

## The History of the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada

**1889** – The first (and last) Catholic Lay Congress took place in Baltimore that November. Members of the Catholic press were overlooked in original invitations, but received them in August. L. W. Reilly, an editor in Columbus, Ohio, sent out a circular inviting press people to the Congress, and Maurice Francis Egan, former newspaperman teaching at the University of Notre Dame, urged editors to come to “cultivate fellow feeling” and force “unscrupulous advertising agents to be honest.” If Catholic editors neglected to unite, he suggested, there would soon be no Catholic papers at all. A group of Catholic editors and business managers, representing 26 Catholic journals, met informally November 10 at the Hotel Rennert. The only action taken was to set a date for a Convention the following May in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**1890** – That Convention met May 7 at the Dennison House in Cincinnati. Officers from the previous November meeting (Father F. Graham of the Catholic Tribune, Dubuque, the chairman, and Conde’ B. Pallen of Church Progress, secretary) conducted the meeting, with representatives of 14 papers attending. They voted to establish a permanent association named The Catholic Press Association of the United States. Dues were to be \$5 per year for each publication, payable in advance, with a meeting the first Wednesday of May each year.

**1891** – The next meeting convened May 6 in Xavier Hall at the College of the Jesuits in New York, with more than 40 publications represented. Delegates approved incorporation of the Association, employing correspondents in Rome, Paris, London and Berlin, establishing an advertising bureau and a purchasing agency for quantity buying. Washington, DC, was selected as the site for the 1892 meeting. That news service soon failed, however, because several editors did not pay for it, and there is no record that an 1892 meeting ever took place.

**1893** – This Catholic Press Association met once more, in Chicago -- site that year of the World’s Fair (Columbian Exposition) -- at the Art Palace, Wednesday, September 6, with 35 papers represented. Father A. P. Doyle, of the Catholic World, was elected president. There were no further meetings of this group, possibly because of a national financial crisis which had begun earlier, and the fact that the incipient Catholic lay movement lost its momentum.

**1908** – Dr. Thomas Hart, of the Catholic Telegraph, Cincinnati, agitated by failure of the National Catholic Educational Association Convention to offer a resolution supporting the Catholic press, at a meeting July 25 with other editors attending that convention organized the American Catholic Press Association, for promotion of “educational, literary, news and business interests of the papers concerned and ... a close fraternity among Catholic editors.”

**1911** – After four previous attempts had failed, the present-day Catholic Press Association was organized at a meeting at the Chittenden Hotel in Columbus, Ohio, August 24-25, 1911. About 60 delegates representing 37 publications attended, including a half dozen women, almost two dozen priests and more than 30 laymen. Edward J. Cooney of the Providence Visitor was elected president, and his publication provided a Convention booklet exhorting delegates to achieve “the greatest possible results from the meeting.” He said the aims of the new Association would be to publicize news of Catholic interest, combat the evil influence of some of the secular press, secure national advertising and agitate against higher postal rates.

1911-1913 President Edward J. Cooney, Providence Visitor  
1913-1917 President John Paul Chew, Church Progress  
1917-1920 President Dr. Thomas P. Hart, Catholic Telegraph

**1920** – After World War I, the National Catholic War Council, which had coordinated American Catholic war efforts, became the National Catholic Welfare Council. One of five Departments was the Press, and soon officials began efforts to organize a news-gathering and distribution service. Council officials approached CPA about taking over its news service, which had been stymied by lack of money and personnel, and at the CPA’s Convention in Washington January 23- 24 delegates unanimously agreed to transfer the service to NCWC.

1920-1922 President Claude M. Becker, The Tablet  
1922-1924 Fred W. Harvey, Jr., Extension  
1924-1926 President Patrick F. Scanlan, The Tablet  
1926-1928 President Simon A. Baldus, Extensions  
1928-1930 President Anthony J. Beck, Michigan Catholic  
1930-1932 President Benedict J. Elder, The Record  
1932-1934 President Richard Reid, Catholic News

1934-1936 President Joseph J. Quinn, Southwest Courier  
 1936-1938 President Vincent DePaul Fitzpatrick, Catholic Review  
 1938-1940 President Charles H. Ridder, Catholic News  
 1940-1941 President Msgr. Peter M.H. Wynhoven, Catholic Action of the South  
 1941-1943 President Alexander J. Wey, Catholic Universe Bulletin

**1943** – CPA executives agreed on a plan to establish the office of a part-time Executive Secretary at the National Catholic Welfare Conference building in Washington, but at the CPA’s 1944 meeting Dean Jeremiah O’Sullivan, of Marquette University, reported that “most of the young, aggressive, trained men that we have considered for the job are in the Army or expecting to go into the Army,” and nothing therefore came of this plan.

1943-1946 President Rev. Patrick O'Connor, S.S.C., The Far East  
 1945-1947 James A. Shanahan was named the first executive secretary of the Catholic Press Association, a part-time position.  
 1946-1948 President Humphrey E. Desmond, Catholic Herald Citizen  
 1947-1949 Father Paul Bussard, president of the CPA moved the office into the Digest offices and hired Fr. Alfred Barrett, SJ to be the part-time executive.  
 1948-1950 President Rev. Paul Bussard, Catholic Digest

**1950** – James F. Kane, who had been business manager of the Paulist Fathers’ magazine, Information, was hired as the CPA’s first full-time executive. He began work officially in July, and on September 20 officially opened the Association’s new offices in two large rooms on the sixth floor of the Carroll Club in New York, with Norah Geddis as his assistant.

1950-1952 President Francis A. Fink, Our Sunday Visitor  
 1950 Catholic Press Month slogan, "The Catholic Press in the Service of Truth, Justice and Peace"  
 1950 Annual Convention of the Catholic Press Association - Rochester, N.Y.  
 1951 Annual Convention in New York City  
 1952-1954 President Msgr. Thomas A. Meehan, The New World

**1952** – Charles J. McNeill, CPA vice-president and later president, was named by the International Union of the Catholic Press as its consultant at the newly-formed United Nations, even though the CPA was not a member of the ICUP. In 1955, urged by McNeill, the CPA decided to affiliate with the Union, and in succeeding years the CPA executive director and officers became active and effective members in the International Union.

1952 Catholic Press Month slogan, "Read your Catholic Press, Millions Wish They Could"  
 1952 Annual Convention at the University of Notre Dame, Ind.

**1953** – G. Roger Cahaney, of Cleveland, was named the second full-time CPA executive secretary following James Kane’s resignation at the end of his contract in 1953. The national office was moved to 6 East 39<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, as services and staff grew and space needs were met. Cahaney offered his resignation to the board in the spring of 1958 effective June 1.

1953 Annual Convention in Atlantic City, N.J.  
 1954-1956 President Charles J. McNeill, Young Catholic Messenger

- 1954 Annual Convention at the Palmer House in Chicago, Ill.
- 1955 Annual Convention in Buffalo, NY: Plenary Address by Thomas E. Hurray, U.S. Atomic Energy Commissioner
- 1956-1958 President Msgr. John S. Randall, Catholic Courier Journal
- 1956 Annual Convention in Dallas, Texas
- 1957 Annual Convention in St. Louis, Mo.
- 1958-1960 President John J. Daly, Catholic Virginian

**1958** – James A. Doyle, a World War II veteran, who had been editor, promotion manager and Association liaison for a trade publishing house in New York, was selected as the third CPA full-time executive secretary after Cahaney’s resignation. He began work on May 1, with Eileen Nugent continuing as main staff associate. In 1965 his title was changed to executive director and in 1968 he was made ex-officio a member of the board and all CPA committees. During his tenure, the CPA office was relocated to 119 North Park Avenue, Rockville Centre, N.Y. Doyle retired June 30, 1988, after 30 years as CPA’s staff executive.

- 1958 Annual Convention in Richmond, Va.
- 1959 Catholic Press Month slogan, "Hold to the path of Truth and Justice - Pope Pius XII, Read Your Catholic Press, Voice of Your Church"
- 1959 Annual Convention in Omaha, Neb.

**1959** – The Literary Awards Committee proposed a special new CPA Award to be given each year “for the most outstanding contribution to Catholic journalism during the calendar year” to someone within the Catholic press, with registered agents of member publications as the voters. A noted sculptor, Rev. Thomas McGlynn, OP, was commissioned to execute a statuette of St. Francis de Sales in bronze to be given to the winner. Dale Francis, columnist for Our Sunday Visitor, received the first such award at the 1959 Omaha Convention for his “Operation Understanding” program to provide Catholic literature for Protestant Ministers.

- 1960-1963 President Rev. Albert J. Nevins, M.M. Maryknoll
- 1960 Catholic Press Month slogan, "Read your Catholic Press, Weapons of Truth... Weapons of Love- Pope John XXIII"

**1961** – CPA’s Golden Jubilee Convention was held at Washington’s Statler-Hilton Hotel, with Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, president of the University of Notre Dame, as Plenary Speaker. Vice-president Richard M. Nixon, at another luncheon, spoke of the “moral and spiritual heritage” of the United States and asked Convention attendees to do their part in strengthening this part of American life. Cardinal Gregory Peter Agagianian, the pro-prefect of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, gave the main Convention address, and Apostolic Delegate Bishop Egidio Vagnozzi celebrated the Golden Jubilee Memorial Mass.

- 1961 Annual Convention in Vancouver, BC, Canada
- 1962 Annual Convention in Boston, Mass.

**1962** – Father Hugh Morley, OFM Cap., editor of View magazine and a member of the CPA board of directors, was named permanent representative of the International Catholic Union of the Press at the United Nations. The Catholic Press Association supported him and his work for the Catholic press at the UN with an office, secretarial and telephone service.

1963-1965 President Msgr. Robert G. Peters, Peoria Register  
1963 Annual Convention in Miami Beach, Fla.  
1964 Annual Convention in Pittsburgh, Pa.  
1965-1967 President William Holub, America

**1965** – The CPA was the host for the World Congress of the Catholic Press, held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York, with more than 800 attending, including CPA delegates and International Union of the Catholic Press members from overseas, plus U.S. Catholic broadcasters, diocesan directors of information, fund raisers and others in communications.

1966 Convention in San Francisco, Calif.  
1967-1969 President Msgr. Terrence P. McMahon, Catholic Transcript  
1967 The CPA Convention joined the Canadian Centennial Celebration in Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
1968 Annual Convention in Columbus, Ohio  
1969-1971 President Joseph A. Gelin, Catholic Universe Bulletin

**1969** – The CPA and its Protestant press counterpart, the Associated Church Press, met in a joint Convention in Atlanta in May, after several years in which their staff executives had brought greetings to each other's annual meetings. Doyle and others hoped this Convention might lead to affiliation but support was lacking and no further joint meetings were held.

1970 Annual Convention at the Palmer House in Chicago, Ill.  
1970 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Rev. Msgr. Robert G. Peters, The Catholic Post  
1971-1973 President Rev. Louis G. Miller, C.S.S.R., Liguorian  
1971 Catholic Press Month slogan, "Needed today more than ever before Your Catholic Press"  
1971 Annual Convention in Houston, Texas  
1971 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Francis A. Fink, Our Sunday Visitor

**1971** – Sister Mary Lonan Reilly, OSF, after months of research and many interviews at the CPA's Rockville Centre Office and in dozens of other venues, completed and published her monumental A History of the Catholic Press Association 1911-1968, her fine graduate dissertation at the University of Notre Dame, published by Scarecrow Press, Metuchen, NJ, no longer in print, but possibly available at Amazon or other used book web search sites. A large portion of the historical material in these Timeline items is taken from her book.

1972 Joint convention of the CPA and the Associated Church Press met in Banff, Alberta, Canada  
1972 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Rev. Jeremy Harrington, O.F.M., St. Anthony Messenger  
1973-1975 President John F. Fink, Our Sunday Visitor  
1973 Catholic Press Month slogan, "See the world from a different angle - Read your 1973 Catholic Press..."  
1973 Annual Convention in Bloomington, Minn.  
1973 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Robert E. Burns, The Claretian Publication  
1974 Joint convention of the CPA and Associated Church Press met in Denver, Colo.  
1974 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Gerard E. Sherry  
1975-1977 President Rev. Jeremy Harrington, St. Anthony Messenger

- 1975 Annual convention in New York City, N.Y.
- 1975 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Rev. John B. Sheerin, C.S.P., The Catholic World
- 1976 Annual convention in Washington, D.C. - Winners of the Religious Book Awards were announced for the first time at the banquet luncheon
- 1976 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Lillian R. Block, Religious News Service
- 1977-1979 President Robert J. Fenton, Catholic Digest
- 1977 Annual convention in New Orleans, La. - George Gallup, Jr. from The Gallup Poll was the Plenary Speaker
- 1977 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to A.E.P. Wall, NC News Service
- 1978 Annual convention in San Diego, Calif.
- 1978 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Donald J. Thorman, National Catholic Reporter
- 1979-1981 President Ethel M. Gintoft, Catholic Herald Citizen
- 1979 Annual convention in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
- 1979 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Rev. Walter J. Burghardt, S.J.
- 1979 Catholic Press Month slogan, "Your World, Your Church, Your Catholic Press"
- 1980 Annual convention in Nashville, Tenn.
- 1980 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Rev. Thurston N. Davis, S.J., America Magazine
- 1981-1984 President Rev. Norman J. Muckerman, C.S.S.R., Liguorian
- 1981 Annual convention in Cincinnati, Ohio
- 1981 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to John F. Fink, Our Sunday Visitor
- 1982 Catholic Press Month slogan, "See the World Through Eyes of Faith"
- 1982 Annual convention in Scottsdale, Ariz.
- 1982 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Allen C. Bradley
- 1983 Annual convention in Philadelphia, Pa.
- 1983 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Ethel M. Gintoft, Catholic Herald Citizen
- 1984-1986 President Msgr. Owen F. Campion, Tennessee Register

**1984** – Jim Doyle, CPA executive director, was named a Knight of St. Gregory the Great by Pope John Paul II, for his quarter century of service to the Catholic press and the Church.

- 1984 Annual convention in Chicago, IL - Dr. Mary Frances Berry, a commissioner on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights was the Plenary Speaker
- 1984 St. Francis de Sales Award winners Most Rev. John P. Foley, The Pontifical Council for Social Communications, and Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins, NC News Service
- 1985 Annual convention in Orlando, Fla.
- 1985 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Rev. Norman J. Muckermann, C.S.S.R., Liguorian
- 1986-1988 President Albion Aspell, The Catholic Post
- 1986 75th Anniversary Convention in Columbus, Ohio - The Plenary Address was given by Hon. Douglas J. Roche, Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament
- 1986 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Edward S. Skillin, Commonweal
- 1987 Annual convention in San Antonio, Texas
- 1987 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Deacon Henry Libersat, The Florida Catholic
- 1988-1990 President Rev. John T. Catoir, The Christophers

**1988** – Jim Doyle announced his retirement as executive director of the CPA, and Owen P. McGovern, business manager of the Providence Visitor, was hired as the fourth CPA staff executive. Shortly after being appointed,

he moved CPA offices to 3555 Veterans Memorial Highway, Ronkonkoma, N.Y. He resigned as executive director in 2007.

- 1988 Annual convention in Boston, Mass.
- 1988 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to James A. Doyle, CPA Executive Director
- 1989 Annual convention in Baltimore, Md.
- 1989 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Msgr. Owen F. Campion, Tennessee Register
- 1990-1992 President Barbara Beckwith, St. Anthony Messenger
- 1990 Annual convention in Nashville, Tenn.
- 1990 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Penny Lernoux
- 1991 Annual convention in Tempe, Ariz.
- 1991 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Henry Gosselin
- 1992-1994 President Arthur McKenna, Catholic New York
- 1992 Annual convention in Milwaukee, Wis.
- 1992 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Albina Aspell, The Catholic Post
- 1993 Annual convention in Cincinnati, Ohio
- 1993 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Rev. John Catoir, The Christophers
- 1994-1996 President Anthony J. Spence, Tennessee Register

**1994** - Commissioned by the Catholic Press Association in 1994, the Bishop John England Award was designed by Donna Glassford, a leader in the use of art in medicine and other healing arts. The award, designed on paper as an acknowledgement that the award's recipients are publishers of the Catholic press, is a linoleum cut of the profile of Bishop England. It is printed on hand-crafted paper. The first series of the awards were printed at Hatch Show Print, one of the oldest and finest letterpress print shops in the United States.

- 1994 Bishop Joseph T. O'Keefe of Syracuse, N.Y. was the first recipient of the Bishop John England award.
- 1994 Annual convention in Tampa, Fla.
- 1994 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Barbara Beckwith, St. Anthony Messenger
- 1995 Annual convention in Los Angeles, CA-Plenary Address on Human Rights and Euthanasia
- 1995 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Thomas N. Lorsung
- 1995 Bishop John England Award was presented to the Most Rev. James A. Malone of Youngstown, Ohio
- 1996-1998 President Christopher J. Gunty, The Catholic Sun
- 1996 75th Anniversary of Catholic Press Month slogan, "Sometimes all you need is a little inspiration. The Catholic Press: News to Enlighten Your World"
- 1996 First CPA member to launch a catholic online service was Catholic Connect
- 1996 Annual convention in Philadelphia, Pa.
- 1996 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Rev. Mark J. Brummel, C.M.F..
- 1996 Bishop John England Award was presented to Neil and Patrica Kluepfel of Twenty-Third Publications in Conn.
- 1997 Catholic Press Month slogan, "Bringing the Gospel to Life"
- 1997 Annual convention in Denver, Colo.
- 1997 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Rev. Norman Perry, O.F.M., St. Anthony Messenger
- 1997 Bishop John England Award was presented to the Most Rev. David B. Thompson of Charleston, S.C.

- 1998-2000 President Joseph Kirk Ryan, The Catholic Standard and Times
- 1998 Annual convention in New Orleans, La. -Plenary Address, "Whose Constitution is it, anyways? First Amendment Issues: Catholic Voice in the Public Square"
- 1998 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Arthur L. McKenna, CPA President
- 1998 Bishop John England Award was presented to Robert Astorino, MM founder of the Union of Catholic Asian News
- 1999 Annual convention in Chicago, Ill. - Topic of discussion Y2K
- 1999 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Robert G. Hoyt
- 1999 Bishop John England award was presented Cardinal Bernard Francis Law of Boston, Mass.
- 2000-2002 President Karen Franz, The Catholic Courier
- 2000 Annual convention in Baltimore, Md.
- 2000 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Christopher J. Gunty, The Florida Catholic
- 2000 Bishop John England Award was presented to Cardinal John O'Connor from New York
- 2001 Catholic Press Month slogan, "A Journey of Faith in the New Millennium; Let Catholic Newspapers, Magazines and Books Be Your Guide"
- 2001 Annual convention in Dallas, Texas
- 2001 St. Francis de Sales Award winners Cardinal Avery Dulles and Anne Buckley
- 2001 Bishop John England Award was presented Archbishop Harry Joseph Flynn of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.
- 2002-2004 President Dennis Heaney, The Christophers
- 2002 Annual convention in Minneapolis, Minn.
- 2002 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Dennis Heaney, The Christophers
- 2002 Bishop John England Award was presented to the Most Reve. Anthony G. Bosco of Greensburgh, Pa.
- 2003 Catholic Press Month slogan, "Need Help Solving the Puzzle of Life? Read the Catholic Press"
- 2003 Annual Convention in Atlanta, Ga.
- 2003 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Jerry Filteau
- 2003 Bishop John England Award was presented to Gerald Costello from The Christophers in New York
- 2004-2006 President Helen Osman, The Catholic Spirit in Texas
- 2004 Annual convention in Washington, D.C.
- 2004 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Gerald Costello, Catholic New York
- 2004 Bishop John England Award as presented to six bishops from The Florida Catholic
- 2005 Annual convention in Orlando, Fla.
- 2005 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Oscar Reyes
- 2005 Bishop John England Award was presented to the Most Rev. Raymond J. Boland of Kansas City, Kan.
- 2006-2008 President Robert Zyskowski, The Catholic Spirit in Minneapolis
- 2006 Catholic Press Month slogan, "Choose the Right Path: Let the Catholic Press Lead You"
- 2006 St. Francis de Sales winners Fr. Jack Wintz, OFM, and Owen P. McGovern, CPA Executive Director
- 2006 Bishop John England Award was presented to Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes of New Orleans, La.

**2007** – Thomas Conway was hired as CPA executive director, and Association offices were moved to Chicago to be more geographically centered, at 205 West Monroe Street, Suite 470. He resigned in June 2008; Karen A.

Hurley from the CPA office was the interim executive director and worked with the Search Committee to find his replacement.

- 2007 Annual convention in Brooklyn, N.Y.
- 2007 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to John Thavis, Catholic News Service in Rome
- 2007 Bishop John England Award was presented to Father Jeremy Harrington, OFM of St. Anthony Messenger in Ohio
- 2008-2010 President Penny Wiegert, The Observer
- 2008 Annual convention in Toronto, Ontario, Canada

**2008** – Timothy Walter, who worked with the Catholic Herald, Milwaukee, for 19 years, has a BS in education and taught grade school for seven years before working in sales, was appointed executive director on October 1 -- the CPA's sixth staff executive.

- 2008 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Chic Davis, The Catholic Review
- 2008 Bishop John England Award was presented to Richard Ritter from Extensions Magazine in Chicago
- 2009 Annual convention in Anaheim, Calif.
- 2009 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Karen M. Franz, Catholic Courier
- 2009 Bishop John England Awards was presented to Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk of Cincinnati, Ohio
- 2010 Annual convention in New Orleans, La.
- 2010 St. Francis de Sales Award presented to Anthony J. Spence, Catholic New Service
- 2010 Bishop John England Award was presented to the Most Rev. Joseph A. Galante of Camden, N.J.
- 2011 Catholic Press Month slogan, "Catholic Press Association: 100 Years of Reporting the Good News – 100 Anos Reportando la Buena Nueva"
- 2011 Centennial Anniversary Convention in Pittsburgh, Pa. – Centennial Gala at the Carnegie Museum