MESSAGE FROM ROBERT DENNIS, PRESIDENT CANADIAN CATHOLIC HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Dear Members of the CCHA:

The CCHA is in the midst of back-to-back banner years.

At the Annual Meeting last May, the Association welcomed its partners from the Holy Cross Trust (Halifax), Saint Mary’s University, and an esteemed field of researchers from North America and Europe for what was dubbed, “Irish Day at the CCHA.” The one-day symposium that opened the Annual Meeting was part of the CCHA’s contribution to the $250,000 SSHRC Partnership Development Grant awarded in the spring of 2013. Now, two years later, project contributors are busily working on a first-class essay collection that will be disseminated to CCHA members, as a benefit of membership, in the near future.

The CCHA has now turned its attention to our next gathering—during the first week of June at the University of Ottawa. The Congress theme for 2015 is “Capital Ideas,” and the CCHA’s programme will feature a number of special events: a keynote talk by Dr. Jacalyn Duffin based upon her monograph, Medical Saints: Cosmas and Damian in the Post-Modern World; the highly-anticipated book launch of Peter Ludlow’s, The Canny Scot: Archbishop James Morrison of Antigonish; and the rollout of the CCHA’s multi-year Indexing Project of Historical Studies adeptly completed by Brian Hogan and Hogan Historical, Indexing and Scanning Services. The CCHA will also collaborate with McGill-Queen’s University Press on an evening to celebrate Rev. Fr. Edward Jackman, O.P., for his tireless intellectual and financial support of Canadian Catholic history and the MQUP’s “Studies in the History of Religion Series” – now celebrating 100 published volumes! Professor Donald Harmon Akenson, Series Editor and Douglas Professor of Canadian and Colonial History at Queen’s University, will deliver a banquet address in Fr. Jackman’s honour. The CCHA’s 82nd Annual Meeting is set to be a very special gathering, and, on behalf of the entire CCHA Executive, I look forward to welcoming and visiting with you on June 3rd and 4th, 2015!

With best wishes,

Robert Dennis
CCHA President &
Annual Meeting Program Chair
MEMBERSHIP REPORT

There are currently 253 members of the CCHA from countries of Canada, United States, Italy, Germany, United Kingdom and Japan. The membership count is continually shifting with increased memberships just prior to our Annual conference and then a decrease in membership renewals in the new year.

We encourage new CCHA conference speakers, and new members to consider the ongoing benefits of the CCHA for the encouragement of Canadian Catholic education. All members who are interested in becoming Executive Members are welcome to approach any current Executive Member with their enthusiasm to become more involved with the CCHA. Another way to become involved is to submit photo’s or information to our twitter account @cchahistory or to submit articles for consideration to our Bulletin Editor, Jacqueline Gresko.

All CCHA members can participate in our conference reduced hotel rates. We generally try to book our hotel rooms very early and together in order to obtain the best rate possible but also to encourage camaraderie between members. All rooms are held in a block by a group rate and therefore, only your intention to stay is required as early as possible. Another benefit to staying as a group is that our conference banquet is often located at the same hotel where we are staying. As the CCHA Administrator, Valerie Burke will always include any member with our bookings for hotel and banquet so please keep in touch with the CCHA office. No member of the CCHA will ever be excluded for financial reasons. Make your wishes known!

Please remember to email valerieburke@cchahistory.ca with your address changes prior to the mailing of our bulletins or journal as it becomes very costly to re-send any land mail.

Valerie Burke, CCHA Administrator, Toronto, ON

NOTICE OF AWARD
JAMES F. KENNEY PRIZE

Do you teach courses that deal with Roman Catholicism? Do you want to see one of your students honoured for their hard work and excellent research? Do you want to promote up and coming undergraduate and graduate students working in the field of Canadian Roman Catholic history? If you’ve nodded in agreement with any of these questions, than please consider submitting your student’s work, completed at either the undergraduate or graduate levels, to vie for the prestigious James F. Kenney Prize!

This prize, named in honour of the Canadian Catholic Historical Association’s founder, James F. Kenney (1884-1946), is awarded annually for the best essay on any aspect of the history of Canadian Catholicism written at the undergraduate or graduate levels.

Conditions: entries must be undergraduate or graduate essays between 2500 and 5000 words in length, and they must deal substantively with the history of Roman Catholicism in Canada. The author must be a part-time or a full-time undergraduate or graduate student in a degree program at an accredited university or college in Canada. The essay must have been written to meet the requirement of an undergraduate or graduate credit course during the current academic year.

Submissions: entries must be submitted by course instructors no later than 15 June 2015. No instructor shall submit more than two entries. Essays must be typed neatly and should not indicate the instructor’s comments or grade. Essays may also be submitted electronically. Entries should be sent to the President, Canadian Catholic Historical Association [Dr. Robert Dennis, Department of Religious Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, 550 University Ave., Charlottetown, PE C1A 4P3 or rdennis@upei.ca].

Adjudication: entries will be judged by a panel determined by the CCHA. The winner will be announced in the autumn of 2015. There will be no runners-up or honorary mentions. The CCHA reserves the right not to award a prize in a given year should applications not be of sufficient quality.

Prize: $ 500
In this book, theologian and sociologist Gregory Baum once again performs the important service of reporting on Catholic life in French Quebec to anglophones. This is not, however, a straightforward survey of theology in Quebec since the Quiet Revolution. Because Baum’s central argument is that Quebecois theologians since the 1960s have been creating a contextual theology that aims for relevance, Baum also builds in an account of social, cultural and political developments in Quebec and beyond in the last six decades.

Baum’s starting point is two revolutions of the 1960s – the secularizing Quiet Revolution in Quebec and the Second Vatican Council in the Church, which together led to both a new social and political reality for Quebec Catholics and a Church willing to acknowledge the importance of doing theology that is rooted in a particular context. The rest of the book presents ways in which Quebecois theologians have worked to craft such a new theology in a changed context.

Baum begins his account of Quebecois theology with a chapter each on two thinkers, Fernand Dumont (1927-1997) and Jacques Grand’Maison (b. 1931), who for Baum set the parameters for the theological developments that follow. Both thinkers experience conversions that bring them to embrace their traditional faith anew, moving beyond an acceptance of doctrine to a faith that calls for social critique and action. Baum explains this shift as a move from traditional theism to panentheism that sees creation as an unfinished reality requiring humans actively to cooperate with God in the ongoing redemption of the world.

Important also are the ways in which Dumont and Grand’Maison do their theology. Dumont, a layman and sociologist, produced traditional academic and often highly theoretical work, but at the same time was deeply involved in addressing contemporary issues. Thus, Dumont led the eponymous Commission for the Study of the Laity and the Church set up in the late 1960s by the Quebec episcopate to investigate the impact of the Quiet Revolution on the Church. Jacques Grand’Maison is a priest, theologian and poet whose work is more popular in tone, though he has also made significant contributions to contemporary issues in Quebec, such as his 1970 Nationalisme et religion. For Baum, these two thinkers exemplify the theology to come – scholarly but addressing contemporary issues and often communicated in ways that are not limited to traditional academic discourse.

The remaining six chapters in the book are thematic. In “Jesus Greater than the Church” Baum examines bishops and theologians writing about Jesus’ identity and its implications for ecclesiology. Attention is given to Jesus’ pastoral actions and to the pluralism of early churches as models for new ways of organizing the Church in Quebec. The chapter “Faith and Justice” outlines the importance of justice and the option for the poor as a locus from which theology is done. Of particular concern for Baum is the recent impact in Quebec of neo-liberalism and the ensuing rejection of the social democratic trajectory of the Quiet Revolution. Thus, he highlights bishops, theologians and grassroots communities that have criticized this development. “In Christ Neither Male nor Female” gives a summary of the work of feminist theologians, examining the ambivalent role and perception of women in Quebec history. “Catholic Faith and Cultural Catholicism” reports on the lively debates among theologians and hierarchy about how to deal with an enduring majority of Quebecois who identify as Catholics, expect their child to be baptized, and anticipate a Christian burial without, however, participating in any other aspects of organized Church life. “Faith and the Magisterium” tackles the question of how to square magisterial teaching authority with historical change in Catholic doctrine, an issue which Baum insists is not just of theological interest, but one that has confused Catholics, especially those raised before Vatican II. Lastly, “The Challenge of Pluralism” assesses the way in which Quebec society has responded to the influx of new immigrants often professing different faiths. The key issue here is how the Quebecois both honour the human dignity and traditions of newcomers, while safeguarding the collective French identity of Quebec. Baum also broaches the reality of Native Canadians in Quebec, which has been virtually ignored, particularly in Catholic circles.
Baum models a number of his theological concerns in this book. He engages in the dialogue that he so highly values by making himself one of the interlocutors. He recalls his initial opinions of Dumont’s theology when Baum served on Dumont’s doctoral committee. He quotes his own earlier works when they are relevant and help to underscore an argument. Nor is the dialogue limited to people reading each others texts, rather it is one between live human beings who meet each other at various gatherings, in which they may agree to disagree but do so while maintaining genuine bonds of affection, as illustrated by Baum’s relationship to Claude Ryan.

The other important interlocutor that appears throughout this volume is the magisterium. Popes, particularly Benedict XVI and somewhat less frequently John Paul II, are quoted at length, most often to show how their thinking resonates with ideas developed by Quebec theologians. Baum is also fond of bringing in the thought of the young Joseph Ratzinger to support the more contentious insights of Quebec’s religious thinkers. Canada’s bishops are also given a voice.

This book thus provides us with a window into theology in Quebec in the last half century. Penned when Baum was ninety years old, Truth and Relevance is also a testament to a generation. Perhaps this is why his contemporaries, Dumont and Grand’Maison, are allotted a chapter each. This is a generation that was formed in the pre-Vatican II era, was deeply engaged in the revolutionary excitement of the Council and the social upheaval of the 1960s and 70s, but was subsequently disappointed that the revolutions did not take root in the Church as they had hoped. They continue to call for more substantive changes that will make the Church both truthful and relevant.

Indre Cuplinskas, St. Joseph’s College, University of Alberta

CURRENT PUBLICATIONS Spring 2015 compiled by Fred McEvoy, CCHA Book Editor


COAST TO COAST:

Peter Ludlow's *The Canny Scot: Archbishop James Morrison of Antigonish* will be launched at the CCHA annual meeting. This volume is part of McGill-Queen's University Press Studies in the History of Religion.

Peter Ludlow and his family are also celebrating the recent arrival of son Rory. From left to right: Daughter Payson, Peter Ludlow and son Rory

As CCHA Member at Large, Peter Ludlow continues to run a Twitter account for the CCHA. You can find a direct Twitter feed on our website cchahistory.ca.

If you wish to TWEET the CCHA please do so by using @cchahistory. Feel free to tweet your Catholic History related conferences, publications and events!

Robert Dennis, CCHA President, reports discussion with Mark McGowan, representatives of the Holy Cross Trust and St. Mary's University Halifax regarding the SSHRC Partnership Grant and a future publication.

From Quebec: the Janvier 2015 *Bulletin de la Société canadienne de l’histoire de l’Eglise catholique* notes the publication by Fides of a work by Christine Hudon, Louise Bienvenue and Ollivier Hubert: *Le collège classique pour garçon. Etudes historiques sur une institution québécoise disparue*.

From Ontario: Elizabeth Smyth's biography of Mary Ann Whelan, named Sister Perpetua, member of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph (1870-1938) was featured as the biography of the week by the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* in October 2014.

Two books on Jesuits in English-speaking Canada edited by Jacques Monet, S.J. *Teachers of a Nation and Builders of a Nation*, are listed in the recent publications. Peter Baltutis, CCHA Vice-President, contributed to volume 2. The books were launched in Toronto April 23, 2015.

Father Edward Jackman 75th Birthday Celebrations during 2015

On Friday afternoon, March 13, 2015 King's College at the University of Western, London, Ontario helped celebrate Father Jackman's 75th Birthday as well as the meditation room that the Jackman Foundation sponsored. Pictured here are Father Jackman with David Sylvester, Principal of King's College, and the three Bishops of London Diocese.

CCHA Executive Celebrates Father Jackman's birthday at their February 20th meeting

The Archivist's Pencil posts from the Archives of the Archdiocese of Toronto

reposted on our cchahistory.ca site celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life, for example the April 18 post on Franciscans in Ontario.

MC Havey, CCHA Secretary and Margaret Sanche, CCHA past-president, are organizing the conference of the Catholic Archivist Group in Saskatoon in the Fall of 2015. Details can be found on the CCHA website.

Indre Cuplinskas, Editor of the CCHA Historical Studies, reports that she has been awarded tenure at St. Joseph’s College, Edmonton, Alberta. She is the first woman and the first Canadianist to receive this distinction.


Indre Cuplinskas (photo credit – Richard Siemens, UofA)

Raymond Huel’s biography of Emile Grouard, o.m.i., was featured as biography of the week by the Dictionary of Canadian Biography February 11, 2015.

British Columbia - CCHA members will remember visiting St. Ann’s Academy historic site in Victoria B.C. during our 2013 conference. The Sisters of St. Ann were pioneer educators in British Columbia, founding schools across the province. The Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the pioneer male missionary congregation in the province, also founded schools but focused more on missions. 2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of St. Ann’s Academy by the Sisters of St. Ann and St. Louis College by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in New Westminster B.C. The Oblates had founded St. Ann’s Academy Victoria in 1858 and the same year the Oblates had founded St. Louis College in Victoria. Seven years later in 1865 the Sisters of St. Ann founded a new St. Ann’s school in New Westminster, and the Oblate Fathers founded a new St. Louis College in the same city. The Oblates withdrew from the Victoria college. It was administered by the diocese and later the Christian Brothers. The Oblates ran St. Louis College in New Westminster B.C. until 1917. The Sisters of St. Ann ran St. Ann’s Academy in New Westminster until 1968. Jacqueline Gresko, editor CCHA Bulletin and St. Ann’s alumna, will give a talk on the history of the schools at the New Westminster Historical Society October 21, 2015 in the auditorium of the New Westminster Public Library, 716 – 6th Avenue, New Westminster, BC.

NOTE ON ST. JOSEPH’S CHURCH, OTTAWA

St. Joseph’s Church, Ottawa, will be the location for the June 3, 2015 Liturgy. According to Planted by Flowing Water: the Diocese of Ottawa 1847-1997, by Pierre Hurtubise, Mark McGowan and Pierre Savard, St. Joseph’s is one of its oldest parishes in the Archdiocese.

St. Joseph’s church, Ottawa, location of CCHA Liturgy, June 3, 2015

The Oblate Fathers built the first church there in 1856-57. They enlarged it and then replaced it in 1893. The second church burned down in 1930. The third and present church was blessed in 1932. Among the Oblates associated with St. Joseph’s were James M. McGuckin who oversaw the building of the second church and “the controversial” Michael Fallon, who was pastor from 1898 to 1901, and “later bishop of London, Ontario.”

Research on James McGuckin, (1835-1903) for the Dictionary of Canadian Biography shows that he was also controversial. He came from Ireland to British Columbia in 1863. He served in Oblate missions to First Nations, as an educational administrator and as a pastor.
in urban communities. Appointed rector of the university of Ottawa in 1889, McGuckin was welcomed by Irish Catholics. They saw him as champion in their campaign for an English Catholic institution, while the largely francophone university staff saw him as a threat. When McGuckin’s health failed in 1898 he returned to British Columbia. Assigned to Holy Rosary parish in the booming city of Vancouver, he tried to raise funds to build a grand church. That church, completed in 1900, three years before his death, is the present cathedral of the Archdiocese of Vancouver. In the early 1900s it was nicknamed “McGuckin’s folly,” as it was considered too large for the size of the Catholic population in the city, and because its construction left a huge debt.

More might be said on the characters and the controversies in the history of Holy Rosary and St. Joseph’s parishes and the way these are linked to the Oblate congregation, the University of Ottawa and Catholic communities in other parts of Canada.

Looking forward to meeting with you at the University of Ottawa and at St. Joseph’s Church June 3, 2015.

Jacqueline Gresko

FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK:

I would like to thank Fred McEvoy, Valerie Burke and Father Edward Jackman for assistance with production of the CCHA Bulletin.

Members of the CCHA will be given the option of electronic delivery of the Bulletin in 2016

Please send me information on your research interests, recent publications, notes and comments, news and events, and photographs of the latter. Send emails to jgresko@cchahistory.ca. Regular mail can be sent to me at the CCHA address History Office 508, 10 St Mary Street, Toronto ON M4Y 1P9, and it will be forwarded to me in British Columbia.

Jacqueline Gresko, Editor, CCHA Bulletin

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The Bulletin is published in the Spring and the Fall of each year by the Canadian Catholic Historical Association. Notices, letters, calls for papers, and short articles are welcome on topics of interest to historians. Deadlines for submission are 1 October and 1 March. See CCHA website cchahistory.ca

The Canadian Catholic Historical Association would like to acknowledge the generous support of the Jackman Foundation of Toronto, SSHRC, and our personal benefactors of 2015.
Elizabeth Smyth, Rosa Bruno-Jofré, and Heidi MacDonald presented a panel on transnational influences in Canadian congregations of women religious at the The Nun in the World Symposium, which was sponsored by Notre Dame University's Centre for the Study of Catholicism in America in London, England in May 2015.

2016 CONGRESS OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES and the Annual CCHA 83rd Conference

University of Calgary-Calgary, Alberta

May 28 - June 3, 2016