

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)