

# ❖ Second Collection this week is Catholic Miscellany

The Catholic Miscellany, successor to the U.S. Catholic Miscellany, the first Catholic newspaper in the United States, is the official newspaper of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston. It was founded by Bishop John England, the first bishop of Charleston in 1822.

When the bishop died in 1842, there were 1,500,000 Catholics in the nation and other Catholic publications had started. Bishop Ignatius A. Reynolds continued the United States Catholic Miscellany as a regional newspaper when he was appointed bishop of the Diocese of Charleston in 1844.

When South Carolina seceded from the Union in 1860, The Miscellany changed its name to Catholic Miscellany. Starting with the first issue of 1861, the paper was called Charleston Catholic Miscellany.

On Dec. 11, 1861 fire swept across the peninsula of Charleston, destroying the offices of the paper and its press. The Miscellany ceased publication. Following the Civil War, Bishop Lynch tried to revive the Catholic paper, but funds to support it were not available in post-bellum South Carolina.

Ninety years after The Miscellany was discontinued, The Catholic Banner appeared in 1951. In 1960, The Banner became part of a three-diocese consortium, designed and published in Waynesboro, Georgia, with some local articles and photographs accompanying national and international copy from a wire service, the Catholic News Service. The editorial offices of The Banner were located in Columbia. In 1990, Bishop David B. Thompson returned the diocesan newspaper to its historic roots, renaming it The New Catholic Miscellany and moving it to Charleston.

In March 1995, The Miscellany staff began producing the paper in-house and printing it locally. That same year, the paper won its first national award for excellence.

Bishop Thompson was presented with the prestigious Bishop John England Award by the Catholic Press Association, a group of hundreds of magazines, newspapers and newsletters. Named after the founder of the Catholic press in America and Bishop Thompson's predecessor, the award is "for outstanding performance as a publisher." It was presented exactly two weeks before the 175th anniversary of paper. In 2002, the word "New" was dropped from the nameplate and the paper became The Catholic Miscellany.