

# ACDA Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of the Association of Catholic  
Diocesan Archivists

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## From the Vice-President

By Ann T. Boltin, Diocese of Baton Rouge

It's not the heat...

Ahh, summer is upon us in South Louisiana. There really is no way to describe it to those who have never experienced it firsthand. The heat beats down from above and rises up from below, and the air is heavy with humidity as we turn the thermostat down to sub-zero temperatures. Everything moves at a glacial pace in an attempt not to exert one's self unnecessarily. But with the onset of summer comes the flowering magnolias and gardenias, the heavy curtain of the crepe myrtles in bloom, and the afternoon rains that wash away the heat of the day and leave behind a lush landscape. You really can see the beauty in it despite the temperature outside.



In just a few short weeks, we will convene in the peaceful environment that is St. Mary of the Lake. For five days we will be surrounded by our fellow diocesan and religious archivists

continuing our formation through educational sessions, networking, and fellowship. I am a big fan of the conference in Mundelein, I can easily say that this remains one of my favorite conferences and I look forward to it every other year. There is no other meeting you will attend that is as rewarding as this one. The quality of the speakers is top notch and you are surrounded by people who face the same challenges and obstacles as you and who understand fully just how awesome, unique, and daunting some of these challenges can be.

And the best thing about this summer is our biennial con-

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## **Diocese receives new donation of Bishop Durick memorabilia**

By Theresa Laurence, Diocese of Nashville

The Diocese of Nashville recently received a file of personal photos, news clippings and other writings related to the late Bishop Joseph A. Durick, the eighth bishop of Nashville. The files, which span two thick binders, were preserved and organized by Bishop Durick's niece Helen Lynch, the unofficial Durick family historian. Lynch, of Cullman, Ala., spent several years sifting through the items and filing them in notebooks. She said she felt that "now's the time to make sure [the files] get into the right hands."

After considering the other locales where Bishop Durick served, including Birmingham, Ala., Lynch felt that "Nashville is the place for this information to be....He served with his heart there." Last month, Lynch reached out to diocesan archivist Barbara Baltz to let her know about what she had. That phone call was a surprise and "thrilling" to Baltz, who noted that the diocese's files on Bishop Durick's life were rather thin. "This fills in his life outside of what we have, especially his activity in other states," she said.

Bishop David Choby, who was ordained by Bishop Durick in 1974, wrote to Lynch, thanking her for donating the materials to the Diocese of Nashville, assuring her that he holds Bishop Durick "in high personal regard," and noting Bishop Durick's considerable contribution to "the history of both the diocese and the nation." Bishop Durick, who served in Nashville from 1964–1974, was one of the South's most prominent white clergy members to lend his voice to the Civil Rights movement. After initially espousing a gradualist approach to racial justice, he later took a strong stand to end racial divisions in the South. He also raised a compassionate voice for the poor and others on the margins, positions that drew aggressive opposition in his own diocese. "He wasn't a saint, but he was always for his fellow man," said Lynch, who was a student during her "Uncle Joe's" years in Nashville.

Before he was appointed coadjutor bishop of Nashville in 1964, Bishop Durick was auxiliary bishop for the Diocese of Mobile-Birmingham, Ala. As racial protests came to a boil in Birmingham in 1963, Bishop Durick and seven white colleagues urged Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his followers to postpone planned demonstrations, calling them "unwise and untimely" in their "Appeal for Law and Order and Common Sense." A news clipping from the April 13, 1963, issue of the *Birmingham Post Herald* about that exchange is included in the archives compiled by Lynch.

King, in jail at that time, responded with a long letter addressed to "my dear fellow clergymen" to explain that blacks could wait no longer for racial justice. In his "Letter from Birmingham Jail," one of his most famous writings, King voiced disappointment in the white priests, ministers and rabbis, saying that they should be "among our strongest allies." Bishop Durick is among the eight clergy members (and the only Catholic) addressed by name in the open letter, but he did not receive a personal copy of it from King.

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## WBVM/Spirit FM 90.5

By Lisa Mobley, Diocese of St. Petersburg



In 1986, the second Bishop of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, FL, Bishop W. Thomas Larkin,

saw the need for better communication and evangelization and created a diocesan radio station "Spirit FM 90.5" WBVM (**B**lessed **V**irgin **M**ary). The station made history on April 28, 2011 when they became the first radio station in the state of Florida to broadcast from within prison walls. I'm happy to announce that Spirit FM has been named Religious Radio Station of the Year for broadcast year 2013 by the Catholic Academy of Communication Arts Professionals. This is the second time in three years they have been awarded Religious Station of the Year, and third consecutive year taking home a Gabriel. Last year "The Big House Morning Show" was awarded a Gabriel in the Entertainment category. Sprit FM was also recognized for a Certificate of Merit for "40 Years of Roe v. Wade," a series of interviews with individuals experiencing and overcoming the trauma of abortion.

Other winners of Gabriel Awards this year include NPR's "All Things Considered", PRI's "The World", American Public Media, EWTN, Canadian Broadcasting Corp., WQED Pittsburg and WGBH Boston. The awards will be held at the Catholic Media Conference in Charlotte, NC this June. Talk about making History! Congratulations to all!

*Editor, ACDA Newsletter*

**Kate Feighery**, Diocese of New York

kate.feighery@archny.org

## OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

**Peggy Lavelle**, Diocese of Chicago  
312-534-4411; mlavelle@archchicago.org

*Vice President/ President Elect*

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225-242-0224; aboltin@diobr.org

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*Secretary*

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404-920-7692; cjenkins@archatl.com

**Michele Levandoski**, Diocese of Springfield, IL  
217-698-8500 x. 170; mlevandoski@dio.org

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*Education Officer*

**Michele Levandoski**, Diocese of Springfield, IL  
217-698-8500 x. 170; mlevandoski@dio.org

## New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission (NJCHC)

By Monsignor Francis Seymour and Alan Delozier, Diocese of Newark

The NJCHC has been active over the past few months when it comes to promoting programs related in some manner to the development of Catholic history in New Jersey. Partnerships were made with various area organizations including the Newark Historical Society in January to sponsor commission member Dr. Tom McCabe who spoke on the History of Brewing in Newark and the South Orange Historical Society which hosted a program on Irish and Irish-American genealogical research. A more involved collaboration was made with the Department of Catholic Studies at Seton Hall University where lectures including: "Sacred Space and Symbols – The Communication of the Sacred" (2/6); "The Soul of Sports. Catholic Perspective on the Spirituality of Sports" (3/18); and "Baptist-Catholic International Inter-Christian Dialogue – Panel Discussion Celebrating Ecumenism" (4/10) provided a beneficial partnership over the past academic semester.

In honor of the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the European discovery of New Jersey, the NJCHC participated in the recent "Spirit of the Jerseys" history fair held at Washington Crossing State Park in early May. Another initiative that is in the works honoring this anniversary milestone is a published volume of different essays covering the New Jersey Catholic History experience is being supervised through the efforts of editor, Carl Ganz whose own credits include the book – *The Grand Old Man of the Port: Dean Martin Gessner, the American Catholic Church, and Parish Life in the Nineteenth Century*, (South Orange, NJ: New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission, 2011) with an anticipated publication date in 2015.

More information can be found via our Internet-based Homepage located at the following URL: <http://blogs.shu.edu/njchc/> and we have a Facebook Page which is periodically updated as well and news along with comments are always welcome.

### News from ACDA Members!

- Father Michael Morris had the opportunity to attend the Modern Archives Institute at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC, from June 2 through June 13, 2013. Founded in 1946, the Modern Archives Institute guides government, private sector, and ecclesial archivists in matters pertaining to records management, preservation, storage, and the inevitable ethical and legal issues encountered in the archival community. The classes were taught by some of the most respected experts in the field of archival management. It was a special privilege to have had the opportunity to meet the Archivist of the United States, David S. Ferriero. Many thanks also to the friars of the Dominican House of Studies at the Catholic University of America for their hospitality during Father Morris's stay in Washington.

## ACDA Conference

By Michele Levandoski, Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

There is still time to register for the ACDA Biennial Conference, which will be held July 21-25, 2014 at St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois. The conference is a great opportunity to meet peers, share ideas and learn useful skills.

This year's theme is "Less Theory, More Method: A Practical Approach to Archives and Record Management." The education committee has put together an excellent program that focuses on practical skills needed by diocesan archivists and records managers, regardless of skill level, budget or staffing.

The conference will cover a variety of topics, including how-to sessions on establishing an oral history project, organizing a photo collection, appraising and disposing of sacred objects, gaining intellectual control over collections by using finding aids and databases, digitizing sac-

ramental records, establishing a records management program and working with parishes to raise the visibility of your archives and records program.

The education committee has also added some new elements to this year's conference. One of the sessions will include small group discussion so that a wide array of ideas can be shared and another is a hands-on conservation class. This year's conference will also feature a mentoring program to welcome first-time attendees and those new to the profession.

For more information, including a brochure or registration information, please visit the ACDA website: [www.diocesanarchivists.org](http://www.diocesanarchivists.org). We look forward to seeing you in July!

## From the Vice-President

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This year's conference promises to be full of opportunities to learn and grow as professionals. Having served on the education committee in the past, I am aware of all of the dedication and effort that goes into putting on these meetings. It is no small feat to pull it all together and it is never too soon to thank the education committee and the Archdiocese of Chicago staff for all of their hard work.

I challenge each of you, from the first-timers to the seasoned veterans of "Camp Mundelein," to arrive at this conference with open minds and welcome new ideas and concepts. This week is the perfect time to slow down, pay attention, and get inspired by your colleagues and their programs. And don't forget to take a walk around that beautiful lake.

## Bishop Durick memorabilia



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Less than a year after the letter was written, Bishop Durick was assigned to the Diocese of Nashville, at that time encompassing the entire state, a state still deeply divided by racial tensions. Bishop Durick was named apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Nashville in early 1966, and was named Bishop of Nashville in September 1969, following the long serving and elderly Bishop William Adrian. As the Civil Rights movement kicked into high gear, Bishop Durick granted diocesan clergymen his blessing to march alongside those demonstrating for equal rights. In the days after King was assassinated in Memphis in April 1968, Bishop Durick traveled from Nashville to Memphis to show his support for King and his message, delivering a eulogy for the slain Civil Rights leader at a public memorial.

Many Tennessee Catholics remained staunchly opposed to integration and equal rights for blacks, and Bishop Durick's tenure in Nashville was controversial. In letters to the editor of newspapers across the state, Catholics expressed their strong disagreement with Bishop Durick's involvement in

the Civil Rights movement.

Serving as bishop of Tennessee was "a challenge," for her uncle, Lynch said. "We [Duricks] can be pretty stubborn. I've always seen Uncle Joe that way," she said. "But he was right."

Nothing in Lynch's files, or in the diocesan archives open to the public, sheds light on the toll these fights took on Bishop Durick, or address his darkest struggles; there are no handwritten notes or personal journal entries included among the papers and pictures.

"What she brought still leaves us with large unfilled holes, correspondence-wise," Baltz said. "We would normally have all of a bishop's correspondence, but we don't have any of that with [Bishop] Durick," she said. The new files do, however, paint a more complete portrait of Bishop Durick, from the cassock-wearing seminarian playing a jazz saxophone in 1930s Rome, to the elder statesman visiting with prisoners in a dank federal prison in Texas, to the quietly retires priest offering parish support back in Alabama.

In 1975, after celebrating his 20<sup>th</sup> year as a bishop, but well before a bishop's required retirement age of 75, Bishop Durick resigned and retired from the Diocese of Nashville "for health reasons." After working for some years in prison ministry, he moved back to the old Durick home place in Bessemer, Ala. When he died in 1994, Bishop Durick was given a royal sendoff with memorial services in Birmingham and Nashville. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery in Nashville.

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