

Press Release
For Immediate Release

Catholic History Conference & Historical Novel Book Tour

Middleway, WV – October 3, 2023

Two educational and inspiring opportunities to learn about the intriguing history of the Catholic Church in Early America, and how we can advance the Church's mission, come to the eastern panhandle of West Virginia.

This fall and early winter, two Catholic History Conference events are scheduled for Priest Field Pastoral Center in Middleway, WV.

The History of the Catholic Faith in the Americas Conference will hold a Free Preview Conference on Tuesday, October 17, from 6:30–9:00 PM. The Full Day Conference is scheduled for Saturday, December 9, from 8:30 –4:00 PM concluding with Mass. Both events are open to the public. Details below:



Confirmed Topics and Speakers:

**Evening Preview Conference – Free: No Registration Required
October 17, 2023 – 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM**

AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

“A Perspective of History”

Reading of an excerpt from a sermon by the Bishop of Roman North Africa

DR. DONALD PATTHOFF

“Faith in Fiction, History, and Reality: Presence and Possession”

Donald Patthoff is a dentist, author, editor-in-chief: “Journal of Laser Dentistry,” and co-founder George Washington Institute of Living Ethics.

Keynote: BOB O’CONNOR

“Priestfield and the Colonial Founding of the American Catholic Church”

Bob O’Connor is a Civil War historian, author of over two-dozen books on

Civil War history, frequent speaker and historical impersonator, and past Director of Tourism in Washington County, Maryland.

STANLEY D. WILLIAMS, PhD

“Persecution of the Catholic Church in America and Writing the Wizard Clip Haunting Novel”

Stan Williams is a filmmaker, author, Hollywood story & screenplay consultant, and publisher of Catholic apologetic media. Dr. Williams will sign copies of his apologetic novel following the talks.

Full Day Conference – Registration opens November 1, 2023

December 9, 2023 – 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

BETTY SEYMOUR – Betty and Frank Seymour are the Diocesan Postulators for the cause of sainthood for Servant of God Demetrius A. Gallitzin. Betty will speak on “The Historical Significance of Servant of God Demetrius A. Gallitzin and His Impact on the founding of the Catholic Church in America.”

DAVID THROWER, PHD Candidate – Historian, Author, Paralegal. David will speak on “The historical significance and cultural impact in America of the 1531 apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico.”

THOMAS and NOËLLE CROWE – Originators, producers and writers of the American Catholic History Podcast. Tom and Noëlle will speak on “Sacrifice with Joy: The Historical Influence of Catholicity on American Culture.”

NANCY CORTESE – Docent Harper's Ferry National Historic Park, blessed mother of three sons one a seminarian, B.S. Computer Science, Coast Guard project manager. Nancy will speak on “The Birth of the Catholic Church in West Virginia and Harper's Ferry's St. Peter's Church.”

EMILY ARLEDGE, PHD – Assistant Professor of History at Belmont Abbey College and director of the Public History program. Emily will speak on “Curating the Saints: Making History at American Catholic Shrines.”

MARIE NUAR, STD – Adjunct Theology Professor, Josephinum Diaconate Program, and past Faculty Chair for Catholic Distance University. Marie will speak on "The Catholic Revival of the Late 19th Century and its Application to Today."

STANLEY D. WILLIAMS, PHD – Filmmaker, Story Consultant, Catholic Apologist, and Author. Stan will speak on "The trials of missionary priests in the early United States and Bishop John Carroll's challenge to make sure they were real priests."

DONALD PATTHOFF, DDS – Author, Editor-in-chief: "Journal of Laser Dentistry," co-founder George Washington Institute of Living Ethics. Don will present two papers: "Cultural Foundations of the Americas: The Evolving Nature of Freedom, Reason, and Faith," and "The Role of the Sacraments and Sacramentals in Shaping History."

Catholic Novel Book Tour

The two History Conferences are the outgrowth of Dr. Williams's historical novel, "Wizard Clip Haunting," which is narrated by Fr. Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin (Servant of God), Apostle of the Alleghanies. A Catholic media apologist from Michigan, Williams will be visiting several Catholic parishes in West Virginia giving talks on how the Middleway Wizard Clip hauntings, which led to the founding of Priest Field Pastoral Center, were triggered by Catholic persecution in Early America. His book tour includes these parish and university stops:



St. James the Greater Parish, Charles Town, WV - Tues. Oct 10, 2023 – 6:30 PM

St. Agnes Parish, Shepherdstown, WV – Wed. Oct 11, 2023 – 12-Noon

St. Joseph Parish, Martinsburg, WV – Fri. Oct 13, 2023 – 7:00 PM

St. Francis University, DiSepio 213, Loretto, PA – Mon. Oct 16, 2023 – 7:00 PM

More tour and book details at: <https://wizardclip.stanwilliams.com>