



Newsletter of the Texas Catholic Historical Society

TEXAS CATHOLIC HISTORIAN

Winter 2023

TCHS Meeting to Take Place in El Paso

The TCHS looks forward to gathering in El Paso during this year's Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting. The Society will gather for Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, a ten minute walk from the convention center at 12:10 on Friday March 3rd.

After Mass, the TCHS will hold its annual business meeting over lunch in one of the meeting rooms at the cathedral. Our hosts at the cathedral offered a tour of the cathedral as well. Please go to the



TCHS will meet at the El Paso Convention Center. Photo from Wikimedia Commons.

Texas Catholic Historical Society Officers & Executive Council Members

Amanda Bresie, President

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Treasurer

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Christopher Wolfe, Editors of *Catholic Southwest*

TCHS website to register and purchase a lunch if you plan to join us in El Paso: <https://txcatholic.org/historical-society/>

The Society also organized a conference panel. This panel will occur on Saturday March 4 at 9:00 a.m. Please note this is different from our usual Friday morning slot. The panel is titled "Nuestro Kennedy: The JFK Assassination in Mexican-American and Mexican Catholicism." The first paper by Gabriela Perez of the University of California at Los Angeles is titled "Catholic Dimensions: John F. Kennedy Cor-

ridos as a Site of Mourning and Memory-Making among Mexican Americans in Texas." Next, Maggie Elmore of Sam Houston State University will present her work entitled "Presidential Martyr: How Kennedy's Death Created New Political Realities for Mexican American Catholics." Finally, Matthew Butler of the University of Texas at Austin, who is also chairing the panel, will present his paper "'History Bleeds Again' Why Mexican Catholics Cried for JFK." We hope to have a lively Question and Answer

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Make Your Meeting Plans Today to Join Us

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session to accompany these papers. It has been nearly sixty years since Kennedy's assassination, and it continues to fascinate those who study politics, religion, and memory. Don't miss this session!

To register for the conference, go to the TSHA website <https://am.tsha.events/registration/>. Attendees can register for the whole three day conference or pay for only

the Saturday TCHS session. The TSHA has hotel rooms blocked at the Hotel Paso del Norte, and there are other hotels close to the El Paso Convention Center. We hope to see all members there.

Pictured: Selena Aleman received an award from Vice-President Matthew Butler in 2022. Photo Courtesy of Claudia Anderson.



TCHS Launches Social Media Campaign

The Texas Catholic Historical Society has recently created a Facebook page. This Facebook page draws from the rich resources at the Catholic Archives of Texas. It offers new content each week including historical features, book reviews, archival photographs, academic announcements, and will examine important events in the history of Catholic Texas.

The TCHS is always looking for additional artifacts, so we issue calls for people to share their own histories and photographs documenting the Catholic history of Texas and the Southwest. Members of the Texas Catholic Historical Society can also use the page to get updates on upcoming



Join the TCHS on Social Media. Facebook logo from Wikimedia Commons.

TCHS meetings and events that might interest them. We hope to build an online community of scholars and people passionate about history and culture.

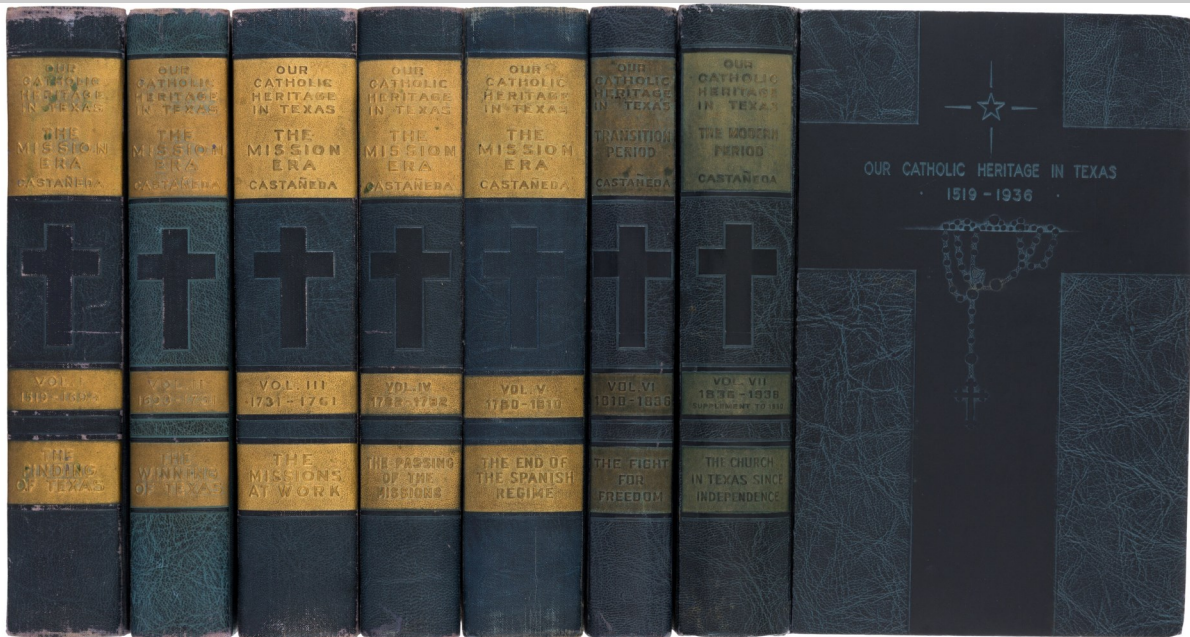
The mission of the Texas

Catholic Historical Society is 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. Currently the organization serves both professional scholars as well as lay people with an interest in Catholic history, as we try to grow the organization, it is

important to attract new members. Social media will help us extend the reach of the society.

We encourage everyone to follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/TXCatHis>.

TCHS to Sponsor Carlos Castañeda Symposium



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*Castañeda's work *Our Catholic Heritage in Texas* has had a profound effect on the study of Texas Catholic History. His work as a historian and activist will be explored in the upcoming symposium.*

The year 2023 marks the centenary of the founding of the Texas Historical Commission, a body sponsored by the Knights of Columbus that was also publisher of [Carlos E. Castañeda's](#) *Our Catholic Heritage in Texas* (1936-1958), a veritable monument in Texan historiography. Seven volumes!

In commemoration of this centenary, Texas Catholic Historical Society in collaboration with UT-Austin's [Institute of Historical Studies](#) is organizing a two-day symposium this September to reappraise Castañeda's work as a historian and to contextualize it within his Catholic faith and a lifetime of intellectual, labor, and political activism as a Mexican(-American) in Texas.

In spite of his reputation as a confessional historian and Boltonian, Castañeda was a multifaceted, polit-

ically engaged, and paradoxical figure. Though his writing lauded the Spanish missionaries and sometimes adopted their paternalistic world view, Castañeda himself faced discrimination as a Mexican American in Texas. A Catholic who corresponded with Mexican priests exiled during the *cristero* war, Castañeda nonetheless was supportive of the Mexican Revolution's educational project. While best known as a historian, Castañeda's activism as Del Río school superintendent, on the U.S. Committee on Fair Employment Practice, or in pro-Hispanic organizations such as LULAC, perhaps overshadows his intellectual achievements.

Why is it that a historian of colonial Spanish Texas should loom so large as a labor activist and defender of Mexican American rights? How did Castañeda's Catholicism and intellectual work lead him to espouse

what were then radical political views and activist roles? This symposium will make sense of these tensions, exploring the relationship between Castañeda's historical imagination and activist life. Program details forthcoming!

Speakers: Juliana Barr (*Duke University*); Matthew Butler (*UT-Austin*); Frank de la Teja (*Texas State University*); Maggie Elmore (*Sam Houston State University*); Matthew Gritter (*Angelo State University*); Deborah Kanter (*Albion College*); Cynthia Orozco (*Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso*); Aaron E. Sánchez (*Texas Tech University*); Brian Stauffer (*General Land Office of Texas*); Robert R. Treviño (*UT-Arlington*); F. Bob Wright (*Oblate School of Theology*)

TEXAS CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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2023 Luncheon

We will be purchasing boxed lunches for \$15. Please let us know of any dietary restrictions.

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

Texas Catholic Historical Society
c/o Texas Catholic Archives of Texas
6225 Hwy 290 East
Austin, TX 78723

You may also subscribe online at <https://txcatholic.org/historical-society/>
The website also has past issues of *Catholic Southwest* and *Texas Catholic Historian*.