HISTORY MONTHLY

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"The attacks of September 11th were intended to break our spirit. Instead, we have emerged stronger and more unified." - Then New York City Manager Rudolph Giuliani

NC HISTORY

In 1972, a tennis player named Theresa Donahue played the number one spot for Newark Catholic as a sophomore during the regular season. At that time, high school girls were not allowed to play or compete on boys' athletic teams according to Rule 1, Section 2 of the OHSAA rule book which stated that "boys teams must be composed of boys only." But that didn't stop Theresa Donahue and her career. Finally in 1973, the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that high school girls could play on boys non-contact teams. "It was okay, but it was just a little weird," quoting Theresa when she took the court at the Central District. In 1973, she had a phenomenal tennis season. After losing her first match, she came back with 10 straight wins causing her to reach Quarterfinals. There, on May 22, she lost a tough match to the second-seeded player. In 1974, Theresa Donahue, now a Junior at Newark Catholic, became the first girl in Ohio to compete with boys in a varsity sport.

Before her career at NC, Donahue competed and won the Columbus Indoor Junior Tennis Tournament for girls 18 and under as a 15 year old. She also won a closed tournament in Indianapolis.

Theresa was not only a tennis player while at NC. She participated in basketball, softball, and Student Council, where she served as Secretary in 1973 and then President in 1974.

Her accomplishments on the court did not go unseen as she went to play tennis at Duke from 1974-1978.

Some of Donahue's Accomplishments:

- Won Girls 14 single in JC tournament
- Reached Semifinals in Ohio Valley Regionals and the consolation playoff
- Won Girls 14 single in Northern Indiana Open
- Reached Quarter Finals in Girls Single, and Semifinals in Girls 14 Doubles in Middletown, Ohio
- Won girls 16 singles in Northern Ohio Open
- Named the 56th best 16 year old player in the United States in 1972
- Rated #1 in the 18-year-old division
- Set multiple school records, some still standing to this day at NC
- Appeared in the District tournaments all the way to state runner ups

THE HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN ICONS

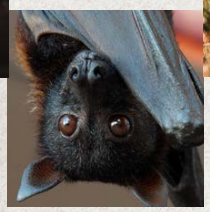
Fall is now in full swing, and we can no longer escape the pumpkin spice everything. At least Halloween is just around the corner! But where did our beloved Halloween icons come from? It's understandable why spooky critters and creatures like spiders and vampires make the shelves every year: they're scary. But where did the more innocent symbols originate like Jack-o'-lanterns, bats, black cats, and crows and ravens? These symbols are arguably not scary— they're often cute, even. So how did we get here?

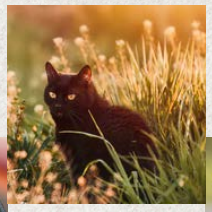
JACK-O'-LANTERNS

The name "Jack-o'-lantern" came from an Irish folktale about a sneaky trickster named Jack, who repeatedly outsmarted the devil. After he died, Jack wasn't allowed into Heaven nor Hell, so he was left wandering the Earth with only an ember to light the way, which he carried inside a hollowed-out turnip. The Irish carved scary faces into turnips around Halloween to scare off Jack's spirit and other malicious creatures. When immigrants brought their vegetable-carving traditions to America, they used pumpkins instead, being native, larger, and easier to carve.

BATS

In fall, Celts celebrated Samhain, an end of year harvest festival. Because this was a spiritually messy time of year where the border between the living and the dead blurred, they wore costumes to scare them away. (This is where the modern-day tradition of wearing costumes during Halloween comes from.) They also lit evening bonfires. The flames attracted moths and other bugs, which attracted bats to swoop in for a feast. While what the Celts actually believed about bats is something to be argued over, they naturally started associating the bats in the dark skies with their annual festivities, as familiar as the spirits and ghouls they were warding off.





BLACK CATS

There's a reason our spooky feline friends always accompany witches. Witches honor the natural world and have a deep respect for plants and animals, instead of honoring God. The early Christian church formed a belief that close bonds with animals is suspicious and a sign of dealing with the devil. Along with this, witches show a significant amount of disrespect for authority. Cats don't obey and fawn for attention, like dogs. The Church saw this as an attack on their authority, and cats received a reputation for partnerships with witches. From the combination of witches and cats, the prejudice narrowed on black cats. The association is likely fabricated, but a reason behind this could be that they have a practical hunting advantage; they're harder to see in the dark and therefore better mousers. The idea that black cats are bad luck stemmed from this idea as a whole. If a black cat crossed your path, rumor had it that the devil himself was visiting you.

CROWS AND RAVENS

These two sleek black birds are practically silhouettes wherever they're seen. We're all familiar with the crow's distinct caws. These noisy little mischief makers couldn't be that scary, right? During wartime, onlookers observed crows dive in to feast on the soft tissues and eyes of fallen soldiers. Ravens first gained their widespread spooky reputation through Edgar Allan Poe's poem "The Raven", where a raven repeatedly visits a dismayed man mourning the loss of his lover, Lenore. When he asks if he'll be reunited with Lenore when he dies and they meet in Heaven, the raven only ever responds with one word: "Nevermore". In the modern day, ravens are known to follow hunting parties or chase the sound of gunshots in hopes of snatching an easy meal. Both birds are opportunistic feeders and will eat nearly anything, from fruits, seeds, and small animals, to carrion and garbage.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

The Great Fire of London began on September 2, 1666, in a bakery on Pudding Lane. The fire quickly spread throughout the city.. It was a hot, dry and windy day which was perfect weather for a fire to start and spread like it did. Most of the houses were made of timber and were located close together. The fire burned for four days, from September 2nd until September 6th.

Even though the fire was extinguished, the ground was stilll hot, so pockets of flames continued to burn. This fire caused major destruction destroying a third of the city along with leaving around 70,000 people homeless. After the fire, London was rebuilt with stronger materials like stone and brick to prevent this from happening again.

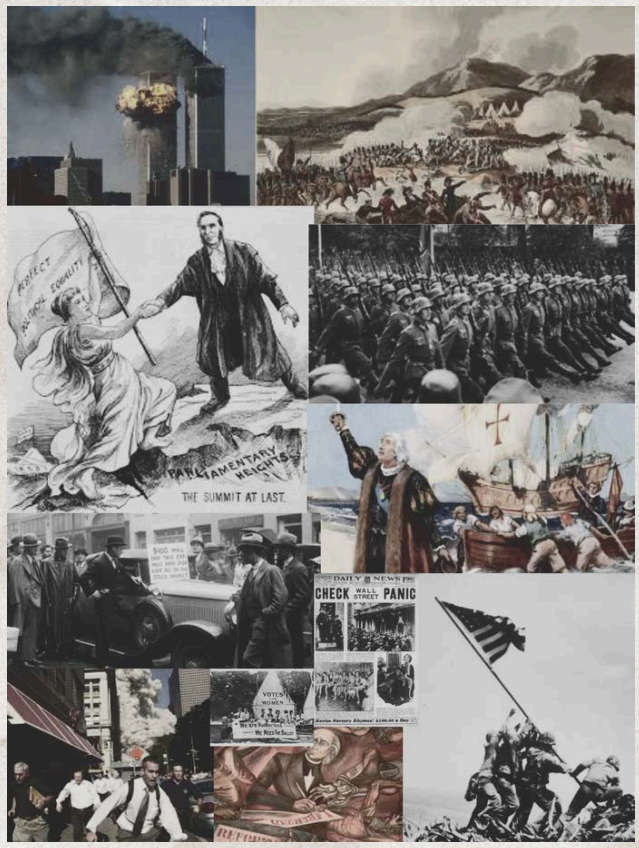
CATHOLIC CORNER

Saint Carlo Acutis was born in London, England on May 3, 1991 and died of Leukemia at 15 years old. He was baptized on May 18 in the church of Our Lady of Dolours in London. Throughout his life Carlo liked to play video games along with soccer. After he died, he preformed several miracles including, healing a Brazilian boy with a malformed pancreas and a Costa Rican woman who was healed from a head injury by praying by where he laid. Saint Carlo Acutis was canonized on September 7 along with Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati.

Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati was born on April 6, 1901 in Turin, Italy and became a popular role model after he died on July 4, 1925. He did many good deeds throughout his life. He preformed two miracles including the healing of Domenico Sellan from tuberculosis and the healing of a seminarian, Juan Gutierrez from a torn Achilles.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

This newsletter's spotlight is on… Senior Mac Gebhart! In September, she put together a 9/11 memorial display in the New Wing. Were you able to get a look while it was up? The display contained a timeline of the day's events in two of the display cases, and a flag with the names of all 2,977 victims of the tragedy in the center case. On the shelves, various books and newspapers on the topic were visible. Mac handmade clay models of the Survivor Tree, a structural steel beam cross that appeared at Ground Zero, and a tribute to the many lifesaving rescue dogs on the scene.



EVENTS IN HISTORY

- 9/11/2001 The United States suffered terrorist attacks
- 9/16/1810: Mexico gained independence from Spain
- 9/19/1893: New Zealand became the 1st nation to grant women the right to vote
- 9/25/1939: WWII begins
- 10/12/1492: Christopher Columbus arrives in the new world
- 10/29/1929: Black Tuesday, a major stock crash

VETERANS DAY WALL OF HONOR

The Voices of the Past class is updating our Wall of Honor display to remember our Veterans connected to the NC community to be put up every year on Veterans Day. We would greatly appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to fill out our form, in honor of anyone you know who has served. If you completed the form last year, you do not need to submit another picture, but you may update the information if needed.

All submissions are due by November 8th.

WALL OF HONOR SUBMISSION FORM

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT?

Voices of the Past loves to both teach and learn. If there is any topic you would like to learn more about or have any comments, let us know!

Email us at voicesofthepast@newarkcatholic.org