

History of The Catholic Record Society-Diocese of Columbus

The Catholic Record Society of the Diocese of Columbus was founded in the fall of 1974 by Monsignor Herman E. Mattingly. Monsignor Mattingly, a native and priest of this diocese, had recently retired from the pastorate of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Buckeye Lake. A life-long interest in history and genealogy led him to devote his retirement years to two related projects, namely the operation of this Society and the arranging of the archives of the diocese, which had been long neglected.

The Society is dedicated to the collection, preservation, and publication of the history of persons, events, organizations and places associated with the Catholic Church in the areas historically connected with the Diocese of Columbus. A small group of interested individuals formed around him and in January of 1975 the first monthly *Bulletin* was issued under his editorship, which was to span nine years and 108 issues.

The name he chose for the society came from the Catholic Record Society in England, with the addition of the name of the diocese. This form was chosen because he had some hope that in time similar societies might be formed in other dioceses and a loose, trans-diocesan association might be formed among them. The Society has been supported in its work through the years by the interest from a grant from the dissolved Wehrle Foundation along with operating funds and office space provided by the Diocese.

In 1984, because of declining health, Monsignor Mattingly did not publish a *Bulletin*, though he continued to hold the quarterly meetings of the Society and worked in the archives. After his death in August of that year, His Excellency, Bishop James Griffin, allowed the members of the Society to continue his work.

By-laws for the Society were proposed and were approved by Bishop Griffin and early in 1985 officers were elected. A History of Aquinas College High School, written by Society member and Denison University professor Tony Lisska, was published by the Society in 1985 and took the place of the *Bulletin* for 1984. Publication of the *Bulletin* resumed in January of 1985 under the editorship of Donald M. Schlegel, who had frequently contributed articles to the earlier issues.

Until this time the *Bulletin* had carried the name of Monsignor Mattingly as editor, so it was necessary that a new "masthead" be designed. The upcoming quincentennial of the Evangelization of the Americas, begun by the voyage of discovery of Christopher Columbus in 1492, made the choice of the sketch of a small sailing vessel representing the Santa Maria an obvious one. It had long been the symbol of the Diocese, but the "M" on the sail on the diocesan symbol was replaced by a cross, as a more realistic depiction and as a symbol of the significance of the namesake of our see-city, Christopher or "Christ-bearer" Columbus. In honor of Queen Isabel, *la Catholica*, Columbus's patroness, Spanish was chosen as the language of the *Bulletin's* new title and a style of type in use in Spain around the year 1500 was chosen. The *Bulletin* was named *Barquilla de la Santa Maria*.

In 2021 the frequency of the *Barquilla* was reduced from twelve to six issues per year.

The Record Society is under the patronage of St. Bede the Venerable, the eighth-century Benedictine monk of Jarrow in Northumberland, Doctor of the Church, and author of the *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*.

The Society will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2024.