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CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA
CONVENTION, CULTURE & LEISURE DEPARTMENT
HISTORY & SCIENCE DIVISION

ACTIVITY:

SACRAMENTO
ARCHIVES & MUSEUM
COLLECTION CENTER

SACRAMENTO
HISTORY MUSEUM

OLD SACRAMENTO
HISTORICAL REVIEW

HISTORIC OLD
SACRAMENTO
FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sacramento Archives to Host Exhibit and Lecture on Sacramento Catholics

On Friday, June 12, 2009, the Sacramento Archives & Museum Collection Center (SAMCC) will unveil a new photographic exhibit, *City of Man, City of God: The Catholic Church and the Shaping of Sacramento*. The exhibit depicts the role that people of faith played in shaping Sacramento's urban agenda, from the 1850s to today. The evening will include an address by Dr. Steven M. Avella on his recently released book, *Sacramento and the Catholic Church: Shaping a Capital City*. The event is free and open to the public. It begins at 7:00 p.m. at SAMCC (551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd, Sacramento).

Dr. Avella grew up in Sacramento and has written prodigiously about his hometown. Avella is the author of two recent books on Sacramento, *The Good Life:*

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Sacramento's Consumer Culture and *Sacramento: Indomitable City*. He is on the faculty of Marquette University, where he teaches courses on religion and American life. He is currently engaged in writing a biography of Charles K. McClatchy, a former editor of the *Sacramento Bee*.

The Catholic Church, present in Sacramento from the city's beginnings, has had an important influence on Sacramento's culture and development. Yet the character of Catholic life has also been shaped by the city's diverse social, cultural, and political makeup. The exhibit and lecture will examine the interplay between the city and one community of faith in the creation of Sacramento's urban agenda. Topics discussed include the geography of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, the early struggle of assimilation by various ethnic groups, and the conflict between religious and secular forces over caring for the hungry and homeless. The evening is not a history of the Diocese of Sacramento, rather a look at Sacramento as a case study of the role a religious denomination played in the development of an American western city.

For more information please visit www.sacramentoarchives.org, or call (916) 264-7072. Dr. Avella will sign copies of his book, which will be available for purchase that evening.

SAMCC's mission is to foster, stimulate, and promote the study and appreciation of Sacramento's regional history. Since 1954, it has served the community by acquiring, preserving, exhibiting, and enabling access to the documentary and material culture of the region. SAMCC is administered by the City of Sacramento and is jointly funded by the City and County of Sacramento.

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