

Barquilla del Santa Maria

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CATHOLIC SACRAMENTAL REGISTERS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY BEFORE 1900

by Donald M. Schlegel

"My great-grandparents lived on Spruce street in Columbus in the 1890's when my grandmother was born. To which parish should I write to obtain a copy of her baptismal record?" This question, which is typical of many received by the Catholic Record Society, seems at first to be a simple one, to which the simple answer, "St. Francis parish" could be given. However, a complete answer would be something like the following: "Spruce street was in St. Francis parish, which was established in 1892; if no record is there, you might try the mother-parish, Sacred Heart; if the family were German you might try Holy Cross, or if Italian the record might be at St. John the Baptist; and if none of these has the record, try the Cathedral." This article is intended to be a permanent reference to provide complete, if complex, answers to such questions.

The first Catholic congregation in Columbus was St. Remigius, which in a few years became the present Holy Cross parish. This church served the entire city and surrounding areas until St. Patrick's was established in 1852. The first division of the congregation was made on the basis of language, not location. Holy Cross served the German-speaking population and St. Patrick's served those who spoke English. Attendance at the next two parishes established was also specified only on the basis of language, German at St. Mary's and English at St. Joseph Cathedral. No record of any early boundary between St. Patrick's and the Cathedral has been found. Regarding the German parishes, there is a tradition, backed up by existing pew rent lists of the 1880's, that the pastor of Holy Cross claimed for his parish all Germans south as far as Sycamore street, the very door-step of St. Mary's.

The first truly geographic parish in Columbus was established in 1875, when Sacred Heart parish was founded with the Union Station and railroads as its southern limit and extending to the County line on the north. As late as 1889, however, the use of geographical boundaries was not consistent; that year St. Dominic's was established on the northeast side, according to the diocesan newspaper, for those who lived "out that way."

In order to see if some correlation between location of residence and church attendance existed, a random sample of baptismal records from the mid-1870's through 1900 was examined. The result was somewhat heartening, in that

most baptisms were performed at the church closest to the residence, with the exception that those attending St. Patrick's and the Cathedral might live anywhere. Conversely, this means that if the record cannot be found at the church nearest to the residence, try these two parishes. Germans continued to attend the church where their language was spoken, with Holy Cross claiming members as far north as Spring street.

The present system of well-defined parish boundaries did not come about until after 1902. That summer the diocese held a Synod, under Bishop Henry Moeller, who brought quite a bit of discipline to this diocese when he came here from Cincinnati to occupy the bishop's chair after the death of Bishop Watterson. The synod set up rules to carry out the directive of the Second Plenary Council of Baltimore (held in 1866) which stated that throughout the country, chiefly in the larger cities where there were several churches, boundaries should be determined for the parishes and missions. The synod set forth that the pastors of neighboring parishes should decide upon their mutual boundaries and present them to the bishop for approval. Once these were established, all Catholics within the boundaries of a parish were expected to attend that parish. The only exception allowed was that those who previous to this time had moved away from one parish into another but retained their membership in the first parish by means of pew rent or other contributions to its support might continue to belong to that parish. Anyone who newly came into a parish, leaving their father's house and establishing a new household, was bound to join the parish where he now lived. No priest was to allow any person living outside the parish boundaries to belong to his parish without the permission of the person's proper pastor or of the bishop. Thus, after 1902 the baptismal, marriage, and death records gradually should come to be located at the churches nearest the residences.

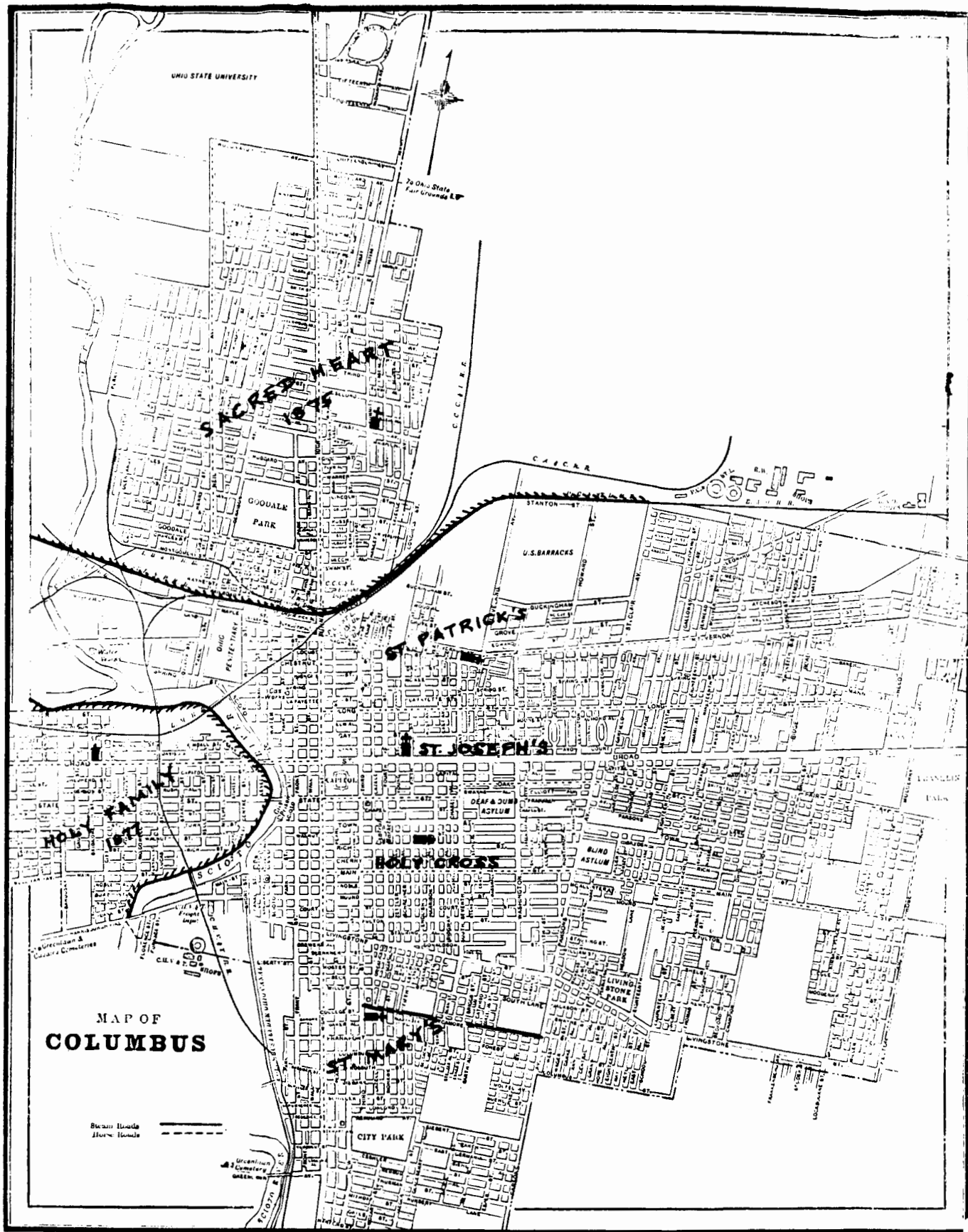
The following list, largely based on Bishop Hartley's 1918 history of the diocese and extant microfilms of parish registers in the archives of the diocese, is an attempt to describe for the researcher the makeup of each of the Franklin County parishes and institutions and its records before 1900.

PARISHES

St. Remigius, The first Catholic congregation in Columbus, was organized in 1833 to serve Catholics of all nationalities in Columbus and the surrounding counties. Records of this church include baptisms from as far away as Springfield, Marion, and Newark. The little stone church at Rich and Fifth in Columbus was completed in 1838. The records, which begin in June 1836 and end in January 1846, were published by the Society in volumes VII and VIII (1981 and 1982) of the BULLETIN. The original records are located at Holy Cross parish.

Holy Cross Church replaced the tiny St. Remigius in 1846, its membership being the same as that of St. Remigius. After 1852, this parish served primarily the German population. Records are located at the parish, 204 South Fifth street.

St. Patrick's parish was organized in 1851 to serve the English-speaking Catholics of Columbus and vicinity; geographically, it served the same area as Holy Cross. The church building at Grant and Naghten streets was occupied in 1853. Baptismal and marriage records begin in 1852; death records begin in



1885. A few death records from the years 1859 to 1863 have been published in The Columbus Catholic Cemetery: History and Records, 1846-1874 (by Donald Schlegel). The records are located at the parish, 376 E. Naghten street.

St. Mary's parish was first organized as a school society in 1865, with the objective of soon establishing a new parish for the Germans of the south side of Columbus. The church was dedicated in 1868. Baptismal and marriage records, beginning at 1868, and death records beginning 1886, are located at the parish at 684 S. Third street.

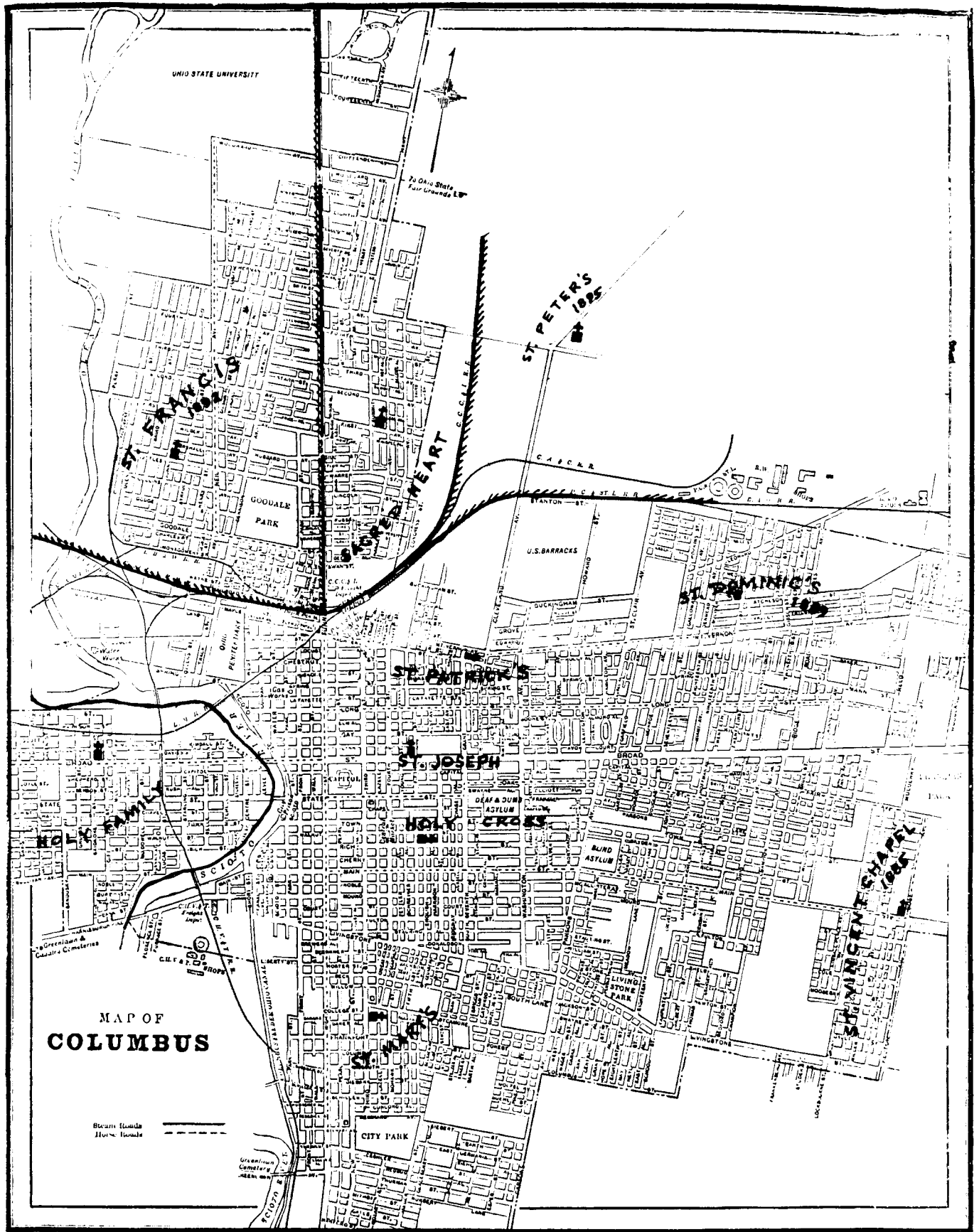
St. Joseph Cathedral parish was organized in 1866 when services at St. Patrick's were becoming too crowded. No definite boundaries seem to have been established for this parish in its early years, but it seems to have included the area west of the Scioto; a random sample of baptisms in the 1890's includes families from as far away as Eighth avenue near North High street. Services were held in Naghten Hall on South High street from 1870 until the cathedral was occupied in 1872. Marriage records beginning in 1872 and baptismal records beginning at 1873 are located at the rectory, 212 E. Broad. (Death records do not start until 1903.)

Sacred Heart parish was established in 1875 for those living north of Union Station in Columbus (the site of the present Ohio Center), as far as the Delaware County line on the north. This was the first truly geographical parish in Columbus, which was intended to serve all nationalities within its boundaries from the time of its establishment. Languages spoken by the early parishioners were English, French, and German. The first church building was completed in 1876 on the site of the present church on East First avenue between Summit and Hamlet. Records, beginning in 1876, are located at the parish, 893 Hamlet street.

Holy Family parish was established in 1877 to serve the Catholics on the west side of the city and included the mission at Galloway for a few years. Services were held first in a temporary chapel and then in a former United Brethren church. The present church at West Broad and Skidmore streets was occupied in 1889. Records, beginning in 1877, are located at the parish rectory, 43 S. Skidmore street. (Death records start at 1890.)

St. Vincent's chapel, associated with St. Vincent's orphanage on East Main street, served as a parish for those in its immediate vicinity beginning in 1885. Generally, these were persons living between Broad street and Livingston avenue and east of Wilson avenue, quite a distance from Holy Cross which they would have attended if the chapel had not existed. The area became part of Holy Rosary parish in 1905; now it is part of St. John the Evangelist parish. The records of the chapel, beginning in 1875 and relating to both the orphanage and the parish, are in the care of the chaplain of the present St. Vincent's Children's Center, 1490 East Main street. However, the marriage record from 1889 on is with the Holy Rosary parish records, now at St. John the Evangelist parish.

St. Dominic's parish was organized in 1889, with its first services held in a rented hall at Twentieth street and Hildreth avenue. It served those who lived generally east of St. Clair avenue and north of Long street, mostly former members of St. Patrick's parish; they were of English, Irish, German, French, and Italian descent. The church, on the west side of North Twentieth street at Devoise, was dedicated in 1881. Baptismal records beginning in 1889



are at the parish, 453 North Twentieth.

St. Francis of Assisi parish was established in 1892 from the western half of Sacred Heart, bound on the north by the county line, on the east by High street, on the south by the Pennsylvania Railroad, and on the west by the Scioto River. The Catholics in the area were predominately Irish but had a strong German element and later included a few Lithuanians and Poles. First services were held in a former Methodist church, at the corner of Collins and Pennsylvania avenues. The present church at Buttles and Harrison avenues was completed in 1896. Records, beginning in 1892, are at the parish, 386 Buttles avenue. (In 1902, the area east of a line along Park, First, Dennison, King, Hunter, and 11th avenues to High street was returned to Sacred Heart parish.)

St. Peter's parish was established in 1895 to serve the inhabitants of Milo and Grogan, two villages outside the (then) city limits in the vicinity of Cleveland and Fifth avenues. These were first and second generation immigrants - Italian, Irish, German, French Canadian, Slovakian, and descendants of freed slaves. The parish was bounded on the south and west by the railroad lines and yards. On the north the parish extended to the county line and included, after 1913, the mission in Westerville. The parish was closed in 1969 and is now part of St. Dominic's parish. The records, beginning in 1896, are kept at the new St. Peter's parish at 6899 Smokey Row Road.

St. John the Baptist parish was established in 1895 to serve the Italians of the whole city. The brick church at Lincoln and Hamlet streets was completed in 1896. Records at the parish, 720 Hamlet street, begin with baptisms in December, 1896, marriages in 1897, and deaths in 1909.

St. John the Evangelist parish was established in 1898, its congregation consisting primarily of families living east of Parsons and west of Linwood avenue. First services were held at the Pontifical College Josephinum. The church at 648 South Ohio avenue was dedicated in 1899. Parish records begin in 1898, but also include the former marriage records of St. Vincent's chapel, as mentioned above, and the records of Holy Rosary parish.

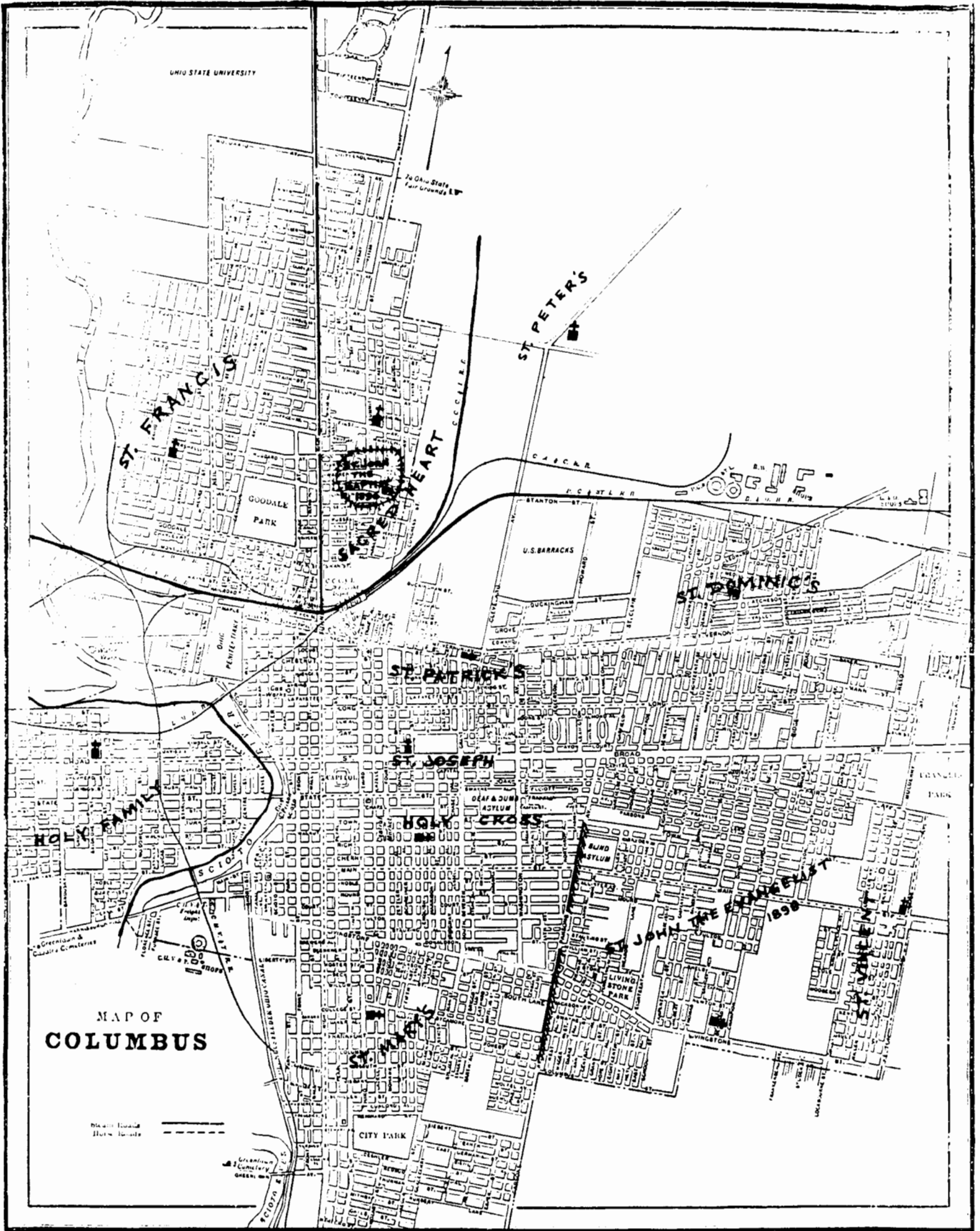
MISSIONS and STATIONS

The missions in Franklin County for many years were under the care of the priests stationed at St. Patrick's and the Cathedral in Columbus. Rev. D. A. Clarke of the Cathedral was in charge from 1880 to 1883; he was succeeded by Rev. H. Schlichter, 1883-1896, and Rev. John Mattes, 1896-1902, both of the Josephinum. (The Josephinum maintained sacramental registers, but these were for the residents only and do not contain any references to the missions.)

Groveport St. Mary, now a parish, began as a mission in 1870, its first building being a former United Brethren church purchased in 1871. The records of this parish do not begin until 1933.

Galloway St. Cecilia, now also a parish, was established in 1881 and its first church was erected in 1882. The mission was under the care of the pastor of Holy Family from 1882 to 1883, then Fathers Schlichter and Mattes. Records at the church, 434 Norton Road, begin with 1883.

Taylor's Station, located east of Big Walnut Creek and north of Broad street, was a Catholic station as early as 1864. It was served from Columbus until



MAP OF
COLUMBUS

Neatly Bound
Half a Dollar

1892 when it came under the care of the pastor of the new parish of St. Joseph at Jersey in Licking County. It became a part of St. Thomas the Apostle parish (on East Fifth avenue in Columbus) when that parish was founded in 1900. Records of St. Joseph's, Jersey for the period during which Taylor's Station was in its care were published in Volume 5 of the BULLETIN.

Worthington was listed in the annual Catholic Directory as a station from 1864 through the end of the century; it was served "from Columbus," probably from St. Patrick's and the Cathedral, through 1885. In the years 1886 through 1888 it was under the care of Father Schlichter of the Josephinum. It is not clear which parish cared for it after that time, but it was within the boundaries established for Sacred Heart parish when that parish was founded in 1875.

OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Baptismal registers were maintained for their residents or patients at the following institutions:

- St. Francis Hospital, beginning in 1873, kept at the Cathedral.
- Good Shepherd Convent, beginning 1879.
- St. Joseph's Orphans' Home (Josephinum), beginning 1881.
- Ohio Penitentiary, beginning 1885.
- Mt. Carmel Hospital, beginning 1887.
- St. Anthony Hospital, beginning 1891.

POPE PIUS IX IS VENERABLE

On July 6, 1985 Pope John Paul II declared Pope Pius IX, the beloved Pio Nono, venerable. Born in 1792, his reign lasted from 1848 to 1878, the longest in the history of the Church. His reign saw the loss of the Papal States but a re-birth in the spiritual life of the Church. On December 8, 1854 he proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception and in 1869 he convened the Vatican Council which defined Papal infallibility.



Pope Pius IX

In his name, the document erecting the Diocese of Columbus was signed on March 3, 1868.

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197 E. Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 Donald M. Schlegel, Editor

