

Faith and Action: A History of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 1821–1996.

By Roger Fortin. (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2002. Pp. xvii, 489. Illustrations, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00.)

This book provides a comprehensive study of how Catholicism has been organized and lived in Cincinnati and the surrounding area from the early nineteenth to the end of the twentieth century. Written in honor of the Archdiocese's 175th anniversary (and with the support of both the Archdiocese and of Xavier University in Cincinnati, where Richard Fortin teaches history), the book relates what the author calls a "success story" (p. 391) of "almost constant adaptation and change" (p. xiii). The result is a thorough investigation of one of America's great Catholic archdioceses, based in one of the most historically significant cities in the Midwest.

At the time of its founding in 1821, the then diocese of Cincinnati encompassed the whole region of the original Northwest Territory, including Indiana. From the mid-nineteenth century to the present the Archdiocese of Cincinnati has included all of southern Ohio. Because the book is about one of the largest and most important religious groups within that broad area, it proves equally valuable for its insights into the history of the city and the region.

Fortin's scope and focus remain on the institutions and leadership of the church. Official church records, including those of the archdiocese, the correspondence of Cincinnati bishops and archbishops, and the diocesan newspaper *The Catholic Telegraph*, form the backbone of the book's research. As a result of both the sources and the subject matter, the book's organization follows chronologically the tenure of bishops and archbishops.

Despite its conventional structure, the book defines the church more broadly than have previous institutional histories, such as John H. Lamott's *History of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 1821–1921* (1921). Fortin includes a wealth of information about individual parishes, priests, male religious orders, and communities of women religious such as religious orders and sodalities. Fortin makes his strongest contribution by illuminating the efforts of Catholic lay men and women who financially support the work of the archdiocese and who participate in masses and religious devotions (pp. 264–65). The author delves less deeply into private religious life and the non-religious activities of lay Catholics, although his discussion of Catholic schools and social services demonstrates well the impact of the actions of Cincinnati Catholics on the larger culture and society.

The book also reaches beyond purely local concerns, highlighting the international connections between the archdiocese and European Catholic organizations such as the Sacred Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith and the Leopoldine Foundation. The author

analyzes the interaction of Catholics with other religious groups and with anti-Catholics. He also shows the church's responses to political developments from the Civil War to twentieth-century immigration and to recent local and national elections.

Although mostly a sympathetic, positive, and even celebratory account of the successful development and growth of Catholic religious institutions, Fortin's detailed account does not avoid controversies such as conflicts between priests and laity, financial crises, and even recent accusations of sexual misconduct. Perhaps not as critical as some recent scholarship on religion in America, *Faith and Action* provides a detailed account of an important institution in an important midwestern city. The book is a fitting addition to Zane Miller's ambitious urban life and landscape series, which has made particular contributions to the understanding of midwestern cities and to a deeper view of the historical importance of Cincinnati.

JOHN BUGGELN is chairman of the history department at Archmere Academy, an independent Catholic high school in Claymont, Delaware. He recently completed an Indiana University—Bloomington doctoral dissertation in history, "A Marketplace for Religion, Cincinnati, 1788–1890."

Regionalism and Reform: Art and Class Formation in Antebellum Cincinnati. By Wendy Jean Katz. (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2002. Pp. xx, 264. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$45.00.)

Wendy Jean Katz's book is a remarkable contribution to nineteenth-century American art history and history. Katz argues that a recognizably "national" culture was created in localities rather than emanating solely, or as a one-way street, from New York. Using a social history approach, she examines art and art associations in the most important art center of the West of the 1840s and 1850s. Katz asserts that, through institutions like the Western Museum, the Ohio Mechanics Institute, the Semi-Colon Club, the Young Men's Mercantile Library, the Society for the Promotion of Useful Knowledge, and the Western Art Union, Cincinnatians learned the language of public benefit and moral improvement, and cultivated such virtues as self-control and empathy. She then devotes a chapter each to three artists who had strong Cincinnati ties, examining the ways in which their images helped to constitute a moral reform ideology.

In "Lilly Martin Spencer and the Art of Refinement," Katz argues that Spencer's paintings, with their humorous, conversational, and labor-intensive style depicting the everyday life of women and children in the home, acted as a model for a civilized society that saw beauty in unselfishness and charm in order. She adroitly examines connections between Spencer's genre scenes—with their