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Sept. 27: St. Vincent de Paul

September, 2013

St. Vincent and Holy Rosary Parishes, Columbus 1875-1979 (Part 1 of 3)

The Quasi-Parish of St. Vincent de Paul

One of Bishop Rosecrans' major concerns in the early days of the diocese was the care of the orphans and other neglected children, from the see city as well as from throughout the diocese. In the autumn of 1874 the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity offered to come to Columbus to staff a new orphanage.¹ The Bishop made arrangements to purchase from Louis Zettler and

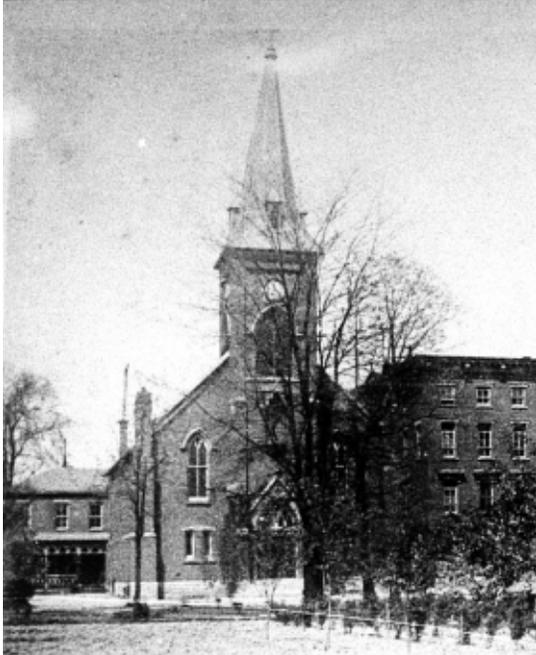


Rev. John C. Goldschmidt (1840-1923)

his wife seven mostly orchard-covered acres at the northwest corner of East Main Street and Rose (now Kelton) Avenue, with a two-story house. He dedicated it as St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum on February 2, 1875 and at once appointed Father John C. Goldschmidt² chaplain and director of the new institution. Father Goldschmidt lived at Holy Cross Parish for about two years, until arrangements could be made for him to move to the orphanage.³

A chapel for the orphanage was set up in the house. It was furnished by Holy Cross Parish, and, according to Father Goldschmidt, from earliest days in 1875 neighbors were allowed to attend Mass there, forming a quasi-parish. The baptismal register of the orphanage supports this assertion. It lists five baptisms for 1875, of which only two were of residents of the institution. In 1876 residents were three of seven and in 1877 two out of six recipients of Baptism in the chapel. The closest parishes to St. Vincent's were Holy Cross, St. Joseph Cathedral, and St. Patrick's, all two or more miles to the west. But the next parish to the east was at Newark in Licking County.

The most prominent early members of St. Vincent Parish were the family of Thomas Miller, who was proprietor of the Friend Street Railroad, the horse car line that connected the east side with downtown Columbus. His children appear in the baptismal records of the parish as parents and sponsors, as does his wife Mary. A few family names, such as Frey, Dersam, and Schwartz, appear to



*St. Vincent Chapel in 1891,
while it still had a steeple.*

represent the German Catholic families who had settled east of Alum Creek at an early date and used the old St. Jacob Cemetery near East Broad Street.⁴

New buildings or wings were completed at the expanding orphanage in 1876 and 1878 and a larger room in the latter replaced the first chapel at that time.

The cornerstone of a new, free-standing chapel was blessed on July 27, 1884. The chapel was blessed by Bishop Watterson on Aug. 9, 1885. Its construction had been authorized by the bishop because of “the increased population of Catholics in the eastern part of Columbus, and the insufficient room for them in the little chapel... Father Goldschmidt was appointed the Pastor.”⁵

The wooden, white-painted altar of the new chapel had been obtained from Holy Cross Parish when a new one was installed there. It was purchased from Holy Cross for St. Vincent’s by the gift of Rev. Lawrence Klawitter of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Reinhard donated the communion rail and James Cregan a window. The chapel was lit by gas and heated by stoves.⁶

After the dedication, Mass was offered twice on each Sunday and Holy Day of obligation, to accommodate the residents of the orphanage as well as the people of the congregation.

The burden of the parish was weighing on Father Goldschmidt in 1902, when Bishop Moeller mentioned in a letter to him, “I have heard that you would prefer that the people now attending the Asylum be made to go to some other Church.”⁷ Within three years Bishop Hartley had founded the new parish of the Holy Rosary.

Holy Rosary Parish

The New Parish and First Edifice

In 1903 a church building fund was started at St. Vincent’s and by 1905 some \$1,900 had been accumulated.⁸ On May 1, 1905 Bishop Hartley offered the pastorate of the proposed new parish to Rev. Francis W. Howard. Father Howard was 37 years old. He had been ordained by Bishop Watterson in 1891 and had served as pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Jackson until 1895. He then went to New York and Rome for studies and on his return about 1900 was assigned to the chaplaincy of St. Anthony Hospital. He was assistant pastor of the Cathedral Parish when Bishop Hartley approached him regarding the new parish. He was officially appointed on May 5. The Bishop placed the new



*The rectory at Holy Rosary, formerly the house of
Moses Seymour.*



The first choir of Holy Rosary Parish: Ed Brosmer, Allan Koch, Joe Nentwich, Rudy Hooffstetter, Percy Sullivan (director), Innes Lageman, Clem Stein, Frank Vogel, and organist Miss Catherine Eberley.

parish under the patronage of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary and the congregation was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin on May 31.⁹

That April, Bishop Hartley had purchased property for the parish three blocks east of St. Vincent's, comprising several lots stretching 415 feet along the west side of Seymour Avenue, running from Main Street south to Mound, with frontage of 251

feet on Main and 150 on Mound Street.¹⁰ The cost was \$7,335 and possession was obtained in June. On the northwest corner of the site, facing Main Street, was the former farmhouse of the Seymour family, built in 1840, where Father Howard took up residence. (It reportedly was still a comfortable rectory in 1973).¹¹

The first new building of the parish was a brick



Scene at the laying of the cornerstone, first Holy Rosary Church and School.



The first Holy Rosary Church and School, as it appeared in the 1950s.

structure of three stories, 103 feet long by 58 feet wide, designed by David Riebel. It was to be a school that would also serve temporarily as a church. It faced Seymour Avenue and was placed far enough south that space was left at Main and Seymour for a future church building. Ground was broken on July 26, the Feast of St. Anne, 1905. The contractors were D. W. McGrath and J. W. Sweeney; foreman was Charles Hirtler. The cornerstone was laid on Oct. 8, Feast of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The building was completed the next spring and was dedicated on the Feast of the Annunciation, Mar. 25, 1906, with Bishop Hartley officiating. Upon completion of the building the parish had a debt of \$40,000. The school opened in the fall of 1906 with 123 children, taught by four Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity, who lived at the Orphanage.¹²

In June, 1905, Father Howard began monthly publication of a little pamphlet called "Good Counsel," which became a chronicle of parish life. There were 64 families in the new parish, which Father Howard soon organized into the Holy Name Society for the men, the Altar Society, the League of the Sacred Heart, and the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary.¹³ Parish efforts showing the artistic

abilities of the early congregation included a presentation of "The Pirates of Penzance" at the Hartman Theater in 1911; the opera "The Chimes of Normandy" at the Southern Theater in 1915; and "The Mikado" at the Hartman in 1916.¹⁴



*Rev. (later Bishop) Francis W. Howard
(1867-1944)*

Additional lots were purchased along Mound Street as they became available, stretching the property to the west, in 1909 and 1912.¹⁵

New Church

Father Howard held annual parish meetings to go over the parish financial report and to discuss needs and plans. At the meeting held on May 29, 1910 after the Sunday High Mass, those in attendance unanimously approved undertaking the construction of a new church. Father Howard, who was executive secretary of the National Catholic Education Association, went on an extended tour of Europe in 1911, studying schools and considering the design of the new church. On April 13, 1913 sod was turned and a cross erected on the spot where the altar would stand. Construction was begun on November 2, 1913. The concrete floor was laid the following April and the cornerstone was laid and the foundations were blessed by Bishop Hartley on May 24, 1914.¹⁶

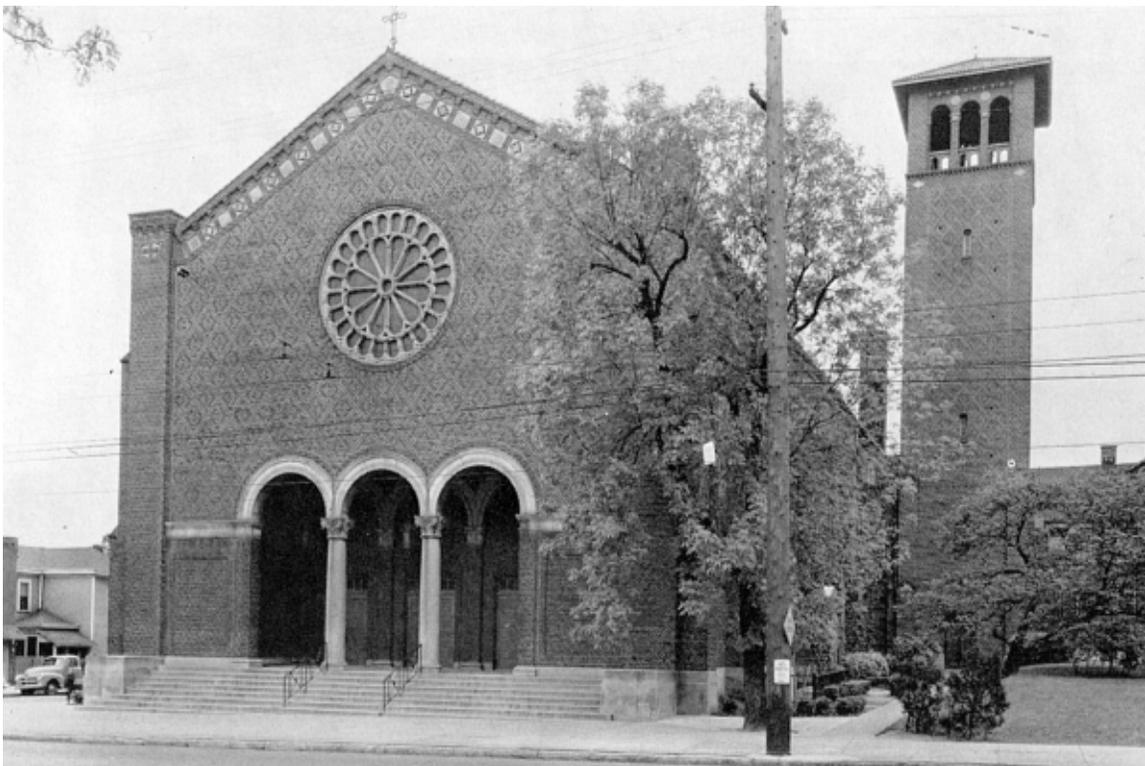
The architect of the new church was Harvey H. Heistand of Eaton, Ohio. The building is of Italian

Romanesque style; the interior design followed early Renaissance style of the twelfth century; and the ceiling design was suggested by that of the Cathedral of Siena. The church measures 193 feet by 65 feet in the nave. In addition there was a chapel of 60 x 30 feet, located on the southwest side, behind the campanile. G. R. Basset was in charge of construction and designed the roof trusses. Father Howard “followed the intricate bricklaying that produced the church’s familiar diamond pattern with binoculars, and ‘it is said’ that he even would lend a hand if he felt the bricklayers were not faithfully following the pattern” according to Msgr. Wm. Kappes. The building was privately dedicated by Bishop Hartley and Mass was first offered on February 2, 1916. The congregation first attended Mass there on February 27.¹⁷

(To be continued)

NOTES

- 1) See “A Suggestion from Heaven: How the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity Came to the Diocese of Columbus,”



Holy Rosary Church

- Bulletin* Vol. XXVII No. 10, Oct. 2012.
- 2) See his life story, by himself, in the *Bulletin*, June and July, 1996.
 - 3) Hartley, Bishop James J., *Diocese of Columbus, The History of Fifty Years, 1868-1918*; 1918: Columbus; 583-584.
 - 4) See the *Bulletin* IV/8 Aug, 1978, pp 339-341 and VI/9 Sept. 1980, pp 539-540.
 - 5) Hartley, op. cit., I/585-586
 - 6) "Centenary of the Chapel at St. Vincent Children's Center," by Rev. William E. Kappes; *Bulletin*, Vol. XI, No. 1, January, 1986; citing *The Catholic Columbian*.
 - 7) Archives, Diocese of Columbus, Moeller Letter Book 3, p. 583.
 - 8) Hartley, op. cit., pp. 229-231 and 587.
 - 9) *Holy Rosary Golden Jubilee* booklet, 1955 p. 17 (hereafter cited as 1955).
 - 10) 1955 page 18. Fr. Co. Deed Record 411/183.
 - 11) *The Columbus Citizen-Journal*, Mar. 24, 1973.
 - 12) 1955 p. 18.
 - 13) 1955 p. 17.
 - 14) 1955 p. 22.
 - 15) Franklin County Deed Records 479/242 and 532/273.
 - 16) 1955 page 21.
 - 17) 1955 page 22. *The Columbus Dispatch*, Jan. 14, 1979.

Saint Vincent Orphan Asylum and Parish Baptisms, 1875-1890

This record was made by Rev. John C. Goldschmidt. It includes both residents of the orphanage and the children of families that attended St. Vincent's as a quasi-parish. Children who are known to have been residents of the Asylum are noted as [R] for "resident."

pages 6-7

1875

- March 29, Maria, daughter of David and Mary Jackson, about eight years old; spon. Annie Wieser. [R]
- June 29, John Courson, convert from episcopalianism, age about 40 years; spon. Frederick John Wieser.
- June 29, Albertina, daughter of John Williams and Catherine Norman, age about 11 years; spon. Annie Wieser. [R—called Alvina Williams in the Orphan Asylum Register]
- Nov. 18, Leo Herbert, son of Henry White and Josephina Stucker, born Oct. 16, 1875; spon. Maggie Miller. He married Catherine Mangan at St. Francis Church, Columbus, in 1910.
- Nov. 18, Clara, daughter of Oscar White and Ostinde Whelan, born Oct. 9, 1875; spon. Fannie White.

1876

- June 11, Mary Jane, daughter of Henry Leonard Wolf, about 2 years old; spon. Joseph Rudolf and Elizabeth Rudolf. [R]
- July 23, Mary Magdalen, foundling left at night; spon. Mrs. Mary Haviland [R]
- Aug. 13, John, son of James Oneil and Frances Vaughan, born Sept. 5, 1875; spon. Maggie Quil and Pat. Oneil
- Aug. 13, Lawrence Vincent, son of William Rohr and Minerva Behn, born July 16, 1876; spon. John Ims and Fannie White
- Nov. 14, Emma, daughter of Ferdinand Stengel, born Jan. 15, 1865; spon. Mr. & Mrs. Thomas D. Casidy
- Nov. 14, Mary Frances, daughter of Ferdinand Stengel, born March 28, 1871; spon. Mr. & Mrs. Thomas D. Casidy
- Dec. 31, Peter Martin Roch, age about 8; spon. Martin Hinterschitt and Gertrude Hemsteger. [R]

1877

- Apr. 7, William Henry Devalt, age about 6 1/2 years; spon. Mr. & Mrs. Henry Reinhard [R]
- Apr. 22, William John Augustine, son of Nehemiah Fisher and (deceased) Mary, born

Dec. 16, 1872; spon. M. A. Daugherty and Phebie Daugherty [R]
Aug. 4, Margaret, daughter of James Quinlan and Mary Donahue, born July 31
page 8
Aug. 19, Elizabeth Frances, born July 21, daughter of John Sauer and Caroline Dersam; spon. Peter Mueller and Elizabeth Dersam.
Oct. 17, Catherine Josephine, born Oct. 1, daughter of Bernard Casey and Sarah Mc Nerney; spon. Patrick and Elizabeth Troy.
Dec. 8, Henry William, born Nov. 23, son of Louis Frey and Mary Catherine Schlitt; spon. Henry and Mary Schlitt.

1878

Jan. 21, Teresa, daughter of Felix Schafer; died the same day.
Feb. 17, Mary Frances, born Dec. 28, 1877, daughter of Thomas Pursel and Rose Shedley; spon. James Quinlan and Josephine Pursel.
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Sept. 22, Margaret Wilson, born Aug. 19, daughter of John McCarty and Maggie Miller; spon. Sallie Miller and James Miller.
Nov. 3., Mary Miller, born Oct. 10, daughter of Richard J. Fanning and Cecilia Miller; spon. Julia Miller and Joseph F. Fanning.

1879

Mar. 25, Florence Johnson, born Feb. 28, daughter of Thomas Miller and Elizabeth Johnson; spon. Mrs. Mary Miller.
Mar. 30, George Anthony, born Feb. 19, son of Joseph Thomas Knadler and Caroline Engler; spon. Richard Anthony Engler and Mary Catherine Williams.

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Aug. 31, Denis Edward, born Aug. 5, son of John O'Grady and Ann Leavey; spon. Francis P. McAnally and Mary McAnally.
Nov. 9, Ann Catherine, born Oct. 13, daughter of Joseph Schwartz and Mary E. Spahn; spon. Martin and Catherine Walter.

1880

Mar. 14, Catherine, born Nov. 21, 1875, daughter

of Louis Doren and Mary; spon. Joseph Wittmeyer and Cunigunda Ott.

Oct. 3, Charles Louis Cunningham, born in March of 1872; spon. Louis and Catherine Zettler. [R]

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1881

Jan. 6, Mary Josepha, born Nov. 15, 1877, daughter of Henry Roeder and Elizabeth; spon. Joseph Steck and Sophia Gottlieb.
Jan. 2, Cecil Raymond, born Nov. 28, son of Richard Fanning and Cecilia Miller, baptized by Father Goldschmidt at home; ceremonies provided in the chapel on Feb. 26; spon. William F. Fanning and Mary Fanning.
June 12, Charles Francis, born Nov. 14, 1878, son of [blank] Mills and Kate Sornburger; spon. John Murray and Mary Joyce.
July 3, Mary Catherine Stephens, born August, 1871; spon. Daniel Howe and Catherine Quinlan. [R]

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Oct. 16, George William Hickey, born Aug. 8, 1872; spon. Mr. & Mrs. William Wall. [R]
Nov. 13, Catherine, born Jan. 27, 1875, daughter of James Torey and Emmy; spon. Joseph and Catherine Cla—y.
Dec. 18, John Hugh, born May 12, 1868, son of James Hall and Caroline; spon. John and Mary Lynch. [R]

Dec. 25, Gertrude Wilhelmina, about 12 years old, daughter of John Bliss and Louise; spon. Cornelius and Gertrude Lang.

1882 - No baptisms recorded

page 13

1883

Nov. 19, Aloysia [Louise?] Bertha, about seven years old, daughter of John Ford and Cecilia; spon. Joseph Steck and Emma Frick. [R]

1884

Mar. 23, Ann Mary, wife of Gottfried Klingler, about 50 years old, former Lutheran; spon. John Steck and Gertrude Miller.

(To be continued)

What ever became of...

Rev. Joseph F. Brunemann, O.F.M.Conv.

Father Joseph Brunemann was a Conventual Franciscan who was stationed at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Newark from 1849 to 1854. He was a very busy priest, for he also took care of the missions of St. Joseph at Greer or Mohican in Holmes County, St. Joseph at Jersey, and St. Michael in Knox County, as well as St. Martin at Lynville and a chapel, name unknown, at Jacksontown, both on the National Road.

Father Brunemann was “frail in stature” but was a most exemplary priest who “seemed to have a vast reservoir of faith and zeal that dispensed its living waters to fertilize many quarters...”¹

He born in Holland on April 30, 1822, and was ordained in Italy on January 5, 1845. His formation and studies had taken place in Italy, Belgium and Wurzburg. He learned of the need for missionary priests in the Ohio River valley from a visitor to the Wurzburg friary, Fr. Charles Boeswald, who was working in northern Kentucky. Brunemann came to Cincinnati in 1848, the first member of his community whose work in this country can be documented.² He and Father Bonaventure Keller have been called “the founding Fathers of the Order” in the U.S.³

After leaving Newark, Father Brunemann went to the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, where the bishop sent him to work among the Germans as the first pastor of St. Mary’s (then Holy Angels) in Winfield. While at that post he organized the Irish Catholic parish at Greenpoint, which he named St. Anthony of Padua.⁴ In 1858 he was sent to St. Boniface Parish in Brooklyn, and soon thereafter to the east end of Long Island, to St. Andrew’s in Sag Harbor. In 1865 he was moved to Riverhead and then Southold in the same region.

In 1868 he was transferred to St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish in Far Rockaway, Queens (southeast of the present JFK International Airport). That area quickly grew as a seaside outpost for the City’s privileged classes, their Irish Catholic servants, and the new shopkeepers.

Father Brunemann became ill and had to give up this pastorate and retire to St. Peter’s Hospital, Brooklyn. After a long and painful illness, which he bore with true Christian resignation, he went to his eternal recompense on September 15, 1874. His funeral was held at St. Peter’s Church on Hicks



Street, with the bishop presiding and a great crowd of clergy and the laity present. He is buried near the chapel in Holy Cross Cemetery, Flatbush.

NOTES

The photo of Father Brunemann was published in Heffernan and O’Hare, opposite page 17. See Note 1.

- 1) Michael P. Heffernan and Patrick F. O’Hare, *Historical Sketch of the Church of St. Anthony of Padua, Brooklyn, N.Y.*, 1897, p. 24
- 2) Lamott Rev. John H., *History of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 1821-1921*, N.Y. and Cincinnati: Frederick Pustet, 1921, p. 356, who lists him as a diocesan priest. Sketch of Brunemann’s life by Rev. Sean G. Ogle, O.F.M.Conv.
- 3) Rev. Jeremiah Smith, *History of the Conventual Franciscans in the United States, 1852-1906*; Union City, N.J. : Order Minor Conventuals, 1988
- 4) Heffernan and O’Hare, p. 24

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