



Newsletter of the Texas Catholic Historical Society

# TEXAS CATHOLIC HISTORIAN

Summer 2022

## Society Returns to in Person Meetings

The annual meeting was held in Austin on February 25. Because Amanda Bresie, our President, had been unable to travel to Austin due to a winter storm, our Vice President/President-Elect Matthew Butler presided at the meeting. Father Robert Wright offered an opening prayer. As the first item of business, members approved the minutes from last meeting.

Jennifer Allmon presented the Treasurer's report. She



*This year's panelists Ken Kuykendall, Selena Aleman, and Sr. Pauline Troncale, CCVI presented on Catholic healthcare.*

### **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*

reported TCHS should have a positive balance after the Knights of Columbus annual grant check clears. Jennifer emphasized that TCHS should continue to increase membership.

Selena Aleman presented a report on the Catholic Archives of Texas. CAT began uploading finding aids of collections on [archives.txcatholic.org](http://archives.txcatholic.org). The new website has an easier to search database through ArchivesSpace (a database used nationwide by various archives). Selena is conducting

research for the bishops on Native American history in each diocese; she told the members about an exhibit at the French Legation in Austin which will include the chalice used by Bishop Odin; and she pointed out that next year will be the 100 th anniversary of the finding of the Knights of Columbus Historical Commission, the precursor to TCHS. As a side note, Doug Oldmixon, Past State Deputy for the Texas State Council of the Knights of Columbus, would

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# TCHS Hands Out Multiple Awards

like TCHS to create something on this and/or partner with the Knights and CAT.

Matthew Butler delivered the membership report: We have 95 members. Of these 25 are complimentary memberships given to the bishops of Texas; 19 are institutional memberships; and 51 are individual memberships. Matthew would like to create an active listserv for Texas Catholic historians, students, and members. Jennifer suggested contacting Helen Osman of the TCCB for assistance, and Jennifer will speak with the bishops about asking Catholic university presidents to promote TCHS to history students during their fall meeting at the University of St. Thomas. Reviving the workshops we previously hosted for history might boost membership. Matthew also reported on new social media initiatives. The University of Texas at Austin history department will sponsor a summer intern to create schedule of social media posts using materials from CAT. We should identify a significant date or anniversary for TCHS or Catholic history to launch our social media campaign.

Christopher Wolfe reported on the journal, Catholic South-

which will take place in El Paso. In 2023, we mark the 60th anniversary of the JFK assassination and the panel will include discussions of Catholic responses to the presidency and assassination. The title of the panel will be "Nuestro Kennedy: the JFK Assassination in Mexican-American and Mexican Catholicism," and the presenters will be Gabby Pérez and Dr. Maggie Elmore. Matthew Butler will chair the panel and offer a commentary on the papers.

Claudia Anderson commented on the panel TCHS sponsored this morning, "To Heal and Sustain: Building Catholic Health Care Ministry in Texas, 1866-2017," and the panelists Sister Pauline Troncale, CCVI, Ken Kuykendall, and Selena



*Selena Aleman received the Fitzsimmon Award for her archival work.*

west. He will consider the suggestion to further increase the font size for articles in the journal. He called for submissions for the next journal and talked about potentially publishing the papers from the three panelists the origins of Catholic health care in Texas. He is seeking titles for book reviews.

Mathew reported that he has submitted a proposal to TSHA for a panel presentation at the 2023 annual meeting

Aleman. We had a small audience due to last minute changes in the TSHA schedule, competition with another panel, and bad weather. Our panel was recorded, and TSHA may post it on their website.

We then proceeded to award presentations. Matthew presented the Castañeda Award for service to the TCHS to Claudia Anderson.

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## Multiple Plans for Increasing Membership Discussed

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Matthew announced that the Foik Award would go to Michael J. Pfeifer for his book, *The Making of American Catholicism: Regional Culture and the Catholic Experience*. Chris presented the Foley Award to Matthew Butler for his article "Montezuma's Children: Seminary Exiles and the Transformation of Catholicism in Postrevolutionary Mexico, 1937-1965." Selena Aleman received the FitzSimon Award for processing the collection of records of the Texas Conference of Catholic Health Facilities.

The members discussed several items of new business: Chris Wolfe requested we update the website by separating digital files of the journal into individual articles or book re-

views for easier sharing and searching. Matthew Butler discussed the 16<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Mexican historians hosted at UT September 29 – October 1. TCHS is a sponsor, and members should contact him if interested in attending. Dr. Charles Porter suggested TCHS reach out to locals in El Paso about the panel to increase attendance at the 2023 TSHA meeting, and he offered assistance to members interested in researching at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History. Father Bob Wright also said he could help with contacts in El Paso. Finally, Doug Oldmixon suggested reaching out to Bishop Mark Seitz of El



*Claudia Anderson receives the Casteneda Award for her service to the TCHS from Matthew Butler*

Paso who was involved with the anniversary of St. Pedro de Jesus Maldonado for our 2023 panel/luncheon. The meeting adjourned.

## Social Media Campaign to Begin in Fall

As part of a campaign to increase membership, the TCHS will launch a Facebook page this fall. The Society has hired two interns from the University at Texas who are hard at work on creating the page and creating a database of people who study Texas Catholic History.

Corina Barr is from McAllen, Texas and will be a senior at UT this fall. She is

majoring in history and English with a certificate in Museum Studies. She enjoys medieval history and folklore, but she reports that all history is interesting to her.

Abby Caldwell is from Atascotia, Texas and is also a senior at UT. She studies History and Spanish and is in the Liberal Arts Honors Program, the Jefferson Scholars, and a

spirit group called the Texas Bluebonnets.

The page will pull from the resources at CAT. It will have historical features, book reviews, and archival photographs. It will also be a place where members can get updates on upcoming meetings and events that might interest them. An email will come out before the launch inviting members to like the page..



## 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.*

### 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 programming, 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.

## Society to Co-Sponsor Two Events

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.

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 Latin American collection held in the United States. 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, the conference will thus situate Texas history in a larger regional context and explore its critical impact on Mexico's modern historical trajectory. Panels on Catholic history usually form a strong part of the program for this event. Visit

[xvireunion.utexas.edu](http://xvireunion.utexas.edu) for more details.

Additionally, TCHS and the UT Institute of Historical Studies are co-sponsoring a conference on historian Carlos Castañeda on Wednesday, September 20, 2023.

Castañeda, known for his seven volume work *Our Catholic Heritage in Texas* (1936-1958) also spent years as a political and labor activist. This one day event will bring together more than a dozen scholars who seek to answer the question Why is it that a historian of colonial, Catholic Texas should loom so large as a labor activist and defender of Mexican American rights in the twentieth century? The panels will examine the tensions between his scholarship of colonial Texas, his Catholic faith, and his advocacy for Mexican American workers.

**XVI International Conference: 10/30-11/2 2022**

**Castañeda Event: 9/20 2023**