



Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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AN OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

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I. The Diocese of Columbus

The Diocese of Columbus comprises that part of the State of Ohio, south of 40 degrees and 41 minutes, lying between the Ohio River on the east and the Scioto River on the west, and also the Counties of Delaware, Franklin and Morrow, twenty-nine counties of the eighty-eight into which the State of Ohio is divided; it contains 13,685 square miles. (1) This portion of the State belonged originally to the Diocese of Cincinnati, and was recommended to Rome for erection as a See by the Fathers of the Second Plenary Council of Baltimore, held in 1866. (2) It was not until March 3, 1868, that official documents were issued erecting the Diocese and naming as its first Bishop Sylvester Horton Rosecrans, who had been consecrated Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati and Titular Bishop of Pompeiopolis, March 25, 1862. The portion of Ohio assigned to this Diocese was in 1868 to a large extent but sparsely populated; no railroad had as yet penetrated some of the counties, and the Bishop was forced to make many of the journeys on his visitations by stage, wagon or steamboat.

One of the earliest pages in the history of the Diocese of Columbus is the interesting though tragic story of the French Scioto settlement at Gallipolis in 1790. This story has been told with sympathy and charm by the Rev. Lawrence Kenny, S.J., in the Catholic Historical Review (Vol. IV, pp. 415-451).(2)

The Dominican Fathers were the earliest missionaries in Ohio, locating at St. Joseph's, Perry County, in the early part of the nineteenth century, and from their number was chosen the first Bishop of Cincinnati, Edward Fenwick. (4) The first place of worship in Ohio was St. Joseph's, Perry County. This chapel was built of logs and was blessed December 6, 1818, by Rev. Edward Fenwick and his nephew, Rev. N. D. Young, both natives of Maryland, and receiving their jurisdiction from Bishop Flaget, who was then the only Bishop between the Alleghenies and the Mississippi. (5) The congregation consisted of ten families. An humble convent was built nearby, and its inmates were one American, N. D. Young; one Irishman, Thos. Martin, and one Belgian, Vincent de

Rymacher. Another early chapel erected in Ohio was also in this Diocese, blessed in 1822, near what is now Danville, Knox County, then known as Sapp's settlement, a colony from near Cumberland, Maryland, many of its members direct descendants of the colonists of Lord Baltimore. This chapel was built of logs and was blessed by the Dominican Fathers and the humble congregation ministered to by them.

Within a few miles of this early Catholic settlement in Ohio is the college town of Gambier, seat of Kenyon College and the Episcopalian Seminary of the Diocese of Ohio, over which in 1868 presided, before his conversion, Dr. James Kent Stone, afterwards Father Fidelis of the Congregation of St. Paul of the Cross (Passionists). (6)(a) From its walls have gone forth many illustrious men who in after-life turned their eyes to the Church, among them Bishop Rosecrans and his brother, General Rosecrans; Henry Richards, father of Rev. James Havens Richards, S.J., and William Richards. (7)

In its early days the Diocese was largely an agricultural district, the first settlers from Pennsylvania and Maryland being tillers of the soil. Later came the emigrants from Ireland and Germany, who were followed by priests of their native lands. At the present time mining and manufacturing have so far advanced as to predominate and control. Immigration has also added to the variety of races among the Catholic population; notably Poles, Hungarians and Lithuanians may be found among the mining population of the eastern and southern parts of the Diocese; while Belgians are numerous among the workmen employed in the manufacture of glass, an industry that has risen of late years to prominence in Ohio, owing to the discovery of natural gas, which is an important feature in this business. The native-born descendants of the pioneer Catholics have taken a notable place in the walks of business and professional life, especially in the larger centers of population. The Bishop and a large number of the clergy are natives of the State. All this has worked a decided change in the attitude of non-Catholics towards the Church and their Catholic fellow-citizens.

Sylvester Horton Rosecrans, the first Bishop, died October 21, 1878. He was succeeded by John Ambrose Watterson, who was consecrated August 8, 1880, and died April 17, 1899. The next Bishop was Henry Moeller, consecrated August 25, 1900, promoted to the Archiepiscopal See of Areopolis and made Coadjutor to the Archbishop of Cincinnati, April 27, 1903. The Diocese of Columbus is at present (1923) under the jurisdiction of Rt. Rev. James J. Hartley, born in Columbus 1858, ordained 1882, appointed December 10, 1903. On March 3, 1918, the golden jubilee of the Diocese was celebrated. During the World War it gave 6 priests and 6,262 laymen to service.

By present statistics there is a Catholic population of 109,024 in this territory, served through 101 parishes, 152 churches, 37 missions, 45 mission stations, 2 monasteries for men, 144 secular and 37 regular clergy, 5 lay Brothers, 841 Sisters, one seminary, 170 seminarians, one college for men with 14 professors and 375 students, 2 colleges for women with 20 teachers, 27 high schools with 67 teachers, 254 boys and 286 girls; 3 academies with 32 teachers, 480 boys and 403 girls; one normal school with 4 teachers and 30 students; 61 elementary schools with 427 teachers and 15,919 pupils. The various charitable works include the Home and Foreign Mission Society, 4 homes with 537 inmates, 6 hospitals and 2 settlement houses. The Eucharistic League and a society for infirm priests are organized among the clergy, and three



Rt. Rev. Edward Mary Fitzgerald, pastor of Columbus St. Patrick Parish and later Bishop of Little Rock (1833-1907). Sketches of his life and those of his brother and cousin priests can be found in the Bulletin, Vol. VI, No. 9 (Sept., 1980). This relatively early photo of the bishop was loaned for the Society's use by Donald Schlegel.

periodicals, The Catholic Columbian, Josephinum Weekly and Ohio Waisenfreund are published here.

The theological seminary, "The Pontifical College Josephinum of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith," has at present 151 students.

The Diocese of Columbus has given to the Church two Bishops: Dr. Fitzgerald, of Little Rock, and Dr. Gallagher, of Galveston; while the names of Henni, Archbishop of Milwaukee; Lamy, Archbishop of Santa Fe; De Goesbriand, Bishop of Burlington, Vermont, may be found on the

baptismal registers of the early mission churches of the Diocese. The State and Nation also have received many a notable service, both in war and in peace, from sons of the Diocese. General Philip H. Sheridan was in his boyhood a resident of Somerset, Perry County, the cradle of Catholicity in Ohio; General W. S. Rosecrans, brother of the first Bishop of the Diocese (8), both converts; General Don Carlos Buell, Generals Hugh and Charles Ewing, of the Ewing family of Lancaster; Frank Hurd, Constitutional Lawyer, Representative in Congress and free trade advocate; J. A. MacGahan, Bulgaria's liberator, whose remains were brought by the United States Government from Constantinople to Perry County, are a few of the names on the Diocesan roll of honor.

II. The Bishops of Columbus

1. Bishop Rosecrans

Rt. Rev. Sylvester Horton Rosecrans was a native of Ohio, born February 5, 1827, at Homer, Licking County. The conversion of his brother William, then at West Point and in later years General Rosecrans of Civil War fame, led to the conversion of Bishop Rosecrans. He was sent by Archbishop Purcell, of Cincinnati, to study at the College of the Propaganda, where he was ordained June 5, 1853. Returning to Cincinnati, he became a professor at Mt. St. Mary's Seminary and also wrote for the Catholic Telegraph. He was chosen Auxiliary Bishop to Archbishop Purcell and was consecrated the 25th of March, 1863. In 1868 the Diocese of Columbus was erected and he was chosen as its first Bishop. He built the present Cathedral, established The Catholic Columbian, and while he had many duties, every week contributed pungent editorials to this paper. The last editorial squib he penned and which was

found on his desk after his death was a bit of fun poked at the famous McMaster, editor of the New York Freeman's Journal, who had made some sarcastic remarks about "Diocesan organs," and intimated that he did not wish episcopal approbation. This drew from the pen of Bishop Rosecrans the following lines: "Our friend talks a little too contemptuously of papers that are organs. An organ can make better music than a Scotch fiddle any day." On October 20, 1878, the Cathedral he had built was consecrated, and the next day he was seized with a sudden illness and died that same evening. He was a man of logical mind, a deep thinker and above all a lovable character. (9)

2. Bishop Watterson

On August 8, 1880, the Right Rev. John A. Watterson was consecrated second Bishop of Columbus. He was born in Blairsville, Pennsylvania, May 27, 1844; studied at St. Vincent's, Pennsylvania, and Emmitsburg, Maryland; was ordained priest August 9, 1868, became professor at Mt. St. Mary's, Emmitsburg, and afterwards was chosen President of the College. This position he held until appointed Bishop of Columbus. He was a man of brilliant attainments, fine appearance and an eloquent orator, in demand throughout the land. The burden of the Diocesan debt weighed heavily upon him, as upon his predecessor, and he died very suddenly April 17, 1899, only 55 years of age. No public man was ever mourned by the city of Columbus more than its scholarly, urbane and polished second bishop.

3. Bishop Moeller

The third Bishop was consecrated on August 25, 1900, in the person of Dr. Moeller, who had been for twenty years Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. He was very familiar with all the intricate workings of the Diocesan organization and soon had put into motion plans to pay off the debt which had rested as an incubus on the Diocese for many years. The clergy, secular and regular, the laity and the religious orders all rallied to his call, and in three years the debt was practically paid. A Synod was held in 1902, at which many practical laws were made for the Diocese. Hardly had he commenced his work as Bishop of Columbus when he was called (April 27, 1903) to be Coadjutor with the right of succession to the Archbishop of Cincinnati. He became Archbishop when Archbishop Elder died on October 31, 1904, and he still rules in the Metropolitan office, a wise and energetic ecclesiastic. (10)

4. Bishop Hartley

Rt. Rev. James J. Hartley, fourth Bishop, is a native of his Episcopal City, (b) and was born in 1858. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1882, appointed Bishop on December 10, 1903, and was consecrated on February 25, 1904. His work has been a successful one in many ways, especially in plans and projects for the spiritual welfare of the many emigrants from European lands who have come to the Diocese.

Notes by Father Mulhane

- 1) Many interesting facts on the early Catholic history of the Diocese will be found in Howe, Collections of Ohio (Cincinnati, 1900). The American Catholic Historical Researches, for

July, 1896, contains an interesting sketch for the Diocesan history, and in the files of the oldest extant Catholic weekly, the Catholic Telegraph, of Cincinnati, many letters describing the early missionary days in this part of Ohio have been printed. The official history of the Diocese will be found in the volume entitled: Diocese of Columbus -- The History of Fifty Years (1868-1918), published in Columbus, 1918. The story of the Columbus Diocese during this period is described in Houck, A History of Catholicity in Northern Ohio, 2 vols., Cleveland, 1903.

- 2) The Pastoral Letter of the Second Plenary Council of Baltimore (1866) refers to the request made by the Fathers of the Council to the Holy See for the erection of the See of Columbus (Cf. Guilday, National Pastorals of the American Hierarchy, p. 224. New York, 1923). An ecclesiastical map of the Diocese will be found in Lamott, History of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, opposite page 98. Cincinnati, 1921.
- 3) The Gallipolis project is described from the original documents by Guilday, Life and Times of John Carroll, pp. 392-407. New York, 1922.
- 4) The life of this great servant of God has been described in a classic biography -- Rev. Victor O'Daniel, O.P., The Right Rev. Edward Dominic Fenwick, O.P., Apostle of Ohio. New York, 1920.
- 5) Cf. Spalding, Sketches of the Life, Times and Character of the Rt. Rev. Benedict Joseph Flaget. Louisville, 1852.
- 6) James Kent Stone, The Invitation Heeded (New York, 1869), and An Awakening (Notre Dame, 1920). Cf. Mannix, The American Convert Movement, pp. 23, 59. New York, 1923.
- 7) Cf. William Richards, On the Road to Rome. New York, 1895.
- 8) Cf. Mannix, op. cit., p. 63.
- 9) Cf. Lamott, op. cit., pp. 83, 189, 354.
- 10) An excellent biographical sketch of Archbishop Moeller will be found in Lamott, op. cit., pp. 92-96.

Editor's Notes

- a) See also the Bulletin, Vol. V, No. 4 (April, 1979), which cites several additional sources for Father Fidelis.
- b) Bishop Hartley was born in Iowa, but his family resided in Columbus before his birth and returned here afterwards. See the Bulletin, Vol. XV, No. 3 (March, 1990).

ST. PATRICK MISSION, OLD WASHINGTON AND LEATHERWOOD
BAPTISMS IN EAST-CENTRAL GUERNSEY COUNTY
1829-1872
(Continued, from Vol. XIX, No. 10)

1864, continued

- | | |
|---------|---|
| July 5 | (At Cambridge) Mary Mulkerrans, daughter of Michael and Mary, born Oct. 27 last; spons. Patrick and Julia Quinn. JMJ |
| Sept. 6 | At Cambridge, Susanna Kennedy, daughter of Patrick and Susanna, born Aug. 17; spons. Patrick Gallagher and Sara C----. JMJ |
| Sept. 7 | At Gibson Station, William Donovan, son of John and Mary, born Aug. 15; spons. Dennis and Margaret O'Grady. JMJ |
| Oct. 4 | (At Cambridge), Roger Flagharty, son of Roger and Margaret, born Sept. 20; spons. Thomas Picket and Catherine Sleman. JMJ |
| Oct. 4 | (At Cambridge) Margaret Picket, daughter of Thomas and Ellen, born Sept. 30; spons. Owen Flinn and Jacoba Tetttersall?. JMJ |
| Dec. 7 | (At Salesville) James Sullivan, son of James and Mary, born Dec. 1; spons. John Quinn and Margaret Breslin. JMJ |

1865

- Feb. 20 Margaret O'Grady, daughter of Dennis and Margaret, born Feb. 8; spons. James and Margaret Trahey. JMJ
- March 23 At Leatherwood, James Candy [or Caudy] Early, son of John and Bridget, born Jan. 21; spons. Charles Brady and Susanna Carr. JMJ
- April 30 Near Cambridge, John Mathew Brady, son of Mathew and Mary, born Apr. 11; spons. John Breslin and Margaret Brady. JMJ
- July 5 (At Gibson's Station) Margaret Helen Kerrigan, daughter of Roger and Helen, born May 1; spons. James Breslin and Marianna Early. JMJ
- Oct. 26 At Cambridge, George Bowman, son of John and Margaret, born Oct. 3; spons. John Bowman and Margaret Ryan. JMJ

1866

- Feb. 7 (At Gibson Station) Alicia Gallagher, daughter of Charles and Priscilla, born Dec. 8 last; spons. Matthew Brady and Elizabeth Patterson. JMJ
- Feb. 7 (At Gibson Station) Agnes Gallagher, daughter of Charles and Priscilla, born Dec. 8 last, spons. Dennis O'Grady and Bridget Considine. JMJ
- March 14 (At Campbell's Station) Margaret Ann Brady, daughter of Charles and Margaret, born March 7; spons. William and Mary Breslin. JMJ
- Dec. 5 (At Leatherwood) James William Breslin, son of John and Mary Ann, born Nov. 19; spons. James Coslow [Costello] and Mary Gildea. JMJ

1867

- Jan. 10 At Gibson's Station, Matilda Helen Brady, daughter of Mathew and Mary, born Jan. 1; spons. Charles Brady and Mary Breslin. JMJ
(Marginal note: married John on Aug. 27, 1908 in Church of St. Joseph, Columbus)
- April 4 At Leatherwood, Catherine O'Grady, daughter of Dennis and Margaret, born March 29; spons. Michael Donovan and Mary Brady. JMJ
- April 5 At Leatherwood, Helen Josephine Sullivan, daughter of James and Mary, born March 19; spons. William Breslin and Bridget Quinn. JMJ
- Sept. 29 In the church of St. Patrick (where the first sacrifice of the Mass was offered), I baptized Michael Coelestine Gallagher, son of James and Lydia, born 28 July last. Sponsors Thomas McCusker and Susanna Gallagher. JMJ
- Oct. 1 (At Cambridge) Daniel Kerrigan, son of Roger and Helen, born Sept. 3; spons. Patrick and Susanna Kennedy. JMJ
- Dec. 4 In the church of St. Patrick, Charles Cornelius Brady, son of Charles and Margaret, born Dec. 1; spons. Matthew Brady and Margaret O'Grady. JMJ

1868

- March 17 In the church of St. Patrick, in Guernsey County, Genevieve Gallagher, daughter of Charles and Priscilla, born Jan. 31; spons. Patrick and Mary Fenton. JMJ
- April 14 Near Cambridge, Michael Picket, son of Thomas and Ellen, born April 2; spons. Michael Slayman and Mary Ann Flinn. JMJ
- May 5 Near Cambridge, Monica Kennedy, daughter of Patrick and Susanna, born April 23; spons. Thomas Carty and Helen Kerrigan. JMJ
- July 7 Near Cambridge, James Hill, son of James and Sara, born June 21; spons. Richard and Mary Bowman. JMJ

- July 7 Near Cambridge, Thomas Mullen, son of Thomas and Mary, born May 10; spons. Patrick Slemon and Margaret Lockman. JMJ
- July 8 In the church of St. Patrick, Charles William Delany, son of Edmund and Mary, born June 2; spons. Charles Delany and Debora Gallagher. JMJ
- Aug. 5 In the church of St. Patrick, Helen Margaret Costello, daughter of James and Catherine, born July 14; spons. William Breslin and Mary Breslin. JMJ
- Nov. 29 In the church of St. Patrick, Thomas Joseph Brady, son of Mathew and Mary, born Oct. 31; spons. Dennis O'Grady and Margaret Trahey. JMJ
- Nov. 29 In the church of St. Patrick, James Vincent Gallagher, son of James and Lydia, born Nov. 26; spons. George Washington Gildea and Ann Gildea. JMJ

1869

- Jan. 10 (At Gibson Station) conditionally and without ceremony, in danger of death, Dennis O'Grady, son of Dennis and Margaret, born yesterday. JMJ

1870

- Sept. 25 In the church of St. Patrick, Leatherwood, Mary Catherine, daughter of Charles Brady and Margaret Breslin, born Aug. 20; spons. John Anglestone and Mary Breslin. Joseph Laffan
- Sept. 25 In the same church, John William, son of Henry McQuaid and Mary Fealy, born Sept. 12; spons. William Breslin and Margaret Brady. JL
- Oct. 27 At Cambridge, Catherine Ann, daughter of Dominic Kerns and Cecilia Kennedy; spons. Stephen Quin and Hannah Quin. JL (marginal note: born Aug. 21)
- Nov. 14 At Cambridge, Hanna Isabella, daughter of Patrick McElroy and Honor Sherrard, born Oct. 16; spons. Edward Murray and Mary Ann O'Flynn. Joseph A. Laffan
- Dec. 11 At St. Patrick's, Leatherwood, Bridget, daughter of Denis O'Grady and Margaret O'Donovan, born Nov. 27; spons. Patrick Fenton and Bridget Brady. JAL

1871

- Feb. 23 At Cambridge, Mary Catherine, daughter of James Costello and Catherine Slayman, born Jan. 12; spons. Patrick Slayman and Mary Slayman. JAL
- March 17 In St. Patrick's Church, Leatherwood, Patrick, son of John Breslin and Mary Kerns, born March 13; spons. John Early and Catherine Sullivan. JL
- April 9 At Cambridge, John, son of Thomas Enright and Fanny Long, born March 29; spons. James Treahy and Mary Doyle. JL
- May 29 Privately baptized by Mary Breslin, mother of the father, Maurice, son of William Breslin and Mary Gildea; spons. Charles Brady and Mary Breslin. (entered by JL)
- June 9 At Cambridge, Harriet Teresa, daughter of Patrick McGee and Sarah Hannah, born April 1, 1869; spons. Michael Slayman and Catherine Costelloe. JL
- Sept. 22 Roger, son of Roger Kerrigan and Ellen Flaherty, born Sept. 19; spons. James Costelloe and Catherine Costelloe. JL
- Sept. 24 Anna Regina, daughter of James Gallagher and Lydia Gallagher, born Aug. 28; spons. Ruth Ann Gildea and John Gildea. JL
- Nov. 12 Margaret, daughter of Patrick Slayman and Mary Forde, born Nov. 6; spons. James Costelloe and Mary A. Flynn. JL

- Nov. 12 Elizabeth, daughter of James Carmody and Margaret Fitzpatrick, born Nov. 11; spons. John Bulman and Margaret Bulman. JL
 Dec. 10 John, son of Patrick Whelan and Bridget Kerns, born Nov. 26; spons. Michael Donovan and Margaret Loughman. JL

1872

- Apr. 14 In the church of St. Patrick, Henry, son of Henry McQuaid and Mary Feeley, born Apr. 1; spons. Michael Slayman and Mary Breslin. JL
 May 12 In the church of St. Patrick, Leatherwood, [child of] Thomas Mullin and Mary Loughman, born April 5; spons. James Treahy and Hanorah Loughman. JL
 same day [child of] William Breslin and Mary Gildea, born [blank] April; spons. Patrick Slayman and Margaret Brady. JL
 June 9 In the church of St. Patrick, Leatherwood, Francis, son of Edmund deLong and Mary Ann Gallagher, born May 12; spons. Matthew Brady and Mary O'Donnell. JL
 same day Mary, daughter of Thomas Forde and Mary Cooly, born May 17; spons. Matthew McDonough and Mary Slayman. JL
 same day Marianne Ellen, daughter of Thomas Enright and Fanny Long, born May 29; spons. John and Catherine Madigan. JL
 July 14 Margaret, daughter of John Treahy and Margaret Neville, born June 23; spons. John Quin and Mary Ann O'Grady. JL

 [This brings us to the end of the second book of baptisms of Beaver St. Dominic, the mother church of these missions.]

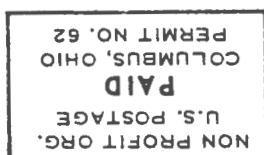
"In Memoriam"

From the Catholic Columbian, March 11, 1880

Died--near New Lexington, Perry county, Ohio, February 21st, 1880, of paralyssick Mrs. Hugh McGonigle, aged 75 years and 15 days.

Deceased was a native of Middletown, Chester county, Pa., and was married at St. Joseph's, Perry county, in the year 1827. She was the mother of twelve children, and twenty-three grandchildren, seven of the former being left to mourn her loss. One by one the old pioneers of the faith in this the cradle county of Catholicity in Ohio, are being called to their reward, But few are left who can remember when Mass was first said by Bishop Flaget, the first Bishop of Bardstown and Louisville, nearly seventy years ago. In the various walks of life, she was respected by all, either as a faithful wife, a devoted mother, a good neighbor, or a devout member of the Church, whose guidance she followed through life, whose consolation she sought and obtained in her last illness. Earth was not designed to be our lasting home, and we must not be so selfish as to keep our friends here forever, but rather try to prepare ourselves to meet in that better world, where sorrow and separation are unknown.

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