



Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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LAWRENCE FRANCIS KEARNEY, O.P.
PROVINCIAL/THEOLOGIAN/MASTER BUILDER/ZANESVILLE PASTOR
(Concluded, from Vol. XVI, No. 4)

by Anthony J. Lisska
Denison University

ZANESVILLE PASTOR ONCE AGAIN

Following his last term as Provincial in 1909, Kearney continued to reside in Zanesville. In 1911, once again he became pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. Kearney never again held a major administrative position. His substantive administrative work was completed before he turned fifty years old.

At St. Thomas Aquinas over the next decade, he built a new school, a new rectory, renovated the convent and refurbished the church twice, once bringing stained glass windows from Belgium. In addition to his vigorous duties as pastor, Kearney spent time preaching, giving lectures and conducting retreats for clergy across the United States.

Kearney died on November 25, 1924, following a short illness. Never of robust health, Kearney appears to have suffered from various pulmonary maladies most of his life. Following an attack of what was then called "the grippe," Kearney was admitted to Good Samaritan Hospital and died a short time later of pneumonia. He was only sixty-three years old. Kearney may have been the victim of what later medical authorities would call "burnout".

PREACHER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Kearney was a much sought after preacher. Among the more notable occasions at which he was invited to provide the major address or sermon were the consecration of Bishop Henry Moeller in Cincinnati in August, 1900; the ceremony conferring the pallium at the consecration of Archbishop, later Cardinal, William O'Connell of Boston in January, 1908; and the formal opening of St. Mary of the Springs College in Columbus on October 23, 1924, just a month before he died. Once he returned hastily to a Provincial Chapter from giving the annual retreat to the clergy for the Diocese of Erie. Coffey notes that his friends among the secular clergy were legion. Cardinal O'Connell was to become one of the most powerful and renowned church leaders in the first

part of the Twentieth Century. O'Connell and Kearney must have been friends, as Kearney had O'Connell preach at the laying of the cornerstone of the Washington House of Studies in 1904.

THE MASTER RELIGIOUS EXECUTIVE

O'Daniel writes the following about Kearney's dynamic leadership of the Dominicans and the Church in this country:

From whatever point of view we consider Father Kearney he must emphatically be pronounced outstanding. Even his physical appearance--tall, handsome, well built, a large head crowned with a heavy growth of curly, jet-black hair--was so striking that one could not fail to notice him. His piercing black eyes, which seemed to see through you, were an indication of the rare brain power behind them. As a philosopher and theologian he hardly had a superior in the country. He was one of the best professors at whose feet we ever sat--clear, profound, brilliant. He did not go in much for languages. However, his English was perfect; he spoke French like a Parisian; and he used Latin with about the same ease as his own tongue. He had an extraordinary memory, and could practically say the divine office without a breviary. By perpetual study he became so proficient that he knew Saint Thomas almost by heart. By much reading he amassed a broad knowledge of both civil and ecclesiastical history. As a scholar, his fame was international. (3)

O'Daniel also wrote that Kearney used Zanesville as his base of operation, "from which, as one of the country's leading philosophers, theologians, preachers, lecturers, and literateurs, his influence permeated the land." (4) The Zanesville newspaper, The Signal, wrote that Kearney "was recognized as one of the finest pulpit orators in the United States and his services as a speaker were constantly in demand in all sections of America." (5)

Commenting on Kearney's exemplary executive abilities, Coffey writes as follows:

As an administrator and governor, Father Kearney had talents of a high order. He had the magnetic personality proper to the born leader; he was able to draw to himself the dedicated devotion of other men, and to direct that devotion into channels of sustained effort for the service of the province. Like the good executive that he was, he possessed the ability...to select capable subordinates, and to give them complete control over the work to which they had been assigned. He was swift to take action and he acted with decision. He was a stern disciplinarian, who would tolerate not the slightest decline from model priestly conduct. (6)

Even the French Dominican Visitor of the American Province, Henri Desqueyrous, while not totally enamored of Kearney's method of leadership, wrote to Rome the following highly praiseworthy evaluation: "...it must be said of Father Kearney that during the ten years he has held office, he has done more to push the province ahead, to give it prestige, to increase its numbers, than was done by any of his predecessors." (7)

Kearney's relations with Rome were ambiguous at best. An impetuous leader, he did not like to have his judgments questioned. At times he grew impatient when Dominican offices in Rome delayed a decision on an item he wanted to implement quickly. The delay in the decision to begin St. Patrick's

College in Columbus was one such occasion. His bristling letters to Bishops with whom he disagreed, usually rightfully, were at times less than tactful. Nonetheless, his executive talents and his intellectual abilities were also recognized as outstanding. In 1901, at the young age of forty, Kearney received the degree of Master of Sacred Theology from the Dominican Master General in Rome. This degree is the highest and rarely awarded academic recognition given to a Dominican cleric. The festivities conferring this degree were held in St. Thomas Church in his adopted home of Zanesville. Kearney's many talents were observed and duly noted on both sides of the Atlantic.

A STRONG DISCIPLINARIAN

As an administrator of people, Kearney was able, so it seems, to get the best out of most of his Dominican confreres. He was a strict constructionist on matters of priestly decorum, urbaneness and civility. Both O'Daniel and Coffey note that his wrath was fast and furious with those who did not meet his expectations. One of his personnel policy letters to the friars in his province says, "If in the future I receive reliable information on such offenses committed by a priest of our province, the offender shall enjoy the sweets of rural life for the term of one year." (8) Here Kearney addressed those American Dominicans who did not wear the appropriate priestly garb while traveling, including the Roman Collar! That he could be imperious is not a debatable issue.

Kearney kept a constant stream of communications going to his superiors in Rome. He appeared to have a good sense of what later in the Twentieth Century would be called "public relations." Kearney contributed generously to the coffers of impoverished Dominican monasteries in Europe. The unsuspecting bishop who dared to step on the privileges of a Religious Order received quick and firm treatment indeed.

In many ways, Kearney seems to have possessed some of the character traits of his life-long friend, Bishop Hartley. Hartley and Kearney often would abscond to the hills for hunting expeditions. Kearney loved the outdoors, loved to garden and to hunt. Cleric friends from both the Dominican and secular clergy accompanied him on hunting expeditions to Northern Florida in early January. He is said to have been an energetic member of the Zanesville Gun Club. Kearney often claimed that the Zanesville location and climate, with its possibilities for frequent outdoor activity, was beneficial for his health.

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY ENTREPRENEUR

Considering Kearney as a leader, in many ways he appears like a Nineteenth Century Entrepreneur. He acted from his intuitions, he acted quickly, he was a loner in some ways, and he did not like his judgments questioned. When asked to describe Kearney's temperament, a long time friend said emphatically, "Optimistic!"

At the time of his death, the future Dominican Archbishop of Cincinnati, John T. McNicholas, wrote the following: "His loss to the ... Church in the United States comes at a time when according to human judgment, we need most his wisdom, experience and genuine piety. His achievements for the Church,

his civic activities and his love of country have made him one of the great priests of America. (9) His death merited extensive front page coverage in The Catholic Columbian. The Editor, James Carroll, fondly remembered his good Irish Dominican friend from Zanesville. In addition, both Zanesville newspapers, the Times-Recorder and the Signal, carried front page stories lamenting the loss of Father Kearney. The Signal article contained the following praiseworthy account on Kearney's connection with Zanesville: "As a citizen, Father Kearney was known to practically every man, woman and child in Zanesville. He was public spirited and always took a high interest in matters pertaining to the uplifting of good of Zanesville. (10)

Kearney's influence on Diocesan growth through his role as Zanesville pastor, Somerset prior and professor, and Dominican provincial residing in Zanesville was important. Working with Bishop Hartley, he founded what he hoped would be a classical college in Columbus. He supported his friends, the Dominican Religious of St. Mary of the Springs, in founding their College. Kearney's influence on Dominican education in the Columbus diocese is without parallel. His life is one which needs to be remembered, especially in this, his adopted home diocese. Lawrence Francis Kearney was one of the pillars of the Diocese of Columbus, the American Dominicans, and the Catholic Church in the United States, in the decades just before and immediately after the turn of the century.

Kearney's name is silently absent from most major histories of Catholicism in the United States. That such a dynamic figure as Kearney is missing from the story of the development of Catholicism in the United States is an unfortunate lacuna in that important narrative.

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NOTE ON SOURCES

The December 5, 1924 issue of The Catholic Columbian contains extended coverage of Kearney's funeral and several tributes to his creative and productive life. Long accounts are also found on the front pages of both Zanesville papers of the day, The Times-Recorder and The Signal. The program for Father Kearney's silver jubilee ordination celebration contains a biography and a chronological listing of the major events in his life until 1908.

O'Daniel once urged that a biography of Kearney be written, but that project appears never to have been undertaken. O'Daniel provides much historical data about Kearney, under whose office he served as archivist of the American Dominicans. O'Daniel's account, as much of his writing on American Dominicans, is almost hagiographic in nature and omits criticism of almost any kind. Coffey, on the other hand, in his The American Dominicans, provides a more balanced view of Kearney's contributions. The 1925 Dominicana contains an extended obituary of Kearney with biographical information principally gained from O'Daniel. Early copies of The Patrician from St. Patrick's College indicate the respect and warmth the students had for their Dominican founder. A collection of newspaper clippings and presentations by or about Kearney is found in the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Archives. This Archives also contains a fascinating collection of Kearney photographs.

The author expresses his gratitude to several people who helped find materials needed to complete this biography of Father Lawrence Kearney. Mrs. Sylvia Hargrove, the Archivist and Historian of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, provided thoughtful assistance in discovering relevant documents about Father Kearney in the parish archives. Mr. Buck Burkley obtained early issues of The Patrician for the author's perusal. Sister Mary McCaffrey from the Library at Ohio Dominican College kindly found the Dominicana issue containing Kearney's obituary and a rare copy of the Dominicana from 1915 on the history of the Dominicans. The Rare Book Room in ODC's library possesses a small cameo painting of Kearney.

NOTES

3. O'Daniel, Ibid., p. 473.
4. O'Daniel, Photo-history, p. 83.
5. The Signal, November 26, 1924, p. 1.
6. Reginald M. Coffey, O.P., The American Dominicans; St. Martin de Porres Guild, 1970, p. 550.
7. Coffey, Ibid., p. 604.
8. Coffey, Ibid., p. 596.
9. The Catholic Columbian, December 5, 1924, p. 2.
10. The Signal, November 26, 1924, p. 1.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, SOMERSET, OHIO
REGISTER OF BAPTISMS AND MARRIAGES, 1827-1851
(Continued from Vol. XVI, No. 3)

1841, continued

May 12 Susan(?), born May 4, 1840, daughter of William Burgoon and Marcella B-----; spons. William and Rose Ryley(?) NDY

May 12 Francis H-----, adult, aged 25 years, conditionally; spons. D---- Dean. NDY

May 22 William ----- East, adult, age 26 years; spons. Philip Minagh(?). NDY

May 24 Loretta Catherine, born May 19, daughter of James Johnson and Sara Fink; spons. Robert and Catherine Harkins. NDY
(page 65)

May 30 Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph Eastman and Elizabeth Eastman; spons. Mary M'Chane [M'Shane?]. NDY

June 6 Michael Gabriel Grible, son of Michael and Ann Grible; spons. John Fink? and Rosa Donly. Fr. Francis Cubero

June 13 Elias Sanders, adult; spons. A. Clarke. NDY

June 13 William Henry, born June 6, son of Joseph Flowers and Mary McKinney; spons. Patrick Ha---- and Mary A. McDonnell. NDY

June 19 Margaret, daughter of Patrick O'Neil and Christine Ostenburgh, born March 7; spons. Louise O'Neil. Ch. P. Montgomery

June 20 Margaret, daughter of Patrick? McDivitt and Helen McDivitt, born -- June; spons. James Call and Catherine Call. NDY

June 27 James, born May 31, son of Joel Richard [Eichart, inter-linea] and Elizabeth Coontz; spons. Andrew Coontz and Mary Magdalene Smith. A. P. Anderson

same Clememt Augustus, born June 19, son of Jacob Guysinger and Mary Swartz; spons. James Costigan and Cecilia Costigan his wife. APA

July 10 Peter, son of Michael Cull and Julia Durfy; spons. Alice Gartland and Patrick Gartland. NDY
(page 66)

July 16 John, son of Walter Michael and Rose Jackson, born July 6; spons. John and Mary Jackson. NDY

August 1 Louis Henry, son of Louis Moeller and Ellen Dittoe; spons. Robert Harkins and Catherine Harkins. NDY

August 1 Ceremonies supplied for Francis Miles, born June 29, baptized same day by Doctor Magruder, son of John Finck and Elizabeth Walker; spons. Adam Finck and Alice Finck. NDY

August 5 John Thomas, born Aug. 3, son of John Byran? and Ellen; spons. [blank] McCarvell and Mary Kelly. NDY

Aug. 18 Ann, born August 22, 1840, daughter of William Dempsy and Mary Ann Dempsy; spons. Margaret ----- . NDY

Aug. 20 Mary Jane, born April 10, 1836 and Sara Catherine, born March 14, 1832, and John, born Oct. 10, 1841, children of James Gallin and Catherine Boldosier; spons. Mary Shefler. NDY

Aug. 22 Ceremonies supplied for Mary, baptized privately by Dr. Magruder, born July 23, daughter of Edward Droege and Cecilia Finck; spons. Mary Ann Finck and William Johnson. NDY

Sept. 4 John, born Aug.? 22, son of John Collins and Rose Colins; spons. John Dittoe and Lucretia Wilson. NDY

Sept. 5 William, born Aug. 24, son of David Jeffers and Susan Carr?; spons. Peter Murphy and Bridget Murphy. NDY
(page 67)

Oct. 6 Andrew, born Sept. 20, son of Eneas Bradley and Elizabeth Bradley; spons. Mary Ann Downing? NDY

Oct. 17 Helen Emily, born Sept. --, daughter of Joseph Collinburgh and Mary? Smith; spons. Patrick Sterner? and Mary Ann McDonnel. NDY

Oct. 17 William James, born Sept. 17, son of Samuel McCarron and Elizabeth McCarron; spons. Bernard McCabe and Susan McCabe. NDY

Oct. 17 Sarah Jane, born Sept. 14, daughter of Daniel Grimm? and Susan Grimm?; spons. James Couns and Grace Krimm? NDY

Oct. 21 Edmund Ferdinand, born Aug. 13, son of Patrick Counz and Mary Bradford; spons. Martin Scott and Julia Whitehead. NDY

Oct. 31 John Chrisostom, born Oct. 17, son of John Herholster and Hester Snook?; spons. Bernard McCabe and Susan McCabe. NDY

Nov. 7 Mary Elizabeth, born Oct. 3, daughter of George Jackson and Catherine Hoge; spons. Robert Harkins and Catherine Harkins. NDY

Nov. 14 Emily Catherine, born Oct. 21, daughter of Jacob Perong and Sarah Ryan?; spons. Benjamin Hardin and Ann Hardin. NDY

Nov. 14 Jane, born Nov. 13, daughter of John M'Ilheney? and Mary Cull; spons. John McLaughlin and Helen C----- . F. Cubero

Nov. 27 Thomas, born Sept. --, son of Jacob Truil? and Mary Cons?; spons. Mary Donohough. NDY

Dec. 13 William George, born Dec. --, son of John Paker and Margaret -----; spons. William Miller and Sarah Hatzer? NDY
(page 68)

Dec. 25 William -----, adult, age 25; spons. ----- NDY

Dec. 26 Delia Helen, born Dec. 1, daughter of James Burrel? and Sophia Burrel?; spons. Elizabeth Richard and Rosina Richard.

1842

Jan. 4 Helen Barbara, born Dec. 20, daughter of Jacob Dittoe and Rebecca Dittoe; spons. Robert Harkins and Catherine Harkins. NDY

Jan. 16 Ceremonies supplied for Cecilia Regina, daughter of Jacob Costigan and Cecilia Elder, baptized by Doctor Magruder; spons. Edward Magruder and Elizabeth Fink. Josue M. Young, St. Mary's, Lancaster

Jan. 23 Joseph Francis, born Dec. 29, 1841, son of Joseph Slinger and Sophia Kirker; spons. Louis Kirker and Anna Gangloff. C. P. Montgomery same Ceremonies supplied for John Isaac, son of Joseph Slinger? and Sophia Kirker, baptized by Doctor McGruder.

Feb. 23 Leonida Leona, born Feb. 14, daughter of Augustine Delong and Ursula Johnson; spons. Martin Scott and Anna White. CPM

Feb. 28 Sarah Ann, born Feb. 28, daughter of John Litzinger and Julia Ann Stine; spons. Charles McKenna and Mary Ryan. CPM

(page 69)

Mar. 2 Louisa Jane, daughter of Rachael Musselman; spons. Elizabeth Musselman. CPM

March 7 Matilda Frances, born Jan. 21, daughter of William Freeman and Catherine May; spons. Denis Conor and Mary Moore. CPM

March 7 Mary Elizabeth, born Feb. 28, daughter of James Gibbens and Alice Donly?; spons. John Sheridan and Mary Minagh. CPM

March 8 Patrick William, born Feb. 19, son of John McGonigle and "Majoris" Daugherty; spons. Peter Doudle and Mary Doudle [Dowdall?]. CPM

Mar. 13 Elizabeth, born March 2, daughter of Andrew Arndt and Anna Brady; spons. Martin F. Scott and Julia Ann Whitehead. CPM

same Patrick, born March 11, son of James McAnulty and Ann Bailly [Daily?]; spons. Pat Daily and Rosa Daily. CPM

Mar. 20 Anna Elizabeth, born March 17, daughter of John Elder and Mary Snider; spons. Anna E. Snider and Nicholas Snider. CPM

Mar. 20 Margaret J. Frances, born Feb. 28, daughter of George Shefler and Mary McFadden; spons. Thomas Seaton and Caroline Bodge. CPM

(page 70)

Mar. 27 Mary, born Feb. --, daughter of John Null and Maryann Barber?; spons. ---- Barber and Mary Barber. NDY

Mar. 27 Samuel Fisher?, age 25, spons. ----- NDY

Apr. 10 Francis, son of William Jackson and Mary Jackson, born March 16; spons. Edward Droege and Cecilia Droege. F. Eug. Hyac. Pozzo, O.P.

Apr. 24 Pius Miles, son of William May and Catherine Guysinger; spons. Michael Guysinger and Susan Guysinger. NDY

May 5 John James, born April 22, son of Alexander Swartz and Elizabeth Adams; spons. Victor Weist? and Mary Frances Gonl[g]loff. NDY

May 20 Joseph, born April 27, son of Michael ----- and Magdalena Studer; spons. John Studer and Madgalena Vo----. H. D. Juncker

May 22 Mary, born March 28, daughter of John Ea---- and Sarah Sweanny; spons. ---- Sweanny and Mary McCall.

same day Catherine, born April 18, daughter of Patrick Braslin and M--- McCall; spons. Michael Mearsch and Anna Schmitt. HDJ

May 26 Elizabeth, born May 1, daughter of James Farrol and Margaret Farrol; spons. James Daly and Margaret Collins. NDY

May 26 Amanda Elizabeth, daughter of Frederick Arndt and Rachael Musselman. NDY

May 26 Samuel, born May 19, son of Peter Flowers and Catherine Flowers; spons. Samuel Finlon? and Jane Slaven. NDY

(page 71)

May 29 Mary, born March 21, daughter of Michael Dillon and Catherine Carol; spons. J. Carr and Elizabeth Flowers. NDY

June 5 William, born May 30, son of David Clancy and Helen Clancy; spons. William Welch and Mary Sheridan. NDY

June 5 Albert John, born May 30, son of Adam Finck and Alice Dugan; spons. John Dugan and Cecilia Dugan? NDY

June 12 Conditionally, Martin, born March 25, son of John Aurbough? and Mary Bope; spons. Mary McCartney. NDY

June 13 Joseph, son of John Miller and Mary Miller, born June 1; spons. ---- Barber and Mary Barber. NDY

July 10 ---- Mary Franklin, born April 3, daughter of Joseph Franklin and Louise Franklin or Hoffman; spons. Thomas James Magenis and Margaret Call. F. Eug. Hyac. Pozzo, O.P.

July 12 Mary Helen, born March 21, daughter of David C. Fancher and Catherine Herley; spons. William Wiseman and Mary Tuhey. Joseph S. Alemany, O.P.

Aug. 7 Dominic Jerome, born July 31, son of John Bertiere? and Agnes Bertiere?; spons. Walter Michael and Catherine Borer. NDY

Aug. 14 Joseph Dominic, born Feb. 6, son of John Young and Margaret Young; spons. Joseph Smith. NDY

(page 72)

Aug. 22 Thomas, born Aug. 21, son of Benjamin ---- [Hardin? See May 19, 1840 and next record] and Ann Trunel; spons. ---- Trunnel and I. Perong.

same day Mary Ann, born the same day, daughter of Benjamin Hardin and Ann Hardin; spons. Walter ---- and Mary Elder. NDY

Aug. 11 Pius, born July 29, son of William Clark and [blank]; spons. [blank] Daly and Martha Clarke. NDY

same day Margaret, daughter of John Burns and Bridget Cusack; spons. Edward Cusack and M. U(A?). Herholseter. NDY

Sept. 22 Elizabeth Helen, born Sept. 9, daughter of Robert Turner and Rebecca? Turner or Read; spons. William W---- and Louise Turner. EHP

Sept. 25 Harriet Frances, born July 25, daughter of John Trunnell and Elizabeth Trunnell; spons. Silas Trunnell and Mary Ann McDonnell. NDY

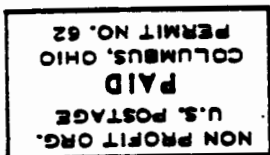
Oct. 5 Mary Martha, born Oct. 4, daughter of John Eckenrode and Lydia Stine; spons. Mary Ann -----. NDY

Oct. 16 David Frederick, son of Caspar Shafer and Mary Shafer, born March 21; spons. Fr--- Weast? and Catherine Swarz. EHP

Oct. 16 Mary Elizabeth, born Oct. 7, daughter of Simon Snider and Ann Jackson; spons. Walter Mitchael and Rosanna Mithcael. NDY

At this point, there is a gap in the old Holy Trinity Register, from page 72 to page 115, 44 pages being missing. The records begin again near the end of 1846, at which point they will be continued in a future Bulletin.

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



CHANCERY OFFICE
DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS
198 EAST BROAD STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215