

Winter 11-16-2021

## Newsnotes

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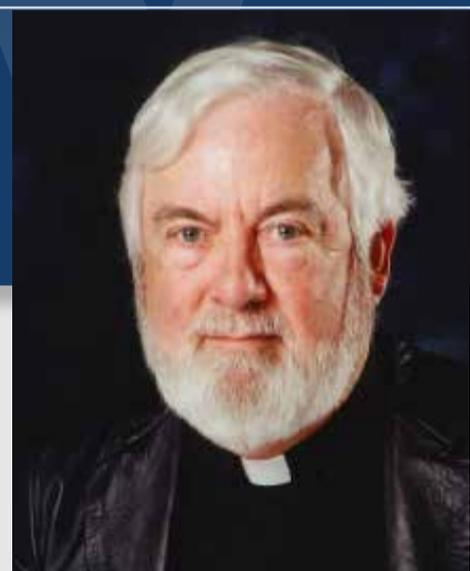
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# Newsnotes

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## NEWS

### ***In Memoriam: Rev. Stafford Poole, C.M., Ph.D.***

The fields of Vincentian, Catholic, and Western American studies suffered a great loss with the passing of Father Stafford Poole in November 2020. Fr. Poole played a pioneering role in promoting Vincentian studies as an author and scholar, as well as in being a founding member of the Vincentian Studies Institute. He served as the second editor of *Vincentian Heritage* from 1987 to 1997 and was a longtime board member and contributor. Fr. Poole also served as editor and co-editor of such seminal V.S.I. publications as *Jean-Baptiste Étienne and the Vincentian Revival* (1996) and *The American Vincentians: A Popular History of the Congregation of the Mission in the United States, 1815-1987* (1988), while also authoring a wide variety of scholarly articles published in the *Heritage*. Fr. Poole was an immense figure in the world of Vincentian scholarship, both for his groundbreaking research and for his thoughtful, challenging works of writing that often asked us to reconsider long-held beliefs and histories. It is an understatement to say, but his many contributions helped shape the V.S.I. into what it is today. He will be greatly missed.

*The following is from the obituary released by the Western Province, with minor additions by the editor:* Joseph Poole and his wife Beatrice Smith welcomed a son into the world, Richard Stafford, on March 6, 1930, who was baptized in his parish church of

St. Charles Borromeo, in North Hollywood. He attended elementary school at Rio Vista Elementary School, then transferred to the Parish School of St. Charles Borromeo for his Junior High School years. He entered Los Angeles College, the precursor to Our Lady Queen of Angels Seminary in 1942. Stafford entered the Congregation of the Mission on October 7, 1947, and continued his philosophical and theological studies for ordination at St. Mary of the Barrens Seminary in Perryville, Mo. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 27, 1956. He earned the degree of Master of Arts from St. Louis University in 1958 with a major in Spanish Literature and in 1961 earned his Doctor of Philosophy in U.S. and Mexican History from St. Louis University.

As he was completing his doctoral studies, Fr. Poole was planning on researching Slaveholding in Catholic Missouri. However, God intervened. Fr. Bannon, the director of the history department was presented with some rare documents from Latin America that included documents from the Third Council of 1585 and presented Stafford with a project. In Stafford's own words he describes what happened next:

The next time I walked into Bannon's office, my life took a total reversal. I got working on it and became fascinated with the whole thing. But actually, I had had only one graduate course in Latin American history, and that was a survey. Other than that, I was self-taught.<sup>1</sup>

From these beginnings flowed an impressive contribution to the field of Catholicism in Colonial Latin America, as well as his works on the history of the Congregation of the Mission and the US Catholic Church. Included in his life's work were over 14 books, 23 publications in Anthologies and Encyclopedias, 62 journal articles, as well as some unpublished studies on Vincentian themes and numerous book reviews. Among Fr. Poole's works are *Seminary in Crisis* (1964); *Church and Slave in Perry County, Missouri 1818–1860* (co-authored with Douglas Slawson, 1986); *Our Lady of Guadalupe: Origins and Sources of a Mexican National Symbol, 1531–1797* (1995), and *The Guadalupan Controversies in Mexico* (2006). Fr. Poole was also a longtime member of the DePaul University Vincentian Studies Institute, and served as the editor of *Vincentian Heritage* and other of their publications over many years.

While many would count this a complete life's work, Fr. Poole was also a teacher, academic dean, and seminary rector. His students not only remember his lectures with fondness, but also appreciated his wit and wisdom. Stafford was a clock maker. He spent his leisure time making and repairing clocks of all sorts. After he had left St. Mary of the Barrens in 1971, students would comment that "Fr. Poole needs to come back to the Barrens to fix the clock on the A Building!"

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1 Susan Schroeder, "Seminaries and Writing the History of New Spain: An Interview with Stafford Poole, C.M.," *The Americas* 69:2 (2012), 237-254.

During his retirement, Fr. Poole continued to be active as a scholar and mentor. He encouraged other confreres to take up the critical history of the Congregation of the Mission. He supported his colleagues in both the American Catholic Historical Association and other professional organizations to continue the study the Church's earliest mission activity in Latin America and its impact upon the people.

Infirmity overcame Fr. Poole in his final years, as his health declined, he slowly put aside the unfinished research and prepared to meet his Creator. He returned to the Barrens to receive added care. On the Feast Day of All Saints, he returned to his Creator. A Vincentian who dedicated his life to telling the story of the life of Colonial Latin American Church and the Little Company.

### **V.S.I. Upgrades Quality of *Vincentian Heritage* Pdfs on *Via Sapientiae***

Around 2007, when the V.S.I. began its transition of *Vincentian Heritage* to a digital medium it was decided to scan every article published and make them available free-of-charge on an online repository housed by *Via Sapientiae*. This meant scanning and uploading over 250 articles printed on paper at the time and continuing the practice until *VH* fully transitioned to the eBook format in 2014. As could be expected, the quality of these initial scans reflected the technology of the period and was less than ideal when compared to what can be produced today. In 2019, it was decided to rescan every printed article published to improve their quality. The work took well over one year to complete, but in March 2021 the V.S.I. concluded the project of rescanning and uploading over 350 works. To date, *Heritage* articles have been downloaded over 291,000 times worldwide, and we believe these new scans offer readers dramatic improvements of readability and searchability, as well as better resolution illustrations. Accordingly, we are pleased to announce that all of these new scans are now available for download on our home site: [Vincentian Heritage on Via Sapientiae](#)

### **International Symposium: *Religious Orders, Public Health and Disease***

This virtual event featured nine scholars presenting their work and took place on Zoom over the course of May 20 and May 21, 2021. In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the symposium considered how religious orders have played a key role in societies that had to deal with diseases that disrupted their lives or were part of their almost everyday life. Many paths were explored to promote religious orders' dynamic historiography by emphasizing a comparative and transnational approach to their history. The scope of the symposium ranged from the Black Death to the present day.

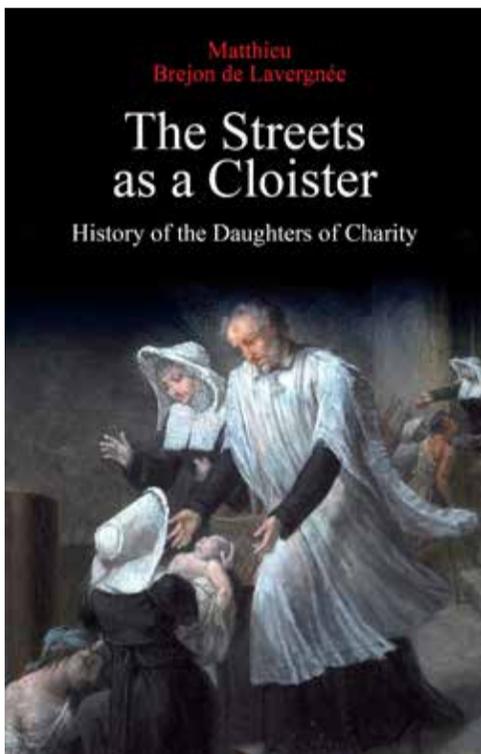
The symposium was co-sponsored by the Vincentian Studies Institute and organized

by DePaul University's Emanuele Colombo of the Department of Catholic Studies, and the Dennis Holschneider Chair of Vincentian Studies, Matthieu Brejon de Lavergnée. The papers will be published at a later date.

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Notable Books*

Matthieu Brejon de Lavergnée, *The Streets as a Cloister: History of the Daughters of Charity* (New City Press, 2020), 668 pp. ISBN-13: 978-1565480278. Available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [New City Press](https://www.newcitypress.com)



The Vincentian Studies Institute is extremely pleased to announce the publication of our colleague and fellow board member's new book, the English translation of *Histoire des Filles de la Charité: XVIIe-XVIIIe siècles* (2011). Dr. Brejon de Lavergnée is a Professor of History and the Dennis H. Holschneider Chair of Vincentian Studies at DePaul University. From New City Press: "The Daughters of Charity are today the largest community of Catholic women, with 15,000 sisters in about 100 countries. They devote their lives to serving the poorest in hospitals, schools, and care centers for homeless or migrants, as well as working to promote social justice. Each year, millions of Miraculous Medals are sent all over the world

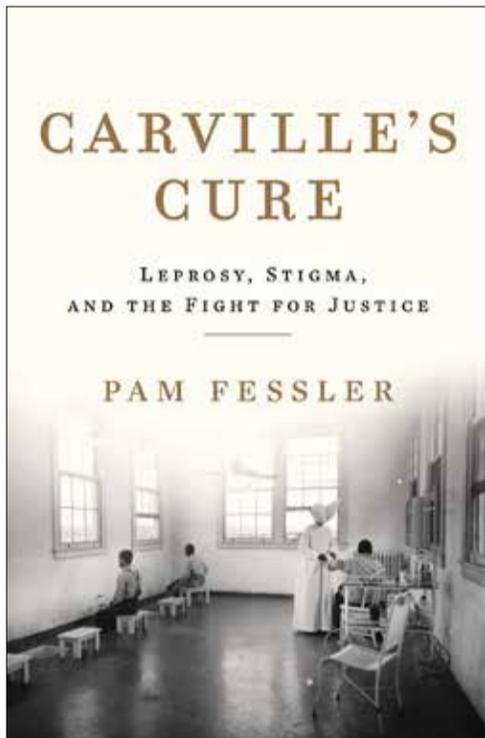
from their motherhouse in Paris, where Catherine Labouré had visions of the Virgin Mary in 1830.

Until now, however, the history of the Daughters of Charity has been almost wholly neglected. The opening of their central archives, combined with access to many public and private archives, has finally allowed this to be remedied.

This volume, the fruit of several years' work, covers the history of the Company from its foundation by Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac as a confraternity of young women to the suppression of the order during the French Revolution. The study, at the juncture of women's history and religious history, shows how much the Daughters of Charity contributed to the emergence of a new and ambiguous status in post-Tridentine society: neither cloistered nuns nor married women, but seculars. The Company has certainly offered a framework that enabled many resolute women to lead lives out of the ordinary, taking young peasant women to the royal court, intrepid hearts to Poland, and, more generally, generous souls to

the martyrdom of charity among the poor and the ill.”

To read an interview with Dr. Brejon de Lavergnée on his new book click here: [Daughters of Charity made the streets their cloister at Cruixnow.com](https://www.cruixnow.com/daughters-of-charity-made-the-streets-their-cloister/)



Pam Fessler, *Carville's Cure: Leprosy, Stigma, and the Fight for Justice* (Liveright, 2020), 377 pp. ISBN: 1631495038. Available at: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/)

From the publisher: “The unknown story of the only leprosy colony in the continental United States, and the thousands of Americans who were exiled—hidden away with their “shameful” disease. The Mississippi River between Baton Rouge and New Orleans curls around an old sugar plantation that long housed one of America’s most painful secrets. Locals knew it as Carville, the site of the only leprosy colony in the continental United States, where generations of afflicted Americans were isolated—often against their will and until their deaths.

Following the trail of an unexpected family connection, acclaimed journalist Pam Fessler has unearthed the lost world of the patients, nurses, doctors, and researchers at Carville who struggled for over a century to eradicate Hansen’s disease, the modern name for leprosy. Amid widespread public anxiety about foreign contamination and contagion, patients were deprived of basic rights—denied the right to vote, restricted from leaving Carville, and often forbidden from contact with their own parents or children. Neighbors fretted over their presence and newspapers warned of their dangerous condition, which was seen as a biblical “curse” rather than a medical diagnosis.

Though shunned by their fellow Americans, patients surprisingly made Carville more a refuge than a prison. Many carved out meaningful lives, building a vibrant community and finding solace, brotherhood, and even love behind the barbed-wire fence that surrounded them. Among the memorable figures we meet in Fessler’s masterful narrative are John Early, a pioneering crusader for patients’ rights, and the unlucky Landry siblings—all five of whom eventually called Carville home—as well as a butcher from New York, a 19-year-old debutante from New Orleans, and a pharmacist from Texas who became the voice of Carville around the world. Though Jim Crow reigned in the South and racial animus prevailed elsewhere, Carville took in people of all faiths, colors, and backgrounds. Aided by their heroic caretakers, patients rallied to find a cure for Hansen’s disease and to fight the insidious stigma that surrounded it.

Weaving together a wealth of archival material with original interviews as well as firsthand accounts from her own family, Fessler has created an enthralling account of a lost American history. In our new age of infectious disease, Carville's Cure demonstrates the necessity of combating misinformation and stigma if we hope to control the spread of illness without demonizing victims and needlessly destroying lives. 8 pages of black-and-white illustrations."

Kristine Gunnell, *Daughters of Charity: Women, Religious Mission, and Hospital Care in Los Angeles, 1856-1927* (Vincentian Studies Institute, 2013).

The Vincentian Studies Institute is pleased to announce that this remarkable book, authored by Kristine Ashton Gunnell and first published in paperback in 2013, is now available to download in pdf format free-of-charge. This captivating story is culled from extensive historical research and documents how ingenuity, determination, and faith enabled mission-driven Daughters of Charity to establish, develop, and provide healthcare in Los Angeles. To download your copy, click here: [Daughters of Charity: Women, Religious Mission, and Hospital Care](#)

### ***Notable Articles***

*Sacred Architecture: Journal of the Institute for Sacred Architecture*, Issue 38 (2020), features an article by our colleague and fellow V.S.I. board member:

Simone Zurawski, Ph.D., "Viollet-le-Duc, The Hôtel Dieu, and the Vincentians: The Transformation of the Parvis of Notre-Dame," pp. 13-17. Available free to read online: [Sacred Architecture](#)

### ***Notable Videos, Podcasts, & Multimedia***

*Multimedia: Take a Louise de Marillac Virtual Pilgrimage*

Learn about St. Louise de Marillac's life through a virtual pilgrimage. Take a journey to six places that represent defining moments through an interactive map leading you to short videos curated by DePaul University's pastoral, faculty, and alumni team. Grab your virtual passport and head to: [Virtual Pilgrimage](#)

*Video: St. Vincent de Paul, A Person of the 17th Century, a Person for the 21st Century*

Featuring an essay on the life of Vincent de Paul written by Rev. Edward Udovic, C.M., this video explores why Vincent's mission still matters today. Click here: [Vincent de Paul video](#)

*Video: Vincentian History of the Church of Saint-Laurent*

This short video explores the Vincentian history of the Church of Saint-Laurent in Paris. Click here: [Saint-Laurent video](#)

*Vincentian Heritage* is the journal of the Vincentian Studies Institute of the United States. Founded in 1979, the Institute is dedicated to promoting a living interest in the historical and spiritual heritage of Saint Vincent de Paul (1581-1660) and Saint Louise de Marillac (1591-1660), the patrons of the wide-ranging Vincentian Family including the Congregation of the Mission, the Daughters of Charity, the Ladies of Charity, the Sisters of Charity, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, and a number of other congregations, communities, and lay movements who share a common dedication to serving those in need.

*Vincentian Heritage* welcomes manuscripts, poetry, and other expressions of Vincentian themes that meet the publication criteria. All articles should relate directly to topics of Vincentian interest, be researched and documented in a scholarly fashion, and directed toward Vincentian-oriented groups in the reading public and the Vincentian family. Ordinarily, articles should not exceed thirty typewritten pages and should be submitted twelve months prior to anticipated publication.

All manuscripts and editorial correspondence should be addressed to:

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*Cover image:* Entrance to prison, Saint-Lazare, Paris. Courtesy SVdP Image Archive Online.

Nathaniel Michaud, editor; Miranda Lukatch contributing.

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