

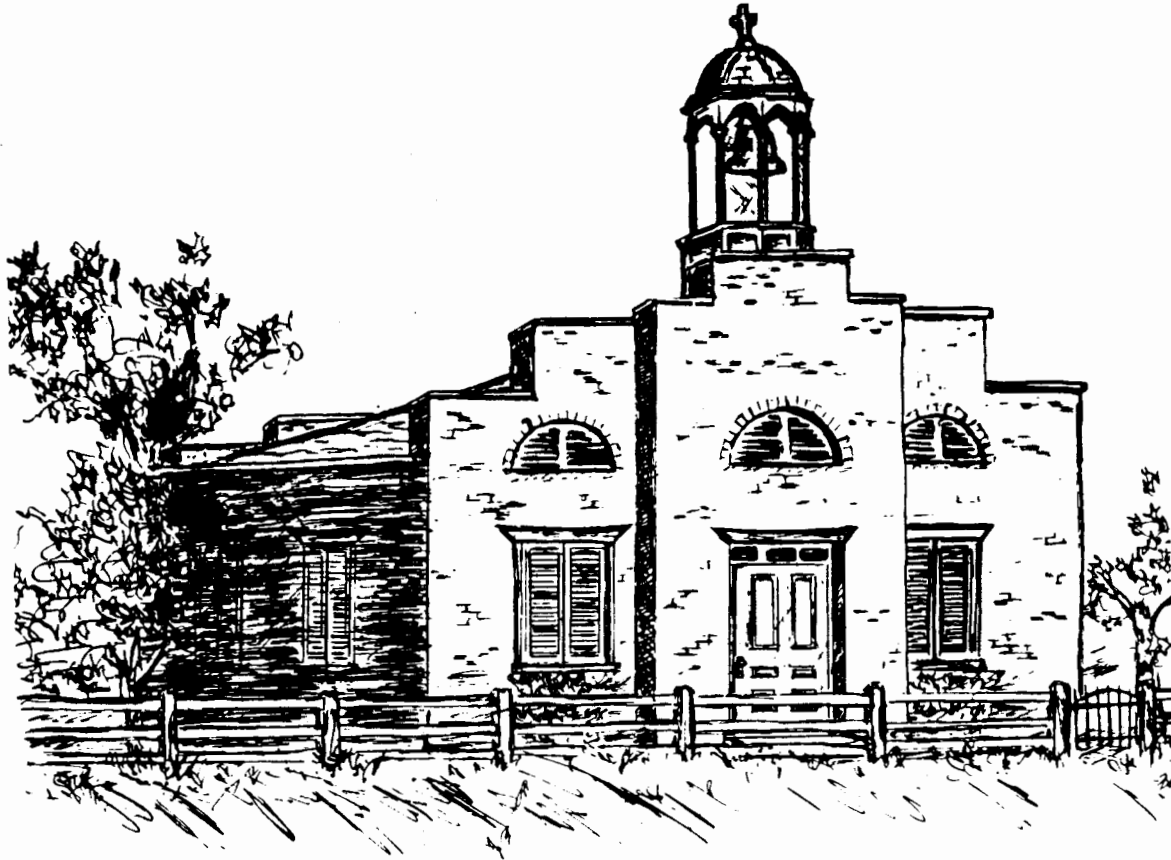


Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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Sketch of the original St. Mary's Church, Chillicothe
by Carol Grabb Uhrig

THE FIRST ST. MARY'S CHURCH IN CHILLICOTHE

Based on John R. Grabb's research for
"St. Mary's Parish -- 150 Years in Chillicothe, Ohio: 1837-1987"

"To his piety, generosity, and strong faith the Church owes a debt of everlasting gratitude." So wrote John Poland of Mr. Martin Bauman in his 1896 history of the Catholic Church in Chillicothe. Bauman came to Chillicothe in 1817 and although he was not the first of our Faith to settle there, it was with his untiring aid and efforts, in cooperation with those of others of the laity and the hardy missionary priests, that the first Catholic parish was

established there. In 1822 Martin Bauman and his wife Mary purchased a lot on Deer Creek Street, where they erected a two-story, frame tavern. It was in a large room in Bauman's tavern that the Dominican friars offered Mass for area Catholics on their infrequent visits there. (The site is now at 148-152 Park Street.)

In 1827 Martin Bauman succeeded as tavern host at the sign of General Washington. This was the old hotel where Peter Spurk, another early Catholic of the area, had entertained the public twenty years earlier. Two years later the Baumans moved back to their Deer Creek Street location, which they then called the Washington Hotel.

The building of the Ohio & Erie Canal, which started in 1825, brought many Irish and German immigrants to work as stonecutters and laborers. Chillicothe's first canal boat was built by Martin Bauman and John Renshaw on the ground in front of Bauman's hotel, which faced the canal just to the east. Mrs. Bauman had the honor of naming the boat the Governor Worthington. The canal brought to Chillicothe "immigrants from almost every kindred, nation and tongue, dressed in their native costume." This migration greatly increased the numbers of Catholics in the vicinity.

Notices appearing in local newspapers and elsewhere give indications of visits made by Catholic clergymen to their small but growing flock in Chillicothe. In 1831 Rev. Frederick Rese, later Bishop of Detroit, preached at the court house "at early candle light." In 1833 Rev. Martin Kundig delivered an afternoon sermon at the court house, which all citizens were invited to attend. In 1835, Rev. John Martin Henni visited the town during Lent, so that the people could fulfill their Easter duty. In the summer of 1835 Bishop Purcell visited Chillicothe as part of his first Episcopal visitation of the diocese. The Catholics crowded the parlors of Bauman's hotel, where the Bishop offered Mass and 25 or 30 communicants received the Blessed Eucharist. The report of the Bishop's visit went on to say, "The want of a church is likewise sensibly felt in this place -- and it needs but the presence of a clergyman to have a neat and commodious building speedily erected... The number of Catholics is supposed to be considerable, but at present they are as scattered sheep without a shepherd..."

The Bishop's brother, Rev. Edward Purcell, preached at the court house in 1836 and held divine service at Mr. Bauman's house. In 1835 and 1836 Chillicothe was also visited by the Dominican priests, Revs. Samuel Mazzuchelli, John G. Alleman, and the ubiquitous Nicholas D. Young, O.P.

In 1837, Bishop Purcell was able to fill the need which he had seen so clearly during his visit to Chillicothe two years before. On June 7 he appointed Rev. Henry D. Juncker as first pastor of the Catholics in Chillicothe. He was not only responsible for Chillicothe, however, for as missions he had all of the Catholic communities of the Scioto Valley, from Portsmouth north to Marion. The center of this activity was the first Catholic church in Chillicothe. On July 7, 1837 Bishop Purcell purchased the south half of inlot 122 on South Walnut Street from the Wardens and Vestrymen of St. Paul's Episcopal Church for \$1,300. On this lot stood what had been the first consecrated Episcopal church west of the Alleghenies, which had been built in 1821. Father Juncker at once set about fitting the little church with all the furnishings necessary for Catholic worship and it was dedicated

to God under the patronage of Our Lady on the feast of her Assumption, 1837; then "tears fell from many an aged eye" at the accomplishment of this long-held dream. Father Juncker purchased an old frame house and had it moved onto the church lot, where it served as both rectory and school.

The little church was filled to overflowing when Bishop Purcell visited again in October of 1839. On that visit, he preached both morning and evening, gave a Pontifical Benediction, confirmed forty-four, and distributed the Bread of Life to nearly one hundred new communicants.

In the summer of 1844 Bishop Purcell visited Chillicothe again and found a thriving parish. There were about 1,500 Catholics in the town, the larger part German. It was evident that something had to be done to get a larger church to accommodate these numbers. In March of 1845, two lots on the northwest corner of Church and Water streets were purchased for just over \$1,000. The cornerstone of the new St. Peter's Church was laid on June 29, 1845. Father Juncker took the project no further, however, for that summer he was transferred to Dayton. The work on the new church continued without the pioneer pastor, and it was dedicated on August 30, 1846.

The little church on Walnut Street was not sold and, in 1849, about a dozen of the English-speaking families returned from St. Peter's to their little church, with Rev. George Aloysius Carroll, S.J., as pastor. When the Jesuits withdrew from Chillicothe in 1851, Archbishop Purcell replaced Father Carroll with Rev. Thomas J. Boulger. Father Boulger found the unpretentious church too small for the growing numbers of St. Mary's congregation and in 1852 the Archbishop purchased the former Methodist church building on West Second Street. This building was used by the congregation until the present St. Mary's was built in 1867.

The old rectory on the Walnut Street property appears to have been used as rectory, school, or both, until it was sold in 1865. The old church was later turned into a residence and was not razed until 1965.

CHILLICOTHE ST. MARY'S CHURCH
BAPTISMAL REGISTER, 1835-1846

The baptismal register of St. Mary's parish begins with notes by Fathers Mazzuchelli and Alleman in 1835 and 1836. It is intended to present here all of the available records of baptisms, marriages, and burials which were kept at the original church, that is, until the dedication of St. Peter's in 1846. There are no records of St. Mary's as revitalized in 1849 (in fact, there is even a gap in St. Peter's records in 1849, 1850, and much of 1851). The records of the present St. Mary's do not begin until the mid-1850s. The earlier records were already missing when Father Thisse arrived there in 1855.

Loose sheet

Chillicothe, Ohio, 3 June, 1835 baptized were:

1. Francis Xavier Long, born 16 April, 1835, son of Francis Long and Louise Roerly; spons. John Hirnn and Caroline Bauman.
2. Mary Eit, born 14 May, 1835, daughter of Francis Eit and Mary Miller; spons. Valentine Long and Bernardine Wonderly.

3. Margaret Polan, born 12 April, 1835, daughter of Bernard Polan and Bridget; spons. Alleman, priest, O.P., and Mary Bauman.
4. Andrew Herman, born 25 April, 1835, son of Andrew Herman and Elizabeth; spons. Martin Bauman and Frances Feilinger.
Samuel Mazzuchelli, priest, O.P.

Small loose sheet

To the Rev. N. Young:

On the 10th of July I baptized Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph Meyer and Frances Meyer or Heldin; spons. Martin Bob and Elizabeth Goes. [John G.] Alleman

Page 1

- Dec. 11, 1836, John, son of Cosmo Bohn and Elizabeth Bohn or Linn; spons. Joseph Flesh and Anna Maria Miller. Alleman
- same day Andrew, son of Ferdinand Reilly and Frances Reilly or Fillinger; spons. Jerome Brown and Elizabeth Herman or Meyer. Alleman
- same day John, son of Jerome Brown and Mary Brown or Berg; spons. Mathew Bar and Elizabeth Roehily. Alleman
- same day Mary, daughter of Francis Meyer and Walburga Meyer or Bauman; spons. Francis Aid and Caroline Bauman. Alleman
- same day Rose, daughter of Mathew Imelly and Magdalene Imelly or Ebrenz; spons. John Hirn and Rose Ebrenz. Alleman
- same day Mary, daughter of George Fisher and Rose Fisher or Ebrenz; spons. Mathew Imelly and Magdalene Ebrenz. Alleman
- same day William, son of Mathew Bar and Catharine Bar or Ney; spons. Jerome Brown and Elizabeth Long or Röhely. Alleman

page 2

- Dec. 12, 1836, Mary, daughter of Anthony Miller and Sophia Miller or Deger; spons. Carl Bogenschlüttz and Magdalena. Alleman
- same day Anna, daughter of Michael Rafferty and Catherine Rafferty or Cassily; spons. Martin Bauman and his wife. Alleman
- same day John Fridolin, son of George Berman and Josephine Berman or Gerteisen; spons. Martin Bauman and his wife. Alleman
- same day Ludwig, son of Valentin Gory and Mary Gory or Murkle; spons. Martin Bauman and his wife. Alleman

1837

- 7 May Elizabeth, daughter of Francis Xavier Long and Elizabeth Long; spons. John Flash and Magdalene Peterman. N. D. Young, O.P.
- 7 May Mary, daughter of Andrew Herman and Elizabeth Herman; spons. Francis Long and Frances Ryley. N. D. Young, O.P.

page 1

Anno D. 1837

Quorum nomina sunt in libro vita. Registrum Ecclesiae Sta. Mariae Chillecothensis. Primo pastor H. D. Juncker.

- 7 June 1837 Gertrude, born 16 March, daughter of Thadeus Sauter and Christine Kittel; spons. Valentin Hemmerle and Catharine Hemmerle. HDJ
- 17 Aug. George, born 21 April, son of Lawrence Gilloly and Catherine Kally; spons. Martin Bauman and Sara Lougheren. HDJ
- 27 Aug. George, born 19 Feb., son of George Berman and Josephine Gerdeisten; spons. Martin Bauman and his wife Mary. HDJ
- 3 Sept. John, born 10 April, 1836, son of Bartholomew Rihlie and Ursula Burgar; spons. Fridolin Vunderlin and Frances Rihli.
- same day Mary, born 14 March, 1836, daughter of Jacob Vonderle and Mary Separara; spons. Michael Kirchner and Helen Vonderli. HDJ

- 17 Sept. Bridget, born 21 April, 1835, daughter of Michael Flood and Mary Cannefry; spon. John Cull and Rosanna Cull. HDJ
- 7 Oct. Jacob, born 19 Sept., son of Jacob Demas and Mary Siezec; spon. Martin Bauman and Caroline Bauman. Stephen T. Badin, quod attestor HDJ
- 15 Oct. Francis, born 5 July, son of Livorius Wagner and Frances Wagner; spon. Amandus Bins and Frances Frand(?). same
- page 2
- 29 Oct. Magdalene, born 27 Oct., daughter of Peter Sackstetter and Mary Auer; spon. Martin Bauman and Magdalene Frelich. HDJ
- 3 Oct. Siegfried, born same day, son of Fidelis Beichler (or Buehler?) and Bernardine Vunderle; spon. Francis Anthony Eid and Judith Vunderle. HDJ
- 6 Dec. in Portsmouth, Crescentia, born 29 Nov., daughter of John Fecker and Crescentia Buckemeyer; spon. John George Schumacher and Anna Maria Hellsmanns. HDJ
- 10 Dec. Augustine, born 16 Nov., son of Alexander Santo and Sophia Ringvale; spon. Anthony Kreutz and Juliana Bogenschitz. HDJ
- 12 Dec. Ferdinand, born 20 Nov., son of Ferdinand Bader and Catharine Kronin (or Krown?); spon. Mathew Bader and Caroline Bauman. HDJ
- 17 Dec. Joseph, born 28 Nov., son of Joseph Mathis and Mary Ann Merckly; spon. Mathew Mathis and Mary Ann Degen. HDJ
- 24 Dec. Jacob, born 7 Nov., son of Michael Flood and Mary Conway; spon. Peter Carroll and Sara Loughery (or Soughery?). HDJ

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1838

- 1 Jan. Caroline, born 26 Dec., 1837, daughter of Michael Schmitt and Mary Ann Lutz; spon. Caroline Bauman and Engelhard Schmitt. HDJ
- 21 Jan. Thomas, born 19 Jan., son of Michael Sweatman and Mary Hand; spon. Martin Bauman and Mary Bauman. HDJ
- 28 Jan. Martin, born 22 Jan., son of Ferdinand Ripler and Frances Fillinger; spon. Jerome Braun and Elizabeth Meyer. HDJ
- 4 Feb. Theresia, born 25 Jan., daughter of Peter Fernbach and Barbara Martzloft; spon. Francis Xav. Martzloft and Rossalia Kremer. HDJ
- 19 Feb. Mary, born 12 Feb., daughter of Margaret Mathis; spon. Martin Bauman and Mary Bauman. HDJ
- 28 Feb. Henry, born 23 Jan., son of Valentin Bruder and Clara Hass; spon. Bernard Bruder and Mary Ann Dergen. HDJ
- 18 March Allen Joseph, born 5 March, son of Mathew Bar and Catherine Ney; spon. Jerome Braun and Elizabeth Long. HDJ
- 6 Apr. Theresia, born 5 April, daughter of John Hann and Mary Theresia Müller; spon. Martin Bauman and Mary Bauman. HDJ

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- 8 Apr. Catherine, born 2 Apr., daughter of Xavier Thomam and Catherine Meyer; spon. Francis Xav. Long and Elizabeth Bonn. HDJ
- [It is not clear whether the father's name was Xavier Thomam or Xavier Thomas Meyer; in most of these records, the family name is given with the father and the mother's maiden name with her given name, but in this record someone along the years has underlined Meyer, as if that were the family name.]
- 12 Apr. William Henry, son of James McKalvary and Margaret Gilly; spon. George Bauman and Mary Ann Bauman. HDJ
- 16 Apr. Theresia, daughter of Jacob Vunderle and Mary Zepha Rohr; spon. Michael Kirchner and Bernardine BÜchler. HDJ

6 May Joseph, born 29 April, son of Rodolph Sigfret and Mary Heckmann; spons. Joseph Madas and Mary Ann Merkli. Stephen T. Badin VG (?) [signed in hand of HDJ]

13 May James, born 11 May, son of Michael Rigney and Elizabeth Dougherty; spons. Roger Cull and Rosanna Cull. same

3 June Magdalene, born 3 May, daughter of Carl Boggenschitz and Juliana Eichmann; spons. John Baptist Flesch and Sophia Eichmann. HDJ

same day Margaret, born 19 May, daughter of Francis Anthony Eid and Anna Maria Wald; spons. Xaver Bintz and Anna Maria Kunkler. HDJ

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26 June Mary, born 16 April, daughter of Stephan Zind and Magdalene Doeger; spons. Xavier Valdemeyer and Mary Ann Dager. HDJ

3 Aug. James, son of Timothy and Catherine McGrady; spons. Charles McDonough and Mary McGrady. HDJ

24 Aug. John Francis, born 5 April, son of Francis Sitterle and Susan Bacher; spons. Fidelis Bucheler and Barnadina Bucheler. HDJ

22 Aug. Joseph, born 4 July, 1837, son of Michael Hammerstein and Margaret Piketon Brill; spons. Michael Adam and Maria Eva Adam. HDJ

22 Aug. Louis, born 1 Jan., 1837, son of Michael Adam and Maria Eva Gisi; spons. Michael Hammerstein and Margaret Brill. HDJ

same day Barbara, born 4 July, 1837, daughter of George Lamfer and Anna Maria Nagel; spons. Michael Adam and Barbara Adam. HDJ

same day Elizabeth, born 15 June, 1835 and Mary, born 1 Dec., 1837, daughters of Joseph Nipp and Francisca Omes; spons. of the first, George Lamfer and Margaret Adam, and of the other, George Lamfer and Barbara Gunzelman.

same day Elizabeth, born 16 June, 1837, daughter of Laurence Ganzelman and Margaret Hart; spons. Francis Adam and Elizabeth Hammerstein Ommes. in the named city and County Pike, Ohio. HDJ

page 6

26 Aug. Francis Xavier, born 6 July, son of Ludwig Katzenberger and Eva Scheider; spons. Franz Xavier Bintz and Madgalena Frölich. HDJ

In Portsmouth, Scioto County,

29 Aug. Mary, born 17 Dec., 1837, daughter of George Gisler and Leonora Kramer; spons. George Glukler and Ephrosina May.

same day Rosanna, born 15 August, daughter of Francis Adam and Mary Anna Wohlfarht; spons. Carl Ludwig Damarin and Agnes Adam.

same day Caroline, born 28 June, daughter of Caspar Caps and Margaret Holman; spons. Nicolaus Schmitt and Anna Maria Schue. HDJ

7 Oct. John, born 5 Sept., son of Andrew Baehr and Magdalene Paterman; spons. John Hirn and Mary Bauman. HDJ

10 Oct. Jerome, born 8 Oct., son of Jerome Brown and Mary Ann Berek; spons. Mathew Bar and Elizabeth Long. HDJ

11 Oct. Catherine, born 19 Sept., daughter of Thomas Sautter and Theresia Juncker; [spons.] Albert Billussen(?) and Francisca Bing. HDJ

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15 Oct. Laurence, born 7 Oct., son of Laurence Ohares and Margaret Brisnahan; spons. Patrick McCrathy and Mary McCrathy. HDJ

24 Oct. Susan, born 12 Sept., daughter of Arthur Britain and Susan Pennefather; spons. Mary Bauman. HDJ

25 Nov. David, born 5 Nov., son of Henry Bauer and Anna Maria Jäger; spons. Francis Anthony Eid and Maria Anna Mathis. HDJ

(To be continued)

THE SLAVIC CATHOLICS OF GUERNSEY AND NOBLE COUNTIES
by Lorle Porter, Ph.D.

Part 1 (Continued, from Vol. XVII, No. 4)

Byesville

In 1905, the search for a Latin rite Slovak pastor ended. Father J. H. Wagner directed the efforts of a committee of miners living near Byesville in their search for a Slovak priest. George Jakubisin, Andrew Stropki, Andrew Vereb, Michael Soltis, and Joseph Koren, serving as trustees, wrote plaintive letters to Bishop Hartley and organized labor to work on construction of a wooden church. Their house of worship, seating four hundred and costing \$7,000 -- collected in pennies and dimes -- was ready in December of 1905. It was named in honor of the Holy Trinity. Bishop Hartley sent Father Anton Gracik, a native of Slavic, Orava County, Austro-Hungary, to administer the new, 252 square mile parish. The first Mass was offered in the church in January and it was dedicated on Trinity Sunday, June 10, 1906. The festivities account for one of the very few times the American press reported positively on the ethnic communities. Some "1,000 men and women representing 20 societies and three bands, marching on foot and on horseback ahead of the Bishop, who rode in a horsedrawn cab to the church," gathered around the steps of the new edifice. Bishop Hartley, with Father Gracik serving as interpreter, preached from the steps to some 1,800 people. The people had their own church! (23)

The new parish at Byesville was immediately overwhelmed. Father Gracik baptized eighty-three infants the first year and baptisms climbed to average annual rates of one hundred sixty-seven in 1910-1919. Father Gracik left and in October, 1906 Father E. Richtartsik came to the parish, built a rectory, and bought cemetery ground. In 1908 he too departed and Father E. Sylvester Berry was assigned. This assignment of an Irishman was evidence of the continued difficulty Bishop Hartley faced in staffing the Slovak parish. (24) Father Berry took over the books on March 12. All the names written in his hand are recorded as "Austrian" or "Hungarian". He misspelled coal town names for two weeks and was dependent on the halting English of his parishoners. No doubt he and they labored with sadness, but he took hold. He completed a census of eight hundred fifty families and comforted his people when they church mysteriously burned on February 11, 1916 (probably because of an electrical short). The miners began to come by on "down time"; their church needed to be rebuilt.

Caldwell and Belle Valley

Byesville Holy Trinity served the Trail Run-Harryette sector, but the mines in Belle Valley in Noble County also opened in 1903. The immigrants flocked south to the field like fickle lovers, in search of something better. Fathers Gracik and Richtartsik made the journey by mule and by train whenever possible, but the press of their own parish was awesome. "Four or five times a year Rev. Father E. S. Berry, pastor, came to Belle Valley [from Byesville] and said Mass in the local public school house." (25) The men in the village organized a Jednota in 1904 and the women's Jednota in 1906 and each group scrimped and saved and petitioned for their own parish. By 1910 the collections convinced the bishop that Belle Valley could sustain its own

church. The McKees transferred land to Bishop Hartley the next year and the miners began to excavate the foundations for their church. Bishop Hartley formally organized the parish on December 3, 1911, simultaneously with a new parish at Caldwell. He assigned the care of both to Rev. J. J. Herman. (26)

When Father Herman first visited Belle Valley, the new church of the Ascension was nearly completed. He offered Mass there in the uncompleted structure, so anxious were the people for Mass in their own church property. In Caldwell, Father Herman served a few American families in the town and a few families of Poles, Slavs, and Lithuanians in the village of Florence, outside the corporation. For a year, he offered Mass in the Caldwell Opera House as the guest of manager J.H. Friedman. Finally, in a driving rain on September 15, 1912, three hundred people attended the first Mass and dedication of St. Philomena's Church in Caldwell. (27)

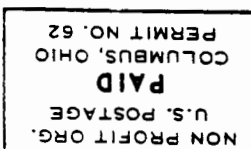
Catholics now had St. Benedict's Church in Cambridge (Latin rite), St. Michael in Pleasant City (Byzantine rite), Holy Trinity in Byesville (Latin rite Slovak), St. Philomena's at Caldwell (Latin rite), and the beginnings of Ascension Parish at Belle Valley (Latin rite). The expansion of the Church in the area was nowhere nearly finished.

(To be continued)

NOTES

23. Holy Trinity Church, Byesville, 1973 Souvenir Booklet. Doubt has been cast on the accuracy of this newspaper report, but I find it totally believable. The three bands probably came from Jednota branches; Pleasant City had Odhor #438 in 1903, Trail Run had an early band, and the parish band of Fulda would certainly have participated. This description probably reflects quite accurately the vitality of the immigrant community in 1906. Jednota information from Slovak Museum & Archives, Anthony Sutherland, March 4, 1988.
24. It is impossible to track down the early immigrant priests. Many of them travelled without their bishop's permission. So many of them were sought by other jurisdictions, that they commonly "chucked the whole thing" if they were dissatisfied with parish conditions and moved on, to another bishop who would ask no questions.
25. Hartley, Rt. Rev. James J., The History of Fifty Years (Columbus, 1918), p. 519.
26. On April 27, 1923, Bishop Hartley appointed the following Committee to aid the pastor of the Church of the Ascension: Andrew Mizik, president; Joseph Vergo, vice president; John Kaspar, secretary; Martin Puchmajer, collector in church; George Yager, Andrew Mesarcik, and John Mastilak, auditing committee; and August Mesarcik, Stephen Tomascik, and Stephen Bugas, cemetery committee. (Archives, Diocese of Columbus) On Sunday, Jan. 5, 1941 just after High Mass, the Church of the Ascension burst into flames and was entirely consumed. The 1943 diocesan history states that "an old friend" took up the work of building a new church for the people -- could this have been Bishop Hartley himself? The best lot in the little village replaced the old, undesirable one on the hillside and Corpus Christi church was soon in use.
27. Hartley's 1918 history, page 518, places the dedication on September 16, feast of the Seven Dolours.

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



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