

Newsletter of the Texas Catholic Historical Society

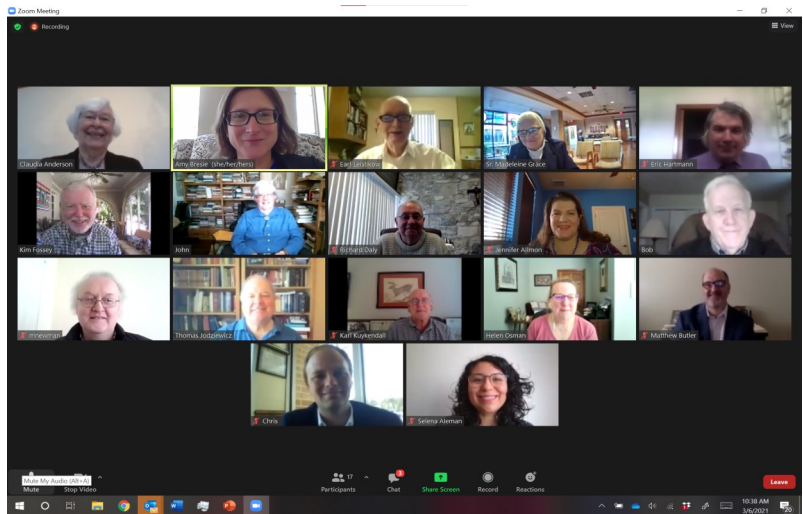
# TEXAS CATHOLIC HISTORIAN

Summer 2021

## TCHS Holds Socially Distanced Zoom Meeting

Like many other events this year, the 2021 TCHS meeting was held over Zoom rather than in person. While everyone missed gathering in person, the teleconferencing platform did allow more people than usual to attend the event.

The March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting coincided with a virtual Texas State Historical Society annual meeting where Matthew Butler and Madeleine Olson and Richard Fossey presented pre-recorded papers and then participated in a live question and



*This year's meeting looked like no other as members gathered on a Zoom call. Hopefully the 2022 meeting will bring us back in person.*

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

*Amanda Bresie, President*

*Matthew Butler,  
Vice-President/President-Elect*

*Claudia Anderson, Past President*

*Jennifer Allmon,  
Treasurer*

*Lisa May, Editor of Texas  
Catholic Historian*

*Christopher Wolfe, Editors of  
Catholic Southwest*

answer session presided over by Claudia Anderson.

Father Robert Wright offered an opening prayer, and the group approved the minutes from the 2020 meeting. President Claudia Anderson then offered her report. The Society had a successful year. Helen Osman designed a new website for the TCHS that allows e-commerce making it easier for people to join and/or renew their memberships. Now notices will automatically be sent to members when it is time to renew making subscription management much more streamlined. Addi-

tionally, Anderson reached out to past members which resulted in a sizeable upswing in paying members.

This year also saw new people join leadership positions. After many years of service, Richard Fossey has stepped down as editor of Catholic Southwest, and Christopher Wolfe has taken over. In addition, Matthew Butler has agreed to serve as Vice-President/President Elect. They have already both been instrumental in efforts to modernize the society and to

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attract new members.

In her report, Anderson noted that *Catholic Southwest* received multiple awards for its 2019 issue from the Catholic Press Association. Claudia Anderson won second place for her article "Seeking Solace: Lyndon B. Johnson Turned to the Catholic Church." Additionally, the Book Review section edited by Tom Jodziewicz won an Honorable Mention.

Next Jennifer Allmon gave a report on TCHS finances. Due to the increase in paying members, the Society is in a much better financial position than it has been in previous years. The Knights of Columbus have continued to give the TCHS a grant to pay for the cost of *Catholic Southwest*.

Selena Aleman, archivist for the Catholic Archives of Texas then presented an update on CAT. COVID-19 led to the temporary closure of the archives, but Aleman has used the time to upgrade CAT's online presence. She added an FAQ section and finding aids to the website. In addition, she put finding aids on the Texas Archival Resources Online page which can be accessed at [legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro](http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro). She has also worked on an upcoming exhibit on Bishop Odin at the French Legation Museum in Austin.

Chris Wolfe and Richard Fossey updated the group on the most recent issue of *Catholic Southwest*. It contained

three articles: Matthew Butler's "The American Douai? The Montezuma Seminary and the U.S. Mexican relations, 1930s-1940s," Amanda Bresie's "Contested Communities: The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in the Southwest," and Petra Munro Hendry's "Sisters on the Frontier: French Catholic Women Educators and the Shaping of the Early American Republic in the Gulf Coast Southwest."



Anderson "presents" a certificate to Richard Fossey. All awards were mailed out.

The 2021 issue will feature articles on religious liberty Mexican and American Catholics fighting anti-Catholic persecution.

As usual the TCHS presented several awards at the meeting. Helen Osman won the Castañeda Award for her work on the redesigned website. The Foik Award for best scholarly book or article went to Mark Newman for, "The Catholic Church in the Diocese of Galveston-Houston and Desegregation, 1945-1984," published in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* in July 2020. The Foley Award for the best article in the 2020 issue of *Catholic*

*Southwest* went to Amanda Bresie for her work on the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. Sister Madeleine Grace, CVI, President of the Society from 2017-2019 was named a Fellow of the Society. Richard Fossey received a certificate of appreciate for his decade of service as editor of the journal.

Anderson brought up several items of new business. In an effort to modernize, the TCHS is trying to do more digital communication. In Winter 2021, it sent out its first online newsletter. This format allows the Society to communicate more easily with membership. Additionally, members discussed plans for a Facebook page and a larger society media presence. Doug Oldmixon from Knights of Columbus

offered his thanks to Selena Aleman and Richard Fossey who assembled 25 sets of all 30 prior journals. The Knights presented journals to 15 bishops of Texas. In addition, they took the 30<sup>th</sup> journal and mailed out to all Catholic colleges and high schools across Texas and included a letter with an invitation to join the society.

The final act of the meeting was to install the new leadership. Matthew Butler was formally elected to serve as Vice President/President Elect, and Amanda Bresie became the President. Claudia Anderson will continue to serve in her capacity as Past President.

## TCHS to Sponsor Mexican History Conference

TCHS is acting as a sponsor of the XVI<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of Historians of Mexico, which will be held at UT-Austin's Thomson Conference Center from 30 October-2 November, 2022. The conference is the longest-running and most important gathering of historians of Mexico, inaugurated in 1948 and hosted every four years by a Mexican or U.S. (or Canadian) city on a rotating basis. The event is being hosted by UT-Austin for the first time since 1958.

This edition of the conference is not only being held in Texas—it commemorates two critical markers in Texas history. On one hand, the conference coincides with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UT-Austin's Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, perhaps the most important



### XVI Reunión Internacional de Historiadores de México

Austin, Texas ‡ 30 Oct - 2 Nov 2022

Latin American collection held in the United States. Much like Dr. Benson did in life, the conference seeks to deepen academic exchange between Texas and Mexican institutions and to forge new paths to understanding our connected history.

The 2022 conference theme, second, “Federalisms in the History of Mexico and Mexican Texas,” makes the event especially important to Texas history and history institutions. Designed as a critical reflection on the nearly 200 years since the signing of Mexico’s 1824 constitution, which inaugurated Mexico’s

federalist political system and gave Texas its first experience in republican self-government as part of the state of Coahuila y Texas, the conference will thus situate Texas history in a larger regional context and explore its critical impact on Mexico’s modern historical trajectory. A conference track on Mexican Texas will ensure that the event serves as an incubator for innovative research on 19<sup>th</sup>-century Texas. Panels on Catholic history usually form a strong part of the program for this event.

Visit <http://xvireunion.utexas.edu> for more details.

## 2022 Annual Meeting to be Held in Austin

Mark your calendars! The next annual Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) conference will be held Thursday, February 24, through Saturday, February 26, 2022, in Austin at the AT&T Hotel and Conference Center on the University of Texas campus. TCHS will sponsor a panel on the history of Catholic health care in Texas. Sr. Pauline

Troncale CCVI will talk about the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word’s role in bringing health care to Texas. Karl Kuykendall will look at the role of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in Central Texas. Selena Aleman will present a paper on The Texas Catholic Conference of Health Facilities based on archival resources at the

Catholic Archives of Texas. Claudia Anderson will chair the panel. Although our TCHS panel is traditionally held on Friday morning, the panel times have not yet been assigned. We will have additional information in our next newsletter or consult the TSHA website at: <https://am.tsha.events/>.

# TCHS Unveils New Mission Statement

*As the TCHS works to grow membership and attract new people to the organization, we thought carefully about our purpose and vision. The result is a new, bilingual mission statement that sums up what we stand for. Let us know what you think!*

## MISSION STATEMENT

To increase understanding of the significance and diversity of Catholic experiences in the history of Texas and the Southwest, and to disseminate that history through research, publication, public programing, and the conservation of Catholic cultural heritage.

## MISIÓN

Dar a conocer la importancia y la diversidad de las experiencias católicas en la historia de Texas y el Suroeste, y diseminar esta historia a través de la investigación, la publicación, la celebración de eventos públicos, y la conservación del patrimonio cultural católico.

## 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.

	Cost	Number	Total
2021 individual subscription	\$20.00	_____	_____
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**Please return this form, with check or money order, to:**

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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*.