

PAST IS PROLOGUE

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"A Church museum is therefore a place that documents not only man's genius but also the evolution of cultural and religious life in order to guarantee it to the present age"

Pontifical Commission
for the Cultural Heritage of the Church

PRESERVING CATHOLIC HERITAGE

Handing down beliefs, customs and cultural values from generation to generation is essential to the preservation of our Catholic heritage.

Much time and effort is spent in handing on the beliefs, the doctrinal heritage of our Church. Less time and effort is expended in passing on the cultural heritage, our sense of being a Catholic people.

Telling the story of our Catholic people is the mission of the Diocesan Archives Museum. It houses the myriad items that document the story of the Diocese of Dallas from its founding in 1890 until today.



A view of a portion of the Diocesan Archives Museum

Among the museum's collection are exhibits honoring the people who have shaped the Diocese of Dallas from a frontier diocese covering 108,000 square miles and 25,000 Catholics to

a metropolitan church embracing less than 8,000 square miles with a population of over one million Catholics.

Come see your story!

TEXAN TRIUMPHS LETTERS OF DALLAS' FIRST BISHOP

Bishop Thomas Francis Brennan was a prodigious letter writer. Before he left Dallas he published a series of his letters in a book entitled *Texan Triumphs*.

His letters cover a variety of subjects from the Columbian Exposition to a proposal to have the Statue of Liberty joined by a statue of Queen Isabella.

Because the original is too fragile for handling it has been digitized and available for download on the Diocesan website. www.cathdal.org.

Bishop Lynch's relic of the True Cross

A prized possession of the Diocesan Archives Museum is a relic of the True Cross that

belonged to Bishop Joseph Patrick Lynch, the third Bishop of Dallas. The relic

was given to Bishop Lynch in 1925 and is authenticated by a letter from Cardinal Basilio Pompilj, Vicar General of Rome.

The relic itself is contained in a simple metal container sealed in wax with Cardinal Pompilj's coat of arms.

Relics of the true cross are rare and in 1870 a survey of all known relics was made and it was found that together they did not reach one-third of the estimated volume of the True Cross believed to have been discovered by St. Helena in about 380 A.D.

The relic is on display in the Diocesan Archives Museum.



The relic of the True Cross is contained inside a cloisonné cross

Quick Catholic Quiz

1. Which were Catholic Texans?

- a. Jim Bowie
- b. William Travis
- c. Deaf Smith
- d. Stephen F. Austin
- e. Ben Milam

Answers on Page 4.

The woman who saved the Alamo Adina Emilia De Zavala

Her grandfather, Lorenzo de Zavala was the first vice president of the Republic of Texas and she was a Texan through and through.

When a portion of the Alamo was sold in 1908 and was scheduled for destruction, she locked herself in the Alamo barracks for three days.

Her protest was instrumental in the preservation of the Alamo in tact as an historic shrine to the battle for independence.

Adina, a school teacher and graduate of Ursuline Academy in Galveston,



was also instrumental in preserving the Governor's Palace in San Antonio and other historic landmarks. Learn more about this courageous woman online at:

<http://www.tshaonline.org/index.html>

Museum visits give classes close up history lesson

All of us looked forward to a field trip when we were in school. It always meant seeing something new and exciting.

We believe that students who make a field trip to the Archival Museum will find something both new and exciting.

First the class is shown a PowerPoint presentation on the Catholic history of Texas. After the PowerPoint students are given the museum tour

explaining how each item played a part in the history of the Church in Texas.

Many have never seen a chalice or monstrance up close, or nuns in full habit.

Visits may be timed to include noon Mass in the Pastoral Center Chapel.

All class levels are welcome but it is particularly appropriate for fourth and seventh grade who are studying Texas History.

To arrange a tour contact Joyce Higgins at 214-379-2870. Two weeks notice please.



Holy Trinity School students on field trip to the museum.

Be sure to read
Time Capsule

A regular history feature in
THE TEXAS CATHOLIC

Oral/Video History Project

Saving our Retired Priests' stories

History is a story of stories and every story is unique and important. Unfortunately many stories are told but not preserved for future generations.

In order to capture and save the stories of Dallas' retired priests and religious, the Archives launched in 2008 the Oral/Video History Project.

Priests and religious who have served the Church in Dallas in many capacities have been invited to share their experience in ministry on video for preservation in the Diocesan Archives.

The project has operated on a shoestring budget but to

date eight priests and three religious have had their stories recorded and preserved.

Archives personnel do the camera work either at the Pastoral Center or at the residence of the interviewee.

Copies of the interview are provided to each person on a compact disk and the master copies and a backup are stored in the Diocesan Archives.

Interviews are unstructured and the priest or religious is simply asked to "tell your story". The camcorder is



Msgr. John F. Meyers being recorded

turned on and the interviewee is free to share his/her story.

One priest began by saying "nobody has ever asked me to tell my story before."

That justifies the project.

Why history is important

"Nothing is more dangerous to the survival of a free Western society than the increasing neglect of history in our teaching and our interests. Dictators always attempt to distort or abolish history. Nowhere has the rewriting and the manipulation of history been more avidly pursued than in Soviet Russia."

"In our free society we are abolishing the past, not by re-writing it or forcefully suppressing it but simply by losing all interest in it."

This is as fatal for a society as it is for a man to lose his memory."

Barbara Ward, "The Battleground is Here;" *New York Times Magazine*, 27 January 1952, 7.

Catholic Americans

Commodore John Barry

Father of the American Navy



Commodore John Barry

The son of a poor Irish farmer, John Barry went to sea as a cabin boy. In 1760 he moved to Philadelphia the only place in the English colonies where the practice of the Catholic Faith was permitted.

He was a successful private shipmaster until the Revolutionary War began, when he was given the task of outfit-

ting the first ships of the Continental Navy. While serving as Captain of the *Lexington* he captured the first British warship.

In 1797 George Washington honored him with commission Number 1 in the U.S. Navy.

Read about this Catholic hero at: <http://www.ushistory.org/people/commodorebarry.htm>

Catholic Texans

Angelina

Angelina was a Hasanaí Caddo Indian girl, who was converted with her family by Franciscan missionaries in East Texas about 1890. When the Spanish withdrew to Mexico Angelina and her family went along. There at San Juan Bautista Mission Angelina grew to womanhood in bi-lingual and bi-cultural surroundings.

When the Spanish returned to East Texas about 1711 Angelina accompanied them and served as interpreter for both the missionaries and the Spanish soldiers.

She is the only woman to have a Texas county named for her and is a link to our Indian history.



Statue of Angelina at the Lufkin Civic Center

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It takes a century to build a Cathedral

When architect Nicholas Clayton first envisioned a cathedral for Dallas he had in mind two soaring bell towers. But when reality set in the plan was reduced to one soaring tower and one smaller one. Again, reality dictated a further cut in cost.



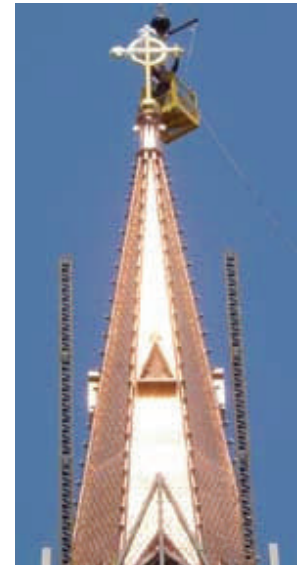
Before and after pictures with new cathedral bell tower and steeple

When the construction began in 1898 the plans had been reduced to two very short towers, but the dedication brochure in 1902 proudly pictured the final view of the cathedral with its soaring tower.

Clayton's dream was unfulfilled and the cathedral was unfinished for over 100 years until 2004 when a gift from James Moroney Jr., made completion possible.

Moroney, whose great grandfather was a founding member of the cathedral, and the grandson of architect Nicholas Clayton witnessed the dedication of the two towers in 2004.

Good things take time and it is not unusual for a cathedral to take 100 years to be finish.



A workman places the cross atop the new steeple.

Fifteenth century choir book

Before books were printed they were made by hand, letter-by-letter, a very tedious process. Of course there were not many books and what books existed were highly treasured.

Many of these hand lettered books were made by monks in their monastery scriptoriums. The books were often used in monasteries for liturgical services.

One such book is among the collection of the Diocesan Archives Museum. It is from the fifteenth century and is an antiphonal choir book. Such books were used by the monks for the singing of their daily prayers.

The Archives book was given by Mr. and Mrs. John Miller in 1981. It contains a collection of Gregorian chants used from the Fourth Sunday



Fifteenth Century Antiphonal Choir Book

of Advent until the Feast of Corpus Christi.

The parchment pages alternate with one side that is darker than the other. The darker side was the hairy side of the animal. It is estimated that one sheep skin is required for each page. With 250 pages this book would have required a flock of sheep.

A board of oak was used for the cover with leather wrapped around and secured. The cov-

ers are decorated with brass medallions.

The parchment is hand lettered on both sides in black ink with the rubrics or instructions in red. The lettering was probably done with a reed pen. The notes are square with no stems or flags.

Latin, the language used in Catholic worship until about 45 years ago is the language used for the antiphons in this book.

Antiphons are sacred verses sung alternatively by two choirs.

Antiphonal singing began with the ancient Hebrews who felt their singing imitated the singing of two choirs of angels.

The book is on exhibit in the Diocesan Archival Museum.

To learn more about medieval parchment books and manuscripts go to : <http://www.leavesofgold.org>

Texas Catholic Quiz answers

Jim Bowie, Deaf Smith and Ben Milam were all Catholic.