

The Citizen

ADVENT 2024

A P U B L I C A T I O N O F T H E J O H N C A R R O L L S O C I E T Y



JANUARY BRUNCH

Brunch Speaker to Share Legacies of U.S. First Ladies

Fifteen years after her first January Brunch presentation, Anita McBride is scheduled to deliver the keynote address once again at the Society's annual Mass and brunch to be held on Jan. 5, 2025, the Solemnity of the Epiphany.



Photo Courtesy of White House Historical Association

"I will be speaking about the examples throughout our history where American first ladies have used their

unique platform to serve the needs of the nation and improve our society," said McBride, a member of the Board of Governors and co-author of *Remember the First Ladies: The Legacies of America's History-Making Women* and accompanying textbook version, *U.S. First Ladies: Making History and Leaving Legacies*.

The First Ladies' "contributions are under-reported. I hope members come away from the January brunch with a greater understanding of their service to the presidency and the nation."

An Executive in Residence at American University School of Public Affairs, McBride previously served for eight years

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72ND ANNUAL RED MASS

Call on the Spirit to Help Become Servants of Justice

Just as the nation's founders relied on God's providence, so too must those serving in the U.S. legal profession and government today depend on the gifts of the Holy Spirit to thrive as a good and just society, said the homilist during the 72nd annual Red Mass celebrated Oct. 6 at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, D.C.

"What we pray for today is no mere aspiration," said Deacon Darryl A. Kelley, the homilist. "No, the gifts of the Holy Spirit can be an efficacious reality in our lives, personal and professional."

Society Board member Deacon Kelley became the first permanent deacon in the history of the Red Mass to deliver the homily. Since 1953, the Red Mass, sponsored by the Society, has been celebrated on the Sunday before the opening of the U.S. Supreme Court's new session.

Among the dignitaries attending the Mass were three Catholic members of the U.S. Supreme Court: John G. Roberts Jr., Chief Justice of the United States, Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh and Associate Justice Amy Coney Barrett; and Elizabeth Barchas Prelogar, the U.S. Solicitor General. Additionally the Mass drew about 1,000 attendees, including judges, lawyers, diplomats, government officials, law school deans, professors, and students.

"Today, we call upon the spirit of truth – the Paraclete, which can be translated as 'helper' – just like the founders of this nation also appealed to the 'Supreme Judge of the world...with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence' in declaring our independence," said the deacon. "When we individually or as a people disregard the spirit of truth, history shows that our failure to listen makes things worse."

Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory, the principal celebrant, was joined in concelebrating the Red Mass by Cardi-



Photo by Christopher Newkumet

Deacon Darryl Kelley becomes the first permanent deacon to deliver the homily at the annual Red Mass.

nal Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States; Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Va.; Washington Auxiliary Bishops Roy E. Campbell Jr., Juan R. Esposito-Garcia and Evelio Menjivar-Ayala; Bishop Paul Loverde, the retired bishop of Arlington, Va.; Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi, Society chaplain; Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson, rector of the Cathedral of St. Matthew; and more than one dozen priests.

Also in attendance were Dr. Peter K. Kilpatrick, the president of The Catholic University; Robert M. Groves, provost of Georgetown University; law professors and government officials. Students from Columbus School of Law at Catholic University, Georgetown University Law Center, Howard University School of Law and Antonin Scalia School of Law at George Mason University served as gift bearers.

Deacon Kelley of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Clinton, noted that although in the nation's founding the self-evident truth "that all men are created equal" was compromised, the nation's Black Catholic bishops in their 1984 pastoral letter "What We Have Seen and Heard" recognized that even in slavery, African-Americans found ways to "celebrate that spiritual freedom which God alone can give."

"So today, in this nation's ongoing work to form a 'more perfect Union' in justice, genuine liberty and the common good, we praise God for the blessings and guid-

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John Carroll Society

Established 1951 Archdiocese of Washington

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UPCOMING EVENTS 2024-25

December 7, 2024

ST. NICHOLAS MASS & GIFT DRIVE

Mass at The Church of the Little Flower, Bethesda, Md., at 5 p.m.

The principal celebrant and homilist will be Washington Auxiliary Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala.

A reception and visit with St. Nick to follow in the parish hall.

January 5, 2025

JANUARY MASS AND BRUNCH ON THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

Mass at St. Patrick's Church, Washington, D.C. at 10 a.m.

Principal celebrant will be Father Patrick Lewis, pastor, St. Patrick's Church, Washington, D.C. Homilist will be Father Mark Ivany, Director of Priest Vocations for the archdiocese. Msgr. Peter Vaghi, Society chaplain, will serve as concelebrant.

Immediately following Mass, Anita McBride, Executive in Residence, American University will present a keynote address at the brunch to be held at the Grand Hyatt, D.C.

March 8, 2025

LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Retreat and Mass at Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 8:30 a.m.

The retreat director will be Father Tom

Robertson, parochial vicar, Church of the Little Flower, Bethesda, Md.

March 30, 2025

34TH ANNUAL ROSE MASS

Mass at Church of the Little Flower, Bethesda, Md., 10:30 a.m. Principal celebrant will be Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of Washington, and the Homilist will be Jesuit Father Myles Sheehan, M.D.

Luncheon to follow in the Parish Hall with the presentation of the JCS Pro Bono Health Care Service Awards.

May 9, 2025

39TH ANNUAL DINNER

Gathering at the Four Seasons Hotel, Washington, D.C., 6:30 p.m. for Cocktails and 7:30 p.m. Dinner.

This year's honoree and speaker will be James Malloy, President and CEO, Catholic Charities.

December 2024 through June 2025

FIRST THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP

"The Moral Life " will be presented by Msgr. Peter Vaghi, chaplain every First Thursday at 7:15 a.m. at the Church of the Little Flower, Bethesda, Md.

NEW JCS MEMBERS

As of October 30, 2024

John Tremain May
Chief Judge Kimberly Moore
Flor Salvador
Michael Zisa
Sponsor: Msgr. Peter Vaghi

Stefanie Martinez
Sponsor: Elizabeth Meers

Daniel McMurray
Sponsor: Adam Carter

Daniel and Laura Hettich
Sponsor: Preeya Noronha

Ljubitca Fadic
Jemel Liverpool
Sponsor: Deacon Darryl Kelley

Kathleen McGovern
Thomas Martin Sullivan
Sponsor: David Florenzo

Garrett and Emily Kral
Joshua and Catherine Venne
Sponsor: John and Thuy Shepherd

Brady Marzen
Sponsor: Andy Cook

Michael Spina
Sponsor: David Connelly

Dr. William Turner
Sponsor: Edward A. O'Connell

Elizabeth Carroll
Sponsor: Rev. George Stuart

Mark Kormos
Sponsor: James Bishop

Michael Edwards
Sponsor: Jemel Liverpool

Javier Castro
Maximus Ebert
Sponsor: Tim Gleeson

Ruth Eshun
Sponsor: Joyce Williams

Jameson McShea
Sponsor: Kristin Wells

Nicholas Iacono
Sponsor: Pat A. Cipollone

Kimberly Cioffi
Sponsor: Philip Ward

Dr. Matthew Powell
Sponsor: Scott Rembold

Scott Darrell Sadler
Sponsor: Tom Loughney

Renee Kalil
Sponsor: Tracy Ferridge

Book Review

Continued from page 8

Our final city is Constantinople (now, Istanbul, Turkey). In 330 A.D., Emperor Constantine made then-Byzantium the capital of the Roman Empire, given its strategic geographic location at the Bosphorus Strait, adjacent to the Black and Mediterranean Seas. In this New Rome, Constantine made Christianity the Empire's official religion and suppressed pagan worship. The city became the home of Archbishop (later Saint) John

Chrysostom, whose sermons included denunciations of worldly luxury, a message that did not sit well among the elite, and resulted in his exile. Aquilina writes that the emperors often tried to impose their understandings of theology on the clergy, ending in bitter controversy, confusion, and occasional heresies.

My review omits: Alexandria, Egypt; Lugdunum (now Lyon, France); Ejmiastin (in Armenia); and Milan, Ravenna, and Edessa, (now Urfa), in southeastern Turkey. Each city is unique, all "contrib-

uted to the world of Christian ideas," and arguably each possessed a "providential purpose," Aquilina writes, although ultimately these locations do not matter. Why? While each city contributed to the Roman Catholic faith, the faith perseveres even "if we had removed any one of these cities from the map." The Church will endure regardless of the rise or fall of cities. I highly recommend this book combining Aquilina's scholarship and easily understandable narrative, no small feat in this field.

My dear John Carroll Society members,

In May, Pope Francis issued a Bull of Indiction decreeing 2025 a Jubilee Year – “Hope does not Disappoint” (Rom 5:5). Such holy years are proclaimed every 25 years.

“For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the ‘door’ whom the Church is charged to proclaim always everywhere and to all as ‘our hope,’ (1Tim1:1).”

Throughout the document, the Pope highlights “hope” reminding us, “the Holy Spirit illumines all believers with the light of hope.” The pontiff urges the faithful to begin their Jubilee pilgrimage with the sacrament of confession as an “essential starting point of any true journey of conversion.”

Following the hope-filled Advent season and Christmas, the door of St. Peter’s will be opened on Dec. 29, 2024; the door of the Church of Mary Major on Jan. 1, 2025; and St. Paul’s on Jan. 5, 2025. And finally on Jan. 6, 2026 the door of St. Peter’s will be closed. These are symbolic signs of the opening and closing of the Holy Year at Rome.

Throughout the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis calls us to be tangible signs of hope for those brothers and sisters who experience hardships. The Pope suggests a restoration of hope for prisoners by amnesty or pardon, the abolition of the death penalty, and creating more dignified conditions. Other signs of hope should be shown to the sick at home or in hospitals. In addition, signs of hope should be given to the young, the migrants, the elderly, and the billions of the poor in the world.

Rich individuals and affluent nations should share their wealth as a matter of justice with those in need, because hope – together with faith and charity – make up the triptych of the theological virtues. These virtues express meaning in the Christian life, one to experience and share with others. For the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ “is at the heart of our faith and the basis of our hope.”

The Pope concludes the decree by exhorting us to return to sacred scripture for God’s message of hope as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul. The image of the anchor is eloquent, Pope Francis writes, for it helps us to recognize the stability and security that is ours amid the troubled waters of this life, “provided we entrust ourselves to the Lord Jesus” for we are then firmly anchored in the hope born of grace.

May God bless us this Advent, helping each of us grow in faith. May our beloved John Carroll Society (now in its 73rd year) discover anew during this Holy Year the hope that is ours as followers of Jesus and the renewed sense of hope that can be in each of our lives and those we love. And may we join with Pope Francis’ prayer for everyone that the entire Jubilee Year “be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus,” source of our hope.

Photo by Edille Arrossi



Monsignor Peter J. Vaghi
Chaplain, the John Carroll Society

Authentic Renewal Theme of Retreat

Society members and their guests gathered at the Picturesque campus of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. for the annual Fall Retreat on Nov. 2, where they were welcomed by the seminary’s rector, Msgr. Andrew Baker.

It was a glorious autumn day, and it was a pleasure to walk the grounds of the seminary, and of the university, while pondering insights gained from the meditations.



The retreat was preached by Father Patrick Lewis, whom many will know from his days as parochial vicar at Little Flower parish in Bethesda, Md. Father Lewis, who is presently the pastor of St. Patrick’s in downtown D.C., presented “Remain in Christ: the Key to Authentic Renewal.”

The pastor, an enthusiastic and engaging speaker, provided attendees with many wonderful insights. He noted our call is into the very life of the Trinity, in its fullness – in relation to the Father, identification with the Son (who is always seeking to do the will of the Father), sent on mission by the Holy Spirit (who never speaks to us in fear). Father Lewis challenged those listening to live as Christ in our daily lives.

The retreat was built around two meditations followed by private reflection time to consider insights and deepen faith – the point of the retreat. In addition, participants attended Mass in the lovely St. Bernard’s Chapel in the seminary. Later in the day, there was a penance service, followed by opportunities for confession. The day concluded with Exposition, recitation of the rosary, and benediction.

By Bill Saunders



Society Presents *Pro Bono* Legal Service Awards

Following the 72nd annual Red Mass the Society honored four legal professionals and a law firm for providing *pro bono* support to the Catholic Charities Legal Network. During a brunch held Oct. 6 at the Capital Hilton, the John Carroll Society presented the 2024 *Pro Bono* Legal Service Awards to attorneys Thomas J. Kelly, Kathleen Merlo, Denis C. Mitchell and Fabian A. Zetina, and to the law firm Wiley Rein, LLP.

Founded in 1989 as the Archdiocesan Legal Network by Cardinal James Hickey, then the archbishop of Washington, the Catholic Charities Legal Network served 1,789 low-income residents throughout the District of Columbia and Maryland in fiscal year 2023-24. The network's 600 volunteer attorneys and 45 participating large and small law firms provided more than 3,285 hours of *pro bono* service valued at more than \$2.3 million, an increase of more than 800 hours and more than \$500,000 in valuation from the previous year.

At the brunch, Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi, chaplain, delivered welcoming remarks prior to the blessing by Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory. Msgr. Vaghi, Dr. Eileen Moore, president of the John Carroll Society, and Edward A. O'Connell, chair of the 2024 Red Mass Committee, presented the Legal Service Awards.

Thomas J. Kelly, Esq., has served three terms on Catholic Charities Legal Network's Advisory Council. He has accepted *pro bono* civil cases from the Legal Network for representation at his law firm, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath. As a member of the Legal Network's Golf Tournament Committee, he has helped to make this event a success every year. Thanks to Kelly, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath hosted the Legal Network's Volunteer Spring Reception in 2022 after a three-year hiatus due to COVID.

A trial attorney and former assistant U.S. attorney, Kelly established a free legal clinic in 1991 that is now part of Bread for the City. A graduate of La Salle College and Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law, Kelly has also served on the Board of Directors of the Neighborhood Legal Services Program. He is a member of the District of Columbia Bar.

Kathleen Merlo, Esq., has conducted second-stage client intake since December 2020. She is thorough and compassionate in working with *pro bono* clients, some of whom have never interacted with an attorney before. Her case descriptions cover all the salient facts, dates, and issues and she also handled *pro bono* record-sealing cases for the Legal Network.

Merlo served as a Parenting Coordinator with the Circuit Court of Maryland since September 2022 as well as a mediator with the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, since September 2019. A graduate of Chestnut Hill College, Merlo earned



From left to right are Edward O'Connell, chair of the 2024 Red Mass Committee; 2024 *Pro Bono* Legal Service Award recipients Stephen Obermeier, representing the Wiley Rein law firm; Thomas J. Kelly; Denis C. Mitchell; Fabian A. Zetina; and Kathleen Merlo; Dr. Eileen Moore, president; and Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi, chaplain.

Photo by Christopher Newkumet

a master's degree from American University and her Juris Doctor degree from The Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law. She is a member of the Maryland Bar.

Denis C. Mitchell, Esq., has been a member of Catholic Charities Legal Network's Advisory Council since October 2022. He has served as co-chairperson of the Legal Network's Golf Tournament Committee, which

raised a record-breaking \$138,000 in 2023. Mitchell also has represented *pro bono* clients through the Legal Network, continuing the tradition of his father and colleague, Gerard Mitchell, also of Stein Mitchell, whom the John Carroll Society recognized with a *Pro Bono* Legal Service Award in 2018.

A partner at Stein Mitchell, Mitchell focuses his legal practice on medical malpractice and serious personal injury. A graduate of the University of Virginia and University of Maryland School of Law, he is a member of the bar in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

Fabian A. Zetina, Esq., of Baker Hostetler has been a key volunteer for the Catholic Charities Legal Network, especially in outreach to the Spanish-speaking community. He took part in a live broadcast on Radio America in November 2023 and shared on the air in Spanish the services offered by the Catholic Charities Legal Network. As a result, the Legal Network received many telephone calls from Spanish-speaking residents in need of *pro bono* civil legal services. Since 2023, Zetina has conducted second stage intake for potential clients through the Legal Network's telephone intake line.

An associate at Baker Hostetler, Zetina represents clients throughout Central America and other countries in international arbitration matters. He received a master of Legal Letters degree from Columbia Law School and his law degree from Universidad Francisco Marroquin Law School in Guatemala. He is a member of the District of Columbia and New York bars.

Wiley Rein, LLP, conducts telephone intake for the Catholic Charities' Legal Network at least three days a month. The firm has conducted thorough consultations with callers, many of whom have never conversed with an attorney in their lives, about their civil legal matters. The Wiley Rein volunteers know how to make our callers feel comfortable in expressing their concerns, such as domestic relations disputes, bankruptcy and consumer fraud matters, tenant disputes, and public entitlements denials. Wiley Rein has accepted complicated landlord/tenant and public entitlement cases from the Legal Network. Wiley Rein has also been a major donor to the Legal Network's annual golf tournaments.

By Maureen Boyle and reprinted from the Catholic with permission.

Former Member of Congress Speaks at Top of the Town

On September 24 John Carroll Society members gathered at the Top of the Town venue for an inspiring evening against the stunning backdrop of Washington, D.C. and Northern, Va. With the George Washington Monument peeking through the clouds and the lights of Arlington, Va. illuminating the night sky, the atmosphere was truly picturesque. The highlight of the evening was a talk by the Hon. Michael Ferguson, a dedicated Catholic, JCS Board Member and former Congressman who shared his reflections on Washington's political climate.

Members brought donations of socks for men, women, and children to benefit Catholic Charities in Washington, D.C. The collection quickly grew so large that volunteers had to set up an additional table to accommodate the donations. This support echoed the generosity of John Carroll, the first Catholic bishop of the

United States, as well as signified the hope and faith present in the faithful.

A heartwarming thanks to the Byrne Family for allowing the use of their beautiful venue for fellowship as board members reunited while new young professionals connected for the first time. Msgr. Vaghi opened the event with a prayer honoring the Blessed Mother, setting a reflective tone for the evening.

Rep. Ferguson captivated the audience with his personal story, sharing how he met his wife through the John Carroll Society, drawing an audible "aww" from attendees. He spoke with optimism and humility, highlighting his reliance on faith to navigate the complexities of Washington. He emphasized the importance of prayer, advising members to kneel by their beds each night and seek God's guidance, a reminder that faith is essential for facing life's ups and downs.



John Carroll Society Photo

From left to right: Hon. Michael Ferguson, speaker; Eileen Moore, president; and Msgr. Peter Vaghi, chaplain at the Top of the Town event.

Rep. Ferguson noted the Catholic Church offers the resources needed to tackle life's challenges, including the support of the Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, personal prayer, and engagement with the Catholic edu-

cation community. He highlighted the role of Catholic schools in instilling the faith in his children. His bipartisan approach earned him respect among colleagues, but he humbly noted that being a friendly person is simply part of living out one's Catholic faith.

As the evening concluded, the attendees continued their mission of service, with donations benefiting not only Catholic Charities but also the Mario E. Dorsonville Foundation, which supports the homeless in Washington, D.C. Thank you to everyone who gathered to deepen their commitment to faith and service of the Archdiocese of Washington.

Chaplain Keynote and Baseball at Nats Park

On May 21 the John Carroll Society gathered for its annual evening at Nationals Park, organized with the kind assistance of Ray McKenna, JCS member and Catholic Athletes for Christ (CAC) president.

The evening began with an informative and humorous talk by Father Andrew Fisher, the Washington Nationals chaplain. Father Fisher doubles as pastor at St. Ambrose Church in Annandale, Va. and is well suited to his baseball ministry. The priest starred on the mound while in college for Mount Saint Mary's, a Division I school in Emmitsburg, Md. and before that for the District's Gonzaga High School Eagles. He joked about how convenient once his playing days were over he merely walked next door to enroll at The Mount's renowned Seminary.

Father Fisher presented "A Day in the Life of a Major League Baseball Chaplain" to about 30 members prior to the night's first pitch. The priest related how his work has grown in tandem with CAC's outreach to all MLB teams



At center Father Andrew Fisher, chaplain of the Nationals and pastor of St. Ambrose Parish in Annandale, Va. with pitchers Derek Law at left and Trevor Williams. Father Fisher presented a brief talk at the Nats Outing.

as Sunday Mass is now held in every professional baseball stadium for those who are otherwise occupied with game day preparations. At Nats Park the Mass venue is the room where Manager Davey Martinez holds press conferences, so reporters who arrive early for pre-game discussion are surprised to find Msgr. Fisher and several players and staffers immersed in the liturgy and receiving Holy Communion. Msgr. Fisher's service to the Nats reaches beyond the stadium – he provides sacramental assistance to players' families, and faith counseling to non-Catholics at the team's community outreach events.

At game time our group filled a block of seats beside right field to see the Nationals take on the American League Central's Minnesota Twins. Although the Twins took the field with a seven-game losing streak, Nats pitcher Patrick Corbin gave up a trio of two-run homers to fall behind 6-0 by the fifth inning. The home team's offense, unable to find their bats, struggled to overcome Corbin's league-worst ERA. Despite the 10-0 interleague loss, our group enjoyed beautiful spring weather and fellowship. We look forward to seeing the Nats notch a win next season.

By Chris Mitchell



Society members always enjoy the annual Nationals Park outing.

A Harping Lawyer

Music has long been a passion for Dana Gotfryd. A cradle Catholic, she grew up in the fortuitously named Harmony, Pa., a small borough outside Pittsburgh. Her mother, a convert, nurtured her faith. But then her fraternal twin sister, a fellow musician, passed away unexpectedly. Dana grappled with the weight of the loss.

Years of lukewarm Mass attendance followed. A breakthrough came at the prestigious New England Conservatory, where Dana was earning her masters in harp performance. Dana somberly interpreted Rhapsodie pour la Harpe by Marcel Grandjany, a piece that borrowed from the Easter Vigil chant *Salve festa dies* or “Hail festal day.” When her teacher emphasized the theme of redemption in Grand-

jany’s composition, Dana realized that the piece in fact embodied joy—the joy of faith and the promise of resurrection.

Her faith came alive. In law school, first at Georgetown and then at Harvard, Dana took the lead in organizing Catholic events. She found that her fellow law students, to paraphrase Fulton Sheen, didn’t hate the Catholic Church but rather what they wrongly perceived it to be.

Along the way she met her Polish husband, Przemek. They came from different cultural backgrounds but shared a rural upbringing. They also shared their faith. When she visited Poland, Dana was struck by how Catholicism seemed



woven into the fabric of daily life.

Following law school, Dana clerked for Thomas Hardiman on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She then began practicing law at Williams & Connolly, where she was invited to join JCS this past year by fellow attorneys Rich Cleary and Phil Ward. She soon came to appreciate the

Society’s intergenerational community, as well as its non-lawyers. Within a few months, Dana had found her key, introducing this year’s Top of the Town speaker on behalf of the Young Adult Fellowship. She remains excited for future JCS events. “Sharing your faith with people is a wonderful and beautiful thing,” Dana says.

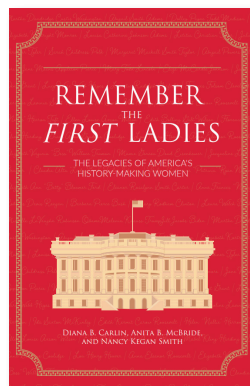
By Robert Smith

Book on First Ladies Offers Engaging Read

Society member Anita McBride co-authored a highly engaging book about *America’s First Ladies – Remember the First Ladies: The Legacies of America’s History-Making Women*, by Diana B. Carlin, Anita B. McBride, and Nancy Kegan Smith (Cognella Press 2024, \$ 29.95). Over 500 pages, this work spans a range of intriguing topics, with specific attention to many of the 41 wives (and daughters or nieces) who held this position.

Members may be familiar with McBride’s credentials – she is Director of the First Ladies Initiative at American University after previously serving in three presidential administrations at the White House and the Department of State and was Chief of Staff to First Lady Laura Bush. Co-author Carlin is Professor Emeritus of Communications at Saint Louis University, and Smith was Director of the Presidential Materials Division of the National Archives and Records Administration.

The authors provide an historical account of First Ladies, from Martha



Washington to Jill Biden, focusing on how a number of them carved out unique roles. The authors note a perennial challenge for a president’s wife – “in being true to herself and fulfilling a role that has no constitutional or elected basis, no salary, and no rule book.” Some like Eleanor Roosevelt, were forthright activists; “Bess” Truman wanted to avoid the spotlight. Edith Wilson may have been the de facto president after President Wilson’s 1918 stroke; “Mamie” Eisenhower, with her background as

a general’s wife, tended to follow a more traditional role. “Lady Bird” Johnson actively worked for her husband’s election and engaged in a then-novel campaign of environmental beautification. The authors also offer First Ladies’ perspectives on race and civil rights, efforts to elevate and formalize the status of the Office, and preservation of the White House.

This book is quite readable, tries to be even-handed and avoid partisanship, and provides an unprecedented glimpse into the lives and careers of the First Ladies.

By Ted Hirt

Brunch Speaker to Share Legacies of U.S. First Ladies

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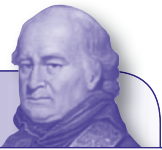
in the White House. She was asked to help plan Pope Benedict XVI’s 2008 visit to the White House, which she shared with Society members in her first January Brunch presentation.

She joined the Society the following year. “It is rewarding to be a member of an organization where the mission, drawn from one of the most wonderful tenets of our faith to serve others, is devoted to meeting the needs of so many in our community,” McBride added. “I am inspired by JCS members and their examples of being servant leaders and giving so much time and talents to fulfill that mission and make a difference in people’s lives.”

McBride will be available for a book signing at the Brunch - an annual event that highlights Catholic education and focuses on members of the academic community. This year the brunch will follow the 10 a.m. Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany at St. Patrick’s Church in D.C. The principal celebrant is scheduled to be Father Patrick Lewis, pastor St. Patrick’s and the homilist will be Father Mark Ivany, Director of Priest Vocations for the archdiocese.

By Lynnea Mumola

MEMBER NEWS



■ Philippa Bacon and JCS members **Dennis Lucey, Colleen Mudlaff, Dr. Eileen Moore and Dr. Jackie (DeGroot) Wieneke** recently participated in the 8th annual McKenna Center Walk. Four hundred participants raised \$109,000. The proceeds from this year's Walk4McKenna will enable the McKenna Center to serve more than 20,000 nutritious meals to men experiencing homelessness and provide groceries to more than 750 families experiencing food insecurity in the next year.

■ Former Society President **Jeffrey H. Paravano**, a partner at Baker Hostetler, led a team of attorneys in a federal tax case in the Supreme Court's 2024 session.

■ **Deacon Darryl Kelley** became the first permanent deacon to deliver the homily at the annual Red Mass. This summer he moved to a new parish, St. John the Evangelist in Clinton, Md.

■ **John M. Lynham, Jr.** has joined Offit Kurman in Bethesda, Md. as Principal.

■ **Msgr. Peter Vaghi** was honored as Clergy of the Year by the Catholic Business Network of D.C. at the 10th Annual Gala supporting Catholic Education on Oct. 10.



■ **Carolyn D. Ruyak** has moved on from her position as staff attorney at the Catholic Charities Legal Network. In her capacity Carolyn organized all of the Legal Network's Golf Tournaments, managed grant reporting, and assisted clients in their legal intakes and referrals. Carolyn worked as a staff attorney from 2006-2009, later served as a volunteer, and then worked again for the Legal Network from 2021-2024. In her time, she successfully recruited and maintained *pro bono* relationships with hundreds of attorneys and trained them to serve the underrepresented low-income residents of the Archdiocese of Washington.

■ On June 20 **John McCarthy** was honored with the D.C. Bar's 2024 Laura Rinaldi *Pro Bono* Lawyer of the Year Award. He was recognized at this year's D.C. Bar Celebration of Leadership at the Westin Washington, D.C. Downtown Hotel. A longtime volun-

teer attorney with the Legal Network, John has accepted *pro bono* cases from the Network in such areas as child custody and consumer matters, as well as assisting the staff with legal ethics issues. He has served on the Advisory Council, is a member of the Golf Tournament Committee, and is currently Honorary Chairman Emeritus of the Legal Network's Advisory Council.

■ Catholic Charities Legal Network Director **Jim Bishop** received the 2024 Father Bob Brown, OSFS Good Samaritan Award from Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR!) on Nov. 1. The award honored Bishop's nearly four decades of outstanding service to those in need.



DECEASED MEMBERS

Please pray for the repose of the soul of the following members and friends of the John Carroll Society:

William Paravano
Richard MacKinnon
Cathleen Poland

Call on the Spirit for Help

Continued from page 1

ance of the Spirit of truth and gifts," he said.

Deacon Kelley described being personally humbled at the invitation to preach the Red Mass homily. "Unlike many luminaries who have given the Red Mass homily over the years, I am not a cardinal. I am not an archbishop or bishop. I'm not a priest. I am a deacon, which means 'servant,'" he said.

Ordained to the diaconate in 2019, Deacon Kelley is an attorney, a former Maryland state legislator, a former deputy U.S. marshal, and a 2009 convert to Catholicism. He serves on the Board of Governors for the John Carroll Society, is a chaplain at the Kennedy School for students with disabilities, and is an assistant chaplain for a group of young Catholic professionals in Virginia. The deacon also assists the Catholic Charities Legal Network noting, "People out here

are going through a lot of things in life. I want to help people with the everyday issues of their lives."

Deacon Kelley pointed to the example of the first deacon in Scripture, St. Stephen. "He humbly, courageously, fearlessly and powerfully advocated for our Lord, Jesus Christ and spoke what we call today 'truth to power.'" All lawyers "should always humbly remember that, however tempting the levers of power may be, we are not the masters of the law and justice, but are servants," the deacon added.

A lawyer's witnessing and wisdom, said Deacon Kelley, are needed in today's divided world. "We understand that just because we are adversaries in the courtroom, we need not be adversaries



Photo by Christopher Newkumet

Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory, the main celebrant at the annual Red Mass receives offertory gifts from students attending law schools at local universities

in life. This wisdom of coming together is a much-needed, fruitful example that we must work to share with the greater society and culture," he said.

Excerpted from an article by Maureen Boyle, Catholic Standard and reprinted with permission. For the complete article by Maureen Boyle follow this link: <https://www.cathstan.org/local/the-gifts-of-the-holy-spirit-can-guide-the-work-of-law-homilist-says-at-annual-red-mass>



John Carroll Society
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 Glen Echo, MD 20812

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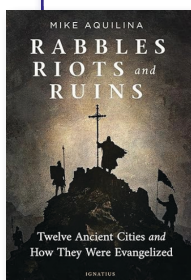
For more information on the programs and services sponsored by the Society, contact: Tracy Ferridge, Executive Director, by phone at (301) 654-4399.



BOOK REVIEW by Ted Hirt

Christian Scholarship and Narrative Combine in Tour of Ancient Cities

Mike Aquilina, Rabbles, Riots, and Ruins: Twelve Ancient Cities and How They Were Evangelized (Ignatius Press, 2024, \$17.95).



I always look forward to reading a book by Mike Aquilina, a prolific writer on the Church's early history. In the Pentecost 2023 Carroll Citizen, I reviewed *The Apostles and Their Times* (2017) and *The Fathers of the Early Church* (2013).

In *Rabbles, Riots, and Ruins*, Aquilina provides a fascinating account of some of the principal cities associated with the rise of Christianity. Many are obvious, such as Rome, Jerusalem, and Ephesus. But Aquilina explores the rich history and spiritual legacy of nine other sites. For many readers, the ancient Catholic heritage of these cities will be a welcome surprise.

The Roman Empire recognized communities organized themselves into cities, which in turn became centers of

commerce, government, religious practices, and considerable unrest, including violent rioting. The Jewish community, out of which Christianity arose, centered its principal synagogue (the Temple) in Jerusalem. While the Roman Empire tolerated many religious sects, Christianity – at times enduring persecution – flourished in the urban areas. As Aquilina notes, the word “pagan” meant a “country dweller!” The author presents an abbreviated, but fascinating tour of 12 of these cities. Here I provide a glimpse of several.

We can begin with Antioch, now a small city in southeastern Turkey, founded by one of Alexander the Great's generals. Although a Greek-speaking city in the middle of a Syrian country, it had many Jewish residents. The site where Saints Paul and Barnabas preached is also where the disciples were first called Christians (Acts 11:26). Unfortunately, the Arian

heresy – the belief that Jesus Christ was a created being, not coeternal with the Father – also germinated there. On a positive note, Antioch was the home of Saint John Chrysostom (b. circa 347 AD). A desert ascetic, this eloquent theologian became an orator in the Greek tradition, and his sermons urged Christians to avoid pagan practices and maintain their religious identity.

Carthage in northern Africa (located in modern-day Tunisia), first an enemy of Rome, later a city begun anew after Roman conquest, emerged as a vibrant center of Christianity. A center of Latin literary culture, Carthage included prominent early Christian writers like Tertullian (b. circa 155 A.D.) and Saint Cyprian (b. circa 200 A.D.), who ultimately died as a martyr. last, but not least, Saint Augustine (b. 354 A.D.), whose *Confessions* are renowned as the first autobiography. In *City of God*, Saint Augustine explained Christians will suffer in the secular world but we belong to God's city, not to this world. Saint Augustine's perspective no doubt was influenced by the siege of Africa by the Vandals.

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