



Texas Catholic Historian

Inside:

From Matthew Butler (TCHS President) • **P2**

From Maggie Elmore (TCHS President Elect) • **P3**

The Archivist's Corner • **P4**

From Gabby (TCHS Newsletter Editor) • **P7**

Annual Meeting Notes • **P8**

Upcoming Events • **P10**





A Message from Matthew Butler

My name is Matthew Butler, Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas, Austin, and I write to introduce myself as new TCHS president. I also want to introduce both our new president elect, Dr. Maggie Elmore of Sam Houston State University, and our Newsletter editor, Gabby Pérez, a graduate student from University of California Los Angeles. Last but not least, on behalf of TCHS I want to thank past president Amanda Bresie for her sterling efforts as president over the past two years.

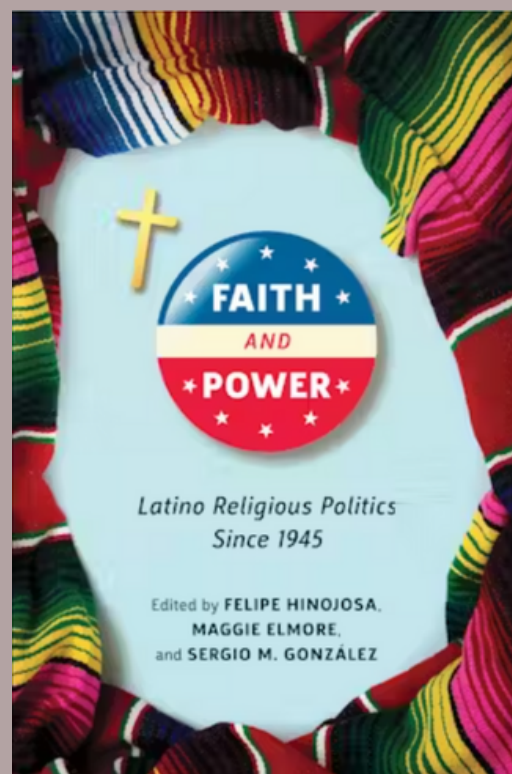
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We hope that the next two years will see TCHS go from strength to strength: to that end, we plan to increase the frequency of events and communicate more directly with you via email (TCHS@txcatholic.org), our Facebook page, and the Newsletter.

From Maggie Elmore

Maggie Elmore is Assistant Professor of US Latinx History at Sam Houston State University. She teaches and maintains an active research program in immigration, religion and politics, and human rights. She completed her PhD in US history at the University of California, Berkeley in 2017. Prior to joining the faculty at SHSU, Maggie was a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Notre Dame's Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism. Her work has received financial support from various organizations including the American Historical Association, the Texas State Historical Association, and the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library.

Maggie is also the co-editor of *Faith and Power: Latino Religious Politics Since 1945*, out now, with NYU Press. A Bill and Rita Clements Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America at Southwestern Methodist University, Maggie is completing her current book project, *Torn Soul: the American Catholic Church and Mexican Immigrants*.



The Archivist's Corner

FROM SELENA ALEMAN

This spring has been one spent away from the archives. In addition to visiting El Paso for our annual TCHS panel and luncheon during the Texas State Historical Association's meeting, I also attended a regional archives conference and the Knights of Columbus Texas State Council's conference.

At the end of April, I attended the Society of Southwest Archivists annual meeting held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. At the meeting, topics such as providing greater access to digitized records and outreach projects for communities typically underrepresented in archival collections were discussed. The conference opened with an address by Dr. Estevan Rael-Gálvez presenting his project, "Native Bound Unbound: Archive of the Indigenous Enslaved." Native Bound Unbound's mission is to create a public digital repository of records collected from Church, personal, and academic library archives.

The records collected for the archive will also be used to trace the story of indigenous slaves, such as those enslaved by Juan de Oñate, and identify their modern-day descendants.

While in New Mexico, I also attended Mass at the St. Joseph Apache Mission in Mescalero, located just outside Lincoln County (known for the infamous Billy the Kid). In 1883, the Mescalero Apache Nation Reservation was established and in 1916, Fr. Albert Braun, O.F.M. moved to the reservation for his first assignment a year after ordination. Inspired by European cathedrals seen while serving as a chaplain during WWI, Fr. Braun began building the present Church structure in 1920. He had help from his parishioners and used stone quarried from nearby mountains. Fr. Braun was known for encouraging his parishioners to retain their Apache culture and traditions with the support of his local ordinary, Bishop Anthony J. Schuler. Fr. Braun's legacy continues to be celebrated at St. Joseph where he is interred to the right of the Church's altar.



Fr. Braun blessing the cornerstone, November 21, 1930



Quarrying stones for St. Joseph

Today, the Church is decorated with a combination of Apache and Catholic sacred symbols, including an original painting of Jesus depicted as an Apache medicine man above the altar. The stained glass is decorated with images of the Holy Family portrayed as Apache and St. Kateri Tekakwitha, patron saint of Native Americans. As you exit the Church, there is a three-paneled painting hanging above the entrance depicting the story told during the sacred Apache rite of passage to womanhood held in July. Mass at St. Joseph's Apache Mission is open to all, and Fr. Dave Mercer encourages visitors to tour the parish after services.

During the first weekend of May, the Knights of Columbus Texas State Council held their annual meeting in Dallas. During the event, I advertised TCHS, discussed how to preserve and collect council records, and promoted an online exhibit that I created for the event. The exhibit, <https://arcg.is/qnXCq>, celebrates the 120th anniversary of the Tisonia train delegation from El Paso which established the first of the "mother councils" throughout the state.

All photos above: Apache Indian Mission, St. Joseph's Church, Mescalero, New Mexico, scrapbook, c. 1930s. Catholic Archives of Texas subject files, catx-00076. Catholic Archives of Texas.



THE NEW ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH



St. Joseph Apache Mission,
taken April 30, 2023



From Gabriela Pérez

My name is Gabby and I just finished my second year of the PhD program in Chicana/o and Central American Studies at UCLA. Yay!

I focus on U.S. Catholic History in the 20th century. I found my way here during my Harvard Divinity School days. I learned about Archbishop Patrick F. Flores and soon recognized his absence within the Latinx Catholic/Mexican American Catholic literature I read. So, I embarked on a journey to recover his life narrative.

While there are books and films and some archival material on Flores, a detailed biography is very much needed for the first Mexican American bishop of the United States. I never had the honor of meeting Flores but his life struggles and courage speak to me as a Chicana Catholic and scholar. Flores echoes the need to stay grounded within one's identity, culture, and faith so that when the world tries to tell us that we are not enough we can remain rooted within these spaces. The last two years I held this lesson close.

I am trained within the disciplines of history and religion, at the University of California, Riverside and HDS, but I shifted into the world of Chicanx Studies where the anti-religious sentiment is very real. In order to make sense of this anxiety, I have remained close to organizations like the American Academy of Religion, the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (ACHTUS), and the Texas Catholic Historical Society. I am so thankful for these spaces and ready to keep everyone in the loop via this newsletter. Also, a big thank you to Amanda Bresie for being patient with me as I learn this process!

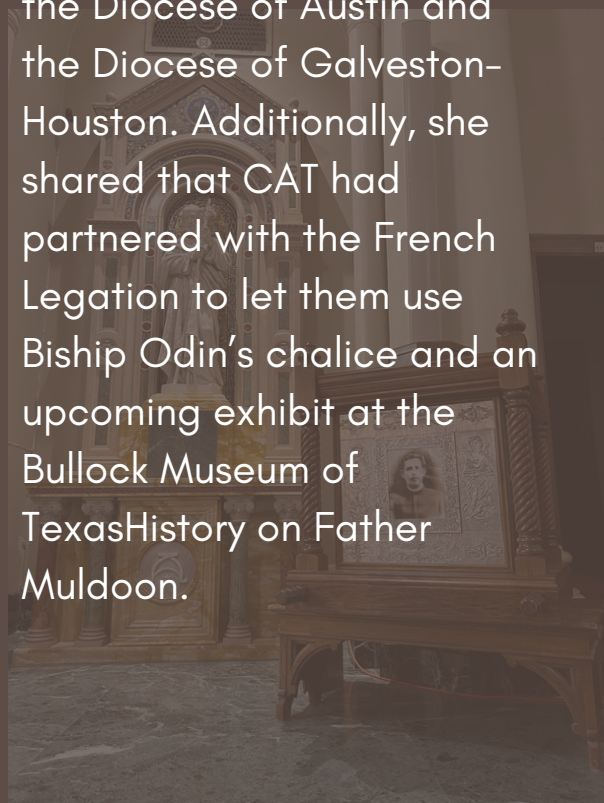
Best,
Gabby

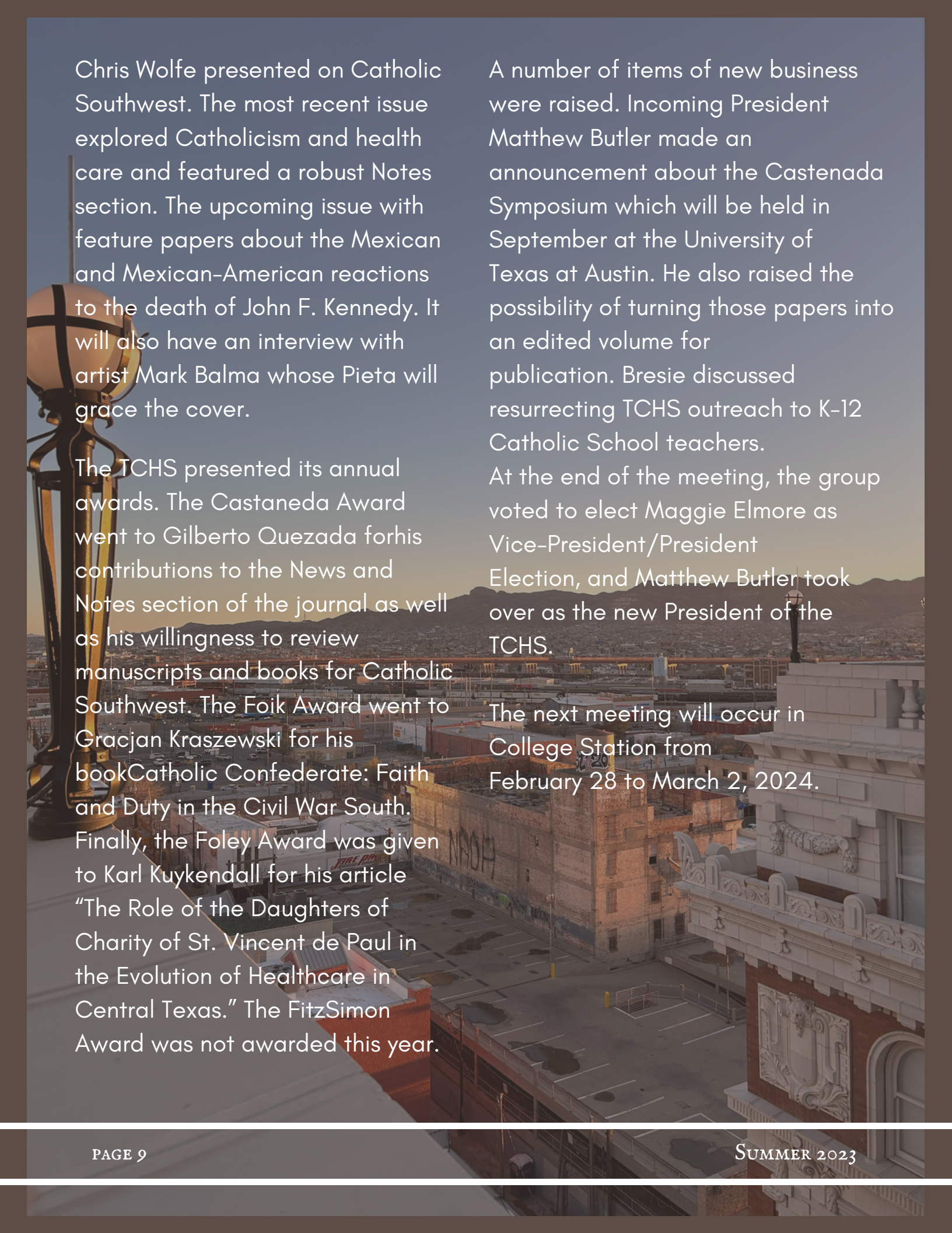
Annual Meeting Notes: TCHS Meets in El Paso

Society members headed west to El Paso in March for the annual meeting. On Friday March 3, 2023. The group met for Mass in the historic St. Patrick's Cathedral. After Mass, members were given a tour of the cathedral. St. Patrick's was completed in 1917 and is a combination of Byzantine and Romanesque architecture. The church has a special connection to San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado, and a relic is housed in the sanctuary. Recent issues of Catholic Southwest have focused on the Cristero Wars, so this was of particular interest to TCHS members.

After the tour, the society conducted its annual meeting. After the minutes from the last meeting were approved, out-going president Amanda Bresie gave her report. Membership has held steady, and student membership has increased slightly. She called for members to encourage graduate students to join the society. The website has made renewal easier since members are automatically sent renewal notices. Additionally, she shared that the Facebook page has been a success. That page run by UT student Corina Barr has pulled images and documents from the archives to tell lesser-known stories of Catholicism in Texas. Bresie also called for ideas for the 2024 panel. Additionally, she suggested more frequent use of email communication to keep in touch with membership.

Selena Aleman stood in for Jennifer Allmon and gave the financial report. TCHS is in good financial shape. There was some discussion of using some of the money in the TCHS account to drum up more publicity for the organization. Aleman also gave the report on the Catholic Archives of Texas. She announced that she was making finding aids public. She also shared news of special archival projects in the Diocese of Austin and the Diocese of Galveston-Houston. Additionally, she shared that CAT had partnered with the French Legation to let them use Bishop Odin's chalice and an upcoming exhibit at the Bullock Museum of TexasHistory on Father Muldoon.





Chris Wolfe presented on Catholic Southwest. The most recent issue explored Catholicism and health care and featured a robust Notes section. The upcoming issue will feature papers about the Mexican and Mexican-American reactions to the death of John F. Kennedy. It will also have an interview with artist Mark Balma whose Pieta will grace the cover.

The TCHS presented its annual awards. The Castaneda Award went to Gilberto Quezada for his contributions to the News and Notes section of the journal as well as his willingness to review manuscripts and books for Catholic Southwest. The Foik Award went to Gracjan Kraszewski for his book *Catholic Confederate: Faith and Duty in the Civil War South*. Finally, the Foley Award was given to Karl Kuykendall for his article "The Role of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in the Evolution of Healthcare in Central Texas." The FitzSimon Award was not awarded this year.

A number of items of new business were raised. Incoming President Matthew Butler made an announcement about the Castaneda Symposium which will be held in September at the University of Texas at Austin. He also raised the possibility of turning those papers into an edited volume for publication. Bresie discussed resurrecting TCHS outreach to K-12 Catholic School teachers. At the end of the meeting, the group voted to elect Maggie Elmore as Vice-President/President Election, and Matthew Butler took over as the new President of the TCHS.

The next meeting will occur in College Station from February 28 to March 2, 2024.

Upcoming Events

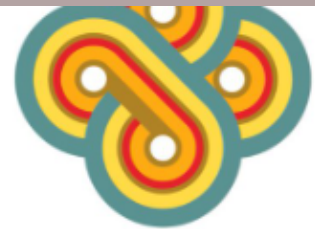
This **September (20-21)** we will be honoring the historiographical legacy and labor activism of Carlos E. Castañeda in a two-day symposium to be held at UT-Austin's Benson Collection. The event is titled "Carlos Castañeda's 'Catholic' Texas?" It would be wonderful to see many of you at this event! More information in the attached flyer.

Starting this Fall semester, we will also begin an occasional TCHS Brown Bag Series via Zoom—please look out for an announcement about the first Brown Bag event, which will be held on the afternoon of **8 November**. We hope to hold 1-2 events per semester to begin with.

Our annual event—TCHS's yearly panel at the Texas State Historical Association meeting—will of course continue. The 2024 proposal for the meeting at College Station is submitted.



CARLOS E. CASTAÑEDA'S "CATHOLIC" TEXAS?



LLILAS BENSON
LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES AND COLLECTIONS



SEPT. 20-21
2023
AUSTIN, TX



UT-AUSTIN LIBRARIES,
UT INSTITUTE OF
HISTORICAL STUDIES &
TEXAS CATHOLIC
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