This September, the Trenton Diocesan Council of Parent Teacher Associations will celebrate its 90th Anniversary. Approximately a year and a half ago the Historical Committee came together for the purpose of completing an historical account of the oldest Parent Teacher Association in the country. Our committee is made up of past Diocesan Presidents and our past Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. During our attempt to find a “home,” Sr. Dorothy Payne invited us to come to Trenton Catholic Academy.

Fortunately, our founding members had the foresight to realize that it would be necessary to keep records. To that end we have a “yearbook” for every year from 1925. The early books were small 6-page, 3”x5” books. As more schools became part of the Council the need for a constitution and by-laws increased. The Council also started to assess each unit a per capita tax for members. The number of schools and their enrollment was important information. The yearbook was their tool for dispersing this type of data to all units. All yearbooks have been microfilmed and the complete set will be part of the data we are preserving.

One thing we have noticed was the failure to date and identify notes and pictures. The long-time involvement of our committee members in PTA has helped with our ability to identify people in pictures. As our work will continue after our celebration, we continue to remind our current members to date and identify everything.

We continue to delve into minutes, notes, publications, convention books as well as consulting with our oldest living member, who is 95, and we hope to have our project completed by June 2015. We also interviewed former members with the intent of completing a short video.