

Good Shepherd School, Columbus

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The Good Shepherd School in Columbus, Ohio, was operated by the Order of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd of Angers, which had been founded in France. The object of the order was to establish and sustain houses of refuge for fallen but penitent women and girls of all ages, to rescue female children from dangerous occasions of crime, and to train and instruct them in useful employment.

The Sisters were encouraged to come to Columbus near the end of the Civil War by Father Edward Fitzgerald, pastor of St. Patrick's Parish. He was concerned for the lives and souls of the young women who followed the soldiers to Camp Chase on what now is the Hilltop on the west side of the city. Officially, the Columbus convent was the ninth house founded from the motherhouse in Louisville. Four Sisters came from Cincinnati in the spring of 1865 to temporary quarters on Spring Street. Nine months later they moved to the former Sullivant mansion at the southwest corner of West Broad and Sandusky Streets, now designated 707 West Broad Street (at Route 315, which replaced Sandusky St.).

There were three classes of "inmates" in convents of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Penitents were women who wished to do penance for the actions of their prior lives and to lead a Christian life. Any Penitents who desired to remain for life were admitted to vows and formed the class of Magdalens. They formed an austere, contemplative community within the convent and followed a rule of prayer, penance, and manual labor. The third class was made up of girls who had been secured from danger before they had fallen or had become stained by serious crime. (1913 *Catholic Encyclopedia*) This Preservation Class in time became the largest of the three classes in Columbus and required the most effort on the part of the Sisters.

In 1867 the Sisters in Columbus opened their school and formed the Preservation Class "to rescue female children" and to train and instruct them. Although sometimes called an orphanage, in fact most of the girls had one or both parents living and many were returned to their homes within a year of their entrance. Others stayed until reaching adulthood. Generally they ranged in age from about 4 to 16 at entrance, but some were admitted at even younger ages and a few adult women are mentioned in the record, who wanted instruction in sewing. The students came not only from throughout the Diocese of Columbus but from other parts of Ohio and even from surrounding states, especially western Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Little is known of the arrangements within the institution and the lives of the residents. The girls lived in a large, two-story building and had ample room for recreation on the extensive grounds. They were given a "plain, useful education," and were taught all kinds of needle-work. In 1873 there were 39 penitents and 48 students, "all engaged in some kind of useful employment, such as embroidery, sewing, laundry, and ironing, while others are engaged at the sewing machines. Very fine and good needle-work of all kinds is done in the best style. The inmates, by close application to their work, under the direction of the sisters, become expert seamstresses and embroiders, thus enabling them to support themselves when they return to the world." (Studer, Jacob A., *Columbus, Ohio: Its History, Resources, and Progress*; Columbus, 1873; pp 240-241) By 1892 the institution was self-supporting, with all of the children "being employed at some useful occupation when not engaged in recreation or at school." (Lee, Alfred E.,

History of the City of Columbus; New York & Chicago: Munsell & Co, 1892; II/670) In 1893 there were 24 Sisters, 65 Penitents, 31 Magdalens, and 98 in the Preservation Class. Up until that time there had been a total of 5,060 inmates, of whom 35 had entered the Magdalen Class and 59 had died. (*Annals of the Monastery of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd...*, Louisville, 1893; Bradley & Gilbert, tables) It was remarked that "The good work accomplished is continually manifested by the numbers of former inmates who are now leading useful and happy lives rendered so by the benign influence exerted over their early years when the world threatened to lead them astray." (Lee, op. cit.)

The school continued on that same site until 1964. It was renamed St. Euphrasia School in 1946 and shifted its orientation from training to treatment of children with problems. It became Rosemont School in 1958 and six years later moved to its present site on Dawnlight Avenue. In 2001 the Sisters withdrew and the school was placed under a board of trustees. It is no longer considered to be a Catholic institution.

Index of Records

The index is to the register and other records of the Good Shepherd School. Records of Penitents and Magdalens have been excluded when possible from mixed record series.

The records were microfilmed by the Catholic Record Society in 1987, thanks to the generosity of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The information provided here is everything available that might help to identify the students. A small amount of additional information is available in some cases, usually including the exact date of entrance and often what became of the child. Some records, especially baptismal records, give exact birth dates. Copies of individual records can be sought through our Research Committee.

- Five series of record are indexed, which appear on the microfilm in this order:
- The main register of entrants, which is indicated in the index by simple page numbers. This register includes some Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation records. A partial index beginning with about page 100 also was used to provide alternate interpretations of poorly written surnames.
 - A supplement that continues the main register, on double page openings, indicated by S and a page number.
 - The Sisters' baptismal register, which begins in 1902 and is indicated by B and a page number. This register includes many Penitents and Magdalens and these women have not been included in this index.
 - A separate school register kept by Sister Mary of St. Thecla beginning about 1900, indicated by T and a page number. (Unfortunately the pages as filmed are not numbered, but there are only twenty-one pages.) Her records generally do not give date of entry but usually give birthplace, birth year, and names of parents.
 - The Chaplain's Baptismal Register includes many persons who were not students. Unfortunately its pages are not numbered and in some places is not in strictly chronological order. Records of students found there are marked simply "CBR."

The main series of records is very sparse and generally does not list names of parents or residences. Surnames usually are only given once in each record in this main register, so if the Sister did not write carefully and left the reading of a name uncertain,

there is no way to verify it unless there happens to be a sacramental record or a record kept by Sister Mary of St. Thecla or if the name appears in the partial index (the latter appear to be interpretations made at a later date).

The names of the girls changed! New names were given at Baptism or Confirmation and the baptismal names sometimes appear as girls' names in First Communion or Confirmation records. In the index, such names are given in parentheses where they are important to identify the person in subsequent records.

In the index, indented names indicate the editor's opinion that though the name be different, it indicates the same person as on the line above or below.

In the index, under notes, the following codes are used:

M = admitted by the mother
F = admitted by the father
P = admitted by the parents
U = admitted by uncle
A = admitted by aunt
S = admitted by sister
B = admitted by brother
by = admitted by
+ = died
d/o = daughter of
gdn = guardian
bapt = baptized
StV = St. Vincent's Orphanage on E. Main Street, Columbus
? = uncertain reading

Priests who admitted or placed students at the School and their assignments at those times are as follows, where known. This information may help to determine the normal residence of some of the students.

unknown surname, Rev. Bernard, O.P. 1889, 1890

Boulger, Rev. Thomas J. 1873-Middletown, O.

Brent, Rev. Julius 1880-Mt. Vernon

Burns, Rev. ---- 1879-unknown

Caine, Rev. John E. 1907-Temperanceville

Campbell, Rev. Francis J. 1884-Dennison

Cebulle, Rev. Sebastian, O.S.F. 1879, 1881, 1884 Father Sebastian Cebulle, O.S.F., was stationed in St. Louis, Mo., in 1881; in the Diocese of Cleveland in 1884; and was at St. Nicholas Parish in Zanesville for a short time in this era.

Clarke, Rev. Dennis A. 1885, 1886, 1888, 1891, 1892-Holy Family, Columbus

Coffey, Rev. Daniel 1905-Mingo Junction

Conway, Rev. ---- 1871-probably Rev. John M. Conway of London

Cull, Rev. Daniel B. 1874-Circleville, 1878-Portsmouth, 1880 and 1883 and 1885-Bellaire

DeCailly, Rev. Louis 1873-Lancaster, 1882-Newark

Dumm, Rev. ---- 1906 unknown

Fitzgerald-if Rev. Richard J.: 1886-Catherdral, 1889-Bellaire

Gardener, Rev. ---- 1910-Ravenna

Gillig, Rev. M. A. 1884-priest of the Diocese of Vincennes in Indiana

Heery, Rev. Patrick M. 1884-McLuney and South Fork, Perry Co.

Hemsteger, Rev. John B. 1872, 1878-Holy Cross, Columbus

Ignatius 1885-perhaps Rev. Ignatius Sagerer of Chapel Hill or Wills Creek, Monroe Co., O.
 Jessing, Rev. Joseph 1882-St. Joseph's Orphanage, Columbus
 Kessler 1905-either Rev. Charles Kessler at St. Leo Parish in Columbus or Rev. Lucius Kessler in Gallipolis
 Lilly, Rev. M. F., O.P.; probably Rev. Hugh F. Lilly, O.P., 1887-St. Patrick's, Columbus
 Logan, Rev. B. L., O.P. 1891-apparently Rev. B. F. Logan, O.P., of St. Patrick's, Columbus
 McEachen, Rev. Roderick 1902-Bridgeport; 1905& 1911-Barton and missions in Belmont Co.
 Mattingly, Rev. S. S. 1887-Steubenville
 Mattingly 1895-either Jerome B. in Athens or S. S. in Martin's Ferry
 Mattis 1903-either Rev. John A. Mattes at Lancaster or Rev. Baltaser Mattes at Ave Maria, Watertown Township, Washington Co.
 Montag, Rev. J. George 1884-Batesville and missions
 Mulhane, Rev. L. W. 1901 and 1902-Mt. Vernon
 O'Boylan, Rev. Bernard M. 1889-Corning, 1908-Newark
 O'Reilly, Rev. T. J. 1887, 1890-St. Joseph Cathedral and St. Francis Hospital in Columbus
 O'Reilly, Rev. William 1872-Ironton
 Powers, Rev. Thomas A. 1907-Steubenville
 Quinn, Rev. William, O.P. 1892-Zanesville St. Thomas Parish
 Rosecrans, Bishop Sylvester H. 1877, 1878-Columbus
 Sagerer, Rev. Ignatius Sagerer 1904-Burkhart, Monroe Co.
 Rev. Christopher, C.P. 1889, 1890, 1894, 1896, 1907 -- apparently Father Christopher Schiesl, C.P., of Pittsburgh
 Schnyder, Rev. ---- 1902-perhaps Rev. John J. Schneider at St. Joseph Parish, Ironton
 Sebastian -- see Rev. Sebastian Cebulle
 Sidly, Rev. ---- 1884- there were three in the US, one each in Cleveland, Sandusky, and Springfield, Ohio
 Toll 1887-probably Rev. D. R. Towle, O.P., assistant at St. Patrick's in Columbus
 Tuohy, Rev. Joseph 1880-Martin's Ferry
 Walsh, Rev. ---- 1877-unknown
 Watterson, Bishop John A. 1885, 1886-Columbus
 Weigand, Rev. Joseph A. 1906-Steubenville
 White, Rev. James P. 1886, 1887, 1890, 1892-St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus

Other local persons mentioned are Mr. Pat Egan, the well-known undertaker of Columbus, and a Mr. Spencer who was an officer of the Humane Society (which at that time cared for children, not animals).