

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