

Selected Major Publications

Curley, Augustine J. *New Jersey Catholicism: An Annotated Bibliography*. South Orange, NJ: New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission, 1999.

Mahoney, Joseph and Peter Wosh, eds. *The Diocesan Journal of Michael Augustine Corrigan, Bishop of Newark, 1872-1880*. South Orange, NJ: New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission, 1987.

McCormick, John D. *History of the Catholic Church in Trenton in the Nineteenth Century (1843-1903)*. South Orange, NJ: New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission, 2004.

The Bishops of Newark, 1853-1978: The First 125 Years of the Archdiocese of Newark as seen through the lives and administrations of the seven men who have been its leaders. South Orange, NJ: New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission, 1978.

Wosh, Peter J. *Catholic Parish and Institutional Histories in the State of New Jersey: A Checklist*. South Orange, NJ: New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission, 1980.

For More Information

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New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission



First Seal of the NJCHRC, c. 1976

An Introductory Guide



A History of the Commission

The New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission was established in 1976 by the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey and Seton Hall University. Its purpose is to gather and preserve the print and photographic history of Catholics and Catholicism in New Jersey, to supplement these records through oral history interviews, and to make these resources available to all. The first Chairman of the Commission was the Most Rev. John J. Dougherty; he was succeeded by the Most Rev. Peter Leo Gerety, Archbishop Emeritus of Newark. Upon his resignation in 1992, the Most Rev. Dominic A. Marconi assumed direction of the Commission. The founding Executive Director, Dr. Joseph Mahoney who served in this capacity from 1976-2005 provided crucial leadership in regard to the program overall. In furtherance of its goals, the Commission has undertaken projects in several different preservation areas. With regard to collecting materials, it has aided in the transfer and organization of the Archdiocese of Newark Archives now housed at Seton Hall University. The Commission has also held several public programs relating to New Jersey Catholic History; two of these have been aimed at helping the authors of parish and other institutional histories improve their works, others have examined Catholic education in the state and the relation of the Church to various immigrant groups. Other activities will be undertaken as the Commission enters its fourth decade of service to Catholic New Jersey and beyond.

Membership

Members of the Commission include individuals with an interest (professional, scholarly, or personal) in the history of local Catholicism. Additional members are, or have been professional historians; diocesan and institutional archivists; along with clergy and laity with expertise in the study of religious history.

Mission & Focus

The principal purpose of the Commission is to produce scholarly and popular histories of the Catholic Church and of Catholics in the State of New Jersey. Ancillary to this, and requisite to these accomplishments are the following measures: An established research facility at Seton Hall University for the study of Catholics and Catholicism in the Garden State; Identifying, increasing access to, and encouraging the preservation of the records (both written and oral) of Catholic individuals, institutions, and agencies throughout New Jersey; Developing a publications program for works which explore the New Jersey Catholic experience; bibliographic compilations to increase awareness of Catholic source materials along with targeting and making available significant primary sources to the community at large.

Activities & Support

Continued work endures in such areas as Manuscript Preservation and Collection Development of New Jersey Catholic History resources; an Oral History Program with Catholic figures and themes designed to supplement the written record of our documentation; Publication of a Commission Newsletter and our own Internet Homepage to provide updated information regarding group activities on a regular basis; Public Programs in such areas as Archival Techniques, How to Write Parish Histories and Catholic Higher Education are just a few examples of scheduled outreach initiatives. General support for the work of the Commission comes from two principal sources: Seton Hall University which provides office space and archival storage; and gifts from benefactors. The most substantial contributions have come from the Bishops of New Jersey along with the State Council of the Knights of Columbus. Specific support for individual projects in the past have been received from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the New Jersey Committee for the Humanities, and from equally generous individual donors.