



Newsletter of the Texas Catholic Historical Society

# TEXAS CATHOLIC HISTORIAN

Winter 2021

## TCHS to Hold Virtual Meeting this Year

The Texas Catholic Historical Society (TCHS) annual meeting will be on Saturday, March 6, this year at 9:30 a.m. Unlike other years, we will hold the meeting online via Zoom. Members will receive an email asking them to register for the meeting, and they will be provided with a link to the meeting. **If TCHS does not have a current email for you, please send your email address to Selena Aleman at [selena@txcatholic.org](mailto:selena@txcatholic.org).**

Although it is a challenge

to have the meeting online, it represents an opportunity to include members who are not able to travel across Texas to the annual meeting.

TCHS traditionally holds our annual meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Texas State Historical Association

(TSHA) in the spring. This year, as with so many organizations, TSHA is holding their annual meeting online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. TSHA sessions will be available for people to view between February 17 through March 6.

As is customary, TCHS will sponsor a session at TSHA. Our session, "American and Mexican Catholics Partner to Fight Anti-Catholic Persecution in Mexico," will be presented by Madeleine Olson, Matthew Butler, and Richard Fossey. Claudia



*Last year, Selena Aleman, Claudia Anderson, and Richard Fossey were among the attendees at the annual meeting. This year COVID makes gathering in person impossible. (photo Amanda Bresie)*

Anderson will chair the panel. The panel will focus on persecution of Catholics in Mexico in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and on seminaries founded in Texas and New Mexico to educate Mexican priests.

To view this session, members must register for the TSHA

Conference at: <https://am.tsha.events/>.

### Texas Catholic Historical Society Officers & Executive Council Members

*Claudia Anderson, President*

*Amanda Bresie,  
Vice-President/President-Elect*

*Sr. Madeleine Grace, CVI Past  
President*

*Jennifer Allmon,  
Treasurer*

*Lisa May, Editor of Texas  
Catholic Historian*

*Richard Fossey and Christopher  
Wolfe, Editors of Catholic  
Southwest*

## Amanda Bresie to be named President

Amanda Bresie, who has served as the TCHS Vice-President/President-Elect since 2019, will take over from Claudia Anderson after the close of this year's virtual meeting.

Prior to serving as Vice-President, Amanda served as the editor of the *Texas Catholic Historian* from 2013 to 2019, and she has been a member of the executive board.

She received her BA in History from Kenyon College and an MA in American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. In 2014 she received her PhD in History from Texas Christian University.

Amanda wrote her dissertation on the work of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and Mother Katharine Drexel. She has had articles published in *Catholic Southwest* and the *US Catholic Historian* and has presented at the Texas State Historical Association, the Organization for American Historians, the Southern Association of Women's Historians and the Conference for Historians of Women Religious.

Since 2014, Amanda has taught at Greenhill School in Dallas where she chairs the History Department and teach-



es classes in US and World History as well as Women's History.

## Matthew Butler nominated as Vice-President

Dr. Matthew Butler has agreed to stand as a candidate for the office of TCHS Vice-President/President-Elect for the 2021-2023 term. If elected, he will assume the TCHS presidency in 2023. He is an exceptionally well-qualified and distinguished candidate.

Many TCHS members know Matthew or at least know of him. Matthew has been a history professor at the University of Texas at Austin since 2008, and his areas of particular interest are Post-revolutionary Mexico, local religion, the Cristero Rebellion, Latin American Catholicism, Church-State relations, and agrarian history. He will

be delivering a paper on the Montezuma Seminary in Las Vegas, Nevada at the upcoming panel sponsored by TCHS at the annual conference of the Texas State Historical Association. He has previously contributed to our journal, *Catholic Southwest*.

Matthew received his PhD in Latin American History from the University of Bristol in 2000, and he was a British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge from 2000 to 2003. From Cambridge, he moved to Belfast where he served as a lecturer in Latin American Studies at Queen's



University Belfast before moving to Austin. We are fortunate to have Dr. Butler as a candidate for TCHS leadership.

# A Message from the President

I am happy to report that this has been a very good year for the Society, despite the difficulties we have all encountered due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This year has seen the organization increase its membership and expand its visibility. I am hopeful that we will continue to grow.

The leadership of the Society is in good hands. At the end of our annual meeting this year, I will hand off the office to Amanda Bresie, who has been serving as the Vice President/President Elect. We have recruited Dr. Matthew Butler of the University of Texas at Austin to be a candidate for the office of Vice President/President-Elect. He has an extensive knowledge of the history of religion in the Southwest, and we are very fortunate to have him on board. He has many ideas to help expand our membership among younger historians.

With help from the current editor Dr. Richard Fossey and Dr. Dominic Aquila, we have recruited a new editor, Dr. Chris Wolfe of St. Thomas University to take over from Dr. Fossey as the editor of our journal, *Catholic Southwest*. Our journal, *Catholic Southwest*, continued to garner attention from the Catholic Press Association. Everyone should have received their 2020 issue in December.

During the fall, we contacted our Lifetime Members and asked them to update their information, including giving us their email addresses. We also wrote to members who had let their memberships lapse in the last year or two, and many of those members renewed. Our new website is working well, and visitors to the website can join the Society online. When members do join or renew through the website, they (and their email addresses) are added to a database that we can use to contact them by email. Holding an online meeting would not be possible without these improvements.

I want to thank the members of the Executive Council who have been a great support to me during the two years of my term. I would also like to thank Selena Aleman, the archivist at the Catholic Archives of Texas. She has helped me with numerous administrative tasks. My thanks also to Helen Osman, the webmaster at the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops, who helped design and implement the beautiful new and functional TCHS website.



*Outgoing President Claudia Anderson  
(courtesy of Claudia Anderson)*

Although this year's meeting will be online, I hope it will represent an opportunity to connect with members who would not have been able to travel to Fort Worth (which was the planned meeting site). I am looking forward to the online meeting and seeing all of you—if only virtually! Please remember to join us on March 6. If you are a member, you should receive an email with a link to the meeting.

Claudia Anderson  
President, TCHS

## Journal Continues to Win Honors at CPA

The Catholic Media Conference announced its Catholic Press Awards for 2020 at its annual meeting in July. The Society's journal, *Catholic Southwest: A Journal of History and Culture*, again received honors.

The feature article in our 2019 issue of the journal, "Seeking Solace: Lyndon B. Johnson Turned to the Catholic Church," was awarded second place in the category for articles published in scholarly magazines. Our book re-

view section received honorable mention.

Congratulations go to Richard Fossey, the journal's editor; Claudia Anderson, the author of the article on Lyndon Johnson; Thomas Jodziewicz, editor of the book review section; and the reviewers who submitted book reviews. It is through the hard work and attention of Dr. Fossey and Dr. Jodziewicz that the journal has continued to receive acclaim year after year.

### TEXAS CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### Subscription to *Catholic Southwest* and *Texas Catholic Historian*

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\*In the future, some communications from TCHS may come through email. If we do not have your email address, it will be difficult to keep you updated on Society news.

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**Please return this form, with check or money order, to:**

Texas Catholic Historical Society  
c/o Texas Catholic Archives of Texas  
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You may also subscribe online at <https://txcatholic.org/historical-society/>

The website also has past issues of *Catholic Southwest* and *Texas Catholic Historian*.