

Summer Scholar Project Proposal

Name:

XXXXX

Proposed Mentor:

XXXXX

Proposed Project:

Ultramontane Republicans: Catholic Identity in Antebellum America

Student's Preparatory Course Work:

America in the Age of Revolutions (Spring 2006)

Civil War Era (Spring 2007)

American Catholicism (Spring 2007)

Background:

By the outbreak of the Civil War, Catholic population in America swelled to become the single largest Christian denomination in the country. The rapid population increase of German and Irish immigrants led to the rise of nativism, a movement that wanted America for Americans only. This anti-immigration and anti-Catholic sentiment manifested itself in newspapers, local fraternal organizations, urban riots, and political parties. The Know-Nothing Party was the amalgamation of these organizations, and in 1854, sent elected representatives to both Houses of Congress and state legislatures. During this time of hostility, Catholic leaders, many of whom were also immigrants, tried to forge a Catholic identity that was unique yet acceptable to contemporary society. Bishop Kenrick of Philadelphia (later Archbishop of Baltimore), Bishop John England of Charleston, and Archbishop John Hughes of New York used newspapers, pastoral letters, and speeches to shape an American Catholic identity that combined republicanism with the precepts of the Church. They attempted to prove to that Catholicism was compatible with American republican government by their views on slavery, education, and religious liberty.

Project:

This summer, XXXX, a junior history major, will work under the supervision of Dr. XXXX to analyze the following issues:

- What were the origins of anti-Catholicism and nativism?
- How were the bishops educated?
- What were the bishops' reactions to anti-Catholic demonstrations and riots?
- How did the bishops' reconcile allegiance to the United States government as well as allegiance to the Vatican, itself an independent state?
- What were the bishops' views on contemporary American issues such as slavery, secession, public education, and immigration?

Methods and Preliminary Bibliography:

The overall goal of this summer project is to be the preliminary stage of both a departmental honors thesis to be completed the student's senior year and a potential doctoral dissertation. Primary source work will be done at the Archives of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the American Catholic Historical Society at the St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies. The following is a preliminary bibliography of secondary sources:

Patrick W. Carey, "Republicanism Within American Catholicism, 1785-1860," *Journal of the Early Republic*, 3(4), pp. 413-37.

Patrick W. Carey, *People, Priests, and Prelates*, (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1987).

Patrick W. Carey, *An Immigrant Bishop: John England's Adaptation of Irish Catholicism to American Catholicism*, (Yonkers, NY: U.S. Catholic Historical Society, 1982).

Charles Patrick Connor, *The American Catholic Political Position at Mid-Century: Archbishop Hughes as a Test Case*, Thesis – Fordham University, 1979.

Dale Light, *Rome and the New Republic*, (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1996).

Dale Light, "The Reformation of Philadelphia Catholicism, 1830-1860," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, 112(3), pp. 375-405.

James F. Connelly, ed., *History of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia*, (Wynnewood, PA, 1976).

Hugh J. Nolan, *The Most Reverend Francis Patrick Kenrick*, (Philadelphia: American Catholic Historical Society, 1948).

Francis E. Tourscher, O.S.A, trans, *Diary and Visitation Record of Rt. Rev. Francis Patrick Kenrick*, (Lancaster, PA: Wickersham, 1916).

Jay P. Dolan, *The American Catholic Experience*, (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1985).

Roger Aubert et al., *The Church in the Age of Liberalism*, trans. Peter Becker, (New York: Crossroad, 1981).

Last summer, I participated in the Summer Scholars Program and studied St. Joseph's University founder Rev. Felix Barbelin, S.J. I used primary sources from the St. Charles Borromeo Archive and Old St. Joseph's Parish Archives to write my paper on his Sodality of the Blessed Virgin, one of Barbelin's many social programs to ameliorate the condition of the many Irish and German immigrants of ante bellum Philadelphia.