

Self-guide Worksheets
Catholics in New York 1808 – 1946
Museum of the City of New York



Catholics in New York 1808-1946 explores the social and political history of the diverse group of people who established the formidable Catholic presence in New York. The exhibition, the first of its kind, traces their growth from a tiny religious minority to a powerful force in the city and shows how, by organizing to build their own communities, institutions, and political organizations, Catholics reshaped the fabric of life in all five boroughs.

These self-guided worksheets are meant to be used by your students while viewing the exhibition at the Museum. The use of these sheets will encourage deeper investigation of specific themes in the exhibition. Your students will read label text and look closely at objects and photographs in order to complete the worksheets. Students may work independently, in pairs, or in small groups to complete the sheets. Once the information is acquired, you may have your students present their discoveries back in the classroom or while in the exhibition.

There are fourteen different worksheets in this set of materials. In addition to the worksheets, there are corresponding scenarios to complement each section. These scenarios ask students to imagine they are living in New York City during the timeframe of the exhibition and to write or draw a response to the scenario provided.

Also available is a list of suggested activities for grades K-8 to help you connect the themes in the exhibition to your classroom curriculum. These are available upon request.

Teachers are responsible for equipping students with copies of these materials, pencils, and clipboards. These items will not be available at the Museum.



1. Prologue: Catholics in Early New York

Read the main introductory text in this section and answer the following questions.

This exhibition is called *Catholics in New York* _____ to _____.

New Amsterdam became a Dutch colony in 1625. Once the British took over in 1664, what did they rename New Amsterdam?

Under English rule, Catholics living in New York City were denied what right?

What were the occupations of some of the immigrants that came to the city?

Why were individuals leaving their homelands to come to New York City?

What year did Catholics gain religious freedom in New York?

What was the first Catholic Church built in New York City?

What year was it organized?



2. A Catholic Community Takes Form

Read the main introductory text in this section and answer the following questions.

What two factors brought French-speaking Catholic immigrants to New York?

Which group of people came to New York to help build the Erie Canal?

Read the text and look at the objects and illustrations that tell you about Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seaton and Pierre Toussaint. Write three important facts about one of these significant New Yorkers.

Name of person chosen

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. New Arrivals

Read the main introductory text in this section and answer the following questions.

Between which years did the mass immigration of Irish Catholics come to New York City?

How many people came at this time?

What event in Ireland was called “one of the greatest catastrophes of the century”?

What was the result of this event?

Why did the Germans begin coming to New York City?

Between which years did they come to New York City?

How many people came at this time?

Once here, in which parts of New York did they settle?

A Communion of Immigrants

Besides the large numbers of Irish and German immigrants, what other ethnic groups came to New York?

Turn Over

Besides new languages, what else did new immigrants bring to New York?

In your opinion, what added to the diversity of New York during this time?

4. Family, Parish, and Community

Read the main label text in this section and answer the following questions.

By 1865, approximately how many New Yorkers are Catholic?

Millions of immigrants created a new Catholic “city-within-a-city”. How did they map their streets?

Wholesome Recreation

Read the main exhibit text and answer the questions below.

What are some activities offered by their parish that individuals participated in?

Parishes

What new addition to the system of parishes complicated the map of “Catholic” New York?

Looking at the photographs and label text in this section, choose one parish and write three facts about it.

Name of parish:

1. _____

Turn Over

2. _____

3. _____



5. Jobs

Read the main introductory text in this section and answer the following questions.

Earning a Living

What were the most popular jobs for new immigrants who came to New York without urban skills?

Which jobs were taken by those who arrived with specific skills?

What job opportunities did immigrant women have?

Looking at some of photographs and label text located in this section, answer the questions below.

List some of the jobs you see women doing in illustration #7.

What do you think the men are doing in illustration #15? How does this benefit present day New York City?

6. A Catholic Childhood

Focusing on the murals on the wall called, *Growing Up in New York City, 1926-1938* and *Adolescent Years in New York City, 1934-1944*, answer the questions below.

Who painted the mural?

What does the mural focus on?

What high school did the artist attend?

List some of the things you see children doing.

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Which activities shown in the murals do enjoy doing today?

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Case below the murals

What school did Alfred E. Smith go to? (Use photos and labels #5 & #6)

What important job will he hold when he gets older?

What medal did he win when he was in school?

What was he chosen to do when he was twelve years old?

In your opinion, how do you think these achievements helped him in his career?

9. A Cathedral in the City of New York

Read the main introductory text in this section and answer the following questions.

What major project did Archbishop John Hughes take on in 1853?

What was his challenge?

Where was (is) the location of the Cathedral?

What year was the first cornerstone laid?

What year did the Cathedral open?

Focus on the case directly across from the big image of St. Patrick's Cathedral. Look at the illustrations and read the corresponding label text to answer the following question.

Describe what event is taking place in the images seen in this case

Turn Over

What is the reason for this event?

How many of the city's parishes took part in the event?

What were some of the activities you could have taken part in?

How much money was raised?

10. Education

Read the main introductory text in this section and answer the following questions.

A Catholic Education

Name the parish that opened the first free parish school in New York City.

What year did it open?

What important role did the Sisters of Charity play in 1830?

Who urged financial support for Catholic schools?

In response to The Maclay Bill passed in 1842, what did John Hughes commit himself to doing?

Which order of Sisters wore the bonnet in the case? What year is it from?

What responsibilities did this order of Sisters have?

Turn Over

The Parochial School System

What did Archbishop Michael Corrigan order every parish to do? Under Corrigan, how many new parochial schools opened? Between which years?

Who staffed the parish schools?

11. Politics

Read the main introductory text in this section and answer the following questions.

Voters and Citizens

Which immigrant group came to dominate the Democratic Party?

What was the name of the city's first Catholic mayor?

Who was Al Smith? In which area of New York City did Al Smith spend his childhood?

Patriotic Service

What actions showed how early Catholic immigrants took pride in defending the union? What did they do?

Look at illustration #1 in this section and read the corresponding text. What happened when President Lincoln issued his call for volunteers?

Turn over

A Spectrum of Views

Find the photographs of and corresponding label text for Dorothy Day, Michael Quill, and John LaFarge. Choose two of these people and write two facts about each them.

Name:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Name:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

12. Politics

Read the main introductory text in this section and answer the following questions.

Ward Politics

During the year 1827 in New York, an important change in voting happened. What was it?

What organization was considered a “hotbed of political corruption”? Why do you think this organization was considered corrupt?

The Bosses

What was the role of the political party boss, also called the County Chairman?

What did they get for their efforts?

List the names of a few bosses and what they are most known for.

13. The New Catholic New York

Read the main introductory text in this section and answer the following questions.

What happened in 1944?

How was the Catholic community reinvigorated?

Education, Home, Ownership, and New Catholic Horizons

What were President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's goals in setting forth the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944?

What benefits were provided?

Looking at some of the photographs and label text located in this section, answer the questions below.

How much money was allocated for education in the new GI benefits?

How many veterans took advantage of the GI Bill by the time the program ended?

What year did it end?

14. Arriving From San Juan

Read the main introductory text in this section and answer the following questions.

How many people from Puerto Rico moved to New York between the years 1940 and 1970?

In your opinion, why do you think there were so many people coming to New York from Puerto Rico during this time?

Which festival became the focus of the Puerto Rican ministry?

Looking at some of photographs and label text located in this section, answer the questions below.

Can you translate the festival name from Spanish to English?

Who was the festival in honor of?

Find photograph #1 on the back wall that shows children leaving a school. Which New York Governor attended St. James School?

Which years did he attend?

The current staff of teachers speaks which languages?

Why do you think the teachers have to know many languages?
