Computerizing Vatican Archives

The Catholic Archives Newsletter reports that work has begun on an important project to apply computerized techniques to the collections of the Vatican Archives. The work is being done by the staff of the Bentley Historical Library of the University of Michigan, with the assistance of grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Getty Foundation. The project will provide series-level archival descriptions to the archives for the first time. Using the MARC/AMC format for the automated cataloging and control of archival collections, this project will result in a standardization of the description of the archives' holdings. When complete, the results will be linked to the computerized catalog of the Vatican Library and to the widely used Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN), an on-line database that permits automated searching for archival materials by scholars around the world.

1492-1992

The Bishops' Committee for the Observance of the Fifth Centenary of Evangelization in the Americas invites input and collaboration. A newsletter, Aurora, is available from 3211 4th St. NE, Washington, DC 20017-1194. Various historical projects are planned, including a competition for history students, a calendar of historical events, research, lectures, symposia and conferences.

Students enrolled in any college, seminary or university may submit essays on some aspect of the history of evangelization in the United States 1492 to the present, completed between now and December 31, 1991, for the competition. Awards in three categories are: doctoral dissertations ($2000, $1500), master's theses ($1000, $500), senior honors essays ($500, $250). Evangelization is understood as the proclaiming of the gospel in education, preaching, publishing, etc. Contact Father Trisco, Mullen Hall 318, Washington, DC 20064.

The Spanish Embassy will give awards of $6000 and $3000 for the best publications on the Spanish presence, and contribution to, North America submitted by October 12 each year until 1992. Contact: Cultural Office, 2600 Virginia Ave. NW-Suite 214, Washington, DC 20037.


Catholic Research Libraries

On January 4, 1990, library executives from the University of Dayton, Villanova, Saint John's-New York, Notre Dame, Loyola-Chicago, Boston College and Catholic University met at Notre Dame to review a broad range of issues. There were reports on activities related to the collection, cataloging and preservation of Catholic Americana material, and discussion on getting the Catholic Periodical and Literature Index (CPLI) on line. Attendees also made recommendations on the American Catholic Heritage proposal currently under review at CLA. The group hopes to sponsor a meeting immediately following ALA in the summer of 1990, with a public program on matters of interest to libraries supporting research in the broad range of American Catholic studies.

Lilly Endowment Report

The Lilly Endowment, in Volume 1, Issue 2 of Progressions, a Lilly Endowment Occasional Report, has disseminated in a concise form information culled from several projects related to the topic American Catholicism: Tradition and Transition. Various sections discuss parishes, priests, seminaries and nuns. Complimentary copies are available while supplies last from: Communications Office, Lilly Endowment, P.O. Box 88068, Indianapolis, IN 46208.
New Philadelphia Consortium

The largest religion studies consortium in North America was created this past spring when 43 religion departments and seminaries in South Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania founded the Philadelphia Consortium on the Study of Religion.

The consortium encourages and facilitates cooperation in the academic study of religion among area undergraduate departments of religion, theological seminaries, and graduate programs. The consortium publishes a special events calendar, a directory of religion faculty and a guide to library holdings in religion. It encourages faculty exchanges, graduate student cross-registration, and cooperative student graduate programs. The chair of the consortium is: Robert B. Wright, Temple University, Department of Religion, 617 Anderson Hall, Philadelphia, PA 19122. (215) 787-7923.

Cushing Papers Found

The Archives of the Archdiocese of Boston, which had always thought that the papers of Cardinal Cushing had been destroyed after his death, has recently located and accessioned more than 20 boxes of material which constitute a large part of Cushing’s personal and administrative files.

The newly discovered material is comprised mainly of the Cardinal’s incoming and outgoing correspondence with a wide range of individuals and organizations. The bulk of the letters date from the 1950s and 1960s. There are other items, too, including booklets, speeches and photographs.

Scholars of American History and others will be able to research a number of important topics by using the papers. Issues relating to Cushing’s own life and managerial techniques, as well as those dealing with the post-war era in general, will be prime candidates for study. When coupled with other collections in the archives (the papers of Monsignors Lally, Murray and Ryan, for instance), the research possibilities become quite numerous.

For the foreseeable future, however, the Cushing papers will be closed to research. Much of the material is either completely disorganized or in terrible physical condition. The archives staff will place great importance on processing the collection—grant proposals are already in the making—but still, it may be some time before the papers are arranged, described and ready to be opened.

Any inquiries concerning either Cardinal Cushing or the papers may be directed to Ronald D. Patkus, Archivist, Archdiocese of Boston, 2121 Commonwealth Avenue, Brighton, MA 02135.

The America-Holy Land Project

This project, promoted by Professor Moshe Davis, under the auspices of the Institute of Contemporary Jewry of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, aims at instruction, research, collection of materials and publication. It has sponsored a 72-volume reprint series; three volumes of With Eyes Toward Zion, and four volumes of Guide to America-Holy Land Studies. This project is a multi-disciplinary one, with no single methodology predominating. Robert Handy has contributed The Holy Land in American Protestant Life.

The project sponsors a graduate field study course at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in the summer under the direction of Professor Davis. This summer’s course, July 2-26, features seminars on inter-religious perspectives on the Holy Land, American travel and exploration, political and diplomatic dimensions, American ideas and institutions in the Holy Land, and American Zionism. There will be visits to places and archives with American interest. Travel scholarships are available. Contact David Klatzker at the New York City office, (212) 472-9800 ext. 242.

Tom Stransky, C.S.P., rector at Tantur in Jerusalem, is spearheading an effort to get Catholic scholars interested in this project. Margaret McGuinness of Cabrini College is coordinating the work on the American side. Many archives need to be searched for relevant material. Some areas that could be studied: pilgrimages and the Grand Tour, relics, devotion to the Way of the Cross, Good Friday sermons, hymns, creches and other Holy Land imagery, presentation of the Holy Land and Crusades in Catholic schools, the hierarchy and the Holy Land, biblical scholars, missions and relief agencies, archives of the Propaganda and the Franciscans, diplomatic and consular material, etc. Anyone interested in participating in this study should contact Margaret McGuinness or Tom Stransky (FAX 011-972-276-0914).

Allouez Tercentennial

Sculptor Don Noel, O.Praem., hopes to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the death of Jesuit missionary Claude Allouez by creating a "vest pocket" park in his honor in De Pere, Wisconsin. Allouez brought
Christianity to the Indians of the Fox River Valley and founded what eventually became the Diocese of Green Bay.

Noel envisions a 12-foot bronze statue of Allouez and his faithful wolf hound and a 14-foot sunburst sculpture set in a 20-foot steel cube. The sunburst is based on a monstrance given to the De Pere mission in 1686. Noel hopes to collect 10 miles of pennies from local folk and other private donations to finance the $165,000 project. Send donations to 1406 Main St., Green Bay, WI 54302

Personal Notices

Timothy R. Allan (SUNY-Buffalo) is working on a dissertation which explores the response of the institutional church to social changes which occurred in Buffalo 1960-1980.

Steven Avella is working on a history of the Milwaukee Archdiocese.

Professor Louis R. Bisceglia (San Jose State) died February 22, 1990. His fields included Irish American history. At the time of his death he was editing an issue of the Journal of the West dealing with the Irish.

Francis Broderick's Progressivism at Risk: Electing a President in 1912 was published by Greenwood last May.

Mary Elizabeth Brown (Kutztown University) is working with letters of Italian immigrant women in a Greenwich Village Italian parish. She would like to hear from persons with information about the apostolate to unwed mothers, particularly in New York City 1865-1945.

James Connelly, C.S.C., is writing a history of the Holy Cross order, male and female, worldwide.

Timothy J. Cook is working on a dissertation at Boston College on the religious literacy of Catholic high school teachers.

Emmett Curran, S.J., (Georgetown) writes that the first volume of his history of Georgetown will appear in 1990.

Angelyn Dries, O.S.F., (Cardinal Stritch College) has completed a dissertation at GTU Berkeley on "The Whole Way Into the Wilderness: The Foreign Mission Impulse of the American Catholic Church, 1893-1925."

William Ellis (E. Ky. U.) reports that his biography of Patrick Henry Callahan is being published by Edwin Mellen Press.

Michael Engh, S.J., (Loyola-Marymount) is researching the life of Mary Julia Workman, pioneer Los Angeles social activist and founder of Browson Settlement House in Los Angeles.

Charles Fanning won the 1989 American Book Award for The Exiles of Erin: 19th Century Irish American Fiction (U. of Notre Dame Press). This was the first volume in the Irish in America series sponsored by the Cushwa Center.

Victor Greene (U. W.-Milwaukee) has been appointed Senior Visiting Lecturer in American Labour History at the University of Warwick, England, for the fall term 1990-91.

Sandy Johnson of Greenville, Delaware, is working on a biography of Mother Katherine Drexl.

Christopher J. Kauffman received the ACHA's John Gilmary Shea Prize at its annual meeting for his editing of Makers of the Catholic Community: the Bicentennial History of the Catholic Church in America. Kauffman has also completed a series of six articles on the history of the Catholic Health Association of the United States that will appear in January-July 1990 Issues of Health Progress.

Noel Q. King (UC-Santa Cruz) is interested in remnants of Catholicism and Christianity in New Age developments.


William J. Leonard, S.J., library curator at Boston College, was recently honored by the establishment of the William J. Leonard Book Fund at the college.

Dolores Liptak, R.S.M., has published "Catholic Immigrant Patterns" in Perspectives on the American Catholic Church, 1789-1989, ed. Stephen J. Vicchio and Virginia Geiger.

Peter McDonough (Vanderbilt) is publishing an article on the Jesuits in Comparative Studies in Society and History in the near future.
Elizabeth McGahan (U. of New Brunswick-St. John) has been appointed Corresponding Editor for Canada of the History of Women Religious Newsletter.

James Mclucas (NY Archdiocese) is doing a dissertation on Frank Sheed for the Greg.

Michael McNally is researching Catholicism on Florida’s West Coast.

Rosalie McQuaide, C.S.J.P., and Janet Richardson, C.S.J.P., have published an article on Margaret Anna Cusack, the Nun of Kenmare, foundress of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, in Past and Promise: Lives of New Jersey Women (Scarecrow).

Seamus P. Metress (U. of Toledo) has published the article on the Irish in the Dictionary of Immigration and is researching Irish settlement in the Great Lakes region and Irish-Americans and Irish Revolutionaries.


John Muffler holds a postdoctoral research fellowship with Narcotic and Drug Research, Inc., where he is examining the role of the church in addressing issues of drug abuse, prevention, education and treatment. He will present a paper at the spring meeting of the American Society of Church History on self-help and benevolent societies in the Black Catholic Church.


James O'Toole is drafting a manual of Basic Standards for Diocesan Archives.

Frances Panchok (U. of St. Thomas) is the new president of the Texas Catholic Historical Society.

Jean Richardson (SUNY-Buffalo) is publishing an essay on the work of the Sisters of Charity in the 19th century at Sisters' Hospital, Buffalo, in Nightingale and Her Era: New Scholarship About Women and Nursing.

Patrick J. Riley is completing a research project on the relationship of the Catholic high school to the Catholic parish for the D. Min. program at United Theological in Dayton.

Ann Thomasine Sampson, C.S.J., had her essay on St. Agatha’s Conservatory of Music published in the Ramsey County History Quarterly last summer.

Timothy Slavin, formerly Associate Archivist of the Chicago Archdiocese, is now the State Archivist of Rhode Island.

Elizabeth Smyth (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education) has completed a dissertation on the Sisters of St. Joseph and their Toronto academy at the turn of the century.

Arnold J. Sparr (St. Francis College, Brooklyn) reports that his book, To Promote, Defend, and Redeem: the Catholic Literary Revival and the Cultural Transformation of American Catholicism, 1920-1960 will be published by Greenwood this summer.

Samuel Thomas (Michigan State U.) is working on a study of Vatican-American hierarchy relations in the late 1960s.

Timothy Walch (Hoover Presidential Library) and Ed Kantowicz are editing a series of dissertations on immigration and ethnicity for Garland Press.

Patricia Wittberg, S.C., will soon be publishing a study of the growth and decline of religious orders during the last 20 years. She uses insights from sociological research on societal groups.

William Wolkovich-Valkavicius is preparing a compendium of Lithuanian religious life in the United States, including 140 parishes and eight religious communities. He has published “The Ku Klux Klan in the Nashoba Valley” in the Historical Journal of Massachusetts Winter 1990 issue.

Publications

The Archdiocese of Boston: A Pictorial History, compiled by Ronald D. Patkus, Archivist, with a preface by Bernard Cardinal Law contains more than 250 photos and traces the historical roots of the church in Boston from 1600 to the present. 1989. Quinlan Press, 131 Beverly St., Boston, MA 02114. 25.27.

Awash in a Sea of Faith: Christianizing the American People by Jon Butler provides a new interpretation of 300 years of religious and cultural development and stresses critical and creative tensions emerging from a broad range of religious and political entities. 1990. Harvard University Press. 376 pp. 29.50.

A limited number of copies of Faherty, Better the Dream: St. Louis University and Community (1818-1968), presumably out of print since 1970, are now available at the Missouri Province Archives, 4515 West Pine Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108, at $15 a copy plus $3 postage and handling.


Boston’s Wayward Children: Social Services for Homeless Children, 1830-1930 by Peter C. Holloran draws heavily from archival materials and oral history interviews to explore the historical development of the American social welfare system of orphanages, child-placement agencies, reformatories, juvenile courts and child guidance clinics. 1989. Fairleigh Dickinson University Press. 330 p. 49.50.


Catholicism in America: A Social History by Timothy Walch, discusses immigration, economic and social mobility, Catholic-Protestant conflict, etc., from 1565 to the present. Krieger, 252 p. $11.50.

"The Catholic Reformation" microfiche collection of 16th, 17th and 18th century sources is available from the Interdocumentation Co., P.C. Box 11205, 2301 EE Leiden, The Netherlands.

Catholics U.S.A.: Makers of a Modern Church by Linda Brandi Catena consists of 25 interviews with American Catholics from diverse backgrounds. Archbishop Roger Mahony discusses Catholicism in California; Bishop Donald Pelotte addresses problems of Native Americans; and Ruth McDonough Fitzpatrick outlines the evolution of the Women’s Ordination Conference. Other interviewees include Charles Curran, Jacqueline Grennan Wexler, Edward Malloy, Mario Cuomo and Andrew Greeley. 1989. 336 p.


Church Building quarterly focuses on the design, construction, maintenance and care of same. 33-39 Bowling Green Lane, London EC1R OAB.


The Detroit St. Josaphat Story: A History Within a History by Eduard Adam Skendzel traces the civil and religious demographics of the Catholic Church in Detroit in the

The Diocesan Seminary in the United States: A History from the 1780s to the Present by Joseph M. White has been published by University of Notre Dame Press. It includes the findings of the Cushwa Center project on the historical study of Catholic theological education.

Dreams of An Outcaste: Patrick F. Healy: The Story of the Slaveborn Georgian Who Became the Second Founder of America's First Great Catholic University, Georgetown by Albert S. Foley has been published in a bicentennial edition. 1989. 302 p. Portals Press, P.O. Box 1048, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403. (First edition was suppressed.)

El Caminito Real, compiled and edited by Msgr. Francis J. Weber, consists of three volumes documenting the history of California's historic hisencias, estancias and presidio chapels. These volumes contain previously published essays by Msgr. Weber and various other authors from books, newspaper articles and journals. Los Angeles: Archdiocese of Los Angeles Archives. 1988.

Evangelism in America: From Tents to T.V. by William Packard has been published by Paragon House, New York. 1988. 275 pp. 22.95. (10.95 pap.).


On the Move: A History of the Hispanic Church in the United States by Moises Sandoval documents the history of Hispanic Catholics from the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors nearly 500 years ago through the growth of the church in the southwest in the 19th century to the appointment of the first Hispanic bishop in 1970. Orbis Books. 163 p. 8.95.


Proceedings of the Carondelet Conference on the Future of Religious Nurture consists of essays by M. Charlotte Marshall, Mary Ewens, Ritamary Bradley, Vilma Seelaus and...

*Religion and Political Behavior in the United States* edited by Ted G. Jelen includes 15 chapters on U.S. political religion written from a behavioral perspective. Essays deal with the measurement of religious phenomena, the effects of religious belief at the level of the mass public, and political religion at the level of religious and political elites. 1989. Praeger. 308 p. 45.95.

*Religion and Politics* edited by Fred E. Baumann and Kenneth M. Jensen, conference papers from the Kenyon Public Affairs Conference Center, Kenyon College, 1985, has been published by University Press of Virginia. 1989. 114 p. 10.95.

*Religious Change in America* by Andrew M. Greeley explores the contemporary currents of change in American Catholicism and suggests that Catholics still maintain much of the devotional sensitivity of their predecessors. 1989. Harvard. 137 p. 25.00.

*Religious Fundamentalism and American Education: The Battle for the Public Schools* by Eugene F. Provenzo, Jr., has been published by SUNY Press.


*Seasons of Grace: A History of the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit* by Leslie Woodcock Tentler aims to integrate institutional, social and cultural developments in the Archdiocese of Detroit from the 1830s through the 1950s. Changes in religious practice, parish life and governance, the role of women in church organizations, and Catholic practice with regard to abortion, contraception and intermarriage are explored, with new information on Catholic schooling, black Catholics and Charles Coughlin. 1989. Wayne State University Press.


*To Bind Up the Wounds: Catholic Sister Nurses in the U.S. Civil War* by Mary Denis Maher has been published by Greenwood Press. (Contributions in Women's Studies, no. 107) 1989. 178 p.


*Transforming Parish Ministry: the Changing Roles of Catholic Clergy, Laity, and Women Religious* by Jay P. Dolan, R. Scott Appleby, Patricia Byrne and Debra Campbell. It consists of the practice of ministry by priest, sister and lay person between 1930-1980, examining the impact on parish relationships. Dolan's concluding essay integrates the essays into a broader social context and interprets the dynamics of change during this period in the American Catholic Church. 1989. Crossroad. 366 p. 27.50.


---

**Newsletter Renewal:**

If you have not recently renewed your subscription to the newsletter, please do so as soon as possible. Delinquent subscriptions will be removed from the list by June 1, 1990.
**Research Fellowships**

Fellowships which include library privileges, an office, secretarial help, but no stipend, have been awarded to Christine Athans, B.V.M., of the School of Divinity at the College of St. Thomas, who is writing a book on Jewish-Christian relations, and Kenneth M. Johnson (Husson College), who will focus on the theological development of Orestes Brownson's life and thought. Deadlines for Research Fellowship applications are April 15 and January 15.

**Travel Grants**

Recipients of this year's Research Travel Grants, which help to defray the expense of coming to Notre Dame to use its collections for the study of American Catholicism, are: Michael P. Hornsby-Smith of the University of Surrey (U.K.), who is researching the RENEW program; Susan Poulson, a recent Ph.D. from Georgetown, who is studying co-education at Notre Dame; Rodger Van Allen (Villanova) who is doing research on pivotal moments in the life of John Cogley; Leslie Tentler (Michigan) who will use the Peter Baart papers and other resources to study successive generations of priests in the Midwest; and Loretta Petit, O.P., who is looking at the years 1821-1832, when Edward Fenwick, O.P., was bishop of Cincinnati, as one part of the larger project on Dominicans in the United States (OPUS).

The deadline for applications for travel grants each year is December 15.

**Hibernian Research Award**

This award of $2,000 was won by Randy Roberts of Purdue University. He is studying the role of the Irish in sports history, asking such questions as: What was the Irish sporting experience which the immigrants brought with them to America? What did Irish-Americans contribute to the American sporting experience? He will examine how the Irish used sports to define, nourish and protect their own culture, as well as how their sporting notions clashed with and eventually transformed Anglo-American attitudes toward sports. The deadline for applications for this award is December 15.

**Publication Awards**

The manuscripts for the “Studies in American Catholicism” and “Irish in America” publication competitions are still in the hands of the readers. Winners will be announced in the next newsletter. The deadlines for the submission of manuscripts for these competitions is December 15.

**Theological Education Project**

The results of the Historical Study of Catholic Theological Education project are now available in book form. Joseph M. Wiltse's *The Diocesan Seminary in the United States: A History from the 1780s to the Present* is available from the University of Notre Dame Press.

**American Catholics and the Holy Land**

On November 12 and 13, 1989, a small study group convened at Notre Dame to discuss ways of promoting the study of American Catholics and the Holy Land. See fuller report elsewhere in this newsletter.

**American Catholic Studies Seminar**

Sandra Yocum Mize of Saint Mary's College (Notre Dame) was the seminar speaker February 8, 1990. Her topic was “Defending Roman Loyalties and Republican Values: The 1848 Revolution in American Catholic Popular Literature.”

On March 29, 1990, Margaret McGuinness of Cabrini College shared some aspects of the dissertation she completed under the direction of Robert Handy at Union Theological. Her title was “A Puzzle with Missing Pieces: Catholic Women and the Social Settlement Movement.”

Copies of the working papers are available for $3 each.

**Conference November 1-3, 1990**

The program for the Conference on American Catholicism which will be held at Notre Dame is now available and is included with this issue. Registration materials will be sent out later.

**Associate Director**

Mary Ewens, O.P., who has been Associate Director of the Cushwa Center for the past two years, will be leaving the center to take a new position July 1. She will become the Executive Director of the Conrad Hilton Fund for Sisters, which is based in Los Angeles. This fund aids the works of sisters among the very poor throughout the world. Ewens will continue to do research and writing on sisters—an interest for which this position will provide plenty of scope.
News Notes

Creighton University has established a Center for the Study of Religion and Society to encourage research, publication, conferences, seminars and lectures on all religions in the world. Bryan F. Le Beau is the director. For their free newsletter, contact him at the History Department, Omaha, NE 68178.

The Oregon Province Jesuit Archives recently acquired copies of documents, letters and photos in the Turin Province, Italy, relative to the earliest history of the Rocky Mountain Mission in the last half of the 19th century. Until 1909 the Turin Province administered the Jesuit missions of the Pacific coast and supplied much of its manpower.

The U.S. Catholic Historian is continuing to publish papers from important conferences. Vol. 9, Nos. 1 & 2 will contain those on Hispanic Catholics: Historical Explorations and Cultural Analysis from the CEHILA Conference sponsored by the Cushwa Center in March 1989. Other issues will feature last June's Conference on the History of Women Religious. The Fall 1989 issue included the Bicentennial symposium held in Baltimore in November 1989.

Joan Tucker's dramatization of the life of Mother Joseph Parisseau has featured prominently in celebrations of the Washington State Centennial Year, including a performance for the opening of the State Legislature.

The American Studies Association publishes a bibliography of doctoral dissertations completed each year in the American Quarterly. To have a dissertation completed between July 1, 1989, and June 30, 1990, listed, send entries by April 25 to ASA, 2140 Tallasfero Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742.

The Catholic Historical Society of the Roanoke Valley maintains a 3-room museum of Catholic artifacts and records at St. Andrews Parish Center in Roanoke, Virginia.

The Friends of the Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco featured Bishop Francis Quinn, editor of The Monitor, at their Fifth Annual History Day.

Librarians, archivists, American Catholic historians and others interested in research collections in American Catholic history, religious studies, theology and/or philosophy are cordially invited to attend the first organizational meeting of the Association of College and Research Libraries: Philosophical, Religious and Theological Studies Discussion Group in Chicago at the American Library Association Annual Conference on Monday, June 25, 1990, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. This Discussion Group is in the process of formation and those attending will have an opportunity to shape the group. Meeting place to be announced. Contact: Charlotte Ames, Notre Dame, IN 46556. 219-239-5176.

Calls For Manuscripts

Garland Publishing is seeking contributors and suggestions for entries for a biographical reference work, European Immigrant Women, which will be part of a new series, Directories of Minority Women. Contact: Kennie Lyman, Garland Publishing.

Contributions are being sought for a women's history timeline being developed by the National Women's History Project. The timeline will be available in print form and on computer disk. Send your entries to HistoryTimeline, NWHP, 7738 Bell Road, Windsor, CA 95492.

Essays are sought for a book on The New York Irish, a comprehensive study from the 17th century to the present. Contact: Ronald H. Bavor, School of Social Sciences, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA 30332.

The Frank S. and Elizabeth D. Brewer Prize, awarded annually, is a subsidy of $2000 to assist the author in publishing a book-length manuscript in church history. Complete manuscripts in final form must be received by William B. Miller, Secretary, American Society of Church History, 328 Deland Ave., Indialantic, FL 32903, by November 1.


Conferences


The theme of the June 6-9 annual convention of the Catholic Theological Society in San Francisco is "Inculturation and Catholicity." Contact: Edward Konerman, Loyola, Chicago, IL 60626.

The Eighth Berkshire Conference on the History of Women will be held June 7-10, 1990, at Douglass College, Rutgers University. Contact: Judith Walkowitz, History Dept., Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.
There will be a six-week NEH Summer Institute on "The Philosophical Uses of Historical Traditions," June 13-July 24, 1990, at Clemson University. Participants will examine the work of a number of distinguished contemporary scholars who are utilizing historical figures and texts as creative resources for original scholarship in their fields, rather than as occasions merely for exegesis and comparative interpretation. Contact: George R. Lucas, Director, NEH Summer Institute, c/o Dept. of Philosophy and Religion, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-1508; 803-656-2299.

On July 6-9, 1990, the International Conference on Hispanic Cultures of the United States will meet. Contact: Johannes Gutenberg-Universitat, FAS; D-6728 Germersheim, W. Germany.

Carmel 200 - the bicentennial celebration of the Carmelite Sisters of Baltimore will culminate with a symposium August 12-18 at Loyola-Baltimore. The first three days will focus on sharing and reflection on their history and charism by Carmelite women and men. On August 14-18 the public sessions will include addresses by Constance FitzGerald, O.C.D., Robert Emmett Curran, S.J., Joseph Chinnici, O.F.M., Rosemary Haughton, Keith Egan, Vilma Seelaus, O.C.D., Dolores Liptak, R.S.M., and many others. Further information is available from 1318 Dulaney Valley Rd., Baltimore, MD 21204.

For information on a September 24-27 conference on literature and religion in Durham, England, contact: T.R. Wright, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 7RU U.K.

Hardin-Simmons University will host a conference on "The Future of Church-Related Colleges in American Society: Role and Effect" October 17-18, 1990. Contact: Barbara Breier, Box 657, HSU Station, Abilene, TX 79698.

For information on a Colloquium on the Speakers at the 1893 World's Parliament of Religions (November 1990) in New Orleans contact Ronald Kidd, 407 S. Dearborn, Chicago, IL 60605.

Recent Research

This Far By Faith: A History of St. Augustine's, the Mother Church for Black Catholics

This Far By Faith, a dissertation completed for Teachers College, Columbia University, in 1989, recounts the history of St. Augustine's Parish, Washington, D.C.'s first Black Catholic parish, from its founding in the basement of St. Matthew's Church in 1855 to its merger with St. Paul's Church in 1961. Set within the context of the larger Black American experience of Roman Catholicism in the Nation's Capital, it examines the development of an urban educational and religious institution at a time when Catholicism itself was striving to establish its identity and place within the religious and cultural milieu of the United States. The various forces at work within this society, forces of racism, classism, competition for limited resources and needs for belonging and achievement, exerted a decided influence on the women and men of St. Augustine's.

Several major tensions and ambiguities weave their way through the text of this history. The core group of members of St. Augustine's occupied a higher social class than was popularly believed. How did this help to shape their attitudes and aspirations? How Intensely did they mix faith with status hopes? In the late 19th and early 20th centuries the Black American community was generally hostile toward the Catholic Church, and the church was little able to ameliorate that dislike. How were the people of St. Augustine's and, by extension, other Black Catholics able to create a place for themselves within an institution that was, at best, ambivalent toward them?

Much of the story of St. Augustine's shows a people striving to become mainline Catholics. In an era when European immigrants found their Catholicism an impediment to achieving the "American dream," these Black Catholics chose membership in this church as the route to America's mainstream. This study deals with questions like the following: How did both formal and informal education within the parish help to maintain this assumption? What place did the parish school occupy in advancing the ambitions, as well as the basic education, of these Black Catholics? How intimately was their hope for assimilation tied to their hope for heaven?

RESEARCH METHODS

Following the standard practices of historical research, both primary and secondary sources were utilized for the gathering of information. Secondary sources were consulted to provide the larger social context within which this history is placed. Published and unpublished primary sources, including newspapers, supplied information about St. Augustine's.

The primary sources consisted chiefly of correspondence, official parish records and reports, and unpublished works such as parish gazettes. These materials are stored in two major repositories: (1) the Archives of St. Augustine's Parish; and (2) the Josephite Archives, St. Joseph's Seminary, Washington, D.C.

More extensive use was made of the parish archives. Its holdings include a large collection of business and personal correspondence; baptismal, matrimonial and death registers for both St. Augustine's and Blessed Martin de Porres' Chapel; financial ledgers and reports; reports and minutes of various organizations; memoirs,
scrapbooks and testimonials of clergy and parishioners; newspaper clippings; parish bulletins; tapes and transcripts from an oral history project; and an expansive collection of photographs depicting the life of the school and congregation. These materials are stored in four filing cabinets and approximately 20 boxes in the basement of the parish office building, with no provision for their physical preservation. Except for a very basic classification according to type of document, undertaken by this author at the start of his research, they remain essentially unorganized.

FINDINGS

A popular perception surrounding the founding mothers and fathers of St. Augustine’s Parish holds that they were rather unsophisticated ex-slaves. The historical record, however, does not entirely bear that perception out. As the Baptismal Register for Blessed Martin de Porres Chapel testifies, slaves and emancipated slaves formed a large presence within the congregation. The fact that the core membership of this group could organize and staff a school, that many held jobs requiring a level of education and skill not readily available to field hands, and that this fledgling congregation did indeed have access to capital argues for the presence of a higher status, sophisticated Black American. The record suggests that, from the beginning, the socioeconomic character of St. Augustine’s was heterogeneous.

Just like the multitude of European immigrants, the people of St. Augustine’s believed in and chased after the American dream of prosperity and opportunity. Their quest, however, did not leave them blind and indifferent to the conditions of Black Americans of lesser means. It did not preclude their demanding justice and equality. They also remained committed to their religious convictions and, hence, the Catholic Church, because the experience fulfilled their spiritual longing. It touched a part of their psyche in a way that strictly social institutions and conventions could not.

The quest for Catholicism’s mainstream and a higher social estate became a preoccupation with these women and men during those times when they felt most left out of the American dream. Despite mixed signals from the Catholic hierarchy and in the face of racial intolerance within and outside the church of their choosing, St. Augustine’s offered parishioners a sense of stability and purpose in a turbulent and mutable world. To the degree that their hopes for assimilation and hopes for heaven shared a strong relation, that relationship was symbiotic. When one examines its structure, programs, and parish life, it seems reasonable to conclude that St. Augustine’s had achieved the status of mainstream Catholic parish. This history argues that the larger, white world of American Catholicism viewed these Black Catholics as being outside the mainstream; at best, they regarded them as a curiosity.

Historically, regardless of denomination, the church has been a pivotal sociocultural institution for Black Americans. As a major expression of Black American culture and religious life, the history of St. Augustine’s Catholic Church is important, in and of itself. The significance goes beyond itself, however, for St. Augustine’s provides a microcosm of the Black American and Black Catholic experience. Examining its history gives additional insight into the broader social history of this country during an unsettled time of rapid growth and change. Hopefully it will also grant us a reprieve from wallowing in old biases and repeating the same mistakes.

John P. Muffler

Archives

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Archives

The archives of St. Meinrad Archabbey in Spencer County, Indiana, were first organized under Archabbot Ignatius Esser, the fourth abbot, who was keenly interested in preserving the history of the monastery. At present the archives contain the personal and official papers of the abbots and other monastic superiors; the personal papers of the deceased monks and the documents of the various archabbey departments. The collection is about 500 or more linear feet with some ten thousand or more items in the photographic collection.

The Abbey of Einsiedeln in Switzerland sent two monks to Southern Indiana in 1853 at the encouragement of Josef Kundek, pioneer priest and pastor at Jasper, Indiana, whose papers are now in the archives. The monastery began in 1854, was made an abbey in 1870 and an archabbey (a purely honorific title) in 1954. It is the second oldest Benedictine community in the country after St. Vincent Archabbey in Pennsylvania, established in 1846.

A fire destroyed a large part of the records in 1887 although some of the early correspondence of the first abbot, Martin Marty, (abbot from 1870-1879 and bishop of Sioux Falls and St. Cloud from 1880-1896), survived as did the series of letters between the early monks and the abbots and community of Einsiedeln. There was extensive correspondence between the first three abbots and many members of the American hierarchy in the 19th and early 20th centuries as well as with Rome and European bishops and abbots. The records of the seminary, the commercial school for young boys, the business and treasurer’s office, the farm records and the press and publications provide a rich supply of primary material for local history.
What is exceptional about the St. Meinrad Archives are the public records found there, such as the Justice of the Peace Docket Books (four dating from 1837 to 1890) and the Board of Trustees Minutes and the Town Ordinances. Habitations around the abbey built on land sold by the monks became a small town which was incorporated in 1883. The documents show that the monks were always a part of the town government. When the town disincorporated in 1918, a monk was president of the Board of Trustees; hence, the presence of the documents in the abbatial archives. The original text and the printed copy (very rare) of the town ordinances, now in the archives, reveal signs of clerical influence.

The archives include records and papers of some of the local secular clergy of the last century, whose papers by one route or another were deposited in the archives. A typical example is that of an Alsatian priest who entered the United States by way of New Orleans just prior to the Civil War and who served in the Natchez diocese during the occupation by Union troops. That was how he acquired a War Department directive, dated 1864, regarding the amount of food rations to be distributed to the fugitive slaves known as contrabands now in the archives. Other documents reflect this priest's peregrinations before his death.

The monks of St. Meinrad through their first abbot, Martin Marty, who became bishop in Indian territory, became missionaries to the Sioux in the Dakotas. Their letters, reports, sermons (some in the Sioux language), newsletters, newspaper clippings and many photographs are a rich source for the history of the evangelization of the Native American in the 19th century.

Dom Ermin Vitry, monk of Maredsous, and one of the principle pioneers in the American liturgical movement, donated his papers to the abbey at the time of his death in 1960. Certain local historians and families have donated their papers also. Finally, some of the monks left extensive correspondence, some of which is valuable for its anecdotal and sociological value.

Usage of the archives is by permission of the archivist by appointment. The collection has been arranged and described, and finding aids are available. Some documents remain classified because of their confidential nature.

Cyprian Davis, O.S.B.
Saint Meinrad Archabbey Archives