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New History Textbooks take Story Approach to Teaching History

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA—A new history textbook series for Catholic schools is piquing interest nationwide for its cover-to-cover, compelling, four-color illustrations, maps and photographs as well as for its unique, story-telling approach to teaching history. This is the first history textbook series for Catholic schools in 40 years and is produced by the Catholic School Textbook Project. Already the textbooks were featured on *CNN* last August, and are already in use in Catholic schools in all 50 states and in English-speaking countries around the world.

“The Catholic Schools Textbook Project does its best to reawaken the historical imagination of children by sharing the stories of both heroes and villains in history,” says the series’ general editor Dr. Rollin Lasseter.

“I am very impressed with the beautiful artwork, the high resolution photographs and beautiful maps within this series. The pages are lively and visually very appealing. More importantly, these textbooks clearly present U. S. and world history within the larger context of our salvation history, and they do it in a way that is fair and balanced,” observes Jerry Sanderson, associate superintendent for curriculum and instruction for the Diocese of Peoria. Sanderson has been in Catholic education for the last 17 years as teacher, principal and now at the diocesan level.

“There’s recognition in these textbooks that human history is subject to moral judgments. They do an excellent job of conveying the ongoing struggle between good and evil throughout history,” Sanderson adds. “I feel there’s a balanced treatment of Church history—recognizing the Church with its saints and their contributions to the common good, as well as its sinners and their follies.”

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The books include vignettes about saints and great men and women of the times throughout, which Sanderson and others believe adds a great deal to students' understanding of how individuals can and do impact history. "I appreciate the inclusion of stories about the lives of the saints throughout the books," says Sanderson. "Our Catholic heritage has been integrated into the history of the Americas through stories like Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe. Such stories help Catholic students understand their Catholic heritage and even their own individual roles within the culture and circumstances of today."

Featured on *CNN* and endorsed by nine bishops, several dioceses, teachers, parents and even students, the Catholic Schools Textbook Project brings a vibrantly new option to the table when Catholic schools consider history textbooks.

For more information about the history textbooks for Catholic schools, call toll free (866) 458-3332 or check online at www.catholictextbookproject.com.

About the Catholic Schools Textbook Project: Founded by a frustrated headmaster who could not find suitable textbooks for his Catholic students, the Catholic Schools Textbook Project was established to respond to the exhortation of the Second Vatican Council to lead students to "knowledge...illuminated by Faith" (*Gravissimum Educationis*, No. 8). The project is dedicated to developing new textbooks for Catholic schools that (1) recognize and promote the relationship between Faith and reason and (2) engage and inspire Catholic students, thereby helping educators fulfill the fundamental mission of Catholic education. For more information, call toll-free (866) 458-3332 or visit www.catholictextbookproject.com

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