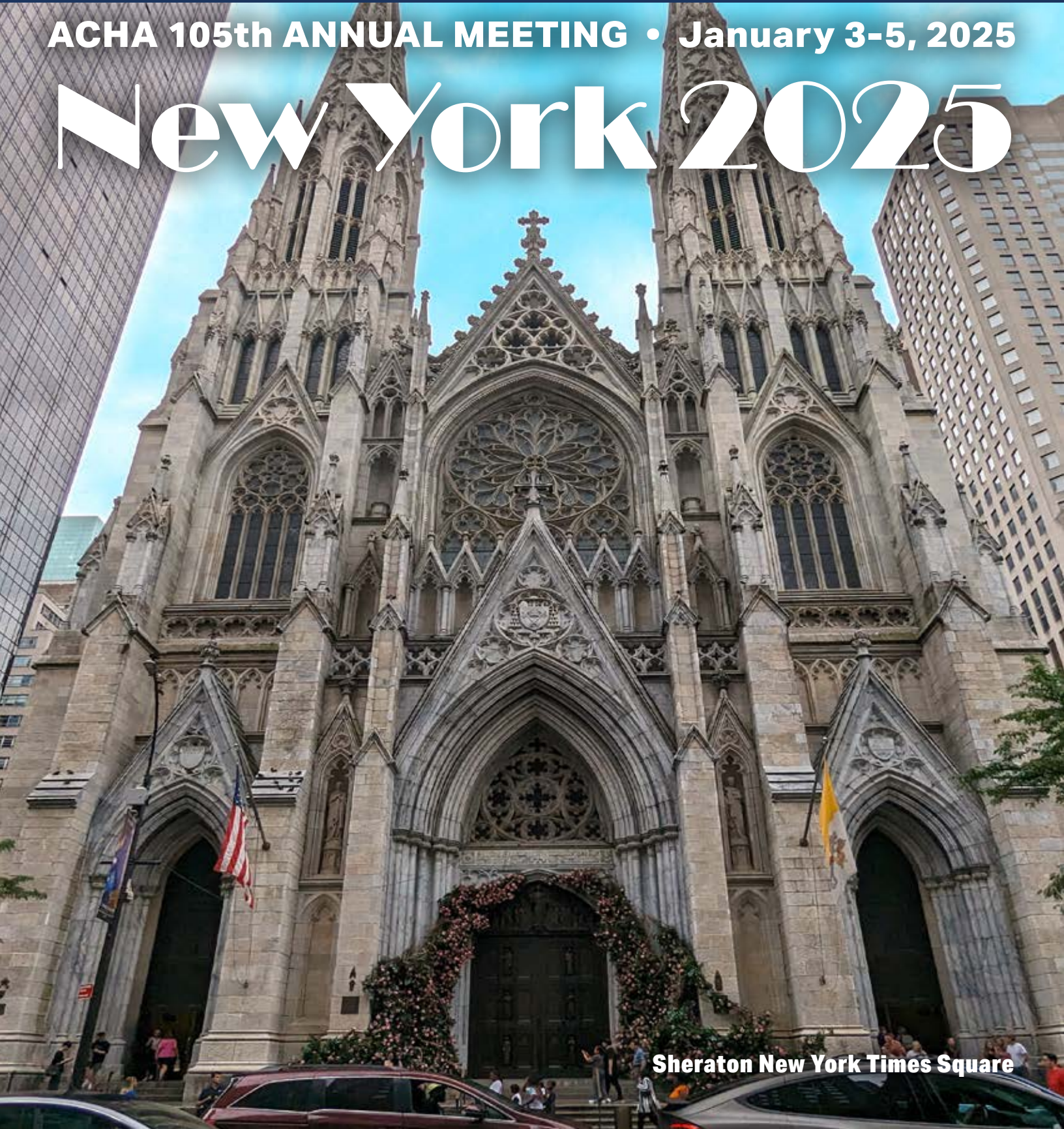




ACHA

ACHA 105th ANNUAL MEETING • January 3-5, 2025

New York 2025



Sheraton New York Times Square

Cover Photo of St. Patrick's Cathedral New York
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American Catholic Historical Association

Mount St. Mary's University

Pangborn Memorial Room • 16300 Old Emmitsburg Road • Emmitsburg, MD 21727

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H-Catholic: networks.h-net.org/h-catholic

Catholic Studies Podcasts at New Books Network:

newbooksnetwork.com/category/special-series/catholic-studies

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University of Dayton

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Ralph Keen, University of Illinois Chicago

Executive Director: Charles T. Strauss,
Mount St. Mary's University

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St. Patrick's Old Cathedral,
New York City —
photo by [Kidfly182](#)



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Presidents of the Association

2026	Ralph Keen	1990	John W. O'Malley, S.J.	1954	Thomas P. Neill
2025	Mary Dunn	1989	Annabelle M. Melville	1953	John T. Farrell
2024	Anthony Burke Smith	1988	Bernard F. Reilly	1952	Raymond J. Sontag
2023	Michael Pasquier	1987	Josef L. Altholz	1951	A. Paul Levack
2022	Brenna Moore	1986	James Hennesey, S.J.	1950	Waldermar Guirian
2020-21	James T. Carroll	1985	James A Brundage	1949	Henry S. Lucas
2019	Kathleen Holscher	1984	Paul F. Grendler	1948	Francis A. Arlinghaus
2018	Richard Gribble, C.S.C.	1983	Robert Brentano	1947	Friedrich Engel-Janosi
2017	Kathleen Sprows Cummings	1982	Martin J. Havran	1946	Thomas F. O'Connor
2016	Liam Matthew Brockey	1981	Martin E. Marty	1945	John J. Meng
2015	Angelyn Dries, O.S.F.	1980	Joseph F. O'Callaghan	1944	Paul Kiniery
2014	Daniel Bornstein	1979	Joseph N. Moody	1943	Richard Pattee
2013	Margaret M. McGuinness	1978	Philip Gleason	1942	Martin R. P. McGuire
2012	Thomas F.X. Noble	1977	John A. Lukacs	1941	Marshall W. Baldwin
2011	Larissa Juliet Taylor	1976	Barry Colman, O.S.B.	1940	Herbert H. Coulson
2010	Steven M. Avella	1975	Robert I. Burns, S.J.	1939	Carlos E. Casteñada
2009	William Chester Jordan	1974	Eric W. Cochrane	1938	Ross J. F. Hoffman
2008	Robert L. Bireley	1973	Astrik L. Gabriel	1937	Herbert F. Bell
2007	Joseph P. Chinnici, O.F.M.	1972	Albert C. Outler	1936	Daniel Sargent
2006	James M. Powell	1971	David Herlihy	1935	Jeremiah D. M. Ford
2005	Thomas Kselman	1970	Edward T. Gargan	1934	Michael Williams
2004	Christopher J. Kauffman	1969	John Tracy Ellis	1933	Constantine E. McGuire
2003	Bernard McGinn	1968	Francis L. Broderick	1932	James F. Kenney
2002	Frederic J. Baumgartner	1967	Carl B. Cone	1931	Carlton J. H. Hayes
2001	Patrick W. Carey	1966	Philip Hughes	1930	Francis J. Tschan
2000	Joseph H. Lynch	1965	Brian Tierney	1929	Leo Francis Stock
1999	James D. Tracy	1964	Vincent P. DeSantis	1928	John C. Fitzpatrick
1998	David J. O'Brien	1963	Gerhart B. Ladner	1927	Clarence E. Martin
1997	Uta-Renate Blumenthal	1962	Manoel Cardozo	1926	Parker Thomas Moon
1996	William J. Callahan	1961	Robert F. Byrnes	1925	Henry James Ford
1995	Jay P. Dolan	1960	Paul Horgan	1924	Gaillard Hunt
1994	Elisabeth Gregorich Gleason	1959	Harry W. Kirwin	1923	Charles H. McCarthy
1993	Caroline Walker Bynum	1958	Stephan Kuttner	1922	Robert Howard Lord
1992	Gerald P. Fogarty, S.J.	1957	Thomas H.D. Mahoney	1921	James J. Walsh
1991	Lawrence J. McCaffrey	1956	Oscar Halecki	1920	Lawrence F. Flick
		1955	Aaron I. Abell		

1. Welcome by Officers of the Association



Anthony B. Smith, 2024 ACHA President — University of Dayton

Welcome to the 105th annual conference of the American Catholic Historical Association. We gather again in New York City for the first time since 2020, just before the beginning of the pandemic. It is fitting that we return here to a city that has played such a role in Catholic history, with a conference line-up that reflects the remarkable range, diversity, and creativity of scholarship in Catholic Studies today. From Catholic material culture to media, film, and photography, from Catholic intellectuals to Catholic immigrants, from modern urban crisis to medieval religious women, from archives that reveal to archives that silence, from reproductive politics to digital reproduction. These subjects just hint at the varied panels and papers that compose our conference. We meet in this place, in other words, to once again practice and extend the work of the ACHA. We gather in a familiar city to encounter the unfamiliar in the histories we tell. And, we honor colleagues who have contributed enormously to the field of Catholic Studies. Particularly during this time of enormous change, uncertainty, and questioning, the conference feels more important than ever.

I wish to thank Monica Mercado, chair of the Program Committee and colleagues Tim Dulle and Mike Pasquier, who have done such admirable work putting together our meeting with a remarkable set of panels and events. This weekend is the result of their hard work, imagination, and commitment. Please extend your own appreciation to each of them over the next few days. I also want to recognize the Executive Secretary of the ACHA, Charles Strauss who continually amazes in his ability to keep us all on track throughout the year for our headline event of the Association that is this conference. I hope over the next several days, you are able take advantage of the wealth of ideas, scholars, debates, and research the conference offers. I suspect I'm a little biased but there is no place quite like New York to reconnect with each other, Catholic history, and the possibilities of shared conversation that the ACHA embodies. Whether at panels, hallways, off-site events, or over drinks and meals, I hope you enjoy the bounty the 2025 annual meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association offers all of us.



Charles T. Strauss, ACHA Executive Director — Mount St. Mary's University

Welcome to New York City and the 105th Annual Meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association (ACHA).

This marks the 18th time the ACHA has participated in the American Historical Association (AHA) conference in New York City since our founding in 1919. Previous conferences in the city took place in: 1940, 1943, 1946, 1951, 1954, 1957, 1960, 1966, 1968, 1971, 1979, 1985, 1990, 1997, 2009, 2015, 2020, and 2025.

The ACHA's first New York City conference was held in December 1940. (The AHA held its annual meetings the last weekend in December from 1889 until January 1994 in San Francisco.) Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York, covered all conference expenses, which included two scholarly sessions, a business meeting, luncheon, and liturgy. The Committee on Registration and Information consisted of students from area Catholic women's colleges, including Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart, College of New Rochelle, College of Mount St. Vincent, and St. Joseph's College for Women in Brooklyn.

The number of ACHA sessions has grown over the decades: from one to four (some co-sponsored with the AHA and other associations) during the 1940s–1960s; six to twelve in the 1970s–2000s; and twenty-five to thirty-five in recent years (e.g., 29 sessions in 2015, 26 in 2020, and 34 in 2025). While session numbers have risen steadily, member participation has fluctuated. The ACHA consistently had over 150 registrations from the 1940s through the mid-1960s, peaking with 236 registrations and 192 attendees at the 1966 Presidential Luncheon at the New York Hilton. Participation declined to just 50 members at the 1997 luncheon but has since rebounded: 54 registrations in 2009, 120 in 2020, and over 130 anticipated for 2025.

New York has been a site of lively scholarly exchange and significant moments in our history. In December 1943, the meeting at Barnard College took place under wartime travel constraints. The first panel, "Trusteeism in the American Church," featured Rev. Alfred G. Stritch (St. Gregory Seminary and Our Lady of Cincinnati College) and Rev. Robert F. McNamara (St. Bernard's Seminary). Respondents included Rev. Michael J. Curley, C.S.S.R. (Mount Alphonsus Seminary, Esopus, NY) and Rev. Robert Gorman (St. Mary-of-the-Woods College). At the time, most participants were clergy.

In 1957, the meeting at the Hotel Statler featured a panel on "The Roots of American Nativism," chaired by Rev. John Tracy Ellis, with papers by Colman J. Barry (St. John's University, Minnesota) and John Higham (Rutgers University).

At the 1960 meeting, Ellis announced his resignation as Executive Secretary after twenty years of service. That year, Arthur M. Schlesinger (Harvard University) chaired a panel on "Urbanism and Its Effects Upon American Religious Life, 1890-1940," with papers by Aaron J. Abell (University of Notre Dame) and Robert D. Cross (Columbia University), and comments by John R. Betts (Boston College).

At the 1966 meeting, the ACHA Executive Council adopted the "Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure," first issued in 1940 by the American Association of University Professors and the Association of American Colleges. The 1968 meeting was initially planned for Chicago but moved to New York due to a reported "private vendetta" between the AHA and Mayor Daley of Chicago.

The 1979 meeting featured "The Parish Project," with Philip J. Murnion chairing a panel of three papers: "The Parish: From Colonial Maryland to Post-modern New York" by Jay P. Dolan (University of Notre Dame); "The Irish and Polish Parish: Chicago 1880-1920" by Ellen Skerrett (Chicago); and "The Mexican American Parish in the Southwest: A Historical Perspective" by Patrick McNamara (University of New Mexico). Joseph H. Fichter, S.J. (Loyola University, New Orleans) provided commentary.

In 2015, President Angelyn Dries (St. Louis University) highlighted the Association's future in a roundtable titled "From Graduate Student to Junior Faculty Status: Some Connections and Issues." The 2020 conference, organized by Jim Carroll (Iona University), was particularly festive. Jack Downey (University of Rochester) coordinated a panel featuring David J. O'Brien (College of the Holy Cross) at Maryhouse, New York's Catholic Worker. Few could have anticipated the COVID-19 pandemic that would unfold just months later.

It is a privilege to serve an Association with such a rich history and a commitment to first-rate scholarship in Catholic history, innovative pedagogy, and outreach to new audiences. I am especially grateful to Monica Mercado (Colgate University) for her vision and meticulous planning of this weekend's event.

Executive Secretary-Treasurers / Directors of the Association

2018-present	Charles T. Strauss	Mount St. Mary's University
2011-2018	Rev. R. Bentley Anderson, S.J.	Fordham University
2009-2011	Rev. Paul Robichaud, C.S.P.	Catholic University of America
2007-2009	Msgr. Robert F. Trisco	Catholic University of America
2006	Timothy Meagher	Catholic University of America
1961-2005	Msgr. Robert F. Trisco	Catholic University of America
1941-1961	Msgr. John Tracy Ellis	Catholic University of America
1919-1941	Msgr. Peter Keenan Guilday	Catholic University of America

2. Introduction to New York and the 2025 Annual Meeting



Monica L. Mercado, Program Chair — Colgate University

Welcome to New York and the 105th annual meeting. This year's program features more than 30 sessions highlighting new work in Catholic history and Catholic studies – something for just about everyone!

Returning to midtown Manhattan for the first time since 2020, ACHA 2025 takes New York's history as a springboard for exploring how Catholicism has shaped and been shaped by diverse practices, institution building, local and global politics, and geographic mobility. Meeting in New York urges us to consider the diversity of Catholic communities and Catholic thought, and the spaces and places that shape our research.

Attention to Catholic media and Catholic material culture forms another strong theme for the weekend, as presenters contemplate everything from papal jubilees on television to the selling of religious relics online. Other conversations will take on contemporary challenges with historical perspectives: from addressing archival implications of the clergy sex

abuse crisis, to analyzing recent responses to the Synod on Synodality, to interrogating how Roman Catholicism has gone “digital” in the twenty-first century. Panels on teaching, lay leadership, publishing, and archival research will add professional development opportunities throughout the weekend.

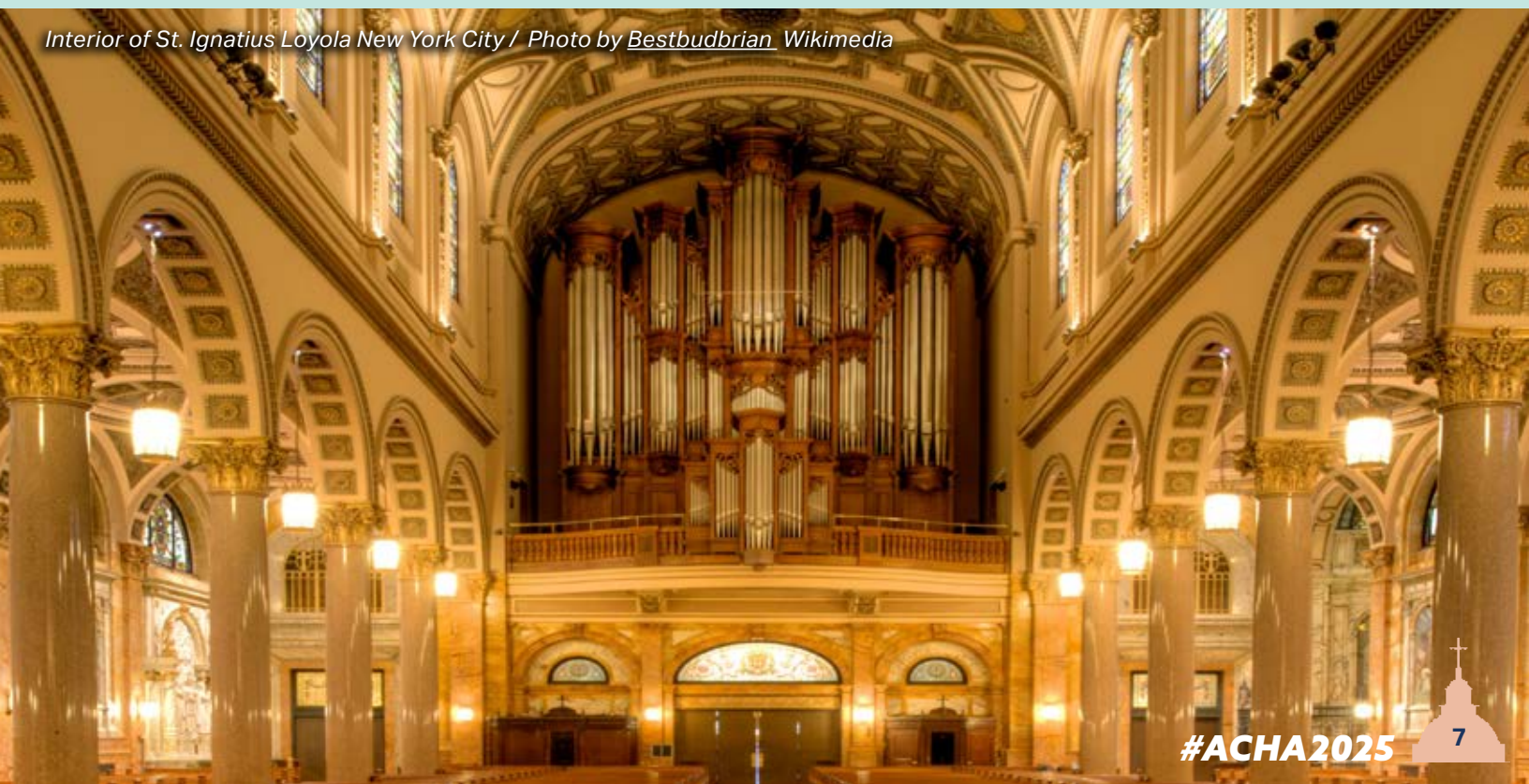
The AHA has co-sponsored two sessions with us this year, highlighting ACHA members’ vast interests and expertise. On Friday, **American Catholic Responses to the 1960s-70s Urban Crisis** highlights Catholic histories of St. Louis, the Bronx, and Manhattan, reminding us that urban history cannot be understood without reference to the Catholic institutions and leaders who aimed to “save” the city and serve its neediest residents. On Saturday, **The Other Sister: Noncloistered Religious Women in the Middle Ages** draws attention to the great diversity found in medieval female religious life and reflects the great variety of activities, lifestyles, and networks women fostered — offering new narratives of the Middle Ages.

In addition to offering traditional panel sessions and roundtables, this year’s conference features a new format — the ACHA “conversation” — on politics and culture. On Saturday, join historian Michelle Nickerson and documentarian Anthony Giacchino for **Writing, Filming, and Teaching the Camden 28**, a conversation about the Vietnam War protesters who faced trial in 1973 for raiding a New Jersey draft board. Together, in a discussion moderated by historian Kristin O’Brassill-Kulfan, Nickerson and Giacchino will consider significant intersections of Catholicism and American radicalism. On Sunday, **Eyes to See: David Gonzalez’s Photography of Faith and Community in Nueva York** will feature journalist Eileen Markey in conversation with *The New York Times’* David Gonzalez, who has created a documentary record of lived religion in New York City since the 1970s. A Nuyorican whose work is infused with Catholic imagination, Gonzalez’s reporting and photography reveal a city where belief, ritual and grace are integral parts of daily life, especially in Puerto Rican and other Latino Catholic communities. Their discussion will consider this output as an archive of contemporary Catholicism. The Program Committee continues to encourage ACHA members to imagine new ways of presenting their work at the annual meeting, and we invite your ideas and feedback throughout the weekend as we look ahead to our 2026 gathering in Chicago.

The annual meeting would not be complete without our association events. On Saturday afternoon, join us for the **ACHA luncheon**, which will include the annual presidential address, and recognition of our prize, award, and grant recipients. Saturday evening, a Mass at the Mary Chapel, Church of St. Francis Xavier will be followed by the traditional **ACHA Social** at Old Town Bar. The conference will conclude on Sunday with the **ACHA business meeting**. All are welcome to hear reports from association officers and to share feedback. For those looking for some nightlife, be sure to check out our special Sunday evening panel, **Warp Catholicism**, organized by Jack Downey and Katie Holscher. This fourth annual off-site gathering features ACHA members at their creative best, inviting presenters (and attendees!) to think creatively with and about the Catholicisms we study.

On behalf of this year’s program committee, including Tim Dulle Jr. and Michael Pasquier, I want to thank the staff of the ACHA and AHA organizations, as well as many members who have contributed their time and energy to helping put this year’s conference together. The ideas and energy of our presenters have made the process of assembling this year’s schedule an absolute delight, and we look forward to three vibrant days of conversation and fellowship.

Interior of St. Ignatius Loyola New York City / Photo by Bestbudbrian Wikimedia



3. General Information

Making a Hotel Reservation

The AHA (not the ACHA) reserves rooms for conference participants. If you choose to stay at one of the conference hotels, you should register with the AHA for the conference to receive the discount rate.

You may find more information on the AHA conference hotels here: www.historians.org/annual-meeting/hotels-and-travel.

All ACHA panels except for the final off-site panel at FRIGID New York, 94 St. Marks Place will be at Sheraton New York Times Square 811 7th Ave., New York, NY 10019, (212) 581-1000.

New York Hilton

AHA Reservations [HERE](#)

1335 6th Ave.

New York NY 10019

212-586-7000

Meeting Registration

Registration for the 2025 American Catholic Historical Association Annual Meeting closes on December 20, 2024. The ACHA registration fee is \$40.00. Starting on December 21, a late registration penalty of \$15 will be charged for the ACHA Meeting.

If you are presenting a paper or serving on a panel as a chair, speaker, or commentator, you are required to register for the American Historical Association's Annual Meeting. Registration for the AHA meeting is done independently from registration for the ACHA meeting and can be accessed here: historians.org/annual-meeting.

Registration fee is \$20 for students and contingent faculty, \$40 for ACHA members, and \$80 for non-ACHA Members. The luncheon fee is \$65. The social is \$25. At the time of your ACHA registration, ACHA members may also sign up to attend the ACHA luncheon (\$65). This fee is waived for contingent faculty and graduate student ACHA members. There is a \$25 charge for the ACHA social this year, which will be held at Old Town Bar, 45 E 18th Street.

The ACHA information table will be located at Sheraton New York Times Square, on the Lower Level, Prefunction Area 2. It will be open the following times: Thursday, January 3, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Friday, January 4, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Saturday, January 5, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

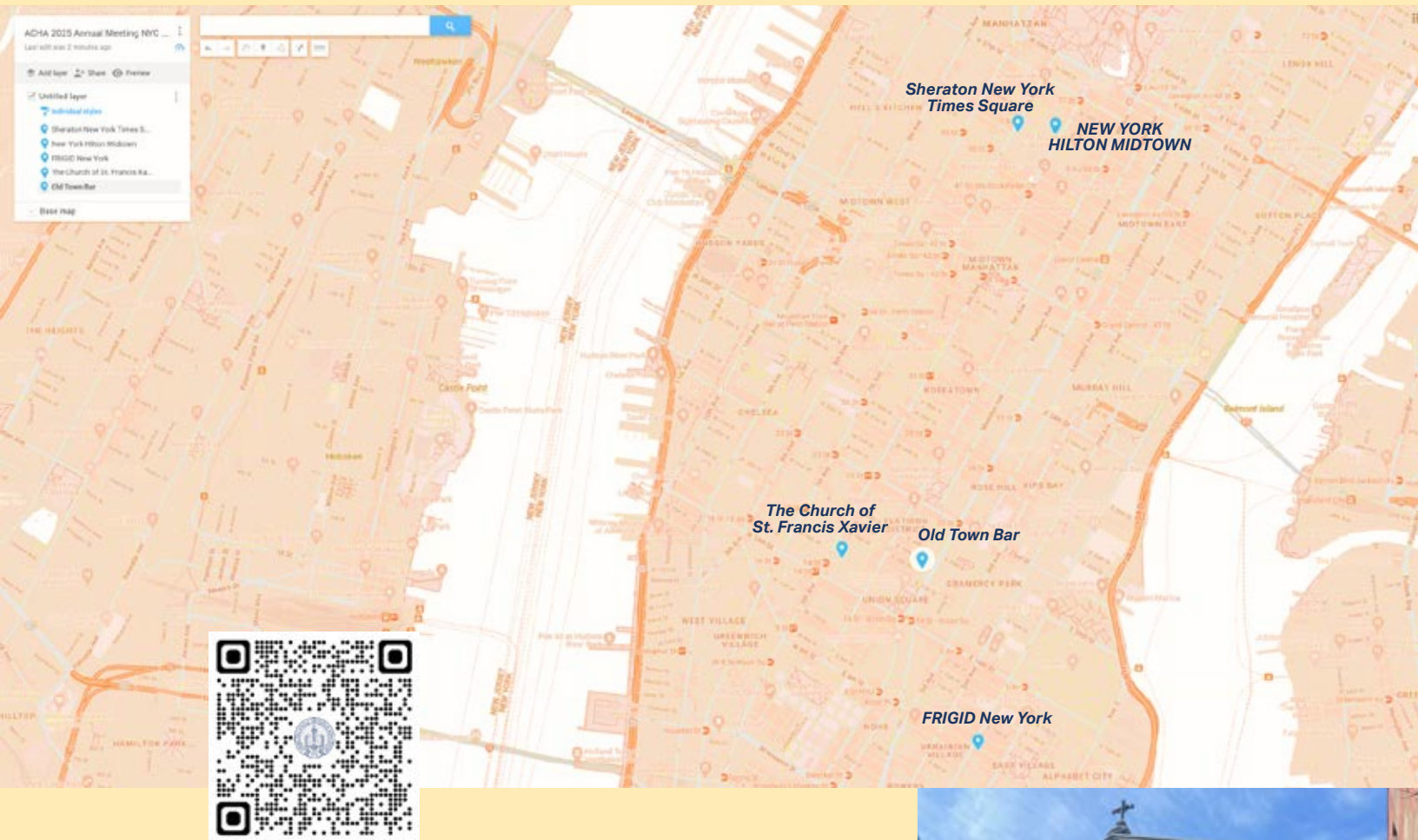
Charles T. Strauss, Executive Director, can be reached throughout the Annual Meeting at 717-549-3119.

Code of Professional Conduct

As an Affiliate Society of the AHA, the American Catholic Historical Association endorses the following AHA policy:

"The AHA is committed to creating and maintaining a harassment-free environment for all participants in the Association's activities, regardless of their actual or perceived sex, gender, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, race, ethnicity, nationality, ability, socioeconomic status, veteran status, age, or religion. All members and participants, including employees, contractors, vendors, volunteers, and guests, are expected to engage in consensual and respectful behavior and to preserve the AHA's standard of professionalism at all times. The following Code of Professional Conduct pertains to all venues where officially sanctioned AHA conferences, meetings, and other activities occur, whether in person, by telephone, or through electronic communication. It complements, but does not replace the AHA's Statement on Standards of Professional Conduct." Find the entire policy [HERE](#).

Locations and Maps ([Online HERE](#))



New York Hilton Midtown (Conference Headquarters)
1335 6th Ave, New York, NY 10019 | (212) 586-7000

Shortest Route from the Hilton to the Sheraton Times Square
New York Hilton Midtown is on 6th Avenue and Sheraton Times Square is on 7th Avenue. You may walk between the hotels along 53rd Street.

ACHA Liturgy (Saturday)
St. Francis Xavier Church, 46 W 16th Street
Liturgy presider is Fr. Michael Bruno.
<https://dunwoodie.edu/people/reverend-michael-j-s-bruno>

ACHA Social (Saturday)
Old Town Bar, 45 E 18th Street

Warp Catholicism: Fantastic Voyages in Space and Time (Sunday)
FRIGID New York, 94 St. Marks Place



Church of Saint Francis Xavier, NYC
photo: [Wil540 art](#)

Transportation

There are no group transportation options at this year's meeting, and so participants are encouraged to explore shared ride options or public transportation. New York City public transit information is linked to [HERE](#). For additional information — [AHA25 Travel Guide link HERE](#).

Social Media

To facilitate virtual conversations arising from the annual meeting, the AHA encourages attendees to live stream using #ACHA2025. Participants are encouraged to share their Bluesky handles. Speakers presenting material that they do not wish to be live streamed should make a request to the audience at the beginning of their presentations.



*St Peter's Roman Catholic Church —
The first Roman Catholic parish in New York, established in 1785.*

Funding for Graduate Students, Contingent Faculty, and Scholar/ Teachers without Travel Budgets

Two graduate student ACHA members received \$1500 Presidential Travel Grants. Congratulations to Sierra L. Lawson, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Meghan Lescault, University of Toronto — 2024 grant recipients. Graduate students, contingent faculty, and faculty with little or no travel money provided by their institutions will not be charged for the Friday luncheon.

The Church of the Immaculate Conception at 406-412 East 14th Street in the East Village neighborhood of Manhattan, New York City were built in 1894-96 as Grace Chapel and Grace Hospital. — photo: [Beyond My Ken](#)

Business Meeting

All members of the ACHA are invited to the Business Meeting on Sunday, January 5 from 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM at Sutton Place (Sheraton New York, Lower Level). The meeting includes brief officer and committee reports, presentation of the 2025 ACHA budget, old and new ACHA business, and announcements. Documents for the meeting include minutes, the agenda, committee reports, and action items can be read in advance on the ACHA website: achahistory.org/annual-reports/. We would be grateful to hear your ideas as we plan our 2026 meeting and brainstorm panel ideas together.



4. Program

FRIDAY 3 JANUARY

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

ACHA Information Table

Lower Level, Prefunction Area 2 (Sheraton New York)

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ACHA Executive Committee Meeting

Broadway Boardroom (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

PRESIDING: Charles Strauss, American Catholic Historical Association and Mount St. Mary's University

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

1. American Catholic Responses to the 1960s–70s Urban Crisis

Columbus Circle (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Brian Purnell, Bowdoin College

PAPERS:

Parish Housing Cooperatives in the Shadow of Pruitt–Igoe: Monsignor John Shocklee and the Bicentennial Corporation

Stephen M. Koeth CSC, University of Notre Dame

A Crisis of Faith: New York Catholics Confronting the Urban Crisis

Eileen Markey, Lehman College, City University of New York

A Catholic Response to the Urban (Medical) Crisis: Community Medicine at St. Vincent's Hospital, NYC

Thomas F. Rzeznik, Seton Hall University

2. Encounters: Colonies, Borderlands, and Indigeneity

Flatiron (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Melissa Coles, University of Notre Dame

PAPERS:

"I Asked for India but Got Livonia": Persistence of Pagan Survivals in the Early Modern Catholic Borderlands

Reinis Norkarkls, University of Latvia

"It Is Unbelievable to Those Who Do Not See It": Transgressive Missionaries, Indigenous Judicial Self-Representation, and the Terms of the Local Colonial Pact, Chiloé, 1787

Javier Etchegaray, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

"This Is How Our Minds Shall Be": Journeying into the Ongoing Relationship between the Oneida Nation and the Norbertine Order

Alex Gruber, Fordham University

3. Crafting Catholic Histories: Archivists and Historians in Conversation

Murray Hill (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Deborah E. Kanter, Albion College

PANELISTS:

Doris Cardenas,
Claretian Missionaries Archives USA–Canada

Deborah E. Kanter, Albion College

Jennifer Halloran, Maryknoll Mission Archives

Vivien Ng,
University at Albany, State University of New York

Betsy Johnson, Mercy Heritage Center

Mary Beth Fraser Connolly,
Purdue University Northwest

4. Teaching Catholic History: Public University, Catholic University, and Seminary Perspectives

Sutton Place (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Roy Domenico, University of Scranton

PAPERS:

Teaching Catholic History in Pastoral Ministry Programs

Dennis Castillo, Saint Mary's Seminary and University

What Makes It "Catholic"? Teaching a Religious Tradition in a Secular Setting

Ralph Keen, University of Illinois Chicago

A Home of Our Own:

Teaching Catholic History at Catholic Colleges

Robert Shaffern, University of Scranton

COMMENT: Roy Domenico, University of Scranton



5. **Gender, Resistance, and Authority in the Early Modern Catholic Archive**

Flatiron (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Mary Corley Dunn, Saint Louis University

PAPERS:

Religiosas en Rebeldía: Convent Litigation against the Spanish Inquisition for Financial Autonomy in 17th-Century La Coruña

Ashley Marie Smouse, Penn State University

Mother Angélique Arnauld's Theology of Christian Life as a Theology of Resistance

Elissa Cutter, Georgian Court University

The Poisoned Pear: Gender, Disability, and Inspiration in a Jansenist Prison Narrative

Richard Todd Yoder, Penn State University

COMMENT: Daniella J. Kostroun, Indiana University — Purdue University Indianapolis

6. **Reader Reports: How to Write Them, How to Read Them**

Murray Hill (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIRS: David J. Endres, Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West

PANELISTS:

Nelson H. Minnich, Catholic University of America

Deborah Gershenowitz, University of North Carolina Press

Tia Noelle Pratt, Villanova University

Laura L. Gathagan, State University of New York at Cortland

David J. Endres, Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West

7. **Nations, States, and Catholics**

Sutton Place (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Theresa Keeley, University of Louisville

PAPERS:

American Patriots and/or Canadian Orangemen? The American Protective Association, US Catholic Activism, and the Venezuela Boundary Dispute of 1895

Brendan Anthony Shanahan, Yale University

Evangelizing Fascism from Below: Italian Parish Priests and Parishioners on the Margins

Jarrett Patrick, North Carolina Central University



Looking north across West 49th Street at Saint Malachy's Roman Catholic Church.

SATURDAY 4 JANUARY

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

ACHA Information Table

Lower Level, Prefunction Area 2 (Sheraton New York)

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

8. Making Saints: Three Medieval and Modern Case Studies

Flatiron (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Stephen J. Molvarec SJ, Boston College

PAPERS:

The Afterlife of Saint Bruno:

The Making of a Monastic Founder

Stephen J. Molvarec SJ, Boston College

***The Other Bellarmine: Uncovering the
Post-Tridentine Preacher and Pastor***

Thomas Santa Maria, Yale University

From Orientalist to Russian:

The Spiritual Journey of Walter J. Ciszek SJ

Michael A. Guzik SJ, Le Moyne College

9. Catholic Currents in the Colonial Caribbean

Murray Hill (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Ramon Luzarraga, Saint Martin's University

PAPERS:

The Bahamas, the Benedictines, and Bay Street

Brittany Merritt Nash, College of Saint Benedict
and Saint John's University

***Tussling for Territory: The Bahama Islands
between New York and Rome***

Patrick J. Hayes, Redemptorist Archives of the
Baltimore Province

The Colonial Church and the New Nation

Alison Mc Letchie, South Carolina State University

COMMENT: Ramon Luzarraga, Saint Martin's University

10. German Catholics, American Catholics

Sutton Place (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Michael Pfeifer, Graduate Center and John Jay
College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York

PAPERS:

***The American College of St. Maurice at Münster
in Westphalia: Pastoral Formation, Elite Education,
and Transatlantic Careers, 1864–79***

Andreas Oberdorf, University of Münster

***Idleness Is the Enemy of the Soul: Father Paul
Joseph Volk OSB and the Benedictine Missionary
Vision in the Gilded Age Mountain South***

Joseph W. Pearson, Union Commonwealth University

Catholics "Left Behind":

***Integrating German Ethnic Experiences into the
US Catholic Historical Narrative***

Joseph M. White, Catholic Historical Review

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

11. The Other Sister: Noncloistered Religious Women in the Middle Ages

Gramercy (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Kate Bush, College of the Holy Cross

PAPERS:

***Remembering Women: Widows' Religious Identity
in Late Medieval Mourning and Remembrance***

Katherine Ann Clark Walter, State University of
New York, College at Brockport

***The Evolving Role of Noncloistered Religious
Women in Papal Politics: A Case Study of
Francesca Romana and Eugene IV***

Ashley Tickle Odebiyi, Arizona State University

***Martha and Mary: The Religious Vocation of
Laysisters in Late Medieval Germany***

Emma Gabe, University of Toronto

***A Feature, Not a Bug: The Legal Ambiguity of the
Secular Chapter of Nivelles***

Meghan Lescault, University of Toronto

COMMENT: Delfi Nieto-Isabel,

Queen Mary, University of London

12. Digital Religion: Crusaders, Saints, Athletes, and Cloistered Nuns Online

Flatiron (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Rachel M. Lindsey, Saint Louis University

PAPERS:

***Catholic and Orthodox Uses of Medieval Crusader
Imagery on Social Media***

Lauren Horn Griffin, Louisiana State University



Saints for Sale: Acquiring and Venerating Relics in the Digital Age

Maggie Goldberger, University of Chicago;
Nathan Tucker, University of Chicago

Hallow'ed Be Thy Gains: Examining the Hallow App's Promotion of Catholic Athletes

Ryan Halloran, independent scholar

13. *Intervention, Reform, Removal: Catholic Approaches to Indigenous Children from Early Missions to Vatican II*

Murray Hill (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Darby Ratliff, Saint Louis University

PAPERS:

A Tale of Two Brotherhoods: Jesuit Arrival, Corporeal Being, and the Exclusion of Mestizos
Sierra Lawson, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Spreading Catholicism, Becoming American: Catholic Charity Culture and the Conversion of Orphans, Indigenous Students, and Children with Disabilities

Zara Surratt, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

From Assimilationist Teachings to Native Studies: Educating Lakota Children at Holy Rosary Mission Boarding School, 1888–1980

Gabrielle Guillerm, Sorbonne Université

COMMENT: Monica Mercado, Colgate University

14. *Haunted by the Ghost: An(other) Irish Turn in Catholic Studies*

Sutton Place (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Michael Pasquier, Louisiana State University

PANELISTS:

Jack Lee Downey, University of Rochester

James T. Fisher, Fordham University

Kathleen Holscher, University of New Mexico

Margaret M. McGuinness, La Salle University

Terence McKiernan, BishopAccountability.org

Katherine D. Moran, Saint Louis University

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

ACHA Presidential Luncheon

Lenox Ballroom (Sheraton New York, Second Floor)

PRESIDING: Charles Strauss,
American Catholic Historical Association and
Mount St. Mary's University

SPEAKER: Anthony Burke Smith, University of Dayton

2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

ACHA Presidential Roundtable: Global Catholic Cinema

Flatiron (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Anthony Burke Smith, University of Dayton

SPEAKERS:

Roy Domenico, University of Scranton

Jaime M. Pensado, University of Notre Dame

Jorge Pérez, University of Texas at Austin

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

15. *Writing, Filming, and Teaching the Camden 28*

Flatiron (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Kristin O'Brassill-Kulfan, Rutgers,
The State University of New Jersey

PANELISTS:

Michelle M. Nickerson, Loyola University Chicago

Anthony Giacchino, documentary filmmaker

16. *Women's Work: Catholic Women in the 20th-Century United States*

Murray Hill (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Kathleen Sprows Cummings,
University of Notre Dame

PAPERS:

Lifting Up the Lowly: Catholic Feminism in the National Council of Catholic Women
Emily Gideon, Auburn University

Mary Looram and IFCA's Shaping of 20th-Century US Popular Culture

Una M. Cadegan, University of Dayton

*What Is Catholic Women's Liberation?
The Conflict between LCWR and CPC, 1971-74*
Jillian Plummer, Sacred Heart University

*Circulating in Non-Catholic Spaces:
Catholic Women as Ambassadors for War-Injured
Vietnamese Children*
Theresa Keeley, University of Louisville

17. The History and History Making of St. Pats for All: A Roundtable

Sutton Place (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Jason Steidl Jack, Saint Joseph's University

PANELISTS:

Jason Steidl Jack, Saint Joseph's University

Brendan Fay, St. Pat's for All

Joanne Kennedy, New York Catholic Worker

CANCELLED

18. Global Catholicism from a Latin/American Perspective

Union Square (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Maria Cecilia Ulrickson,
Catholic University of America

PAPERS:

*A New Historical and Theological Inquiry for a
Black Theology of the Church*

Maria Cecilia Ulrickson,
Catholic University of America

New England Catholicism through a Latinx Lens
Justin Poche, College of the Holy Cross

*"Finally, Someone Asks for My Opinion!" Navigating
the Limits of 20th-Century Argentinean Catholic
Women's Public Discourse*

Sofía Maurette, independent scholar

SUNDAY 5 JANUARY

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

ACHA Information Table

Lower Level, Prefunction Area 2 (Sheraton New York)

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

**19. Saints, Starlets, and Soldiers:
Devotion and Materiality in the United States**

Flatiron (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Sarah C. Luginbill, Trinity University

PAPERS:

*The Long Shadow of "Our Little Mary":
Hollywood, Marian Holy Cards, and the Age of
White American Spectacle*

Adrienne Nock Ambrose,
University of the Incarnate Word

*Finding Venerable Fulton Sheen:
Collecting and Creating a Catholic Past*

Emily Arledge, Saint Vincent College

*Portable Mass Kits, Army Chaplains, and American
Catholics in World War I*

Sarah C. Luginbill, Trinity University

**20. Religious Charisms in Higher Education:
Challenges and Opportunities for Lay
Involvement and Leadership**

Sutton Place (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Sandra A. Yocum, University of Dayton

PAPERS:

*Lay Participation in Mission-Driven Catholic
Higher Education Initiatives*

Natalia M. Imperatori-Lee, Manhattan College

*The Value of Charism for Catholic Institutions of
Higher Education*

Alex Gruber, Fordham University

Formation for Coresponsibility in Mission

Jacqueline M. Regan, Boston College

COMMENT: Gabrielle Bibeau, Fordham University

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

ACHA Liturgy

St. Francis Xavier Church, 46 W 16th Street
Rev. Michael J. S. Bruno, S.T.D.
St. Joseph's Seminary and College, Presider

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

ACHA Social

Old Town Bar, 45 E 18th Street



21. **Women and Catholic Modernism**

Union Square (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Raffaella Perin,
Catholic University of the Sacred Heart

PAPERS:

Women and Modernism(s): A Status Quaestionis
Raffaella Perin, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart

**Modernism in the Church of England:
Mrs. Humphry Ward's "Modernist" Novels**
Charles John Talar, University of St. Thomas

**"A Story of Well-Defined Purpose": Josephine
Hope-Scott Ward's Criticism of Modernism**
Elizabeth Huddleston, National Institute for Newman
Studies and Duquesne University

**Coptic Catholics and the Denominational Politics
of Monasticism in Egypt**

Aaron Michka, University of Notre Dame

**Chaldean Catholic Difference and Assyrian
Indigenous Sovereignty in Iraq**

Candace Lukasik, Mississippi State University

24. **The Era of Experiments: Catholics and Media in the 1960s**

Sutton Place (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Tim Dulle Jr., Saint Louis University

PAPERS:

New Catholic Journalism in the 1960s
Jeffrey M. Burns,
Academy of American Franciscan History

**Exploring Jack Kerouac's Legend of "Saint
Gerard," and the Phenomenon of Hagiography in
American Postwar Popular Culture**
Ilze Stikane, University of Latvia

**Jazz in the Pews:
"Experiments in Sunday Worship" in the 1960s**
Deanna Witkowski, Elmhurst University

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

22. **Media Jubilees: History of the Holy Years through Mass Media**

Flatiron (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Anthony Burke Smith, University of Dayton

PAPERS:

Jubilees and the Cinema, 1900–33
Gianluca della Maggiore, International Telematic
University UniNettuno

The Jubilees and Television, 1949–2000
Federico Ruozi, University of Modena and
Reggio Emilia

Jubilees and the Cinema, 1950–2000
Dario Viganò, International Telematic University
UniNettuno

25. **Beyond Archival Silences: Clergy Abuse and Catholic History**

Union Square (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: John C. Seitz, Fordham University

PANELISTS:

Kathleen Sprows Cummings, University of Notre Dame
James M. O'Toole, Boston College
Gabrielle Guillerm, Sorbonne Université
Terence McKiernan, BishopAccountability.org

23. **Catholic Asymmetries: Ecclesiastical Universality and Eastern Rites**

Murray Hill (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Candace Lukasik, Mississippi State University

PAPERS:

**Caste, Race, and Syro-Malabar Catholic Missionaries
in the Rural US**
Sonja Thomas, Colby College

**"God Called Me to Be Free": Latin Missionaries,
Aleppan Nuns, and the Making of 18th-Century
Middle Eastern Catholicism**
Akram F. Khater, North Carolina State University

**Universality, "Oriental" Catholicism, and the
Panslavic Model of 1848:
Reflections on Catholicity from East Central Europe**
Jared N. Warren,
Leibniz Institute of European History

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

26. **Windows, Tables, and Thrones: Vernacular Shrines and Their Makers**

Flatiron (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Daisy Vargas, University of Arizona

PAPERS:

**Saints on the Streets, Unhoused Altars and
Shrines in Los Angeles**
Patrick A. Polk, University of California, Los Angeles

St. Joseph Altars as Catholic Contact Zones
Joseph Sciorra, Queens College, City University
of New York

The Throne of the Third Heaven of the Nations' Millennium General Assembly as a Vernacular Shrine

James I. Deutsch, Smithsonian Institution

COMMENT: Rachel M. Lindsey, Saint Louis University

27. *The Catholic Life of the Mind: European Intellectuals and the World*

Murray Hill (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Mary Kate Holman, Fairfield University

PAPERS:

The Spirit of Lamennais: France, America, and the Emergence of Liberal Catholicism

Michael Gioia, Columbia University

"A Much Unappreciated Jewel": Helene Iswolsky's Third Hour and American Catholicism

K. T. Brizek, University of Illinois Chicago

Welcoming the Stranger: The Catholic Origins of "the Other" in France

Jacob Saliba, Boston College

"What Means Global Success?" French Catholic Third-Worldists Siding with Palestinians, 1960s–80s

Claire Maligot, Université de Reims-Champagne Ardennes

28. *Reproductive Politics in Post-Vatican II America*

Sutton Place (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Monica Mercado, Colgate University

PAPERS:

"More than a History of Catholic Thinking": Ancient Christian Texts at the 1967 International Conference on Abortion

Tara Baldrick-Morrone, Wake Forest University

The Catholics Come to Harvard: Ecumenical Dialogue and Reproductive Politics at Harvard Divinity School in the 1960s and 1970s

Margaret Hamm, Harvard Divinity School

Unlikely Bedfellows? How Phyllis Schlafly's Legacy Informs Scholarship on the Antiabortion Movement's Origins

Kate Hoeting, Harvard Divinity School

Pro-choice Nuns? The Diverse Public Voice of American Catholic Women Religious Regarding Abortion

Lauren A. Tassone, Harvard Divinity School

29. *Catholic Education in the Diocese of Brooklyn*

Union Square (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Joseph Coen, Archives of the Diocese of Brooklyn

PAPERS:

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Brooklyn: Strategy and Vision

James T. Carroll, Iona College

The Significance of University Storytelling: The Origin Story of Saint John's University

Susie J. Pak, Saint John's University

Saving St. Peter's: Parochial Education and Irish South Brooklyn, 1875–90

James T. Fisher, Fordham University

COMMENT: Stephen M. Koeth CSC, University of Notre Dame

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

30. *Eyes to See: David Gonzalez's Photography of Faith and Community in Nueva York*

Flatiron (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Monica Mercado, Colgate University

PANELISTS:

Eileen Markey, Lehman College, City University of New York

David Gonzalez, New York Times

31. *American Catholicisms: New Directions for Religious History*

Murray Hill (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: James P. McCartin, Fordham University

PAPERS:

Establishing Normal: The Jesuits' Role in Creating US Catholicism

Ken Homan SJ, Georgetown University

Catholic Women among the Boston Brahmins: American Protestant Women's Conversion to Catholicism, 1845–1900

Ella Hadacek, University of Notre Dame

From Church Riot to Sit-Down Strike: Polish Catholics and Collective Action in South Bend, 1885–1940

Gavin Moulton, University of Notre Dame

Immigration Control in the US — Mexico Borderlands: Rethinking the "Immigrant Church" in the 21st Century

Carlos Ruiz Martinez, University of Iowa

COMMENT: James P. McCartin, Fordham University



32. **Reimagining Catholic History**

Sutton Place (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Brenna Moore, Fordham University

PAPERS:

Reimagining Colonial Catholic Maryland

Stephanie A. Jacobe, Archdiocese of Washington

Reimagining the Past, the Relationship between Saint Anne, Indigenous Grandmothers, and Oblate Priests at Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta

Melissa Coles, University of Notre Dame

33. **US Response to the Synod on Synodality**

Union Square (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

CHAIR: Phyllis Zagano, Hofstra University

PAPERS:

"We Are the Now of the Church": Young Adults and the Future of Synodality in the United States

Maureen O'Connell, La Salle University

US Synod Participation and Questions of Women in the Church

Phyllis Zagano, Hofstra University

The Opposition to Synodality in US Catholicism

Massimo Faggioli, Villanova University

5:15 PM - 6:15 PM

ACHA Business Meeting

Sutton Place (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)

PRESIDING: Charles Strauss, American Catholic Historical Association and Mount St. Mary's University

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

34. **Warp Catholicism: Fantastic Voyages in Space and Time**

(FRIGID New York, 94 St. Marks Place)

PANELISTS:

Kathleen Holscher, University of New Mexico

Jack Lee Downey, University of Rochester

Tim Dulle Jr., Saint Louis University

Jeannine Hill Fletcher, Fordham University

Michael Pasquier, Louisiana State University

Daisy Vargas, University of Arizona

Susie Pak, Saint John's University

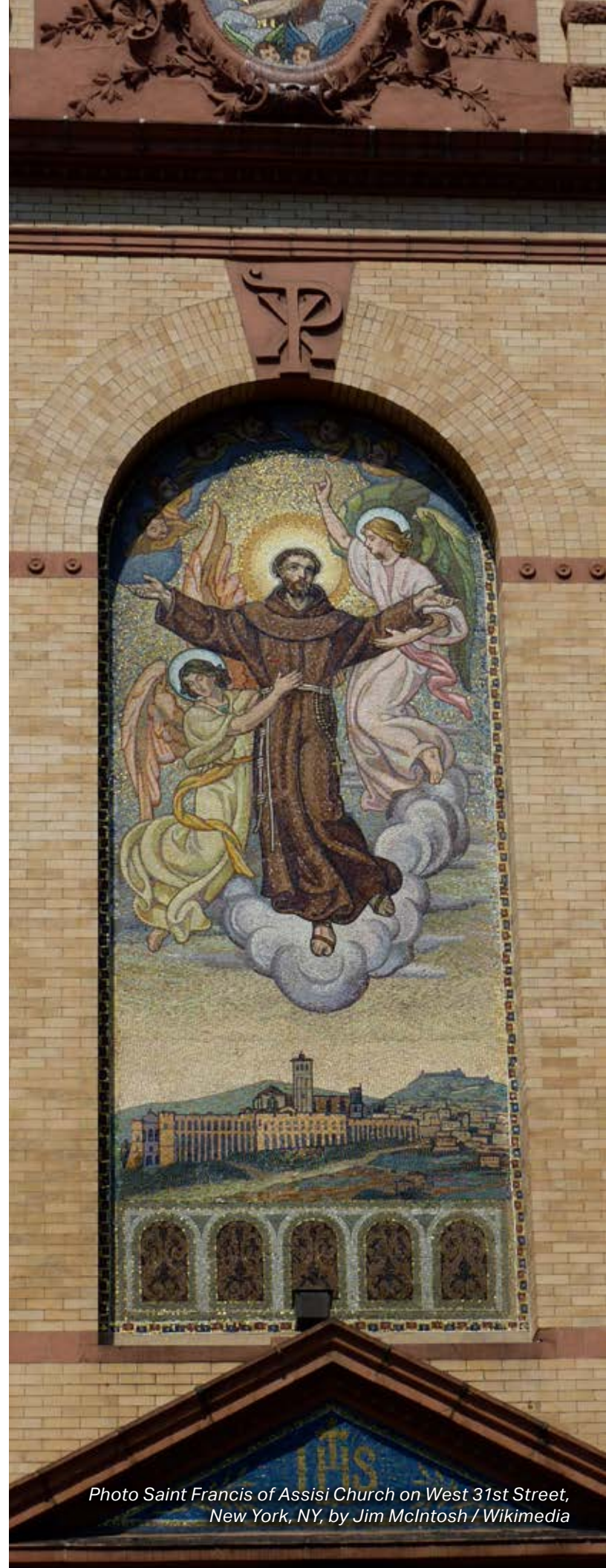


Photo Saint Francis of Assisi Church on West 31st Street, New York, NY, by Jim McIntosh / Wikimedia

5. Additional Information

Future Meetings

- 2025 Spring Meeting St. Norbert College, De Pere, WI — March 27-30, 2025
- 2026 Annual Meeting in Chicago — January 8-11, 2026
- 2026 Spring Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA — Spring 2026
- 2027 Annual Meeting in New Orleans — January 7-9, 2027
- 2028 Annual Meeting in Seattle — January 6-8, 2028

Call for Papers Annual Meeting 2026: Chicago

The American Catholic Historical Association invites submissions on any topic relevant to the study of Catholicism for its annual meeting in Chicago, January 8-10, 2026.

The ACHA is delighted to be gathering once more in Chicago, “city of the big shoulders,” national crossroads, storied hub of immigration and industrialization, with a rich history of social Catholicism.

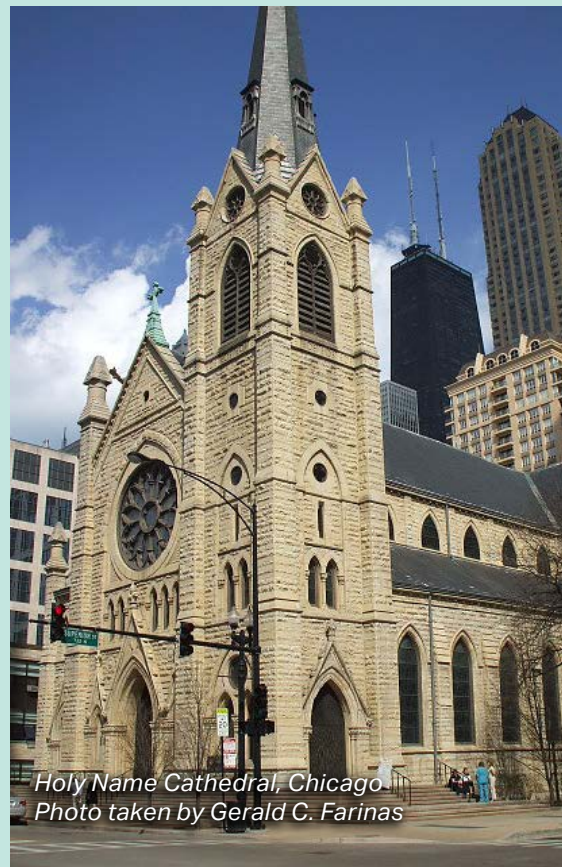
We are especially hopeful to receive individual paper and panel submissions focused on the following topics:

- Catholic communities with distinctive histories in Chicago, including Eastern European, Mexican, and Black Catholics
- Regional Catholicisms in proximity to Chicago, such as Midwestern, Great Lakes, and Great Plains
- Social Catholicism, particularly related to labor activism, the CYO, and charitable organizations.
- Catholicism and universities, especially in view of local institutions such as Loyola University of Chicago, Depaul University, Notre Dame, and the University of Chicago
- Catholicism as practiced by the Native tribes of the Upper Midwest and the Great Plains
- Antiquity, Medieval, and pre-modern Catholicism

We invite proposals that depart from the traditional paper session format, including roundtables, book discussions, and site visits. Submissions that demonstrate disciplinary and/or methodological diversity — including panels composed of scholars outside the field of history who understand history as relevant to their discipline — are especially welcome.

We strongly seek out panels that include diverse participants and reflect generational diversity, as well as participants in various career paths and of various ranks (including **graduate students, contingent faculty, public historians, curators, librarians and archivists, independent scholars, and those employed outside the traditional academy**). To encourage making connections before the proposal deadlines, consider connecting with others interested in the ACHA conference via this link. The program committee will monitor the spreadsheet and encourages sharing ideas in this way to build out panel proposals.

To ensure the broadest possible participation in the ACHA annual meeting, we ask that participants limit themselves to taking a role in any capacity in no more than two proposed sessions during the conference. The ACHA encourages panelists to submit their proposals for co-sponsorship with the American Historical Association. **This year’s AHA deadline is February 15, 2025. The ACHA will continue to accept paper and panel proposals until March 15, 2025.**



Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago
Photo taken by Gerald C. Farinas

6. Prizes, Awards, and Grants

ACHA DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP

Paula M. Kane, University of Pittsburgh

ACHA DISTINGUISHED TEACHING

James T. Fisher, Emeritus, Fordham University

ACHA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Martin Scorsese

JOHN GILMARY SHEA PRIZE

Will be announced at March 2025 Spring Meeting at St. Norbert College.

HELEN AND HOWARD R. MARRARO PRIZE

James Hankins
***"Political Meritocracy in Renaissance Italy:
The Virtuous Republic of Francesco Patrizi of Siena"***

JOHN TRACY ELLIS DISSERTATION AWARD

Will be announced ahead of January 2025 Annual Meeting in New York

PETER GUILDAY PRIZE

Not awarded in 2024

THE ROBERT F. TRISCO AND NELSON H. MINNICH PRIZE

Will be announced at March 2025 Spring Meeting at St. Norbert College.

CYPRIAN DAVIS, O.S.B. PRIZE

Miguel A. Valerio, Washington University in St. Louis
***"Architects of Their World: The Artistic and Ritualistic
Spaces of Afro-Brazilian Brotherhoods"***

NELSON H. MINNICH PRIZE

Joseph P. Harmon
***"Authority and Order: Portalis and the Implementation
of the Concordat of 1801"***

SUMMER RESEARCH AND WRITING GRANTS

Benjamin Groth, Tulane University and
Dennis Wieboldt, University of Notre Dame

PRESIDENTIAL TRAVEL GRANT

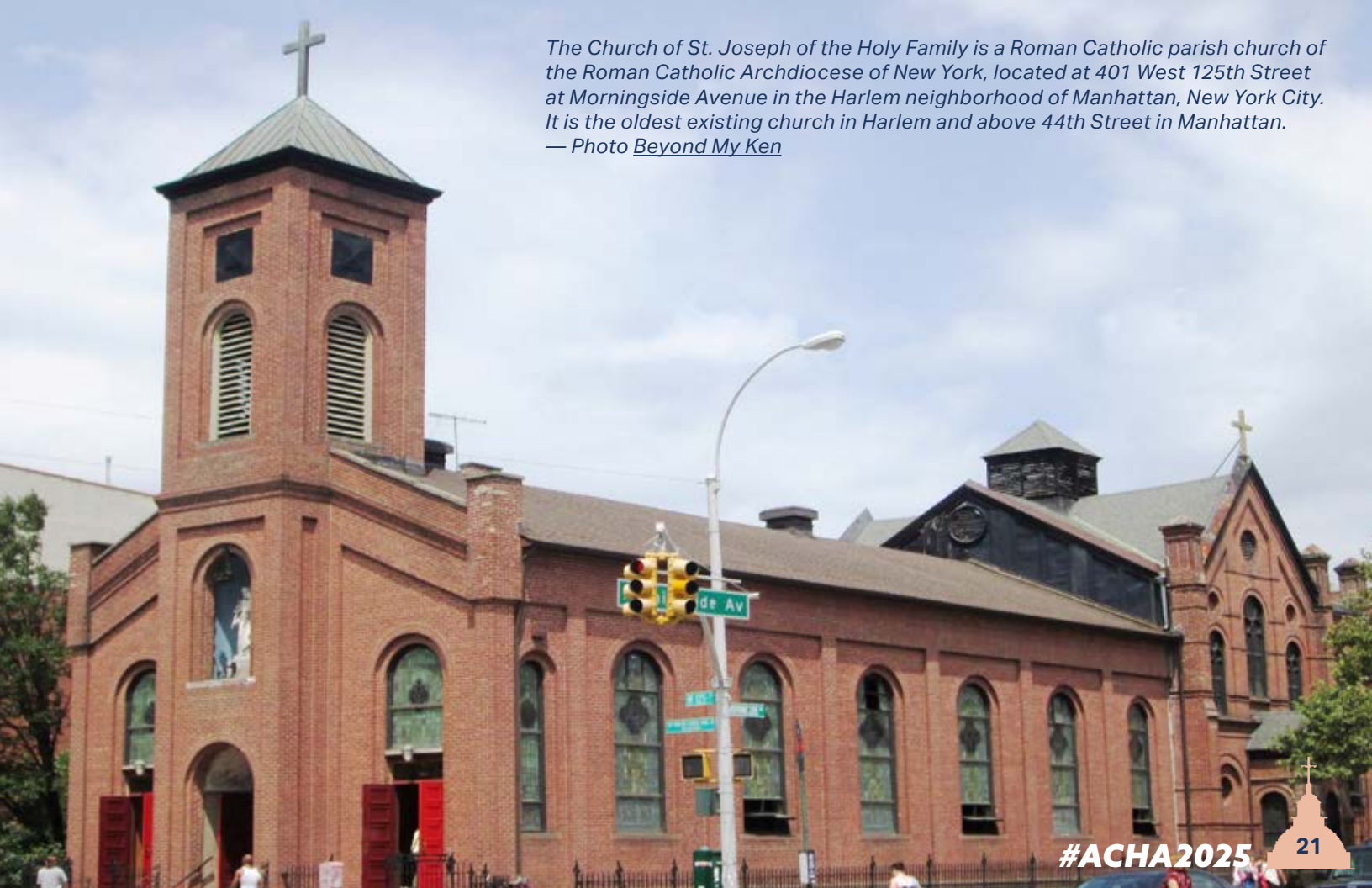
Sierra L. Lawson, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and
Meghan Lescault, University of Toronto



The Church of St. Paul the Apostle
at 10 Columbus Avenue
— Photo Beyond My Ken



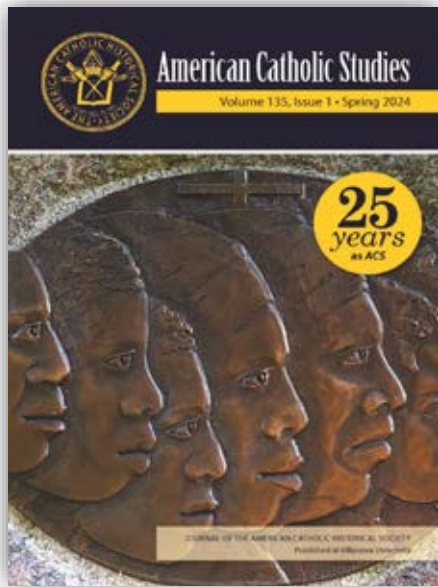
The Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, is located at 230 East 90th Street.



The Church of St. Joseph of the Holy Family is a Roman Catholic parish church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, located at 401 West 125th Street at Morningside Avenue in the Harlem neighborhood of Manhattan, New York City. It is the oldest existing church in Harlem and above 44th Street in Manhattan. — Photo [Beyond My Ken](#)

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Journal of the American Catholic Historical Society
Published at Villanova University



American Catholic Studies, a quarterly journal, publishes high-quality articles and reviews in the field of U.S. Roman Catholic history, sociology, theology, architecture, art, cinema, music, and popular movements. For submission guidelines, please visit www.publications.villanova.edu/acs

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Notes:

Notes:



The Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, New York, Pitt Street
— Photo Jim.henderson



ACHA

American Catholic Historical Association

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