, Carnegie, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania</p>
<p><b>Donald Walter Trautman</b> Died: February 26, 2022, at St. Mary’s of Asbury Ridge, Millcreek Township, Erie County, Pennsylvania Burial: March 7, 2022, in the Bishop’s Crypt, St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, Pennsylvania</p>
<p><b>Rembert George Samuel Weakland, O.S.B.</b> Died: August 22, 2022 at Clement Manor, Greenfield, Wisconsin as Archbishop Emeritus of Milwaukee Funeral: August 30, 2022 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Milwaukee, Wisconsin Burial: September 1, 2022 in St. Vincent Archabbey Cemetery, Latrobe, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania</p>