

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.

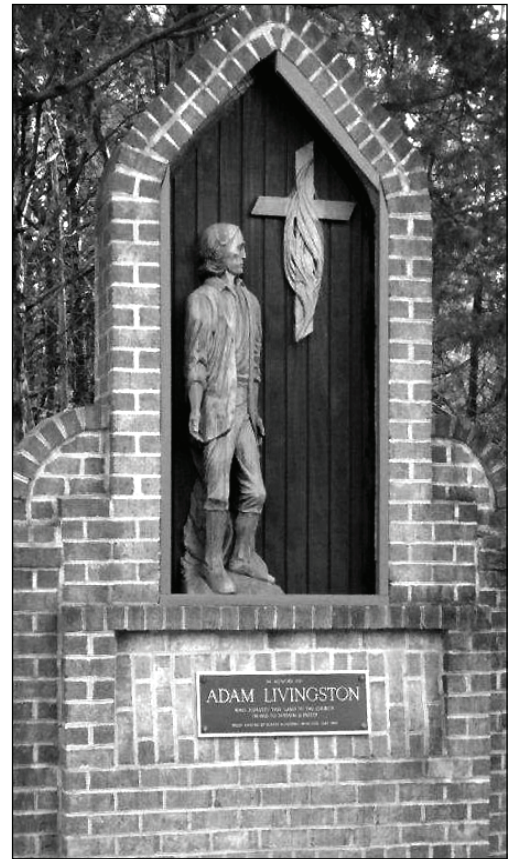
PRESENTER

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).



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.

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

—SAMUEL BUTLER