

American Catholic Historical Society

263 SOUTH FOURTH STREET | PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106 | WWW.AMCHS.ORG



FALL 2019

From Our President

The years go so fast anymore that writing my newsletter greeting always sneaks up on me. As Benjamin Franklin said, "You may delay, but time will not." This is our fourth edition, and brilliantly summarizes all that has made being part of this society such a pleasure. As you enjoy this year's edition, I hope that if you have not attended our events, you will get excited to be a part of what we do this coming year.

When I was asked to step up, I never envisioned that I would ever be serving my sixth year as Society president. We have such a rich history going back to 1884, and I am humbled and honored to serve the needs of our board and membership. This is one of the finest boards that I have worked with, and all are dedicated to our mission.

As a teaser, this issue covers our partnership activities with the

Redemptorists; news and notes about the society that includes information on our board members and editorial staff; briefs on our exhibits, lectures, local history talks, and socials; and information on our upcoming 38th annual Commodore Barry award and this year's recipient, Mr. Daniel K. Fitzpatrick.

As always, many thanks to all of you for continuing to be members, subscribers, and advocates of American Catholic history, and in particular the work of the American Catholic Historical Society. We have been at our mission for over 130 years, and with your help, we will be around for hundreds more.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Finnegan
President, ACHS



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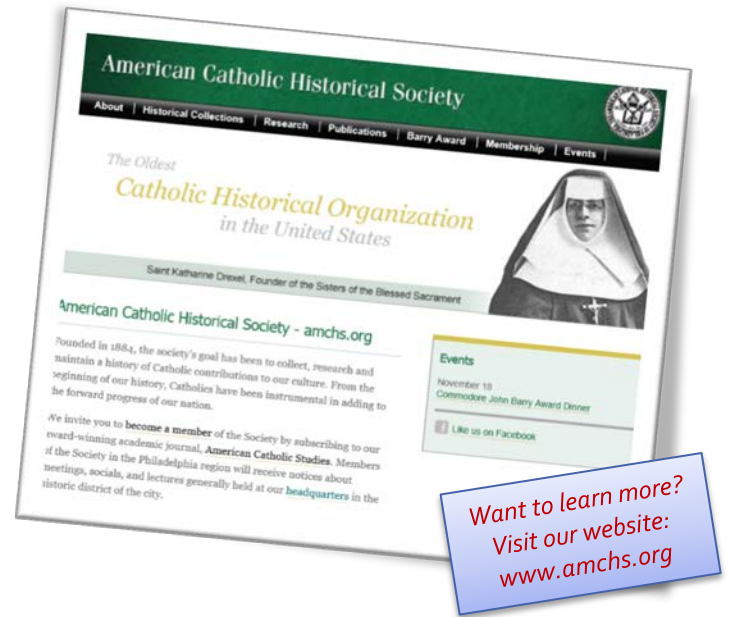
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About the ACHS

Founded in 1884, the American Catholic Historical Society (ACHS) was established for the purpose of collecting and preserving materials related to the history of the Catholic Church in the United States and for documenting the contributions of Catholics to the building of the nation. It is the oldest historical society of its kind in the United States.

An independent, non-profit organization, the ACHS continues to promote the documentation and interpretation of the history of the Catholic Church in the United States. It accomplishes its ongoing mission by publishing an award-winning academic journal, *American Catholic Studies*; sponsoring public lectures and other Society events; and supporting the preservation of its historical collections located at the Catholic Historical Research Center of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Membership in the Society is open to all persons who share an interest in the history of American Catholicism.



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- A subscription to the Society's award-winning quarterly journal, *American Catholic Studies*.
- Discounted pricing for the ACHS's annual lectures and other events.
- Invitation to regular social gatherings, including our annual Christmas Party, St. Patrick's Day Social, and Summer Garden Party.

A New Home for a Carey Bible



The 1790 Carey Bible as displayed at the St. John Neumann Museum

Philadelphia's newest museum opened its doors this past spring. Located next door to the Shrine of St. John Neumann at St. Peter the Apostle Church in Northern Liberties, the museum celebrates the life and ministry of Philadelphia's fourth bishop. The materials on exhibit, ranging from prayer books to liturgical vestments, include many items that have never before been on display.

The ACHS is proud to have supported the museum in the acquisition and exhibition of one of the treasures of the collection – a rare copy of a 1790 Carey Bible, the first version of the Catholic, Douay-Rheims translation to be printed in the United States. The book takes its name from its publisher, Philadelphian Mathew Carey. Of the

500 copies produced, only 42 remain, making it an especially rare specimen. Even more fittingly, this particular copy is believed to have belonged to Charles Carroll, the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence.

To allow visitors to appreciate the Bible and its craftsmanship, pages have been scanned and can be viewed on a tablet computer. It's an amazing combination of history and modern technology.

The museum is open Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and on Sunday from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. Members of the ACHS who are interested in visiting the museum are invited to **join us for an exclusive members-only tour in October**. More details coming soon!



Commodore John Barry
Father of the American Navy

The 2018 Barry Award

Every year, the American Catholic Historical Society bestows its Commodore John Barry Award upon someone whose professional accomplishments and contributions to the church and the community have been deemed outstanding.

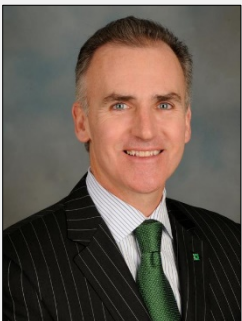
For 2018, the Society honored two individuals whose partnership of service embodies the spirit of Christian generosity: James D. and Jacqueline J. Delaney. Through their leadership and involvement in numerous religious, civic, and cultural organizations, they have given tirelessly of their time and resources and have been involved directly in a range of ministries. Among them, Jim has served on the National Advisory Council of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the board of the National Catholic Community Foundation while Jacki has chaired the annual Archbishop's Christmas Benefit for Children every year since 2008 and was recently elected chair of the board of Malvern Retreat House, becoming the first woman to hold that position in the organization's 107-year history. The bestowal of this honor on the Delaneys marks the fifth time a married couple has been the recipient of the Barry Award.

The evening's celebration at the Union League of Philadelphia offered a fitting tribute to two lives marked by faith, family, and good works. Among the honored guests were Cardinal Justin Rigali, archbishop emeritus of Philadelphia, who offered the opening invocation. With Theresa Flanagan Murtaugh serving as the master of ceremonies, the program included loving words from family members and friends, as well as remarks by the Society's 2017 Barry Award recipient, Dr. Rosalie M. Miranda, president emerita of Neumann University, who knows the generosity of the Delaneys firsthand from their many years of support and involvement with the university.

We are grateful to all those who attended the dinner or served as patrons and benefactors. As our sole fundraising event of the year, proceeds from the Barry Dinner help sustain the work of the Society. The donations received help us maintain our facilities, expand our public programming, support historical research, and underwrite the publication of our award-winning quarterly journal, *American Catholic Studies*.



BARRY AWARD DINNER – 2019



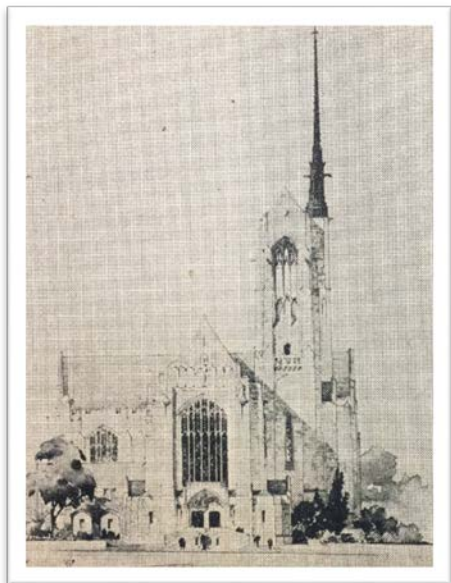
Join us on Friday, November 22, 2019 as we honor Mr. Daniel K. Fitzpatrick as our 2019 Barry Award recipient.

Mr. Fitzpatrick currently serves as President of Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. A native of Philadelphia, he is former chairman of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and serves on numerous charitable boards. His contributions to the church include his work with Business Leaders Organized for Catholic Education and service on the Executive Board for Elementary Education for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

For tickets or sponsorship information, please contact Jim Fitzsimmons, Reservations Chair, at 267-716-9716 or jfitzsimmons0124@gmail.com.

Jacqueline and James Delaney express their gratitude upon receiving the 2018 Barry Award.

Now on Display at the ACHS House



Recognize this Philadelphia church? Probably not, since it was never built! This was the original design planned for St. Ambrose in the Olney section of the city. Founded in 1923, the parish had ambitions to erect a grand “perpendicular Gothic style” edifice with seating for 1,000 worshippers. Ultimately, however, only the lower church was built as the parish devoted its energy and resources to erecting the parish school. Not alone in its unfulfilled ambition, the plan for St. Ambrose was one of several unrealized visions for towering, cathedral-like sanctuaries that were designed to mark Catholic presence in the city’s booming residential neighborhoods during the early twentieth century.

The story of St. Ambrose is one of many discussed in our ongoing exhibit: *Change of Plans: Alternative Architectural Visions of Catholic Philadelphia*. It showcases the story of parish development and institutional growth in the archdiocese. By focusing on unbuilt designs, it offers a glimpse of what Catholics desired for their church and how they envisioned their institutions at a particular moment in time, even if just briefly.

We invite you to come visit the ACHS during one of our regular events to view the exhibit and learn a little more about the rich religious and architectural history of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. It will remain on display throughout the 2019-2020 season.

American Catholic Studies

American Catholic Studies – the oldest, continuously published Catholic scholarly journal in the United States – is committed to encouraging research and publishing articles on the American Catholic experience. The quarterly journal features broad-ranging scholarship that contributes to our understanding of Catholicism in the American context as it intersects with history, literature, culture, politics, art and architecture, theology, and popular movements.

The journal has won numerous awards from the Catholic Press Association over the years, including First Place for General Excellence among scholarly journals for four of the past seven years.

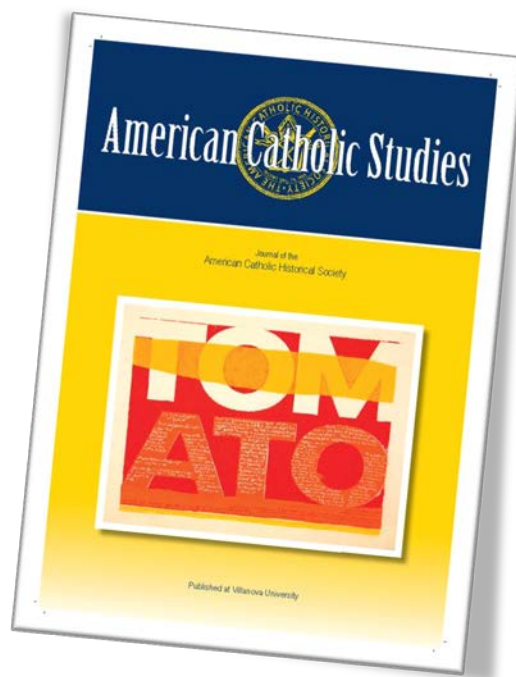
Consistent excellence in topics, editing, design, and presentation. This publication...attracts solid scholars who offer relevant topics of current interest.

– Catholic Press Association

Published at Villanova University, the journal reaches a national and international audience through our agreements with JSTOR and Project MUSE, scholarly databases that provide full-text digital access to member libraries in the United States and internationally.

Your membership in the American Catholic Historical Society automatically subscribes you to *American Catholic Studies*.

All members are subscribers, and all subscribers are members!



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ACHS News and Notes

Now in its 135th year, the American Catholic Historical Society continues its proud tradition of promoting and preserving the history of Catholicism in the United States. This past year, we were particularly delighted to be able to support the Redemptorists in their efforts to establish a museum to honor St. John Neumann. In addition to helping fund the acquisition of a rare Carey Bible (see story on page 2), the Society also lent items from its own collection for display in the museum. We wish the museum much success and hope that it inspires a greater appreciation for Neumann's life and contributions to the church.

In another important collaborative venture, the ACHS recently became a contributing partner of the Catholic Research Resources Alliance (www.catholicresearch.org), an online portal that brings together material from archives, academic libraries, and other sources with the goal of making them accessible to the widest audience possible. One of their leading initiatives has been the Catholic Newspaper Program, a digital repository of historic Catholic newspapers from across the country, including the *Catholic Standard and Times*. To advance that effort, the ACHS recently granted the CRRRA permission to scan and digitize our copies of *The Catholic Herald*, which was published in Philadelphia between 1833 and 1856. In the near future, this resource will be freely available to all through the CRRRA.

On a similar note, the Society also provided a small grant to support the scanning of materials related to U.S. Catholicism held by the English College in Rome. This includes letters from Bishop Kenrick and other unique items. By partnering with the Archdioceses of Baltimore and Philadelphia on the project, the Society has helped to make these materials more easily accessible to researchers.

In Society news, the ACHS is pleased to welcome Dr. Tia Pratt as the newest member of our Board of Managers. A native of Philadelphia, Dr. Pratt holds a doctorate in Sociology from Fordham University. Her primary research explores the impact of systemic racism on African-American Catholic identity, and her work has recently been featured in a new edited volume, *American Parishes: Remaking Local Catholicism* (Fordham University Press). This past year, she served as the inaugural scholar-in-residence at the Aquinas Center in South Philadelphia. As a frequent attendee at ACHS events and previous speaker for one of our local history talks, she is delighted to have joined the board.



The ACHS board also approved the appointment of Dr. Kathleen Holscher as associate editor of the Society's journal, *American Catholic Studies*. Dr. Holscher is an associate professor of American Studies and Religious Studies at the University of New Mexico, where she also holds an endowed chair in Roman Catholic Studies. Having previously been involved with the journal when she was teaching at Villanova University, she is familiar with its work and looks forwards to assisting the other editors in developing new features and content. Video conference technology allows her to participate in quarterly planning meetings, where her background in religious studies and expertise in Catholicism in the U.S. Southwest brings valuable new perspectives to the journal.

To honor Rodger Van Allen, the founding co-editor of *American Catholic Studies* and former ACHS president, the Society established a research prize in his honor at Villanova University, where he taught in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies until his retirement two years ago. Given annually to a student whose research demonstrates Excellence in Historical Theological Studies, the first recipient of the new award was Mary Kate Winter. This prize joins two others awards sponsored by the Society given annually to students at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in honor of Monsignor James P. McCoy and Monsignor Richard Bolger.

Finally, one of our summer projects has been to update and improve the ACHS website. We will be changing the hosting platform so that the site will be compatible with smartphones and other internet-enabled devices. We also plan to streamline event registration and develop an archive of past events so that visitors gain a better sense of our programs. More attention will also be given to the journal, with potential for electronic access. Keep an eye out soon for our new and improved look!

Recap of Our 2018-2019 Events



Dr. Marian Ronan gestures towards our exhibit on Catholic architecture while at the house to deliver her talk on the history of the Grail.



Ms. Maureen O'Riordan shares her research on the Carmelite Sisters of Philadelphia and their role in cultivating devotion to St. Thérèse.



A full house at Ms. O'Riordan's talk.

Exhibit

We started the year with the opening of a new exhibit, *Change of Plans: Alternative Architectural Visions of Catholic Philadelphia*. The display showcased how church designs and other projects changed between the time they were initially proposed and when they were finally built. The materials invited viewers to contemplate why changes were made and what alternative plans tell us about Catholics' vision and ambitions for their church. The exhibit will remain on display for the 2019-2020 season, so there's still time to view it if you've not yet had a chance!

Lectures

Our Fall lecture was delivered by Dr. Sean Brennan of the University of Scranton, who spoke about his new biography of Father Fabian Flynn, a Passionist priest who was instrumental in leading Catholic relief efforts in Europe after World War II. He reminded listeners of the tremendous contributions Catholics made to the humanitarian response to the plight of refugees and displaced persons.

In the Spring, we were delighted to have Dr. Mary Ellen O'Donnell speak on her new book, *Ingrained Habits: Growing Up Catholic in Mid-Twentieth Century America*. Through a careful examination of memoirs and other personal accounts that reflect on that era, she discussed how a particular Catholic outlook was forged in parish and neighborhood life and demonstrated just how distinctive – and perhaps irreproducible – it was.

Local History Talks

To honor and share the rich history of Catholicism in the Philadelphia area, the ACHS continued its tradition of sponsoring a series of local history talks. In September we heard from Dr. Marian Ronan of New York Theological Seminary, who spoke on the history of the Grail, a movement that promoted women's spirituality and leadership. A native of Chester, PA, Ronan discussed how she first encountered the movement while in high school and how her involvement in the group connected her to the global church.

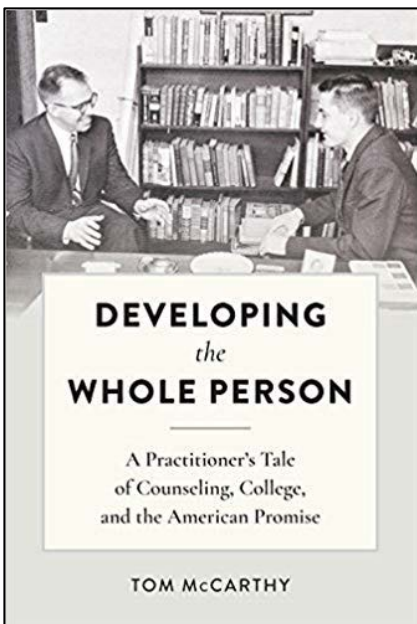
In February, Ms. Maureen O'Riordan provided listeners with the fascinating story of how Philadelphia's Carmelite community launched the devotion to St. Thérèse of Lisieux in the United States in the early twentieth century. With rich visual detail, she paid tribute to the sisters whose efforts helped make St. Thérèse the well-known and beloved spiritual figure she is today.

Our final local history talk of the year came from Mr. Ryan Halloran, a doctoral candidate at Temple University, who shared some of his ongoing research into the history of high school sports in the archdiocese, with a particular focus on Roman Catholic High School and its basketball team.

Parties, Socials, and Special Events

We opened the house once again for our regular series of social events, from our annual Christmas Party to our St. Patrick's Day Social and festive Garden Party. We also held a memorial mass in honor of the deceased members of the ACHS and the Catholic Philopatrian Society, celebrated this year in the ACHS house itself.

Want to keep
informed about
our events?
Like us on
FACEBOOK!



Our Fall lecture will feature Dr. Tom McCarthy, who will speak on his father's career at LaSalle College and what it reveals about postwar America.

2019 - 2020 Calendar of Events

Sunday, September 15, 2019 @ 2pm

Ms. Adrienne Harris and Ms. Francesca Reznik
*Historical Preservation in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia:
Documenting Efforts at St. Peter Claver and St. Laurentius*
Free and Open to the Public

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

5pm social hour | 6pm dinner | 7pm lecture
Annual Fall Lecture

Dr. Tom McCarthy, U.S. Naval Academy
Developing the Whole Person: A View of Postwar America from La Salle College
\$20 members / \$30 non-members

Friday, November 22, 2019

Barry Award Dinner
Honoring Daniel K. Fitzpatrick
Union League of Philadelphia

Friday, December 13, 2019 @ 6pm

Annual Christmas Party
\$25 members / \$35 non-members

Sunday, February 9, 2020 @ 2pm

Mr. John Kelly, National Park Service
Commodore Barry and the Irish in Philadelphia
Free and Open to the Public

Friday, March 13, 2020 @ 6pm

Annual St. Patrick's Day Social
\$25 members / \$35 non-members

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

5pm social hour | 6pm dinner | 7pm lecture
Annual Spring Lecture

Dr. William Portier, University of Dayton
Every Catholic an Apostle: A Life of Thomas A. Judge, CM, 1868-1933
\$20 members / \$30 non-members

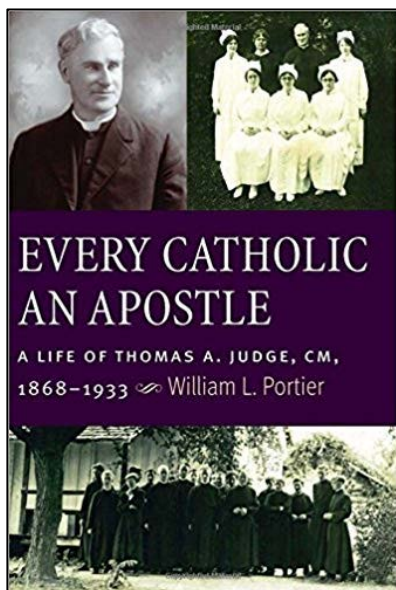
Sunday, May 17, 2020 @ 2pm

Dr. Rodger Van Allen, Villanova University
Laetare: Dr. Lawrence Flick and the ACHS
Free and Open to the Public

Friday, June 5, 2020 @ 6pm

Annual Garden Party
\$25 members and non-members

AND OTHER EVENTS AS THEY ARE ADDED



Our Spring lecture will feature Dr. William Portier speaking on the life of Father Thomas A. Judge. (Yes, he's the one Father Judge High School is named after.)

Your Membership Sustains the Work of the ACHS. Join or Renew Today!

<p>I'd like to join the American Catholic Historical Society. (includes a subscription to <i>American Catholic Studies</i>)</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Email:</p> <p>Please check one subscription option:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Special new membership rate!</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Regular one year membership</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$90 Two-year membership</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$120 Three-year membership (BEST VALUE and includes gift subscription for a friend!)</p> <p>Please check one payment option</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bill Me</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Charge my: __ VISA __ MasterCard</p> <p>Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____</p> <p>Signature _____</p>	<p>I have decided to take advantage of the best offer...I would like a 3-year membership in the ACHS and send my one-year gift subscription to <i>American Catholic Studies</i> at NO EXTRA CHARGE to:</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address/Apt. No. _____</p> <p>City/State/Zip _____</p> <p>Email</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Please remit to: American Catholic Studies PO Box 465 Hanover PA 17331-0465</p> <p><i>You can also join online at: www.amchs.org/membership/index.html</i></p>
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