

# HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH IN THE AMERICAS CONFERENCE

A black and white photograph of two statues. On the left is a statue of St. Peter, depicted with curly hair and a beard, holding a key with a cross on its handle. On the right is a statue of George Washington, shown in profile, wearing a military-style coat with a ruffled collar and epaulettes. The background is plain white.

PAST LESSONS  
FUTURE WISDOM  
SEEKING REVIVAL

Priest Field Pastoral Center, Middleway, WV  
Saturday, December 9, 2023

# WELCOME...

...to the History of the Catholic Faith in the Americas Conference.



The first recorded baptisms in Alta California were performed at Los Cristianitos, “The Canyon of the Little Christians”, in what is now San Diego County, just south of Mission San Juan Capistrano. (Wikipedia)

The Response to the call for papers was most pleasing. Each abstract proposal raised interesting questions—some, surprisingly, about the working title for a possible conference. Stan’s historical novel triggered various ideas about expanding the conference’s themes and suggested ways to deepen or open more thoughtful discussions about the meanings of Priest Field—both in History and Faith. For example, could weaving the mysteries touched upon in the Wizard Clip story with the mix of realities that eventually led to this beautiful property now nestled within the heart of the Washington Family Home Land, teach us more about the Great American Experiment? Can the constructed and framed stages of World History, or the drama of the Faith granted all people offer new hope or unveil the curtains of modern times and space? Does this unique place of prayer offer a house for the beliefs that stream from within society’s many religions and civic structures?

The story behind Priest Field and its surrounding events focus on a time when the Washington Family and our founding band of brothers were just beginning to survey and struggle with complex issues such as: defining boundaries of states and nations; finding the common good in such notions as sovereignty, allegiances, and property ownership; transitioning inheritances and contracts civilly, and listening to the various roles that faith and religion play in the conservation of family traditions and key memories.

Because of these eternal questions and issues— which are ever present here and now—it seems appropriate to extend this warm welcome to include everyone who

participates in today’s interactive conference and deliberations. Hopefully, the questions and discussions generated through the presenters’ papers will educate our minds, impart holy wisdom, and fuel our passion for life and love.

The histories of peoples and places record tangible things that come and go—they are built up, and torn down. Yet, at the heart of the historic brick and mortar of civilization’s foundation are three real intangibles: Faith, Hope, and Love.

**THOSE WHO DO NOT  
REMEMBER  
THE PAST ARE  
CONDEMNED  
TO REPEAT IT**

—GEORGE SANTAYANA

The Faith of the Church was around long before the land of the Americas was discovered by Europeans. The rivers, and mountains were already populated by people, tribes, and nations as the memories of pioneers and colonists were recorded as either written history, drawn as crude maps, or whispered into curious ears as tales of adventure and tradition.

Hope in and for the lands of the Americas was always there; it was planted in the hearts of all people - including intrepid European explorers. Hope was, and remains, forged by the unseen - the unmeasurable realities of unity, freedom, and peace held by all. Hope also fuels the faith that gives substance to...

Love. And that is what the voice of this conference is about. Love for the Real Presence, love for our country, love for our neighbors, our family, strangers, and ourselves. Love is not a force, a rule, or a morality but rather a Person—the mystery of Being that just is; the epitome of all that is Beautiful, Good, and True. It is Love that says to all of us: “Do this in memory of me.”

—Donald Patthoff



On pages 4–6, you’ll find descriptions of papers presented October 7, 2023 at our evening Preview. On pages 7–15 you’ll find descriptions of papers presented at the full day event December 9, 2023.

**THAT MEN  
DO NOT LEARN  
VERY MUCH  
FROM THE LESSONS OF  
HISTORY  
IS THE MOST  
IMPORTANT  
OF ALL THE  
LESSONS  
THAT HISTORY HAS  
TO TEACH**

—ALDOUS HUXLEY



Just a few miles south of Priest Field is Harewood, erected in 1774, the home of Colonel Samuel Washington. His brother George Washington, who surveyed the land in this area for Lord Fairfax, visited here and General Lafayette and Louis Phillipe of France were entertained here. In his house James Madison and Dolly Payne Todd were married. Samuel is buried here just south of the house. (Jefferson County Historical Society Marker)

# Faith in Fiction, History, and Reality: Presence and Possession

**H**istory and fiction presuppose some notion about truth. For example, both can claim there is truth, question what it means, or express desires to search for it, etc.

News, science, philosophy, marketing, propaganda, also have similar ideas. Some are interesting, some entertaining, others just things we need to know, whether we like it or not – like fixing a tire.

The two key presenters this evening focus on a mix of history and fiction. This introduction is simply to ask a few questions, then, about the role of history and fiction in matters of Faith. For example, how do each compare to reality? That is, what is their relationship to the here-and-now? to the everyday things we hold near and dear to our hearts, and to everyday life - to the present and our possessions?

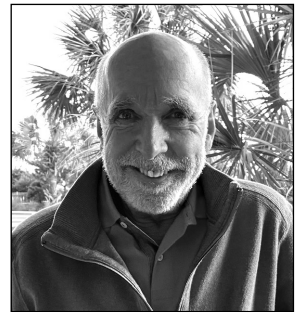
Stanley and Bob are skilled in the art of mixing history and fiction. And, just as when advertisements are mixed to appear as a news articles (advertorials), which have their special purposes, it is good to question what we might be reading or hearing when we mix any two disciplines- including history and fiction.

I want to propose that mixing fiction and history can offer new approaches to Faith and meaning just as do science-fiction, historical novels, biographies, metaphysics, and philosophies.

The story of Priest Field, and the history of the characters that have brought us to this present moment - to discuss its possession by the Catholic Church, and what its purpose might mean, needs to be grounded on Faith, Reality, and the Sacred. Yet, the story also needs to be shared as a Journey in Faith, or as a Salvation Journey. History and Fiction, whether written or presented in art and movies are wonderful ways to bring the invisibles of love, hope, faith, goodness, truth, and beauty to us all.

Both Bob O'Connor and Stanley Williams have spent more than ten years each researching facts, fiction, fallacies, history and interpretations of the people and events, including documents such as letters, legal trusts and deeds that have led to Priest Field now being a Catholic Retreat Center. The material is vast and reveals much about the character of the United States and how the Catholic Faith has influenced the Great American Experiment which, many reasonably argue, is a unique idea about the boundaries and relationships between people and property – about real estates, here and now, and how ideas like freedom and unity are the realities that will “bring us all together” while we continue to shout “don’t tread on me.”

-D.P.





# JUST AS ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL ALL GOOD HISTORY IS PERSONAL

—MARCIA CLARK

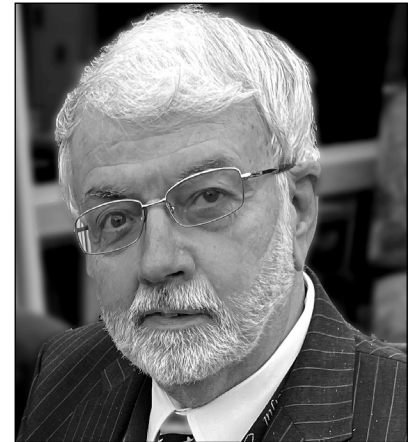
## Priest Field and the Colonial Founding of the Catholic Church

The major events that began the Catholic Church in what is today the eastern panhandle of West Virginia were started by Bishop John Carroll when he sent Father Demetrius Gallitzin to what was then Smithfield, Virginia to investigate the situation which became known as Wizard's Clip. This paper explores the two most significant happenings in the history of the Catholic Church in America. First, the formation of the country's government under the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights, and second, John Carroll being named Bishop of all the Catholics in the thirteen original states. Enter Prince Demetrius Gallitzin (a.k.a. Fr. Smith) who became the first Catholic priest ever to be trained and ordained into the priesthood of the United States and his investigation into the events that led to Priest Field Pastoral Center.

PRESENTER

**Bob O'Connor**

Bob is the author of over two-dozen books, both fiction and non-fiction, mostly about the American Civil War. The books cover topics and/or persons not well-known, yet which have a local connection. Bob has appeared at over 1,000 events in 29 states and the District of Columbia, including the U.S. Naval Academy, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, National Parks including Gettysburg National Battlefield, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and many others. For the last ten years, Bob has been a full-time author, historian, and researcher. He lives in Charles Town, WV. Bob's website is: [www.boboconnorbooks.com](http://www.boboconnorbooks.com).



WIZARD CLIP. After the 1794 Death of a stranger at Adam Livingston's farm, mysterious noises & clippings of garments frightened Smithfield, VA residents for years; the village today is Middleway, WV. When the Wizard Clip demon was finally exorcised by two priests (Fr. Denis Cahill, and Fr. Demetrius Gallitzin), Livingston donated ten-percent of his land holdings to the local Catholic Society. Today that land is Priest Field Pastoral Center.

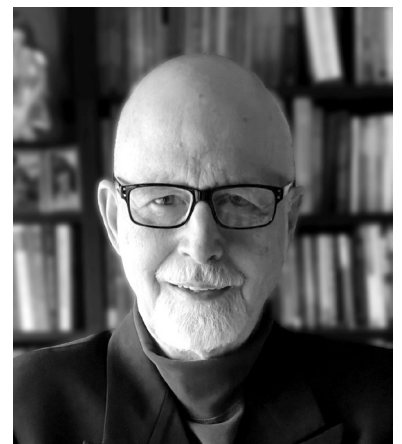
## Persecution of the Catholic Church in America and Writing the Wizard Clip Haunting Novel

This paper explains the origins of anti-Catholic bias in United States history and how it led to the Wizard Clip events, and the writing of the Wizard Clip Haunting novel. Stan & Pam Williams were born into Evangelical Protestantism and from childhood indoctrinated with a strong bias against Catholicism. When they converted to the Catholic faith in 1998-1999 after much research, one thing that stood out was the persecution of Catholics after King Henry VIII's row with Pope Clement VII over Henry's desire for an annulment from Catherine of Aragon. The resulting anti-Catholic penal laws spread to the British Colonies, and harassed Catholics in the early United States. This was something Stan was totally unaware of and yet it explained the push back he and Pam received from family and friends when they became Catholic. Being a storyteller, Stan looked for a narrative vehicle to explain his discoveries. A phone call from Australia introduced him to the Wizard Clip story, and after ten years, his Wizard Clip Hauntings novel was released.

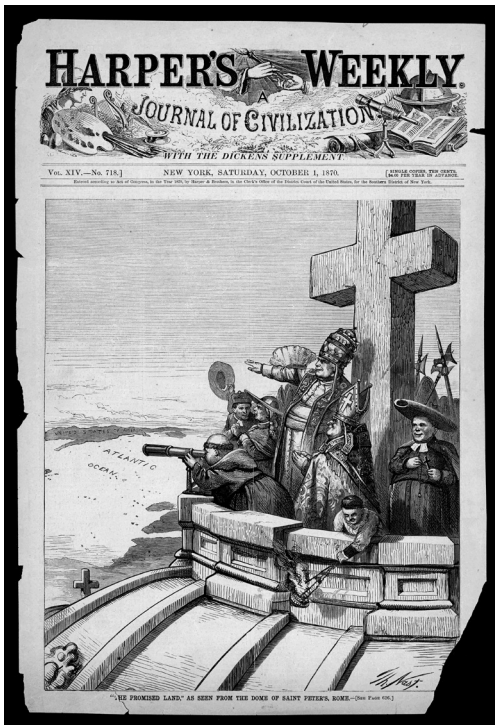
PRESENTER

### Stan Williams

Stan is a filmmaker, Hollywood story and script consultant, Catholic media apologist, and author of several books. Stan holds degrees in Physics (BA), Interpersonal Communications (MA), and Narrative Theory/Film Studies (PhD). He lives in southeast Michigan with Pam, his wife. Nearby are their three children and ten grandchildren. After Dr.



Donald Patthoff, of Martinsburg, WV, read Wizard Clip Haunting, discussions began to hold the *History of the Catholic Faith in the Americas Conference*, which celebrates and expands the ministry of the Priest Field Pastoral Center.



HARPER'S WEEKLY cover from October 1, 1870. Political cartoons did much to spread anti-Catholic bias in the United States. Often the KKK was depicted as the savior of the United States against the pope and Vatican. Above, the pope ogle at the United States across the Atlantic. The caption reads: "THE PROMISED LAND," AS SEEN FROM THE DOME OF SAINT PETER'S ROME. Ironically, Harper's Weekly's by-line at the time was "Journal of Civilization."

THE ONLY THING  
NEW  
IN THE WOLRD IS  
THE HISTORY  
YOU DO NOT  
KNOW

—HARRY S. TRUMAN

# The Birth of the Catholic Church in West Virginia

Those familiar with West Virginia, especially the eastern pan-handle region, know that Catholicism has a rich and colorful history thanks to saints like Ignatius of Loyola. Why is that, when the founder of the Society of Jesus died 300 years before the state was even formed, having succeeded from Virginia as the Civil War began? In her presentation, history aficionado Nancy Cortese will tell us why, along with why West Virginians had a reputation for throwing Catholic priests into the Potomac! Nancy will also tell us why only three of the original 13 colonies allowed Catholics to vote, why Maryland was called the “tyranny of the majority,” and how Catholicism has grown exponentially, since Fr. James Frambach, a Jesuit, first swam to Maryland.

PRESENTER

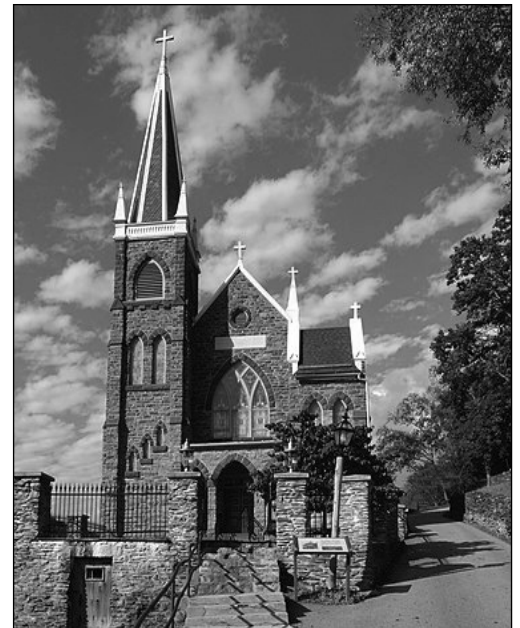
## Nancy Cortese

Nancy was raised as a Methodist and has always loved Christ. As a student at James Madison University, she started attending the Mass on Campus. Ironically, she was drawn to the Church because of the spiritual strength she gained from receiving the Eucharist every week before knowing she wasn't supposed to be doing so as a Methodist. A year after graduation she completed RCIA and came into the Church in 1986. She has a degree in Computer Science which she uses as a Coast Guard Software Engineer. She's the proud mother of three sons, one in seminary. Nancy is a docent at Harper's Ferry National Historic Park and can tell you everything you need to know about the historic St. Peter's Catholic Church, including the history of the secret message hidden on the side of Maryland Heights mountain!



**HISTORY GIVES  
ANSWERS  
ONLY TO THOSE  
WHO KNOW  
HOW TO ASK  
QUESTIONS**

—HAJO HOLBORN



St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia was built in 1833 and was the only church in Harpers Ferry to escape destruction during the Civil War. (Wikipedia)

# Rev. Demetrius A. Gallitzin's Impact on the founding of the Catholic Church in America



Servant of God and Apostle of the Alleghenies, Fr. Demetrius A. Gallitzin's monument-crypt in front of the parish he founded, now the Basilica of St. Michael in Loretto, Pennsylvania

Demetrius A. Gallitzin was the son of a Russian prince and ambassador to the Netherlands. His mother with friends with Catherine the Great and it's rumored that Catherine held young Dimitri in her arms on occasion. As a young man, Dimitri came with his priest and tutor to the United States in 1791, where he quickly sensed the Call to the priesthood. Under Bishop John Carroll, Fr. Gallitzin (aka Fr. Smith) was the first man to be fully educated and ordained to the priesthood in the United States in 1795. At Carroll's request Fr. Smith came to the Priest Field property to investigate the Wizard Clip hauntings on Adam Livingston's farm. Gallitzin is under consideration for sainthood by the church since 2005 much due to the labor and research of the esteemed Betty Seymour.



Frank and Betty Seymour, postulators for the cause of sainthood for Demetrius A. Gallitzin. Photo taken in their Loretto, PA home, 2014.

PRESENTER

## Pamela S. Williams

Due to an illness, Betty Seymour is unable to be with us. However, two months ago, Pam was able to visit with Betty and Frank in their home in Loretto, just a few hundred feet from Gallitzin's monument-crypt and the Basilica of St. Michael and Gallitzin's Chapel-House Museum. At that time, Betty gave to Pam copies of talks about Fr. Gallitzin and the cause for his sainthood. From these and other research Pam has compiled this talk. Pam is a retired middle school teacher, who came into the Catholic Church following Stan in 1999 at St. James the Greater parish in Novi, Michigan. Since then Pam has been active in both St. James and nearby Holy Family Parish as a small group facilitator, prayer cell leader, greeter, lector, cantor, and flautist.



**HISTORY'S  
RESEMBLANCE TO  
CHAOS  
IS SUBSERVIENT TO  
THE ORDER  
OF REALITY**

—HERMAN HESSE

# The Role of the Sacraments in Shaping History

Sacramental History is something easily lost to our memory if we simply focus on the measured and recorded history of our lives and nation. While Recorded history is looking toward the past, Sacred and Sacramental History have the capacity of MAKING HISTORY—that is looking toward a future good not yet fully received. In this paper, Don will explore how both evolve to define our identity as individuals, communities, and a nation.

PRESENTER

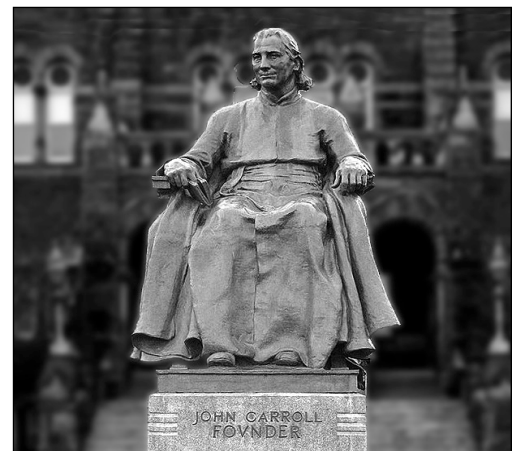
## Donald Patthoff

Dr. Patthoff has practiced general dentistry in Martinsburg, WV since 1981 and is involved nationally and internationally with a variety of issues in ethics. He is a Master of the Academy of General Dentistry and a Fellow of the American College of Dentists. He is the ethics Chair of the Academy of Laser Dentistry and the Editor in Chief of the Journal of Laser Dentistry. He is also co-founder and co-director of the Foundation for Photobiomodulation Research. He is an ethics consultant to the American Dental Association's Council on Ethics Bylaws and Judicial Affairs served as the liaison from the American Society for Dental Ethics to the ADA, ACD, ADEA, and NIH.



**HISTORY IS A  
VAST  
EARLY  
WARNING  
SYSTEM**

—NORMAN COUSINS



Rev. John Carroll, S.J. First United States Archbishop, U.S. Patriot, founder of Georgetown University, and St. Johns Seminary, and champion of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment enshrining religious freedom.



Our Lady of Guadalupe is a Catholic title of Mary, mother of Jesus associated with a series of five Marian apparitions to a Mexican peasant named Juan Diego and his uncle, Juan Bernardino in December 1531. The venerated image on a cloak (tilmahti) associated with the apparition is enshrined within the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. The basilica is the most-visited Catholic shrine in the world. (Wikipedia)

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—HAJO HOLBORN

DECEMBER 9 PAPER

## The Historical Significance and Cultural Impact in America of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico

The 1531 Mexican apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe is clearly a major historical event that affected civilization in the Western Hemisphere. But how and why? In this presentation, historian David Thrower will explore the rarely discussed historical background of the event including the religious syncretism of Mexican indigenous tribes, the Scriptural underpinnings and justification for the Guadalupe apparitions, the role of Marian advocacy in American history, how the 1531 events impacted American culture, and finally how Marian advocacy can be a positive force for change in our contemporary culture.

PRESENTER

### David Thrower

David was born in Parsons, WV, and received into the Catholic Church Easter 2000. He completed his Bachelor's at Southeastern University in 1996, his Master's at Franciscan University of Steubenville in 2018, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Liberty University. His dissertation research focuses on the Ideological Influences that Evolved National Socialism. Professionally David is a paralegal and teacher. He has a particular historical interest in Appalachian Studies, Late Roman Antiquity, World War II, and Church History. Other projects in development are a Genesis study and a History of American Big Bands.



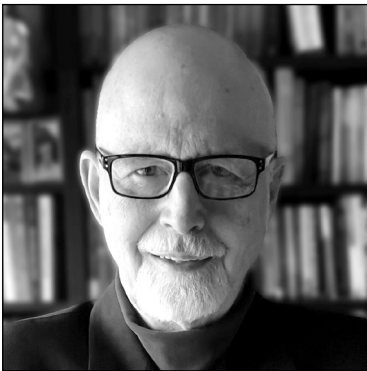


# Bishop John Carroll's Presumptuous Renegades

“Presumptuous Renegades,” refers to a small number of Early American Catholic priests, or so called priests, for not all of them were, in fact, ordained priests. That they were dubbed “renegades” sounds dispiriting. But they had a purpose in much the same way Judas Iscariot, chosen by Christ, had a purpose. The life of a pioneering priest in Early America, was hard, especially if the priest happen to be the country’s first bishop, John Carroll, who was tasked with corralling and organizing the nascent U.S. Church with all its vagrancies, surprises, and scandals. In this paper, Stan describes some of the problems Bishop Carroll faced during the years following the founding of the United States, and the benefits the country as a whole and the Church, in particular, realized as a result.

PRESENTER

## Stan Williams

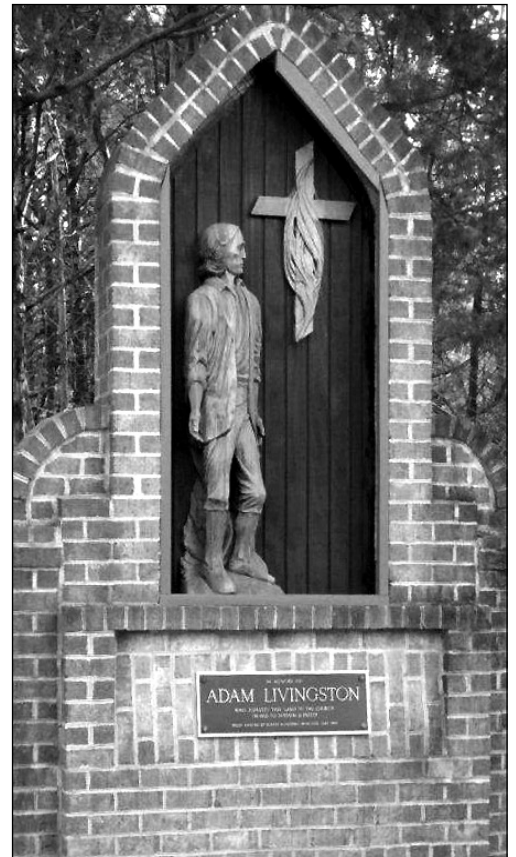


Stan is a filmmaker, Hollywood story and script consultant, Catholic media apologist, and author of several books, including his story structure book used in the film industry: “The Moral Premise: Harnessing Virtue and Vice for Box Office Success,” and his historical novel about the origins of Priest Field, “Wizard Clip

Haunting”. His “Presumptuous Renegades” paper was an outgrowth of American history research while writing the Wizard Clip novel. He and his wife, Pam, were raised in American Evangelicalism, but came into the Catholic Church in 1998–1999. They live in S.E. Michigan near their three children and ten grandchildren. Stan holds degrees in Physics (BA), Mass Communications (MA), and Narrative Theory (PhD).

**GOD  
CANNOT ALTER  
THE PAST, THOUGH  
HISTORIANS  
CAN**

—SAMUEL BUTLER



The 38-acre parcel of land that is now Priest Field was originally donated to the Catholic Church by a local farmer named Adam Livingston in 1802 after his farm was exorcised by Fr. Denis Cahill, and Fr. Demetrius A. Gallitzin.

**HISTORY IS A  
VAST  
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SYSTEM**  
-NORMAN COUSINS

DECEMBER 9 PAPER

## Curating the Saints: Making History at American Catholic Shrines

During the canonization process, Catholics collect testimonies, writings, and objects related to the sainthood candidate to demonstrate the saint's holiness. American Catholics developed a tradition of creating not only shrines but educational spaces and museums that foster devotion. Shrine museums demonstrate how religious institutions adopt and modify best practices in public history, despite the sparse scholarship on interpreting religious objects. These sites balance visitors' needs by providing educational and spiritual spaces to contemplate the saint. This paper examines curatorial decisions at the National Shrine of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, the National Shrine of Saint John Neumann, the Seton Shrine, and the Blessed Solanus Casey Center before proposing several best practices for shrine museums.

PRESENTER

### Emily Arledge

Dr. Emily Arledge is an Assistant Professor of History at Belmont Abbey College where she teaches public history, American history, and directs the Public History program. She earned her Ph.D. in 2023 from Loyola



University of Chicago's Public History/American History program.

Her research "Enshrining Memory: The Production of American Catholic Past," explores American Catholic memory and material culture. Emily grew up in Jefferson County, WV and attended St. James the Greater in Charles Town. She has fond memories of summer camps and kayaking at Priest Field.



Gateway to the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit, Michigan. Image taken from Stan & Pam Williams' feature documentary: "EXTRAORDINARY: Stories about Solanus Casey for Children" (2017).

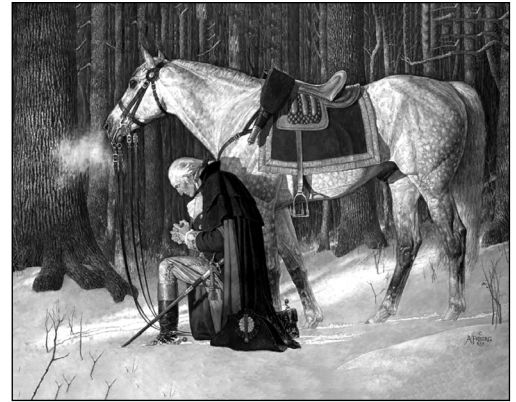
# The Evolving Nature and of Freedom, Reason, and Faith

The political freedom we experience in the United States is the envy of many people around the world. But freedom in America has its limits due to the way our Constitution with its 27 amendments, and the long history of court precedents have evolved. The same is true of every human discipline, and industry, and profession, especially Healthcare in which Dr. Patthoff is involved. Some things, however, do not evolve, like the laws of nature, although our understanding of them does. The dogmas of the Church also do not evolve, but their application does as society changes. In this paper, Dr. Patthoff will explain how we can understand the balance between what naturally evolves and what doesn't, particularly as it relates to Faith and Reason. As St. Augustine and St. John Paul II remind us: Faith informs reason, reason verifies faith, and together, when properly applied, faith and reason will always lead to freedom.

PRESENTER

## Donald Patthoff

Dr. Patthoff has long been interested in the intersection of American and Catholic history and how George Washington brought diverse interests together across political, business, cultural, religious, and geographic disciplines to create the Great American Experiment. That interest led to the establishment of the George Washington Chair of Living Ethics at Shepherd University and the development of a narrative about the American Character based on George Washington's character. The effort includes the exploration of the George Washington Homeland's key properties, including Priest Field Retreat Center. He is eternally grateful for the friendship of two past directors of Priest Field, Fr. Ted Midile and Fr. Bill Linhares, and their invitations to consult with Edythe Darrow as she explored the history of Priest Field that led to his meeting Dr. Stanley Williams.



Arnold Friberg's "The Prayer at Valley Forge"

*I now make it my earnest prayer that God would have you and the State over which you preside in His holy protection; that He would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation. Amen*

*-G. Washington*

Excerpt of prayer from General George Washington's Circular Letter to the States, which he wrote on June 8, 1783 as the commander in chief, at his headquarters in Newburgh, New York. This circular was directed to the governors and states of the new nation.

**WHAT  
EVER  
HE SAYS  
UNTO YOU  
DO IT**

—OUR LADY OF BETHLEHEM



The life-size statue (5'2" - same height as Fr. Serra) accompanied Fr. Serra on the first expedition to California in 1769. She can be visited today at the Carmel Mission Basilica in Carmel, CA.

DECEMBER 9 PAPER

## Discovering Our Lady of Bethlehem in the 'Sacred Expedition of 1769'

This paper will briefly examine the adventure and role of the life-size dressed statue of Our Lady of Bethlehem that accompanied Fr. Junípero Serra's historic *Sacred and "Impossible" Expedition of 1769* to conquer for Spain the 500-mile-stretch of Alta California by establishing its first two Missions in San Diego and Monterey. We will also look at the statue's continued presence in Mission San Carlos Borromeo in Carmel-by-the-Sea. It also describes Our Lady of Bethlehem's fate when the missions were dissolved and the friars dismissed by the Act of Secularization imposed by the Mexican government in 1833, and her return to the Carmel Mission in the restoration project of the 20th century.

PRESENTER

### Marian T. Horvat

Marian Therese Horvat received a Bachelor of Arts from the School of Journalism at the University of Kansas. Later she returned to Kansas University and earned a doctorate in Medieval History. She has translated and edited various Portuguese and Spanish works, including manuscripts from Quito on the revelations of Our Lady of Good Success to the 16th century



nun Madre Mariana de Jesús Torres. In 1997 she began her collaboration with Mr. Atila Sinke Guimarães, translating and editing his 11-volume Collection on Vatican Council II titled *Eli, Eli, Lamma Sabachthani?* In 1999 they established the nonprofit corporation Tradition in Action in Los Angeles to publish their works on the Church, history and Catholic culture. For the last 20 years she has published articles and reviews regularly on their website [traditioninaction.org](http://traditioninaction.org) as well as given talks on historical and cultural topics.

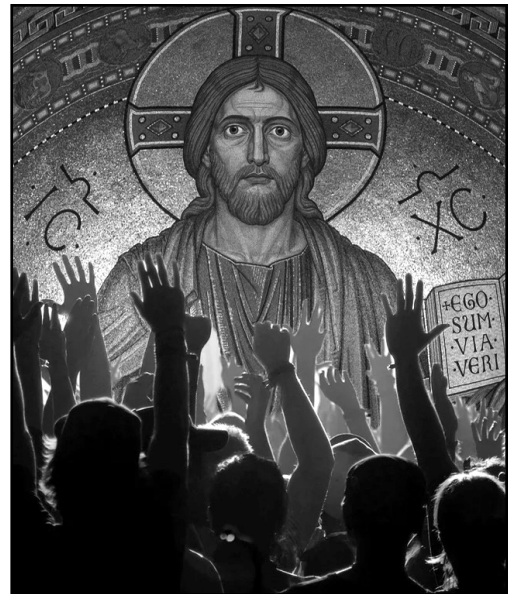
# The Catholic Revival of the Late 19th Century and its Application Today

The Catholic parish mission of the late 19th century became a well-known and widespread phenomenon for over a century. Preached by various religious orders, such as the Jesuits or Redemptorists, the mission preacher spent a week or more hammering home the truths of Christianity, urging people to repent and avail themselves of the sacraments in an effort to revive the religious vitality of the people. But mission attendance was not necessarily followed by sustained spiritual renewal. Similarities can be seen between the parish mission of the late 19th and early 20th century and the charismatic renewal of the late 20th century and even events such as World Youth Day. Truth claims, especially today, are often evaluated on whether or not it moves the individual's affections. But this "high" is not sustainable. What lessons can we learn about imparting the truths of discipleship that can help foster the sustainable renewal that our present time needs?

PRESENTER

## Marie Nuar

Marie is the Adjunct Theology Professor of the Josephinum Diaconate Program, and past Faculty Chair for Catholic Distance University. Dr. Nuar received her M.A. in Jewish Studies from Pontifical Gregorian University, and her Sacred Theology Doctorate from Pontifical University of St. Thomas in Ecumenism and Inter-religious Dialogue. She has taught World Religions and Moral Theology of the Marketplace at St. John's University in Rome and Liturgical Art and Architecture at Catholic University of America's Rome Campus. Marie was also a Vatican Scavi Tour Guide leading visitors through the excavations below Saint Peter's Basilica explaining the place, theology, and significance of St. Peter's bones.



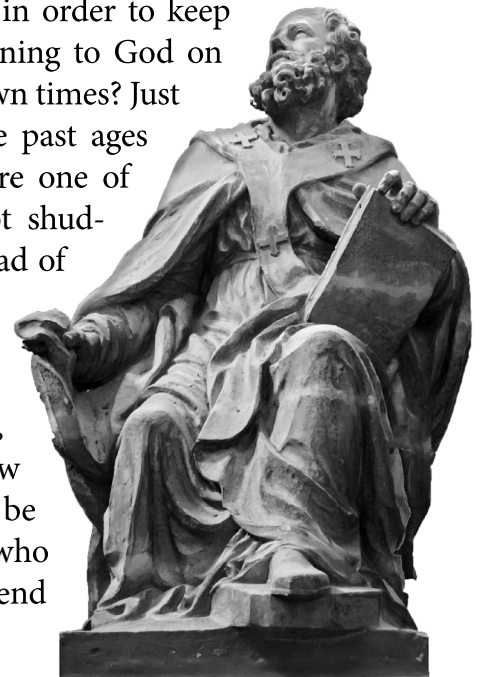
THE LIGHT OF  
REVIVAL  
OFTEN COMES IN THE  
DARKEST  
OF TIMES

# St. Augustine's Perspective of History

FROM A SERMON BY SAINT AUGUSTINE, BISHOP

**IT** amazes me that you who have now been freed from the curse, who have believed in the son of God, who have been instructed in the holy Scriptures—that you can think the days of Adam were good. And your ancestors bore the curse of Adam, of that Adam to whom the words were addressed: “With sweat on your brow you shall eat your bread; you shall till the earth from which you were taken, and it will yield you thorns and thistles.” This is what he deserved and what he had to suffer; this is the punishment meted out to him by the just judgment of God. How then can you think that past ages were better than your own? From the time of that first Adam to the time of his descendants today, man’s lot has been labor and sweat, thorns and thistles. Have we forgotten the flood and the calamitous times of famine and war whose history has been re-

corded precisely in order to keep us from complaining to God on account of our own times? Just think what those past ages were like! Is there one of us who does not shudder to hear or read of them? Far from justifying complaints about our own time, they teach us how much we have to be thankful for. He who perseveres to the end will be saved.



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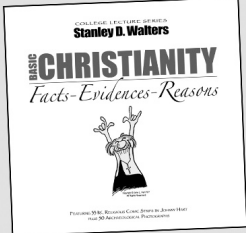


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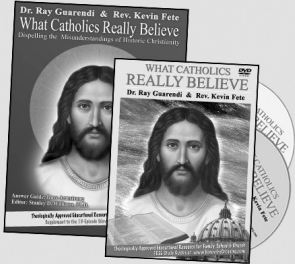
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