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## HOLY CROSS: COLUMBUS' FIRST PARISH

## SOME HISTORICAL NOTES

By Monsignor Joseph A. Hakel

In the early years of 1800, priests from Cincinnati may have visited the Catholics of Franklinton but we have no records. According to church records, the first priest to visit Catholics in Columbus was Fr. Thomas Martin, O.P., from Somerset, Ohio. He said Mass in May, 1834, in the home of John McCourtney on Main Street between High and Third Streets. After that time, Mass was offered in a hall of the Paul Pry House on Water Street, in the home of George Studer on Canal Street between West Main and Cherry, in the home of John Burke on Fulton Street between High and Third, and in the home of John McCourtney.

On Passion Sunday, April 3, 1835, Fr. John Martin Henmi of Cincinnati said Mass in the home of George Studer. On August 31, 1835, Bishop John B. Purcell visited Columbus, said Mass and exhorted the Catholic people to commence building a church. That evening in the Court House, the Bishop delivered a discourse on the truth of the Catholic Religion to a large and distinguished audience of Columbus citizens.

In June 1836, Bishop Purcell visited Columbus stopping at the National Hotel (later replaced by the Neil House). The Bishop was concerned about the five year time limit on the church lot, and urged the people to begin building their church. Subscription lists in German and English were compiled to raise the necessary money.

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When Ohio became a State in 1803, Franklinton was the county seat of Franklin County. When Columbus was chosen as the Capital of Ohio on Feb. 10, 1812, the site of the City of Columbus was an unbroken forest with no inhabitants. On April 10, 1815, Bishop Benedict Joseph Flaget of Bardstown, Kentucky, found only 50 Catholic families during his missionary tour of Ohio. In 1819 there were 300 Catholic families and only two priests, Fr. Edward Dominic Fenwick and Fr. Nicholas Dominic Young. In 1820 there were 3,000 Catholics in Ohio and in 1821 when Fr. Fenwick was appointed first Bishop of the new Diocese of Cincinnati, Ohio had 6,000 Catholics in a total population of 581,434 residents.

In 1835 there were 42 Catholics in Columbus. In June 1836 when it was decided to build St. Remigius' Church, 53 Catholic families signed the subscription list to provide money for the building. The building committee members were Martin Stafford, President; Charles Cross, Secretary; Cornelius Jacobs, Treasurer, and committeemen George Studer and Jacob Shoeringer. The population of Columbus at that time was about 6,000 persons.

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Travel was perhaps the greatest hazard and hardship of the early missionary priests in Ohio. East-West travel in the 1820's was through Zanesville, Lancaster and Chillicothe to Cincinnati. Columbus was a backwater. Mail was brought once a week by horseback from Chillicothe and later by coach from Delaware. Travel was on foot or on horseback and later by coach and canal boat.

Merchandise was moved in heavy wagons over muddy roads. Ohio started its canal system in 1825. From 1840 to 1850, turnpikes, plank roads and bridges were built and around 1850 railroads came into existence. There was much sickness from ague, malaria, smallpox, scarlet fever, typhoid fever and other diseases. In 1833, summer cholera took 200 lives in a population of 3,000.

In those days, churches had very small congregations, perhaps 20 people more or less. The Presbyterians were organized in Franklinton in 1805 by Dr. James Hoge. The Methodists built a church in 1814 on Town between High and Third Streets. The Episcopalians under Philander Chase built Trinity Church on Third between Town and Rich in 1817. The German Lutheran Reformed Church was organized in 1821 by Rev. Charles Hinkle. The Baptist Church was organized on May 15, 1824, under Elder George Jeffries. Services were held in his home on High Street near Mound

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On May 15, 1833, Otis, Phoebe, Samuel and Margaret Crosby and Nathaniel and Catherine Medbury donated in trust lot #761 on Samuel Crosby's Addition at the northeast corner on East Rich and South Fifth Streets to the Dominican Fathers of Somerset under the title of St. Joseph's Literary Society. The gift was given on condition that a church be built on the lot within five years.

In 1834 the following Catholics constituted the entire congregation: George Studer and wife, Michael Reinhard and wife, Andrew Murphy and wife, Owen Turney and wife, J. D. Clarke and wife, Cornelius Jacobs and wife, John Jacobs and wife, George Russell and wife. In 1835 the following names were added: John Ender and wife, Joseph Miller and wife, Jacob Shoeringer and wife, Mr. Zehnacker and wife, Clemens Baehr and wife, Isidore Frey and wife, P. Kelly and wife, Jacob Zettler and wife, Mr. Zahringer and wife, Peter Schwartz and wife, Henry Lutz and wife, Lawrence Beck and wife, John Ury and wife. In all there were 42 parishioners to undertake the building of a Catholic Church in Columbus in 1835.

As the congregation grew in numbers, they finally succeeded in building the little Church of St. Remigius in 1838; just in time to retain possession of the church lot.

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Most Reverend John Baptist Purcell, whose pastoral zeal and energetic personal interest resulted in the building of St. Remigius' Church, was born Feb. 26, 1800, in Mallow, County Cork, Ireland, the son of Edmund and Johanna (O'Keefe) Purcell. He was educated at Mt. St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland, and St. Sulpice Seminary, Paris, France. He was ordained May 20, 1826, in Paris by Archbishop Hyacinthe-Louis de Quelen. He taught at Mt. St. Mary's Seminary and was soon named Rector, 1829-1833. He was consecrated Oct. 13, 1833, in Baltimore by Archbishop James Whitfield, assisted by Bishop John Dubois of New York and Bishop Francis P. Kenrick of Philadelphia.

In August, 1835, Bishop Purcell visited Columbus and personally took charge of the building of St. Remigius' Church. He sent Father Juncker to Columbus to organize and complete the work. Bishop Purcell repeatedly visited Columbus to encourage the parishioners.

Bishop Purcell was promoted to Archbishop on July 18, 1850. He attended the various Councils of Baltimore; presided over the Provincial Councils of Cincinnati, and attended the First Vatican Council, 1869-1870. After a long and brilliant career, Archbishop Purcell died July 4, 1883, at St. Martin, Ohio. St. Remigius' and Holy Cross Church owe their existence mainly to the loving concern of Archbishop John Purcell.

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Rev. Thomas Martin, O.P., was the first priest regularly assigned to the spiritual care of the Catholics of Ohio by his superior, Very Rev. Nicholas Dominic Young, O.P., nephew of Bishop Edward D. Fenwick, O.P. Father Young was Provincial Superior at St. Joseph Priory in Somerset, Ohio, and he was the recipient of the deed to St. Remigius' Church lot.

Father Martin travelled with untiring zeal all over the State of Ohio, and occasionally said Mass for the Catholics of Columbus. On Jan. 16, 1835, Father Young wrote to Bishop Purcell at Cincinnati: "We have a lot in Columbus and a church is needed there more than in any other place in the diocese. Father Martin with your approval will undertake the building of a church there." On April 4, 1835, Father Young wrote to Bishop Purcell: "I have informed Father Martin that he may proceed with the contemplated church in Columbus." Records of baptisms until 1837 were kept at St. Joseph Priory.

Father Martin was born in the parish of Lisdowney, County Kilkenny, Ireland, about 1794. He finished most of his studies in Ireland, then came to St. Rose Priory near Springfield in Kentucky where he taught in the College of St. Thomas Aquinas. He made his religious profession at St. Rose Priory on December 12, 1821, and was ordained there by Bishop Fenwick on March 2, 1822. A little later he was sent to Ohio to help found the College at Somerset. He was Superior at St. Joseph Priory from 1833 to 1836.

From Somerset he labored in the Ohio Missions until 1840, when at the personal invitation of Archbishop John J. Hughes he went to New York City. There he rendered valuable service as adviser and arbitrator in many parish and diocesan problems. He died in New York on May 10, 1859, and is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery, Somerset, Ohio.

Although Fr. Martin's priestly zeal and labors embraced all Catholics scattered over Ohio, he is rightly regarded as the first spiritual shepherd and founder of Holy Cross parish.

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The building of St. Remigius' Church progressed slowly. In August, 1836, 700 perch of limestone had been bought from Henry Nadenbusch for \$875.00. Sand was donated by James Phelan from his sand bank on the east side of the Scioto River, and was hauled by Joseph and Cyriacus Wolfel. Then the committee ran out of money.

On August 4, 1837, Fr. Henry Damian Juncker was appointed to take charge of the building program. He arrived at the home of George Studer and said Mass

every day from Sunday, August 6 to 13, 1837. Fr. Juncker energetically put into active operation the plans for the church. On Oct. 15, 1837, the foundation was laid by George Kammacher and Andrew Schott, expert masons. There was no cornerstone. Jacob Shoeringer did the heavy carpenter work, and Charles Cross did the finishing. Cornelius Jacobs supervised the general construction while the church building committee collected money and materials.

Fr. Juncker also had charge of building a church in Chillicothe, Ohio, and was in Columbus only part time. He visited Columbus on Nov. 8 and Dec. 25, 1837, and again on Jan. 12, 1838, staying at the home of Charles Cross.

Finally the church building fifty feet long by thirty feet wide and eighteen feet high with choir gallery was completed on April 10, 1838. There were no interior furnishings when the new church was blessed on April 29, 1838, by Father Juncker, thus permanently securing ownership of the church lot before the deadline of May 15, 1838. Pews, plastering and painting were completed during the summer of 1838.

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Rt. Rev. Henry Damian Juncker who built St. Remigius' Church, was born August 22, 1809, in Fenetrance, diocese of Nancy, Lorraine, France. His early education was received in France. Later he was educated at St. Francis Xavier Seminary (\*), Cincinnati, Ohio, and ordained March 16, 1834, by Bishop John B. Purcell in Cincinnati.

Father Juncker devoted his early years in the priesthood to pastoral and missionary work in the diocese of Cincinnati from 1834 to 1857 when it took in the whole State of Ohio. During these years he served as pastor at Holy Trinity Church, Cincinnati, then at St. John Church, Canton. Next he was pastor at Chillicothe and Columbus and also took care of Circleville, Piketon, Delaware and Portsmouth. In 1844 he was sent to Emmanuel Church, Dayton, and took care of Bellefontaine, West Liberty, Xenia, Lebanon and Springfield.

Father Juncker labored unceasingly in Ohio until he was appointed Bishop of Alton in Illinois Jan. 9, 1857. He was consecrated April 26, 1857, by Archbishop Purcell of Cincinnati, assisted by Bishop John M. Henmi of Milwaukee and Bishop Josue M. Young of Erie, all of whom had served at St. Remigius' in Columbus.

Bishop Juncker was an untiring worker. Under his leadership, the struggling diocese of Alton prospered and abounded in asylums, academies and colleges. When he died Oct. 2, 1868, the diocese had 123 churches, 100 priests and 56 parochial schools. Bishop Juncker was buried in Alton which is now the diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

Holy Cross Church records of baptisms, marriages and deaths were begun in 1837 by Henry Damian Juncker.

(\*) The Cincinnati Seminary was located at St. Martin's, Brown County, 1839-1845, and known as the Theological Seminary of St. Francis Xavier.

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PRIESTS OF SOUTHEASTERN OHIO  
IN THE 19TH CENTURY  
(Continued)

- Magevney, Rev. Hugh L.  
Sacred Heart Chapel, Columbus Catholic College, 1884; President, Columbus Catholic College, 1885.
- Magher, Rev. J.R., O.P.  
St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1867.
- Mallon, Rev. Francis C.  
St. Patrick's, Columbus, 1868.
- Maria, Rev. Felix, O.M. Cap.  
St. Joseph's, Canal Dover.
- Martin, Rev. P., O.M. Cap.  
St. Joseph's, Bridgeport, 1887.
- Martin, Rev. Thomas, O.P.  
St. Joseph's, Somerset (Rev. J. Martin, O.P.), 1835; St. Mary's, Lancaster, 1836-1839; St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1840.
- Mattes, Rev. John A.  
Josephinum Seminary, Columbus; Galloway and Groveport, 1896-1898; Josephinum Seminary, Columbus; Galloway, Groveport and Millersburg (Holmes Co.), 1899.
- Mattingly, Rev. Jerome B.  
Zaleski and St. Joseph's, McArthur Junction, 1892; Zaleski, St. Joseph's, McArthur Junction, and Londonderry, 1893; Athens, Canaansville, Carbon Hill (Hocking Co.) Floodwood and Stewart's, 1894-1897; Athens, Canaansville, Carbon Hill and Stewart's, 1898; Gallipolis, Canaansville, Carbon Hill and Stewart's, 1899.
- Mattingly, Rev. S.S.  
McConnellsville, 1879; McConnellsville and Meig's Creek, 1883; St. James', McConnellsville; Meig's Creek and St. Ann's, Taylorsville, 1884-1887 (also given at St. Peter's, Steubenville in 1887); Good Shepherd Convent, Columbus, and Mt. Carmel Hospital, Columbus, 1888; Martins Ferry, 1889-1896; Martins Ferry and Dillonvale, 1897-1898.
- Mayer, Rev. Florian  
Josephinum Seminary, Columbus, 1899.
- Mayrose, Rev. Herman Heinrich  
St. Peter's, Lick Run, St. John's, Little Scioto, and Monroe Furnace, 1867-1869; Immaculate Conception, Marges, 1870; St. Francis Xavier, Lodi, and Immaculate Conception, Marges, 1871-1872; St. Francis Xavier, Lodi, 1873-1877; Sugar Grove and Good Hope, 1878; Bremen, Sugar Grove and Good Hope, 1879-1888; St. Aloysius Academy, New Lexington, 1889-1893; St. Anthony Hospital, Columbus, 1894-1898.

Meade, Rev. John

St. James', McConnellsville; Taylorsville, Meig's Creek and Stockport, 1888-1895; Mingo Junction, Sherrodsville and Brilliant, 1896-1899+.

Meagher, Rev. F.

St. John's, Belair; Belmont Station, 1872.

Meagher, Rev. James

St. Patrick's, Columbus, 1853-1857.

Meagher, Rev. J. R., O.P.

St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1896-1899.

Meara, Rev. D.E.

St. Mary's, Minerton, 1900.

Meara, Rev. John J.

St. Joseph's Cathedral, Columbus, 1878.

Meara, Rev. Michael M.

St. Joseph's Cathedral, Columbus, 1875-1882; St. Joseph's, Circleville, 1883-1896.

Meschenmoser, Rev. Philip

St. Rose, New Lexington, 1877-1884; St. Nicholas', Zanesville, 1885-1893.

Metzger, Rev. F., O.P.

St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1875-1876; St. Joseph's, Somerset; St. Thomas', Zanesville, 1877; St. Thomas', Zanesville, 1878-1882.

Miles, Most Rev. Richard P., O.P.

St. John's, Zanesville; St. Dominic's, near Barnesville, 1833-1834; St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1837. (Afterwards Bishop of Nashville.)

Moitrier, Rev. Francis

St. Rose, New Lexington, 1874-1875; St. Luke's, Danville, 1877-1888; Good Shepherd Convent, Columbus; Mt. Carmel Hospital, 1890-1893; St. John the Baptist, Churchtown, 1894-1898; St. John the Baptist, Churchtown, and Lowell, 1899-1900+.

Monahan, Rev. James

St. Francis', Chapel Hill; St. Barnabas, Deavertown; St. Peter's, Monday Creek, 1856-1859.

Montag, Rev. George J.

St. Mary's, Lancaster, 1878-1882; Batesville, Barnesville, Belmont, Barton and Cambridge, 1883-1884; Batesville, Barnesville, Cambridge, Burr's Mills, 1885-1888; Batesville, Barnesville, Cambridge, Burr's Mills, St. Patrick's, Guernsey Co., 1889-1892; St. Mary's, Temperanceville; Burr's Mills, Barnesville, Cambridge, St. Patrick's, Guernsey Co., 1893-1896; Dresden and Mattingly Settlement, 1897-1899; St. Joseph's, Irononton, 1900+.

Montgomery, Rev. Charles P., O.P.

Zanesville and St. Dominic's, Near Barnesville, 1835; St. John's, Zanesville, 1837-1839; St. Joseph's, Somerset (Very Rev.), 1840-1841; St. Joseph's, Somerset, Provincial, 1844; St. Thomas' Zanesville; Coshocton; Dresden

and Plainfield, 1844; St. Thomas', Zanesville; Dresden and Plainfield, 1845-1856; St. Thomas', Zanesville, 1857-1860.

Montgomery, Rev. Stephen H.  
Zanesville, 1820.

Moran, Rev. J. P., O.P.  
St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1884.

Moroney, Rev. J. A.  
St. Dominic's, McLuney, 1874-1875; Martins Ferry, 1876-1877.

Muckerheide, Rev. Herman J. (or Rev. Joseph)  
St. Joseph's, Canal Dover; St. John of God (5 mile distant): St. Fidelis, Waynesburg (Carroll Co.), 1851-1854.

Muelders, Rev. Martin, O.M. Cap.  
St. Joseph's, Bridgeport, 1887-1889; St. Anthony's, Bridgeport, 1890;  
St. Joseph's, Canal Dover, 1898-1899.

Mueller, Rev. Anastasius Joseph, O.M. Cap.  
St. Joseph's, Canal Dover, 1890-1894.

Mulhane, Rev. L. W.  
St. Joseph's Cathedral, Columbus, 1881-1882; St. Joseph's Cathedral, Columbus; Secretary to the Bishop, 1883-1885; St. Vincent's, Mt. Vernon, 1886-1900+.

Mulhearn, Rev. Charles A.  
St. Joseph's Cathedral, Columbus, 1890-1898; Martins Ferry, 1899-1900+.

Murphy, Rev. J. T., O.P.  
St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1887-1889.

Murphy, Rev. Richard  
Nativity, Portsmouth; St. Michael's, Etna Furnace; Aberdeen, Raccoon Creek, and St. Matthew's, Wilkesville, 1852.

Murphy, Rev. William P.  
St. Michael's, Archer's Settlement; Duck Creek (Batesville P.O.), St. Dominic's, Guernsey Co., and St. Joseph's, Monroe Co., 1841.

Murray, Rev. Bernard C., O.P.  
St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1895.

Murray, Rev. Jeremiah  
St. Patrick's, Columbus, 1871-1873; St. Peter's, Steubenville, 1874-1877

Murray, Very Rev. John B.  
St. Patrick's, Columbus, 1864-1865; St. Mary's, Chillicothe, 1866-1868.

- McGuirk, Rev. John  
St. Patrick's, Columbus, 1881-1884; Athens, Floodwood, Little Hocking,  
Nelsonville, Buchtel, Canaansville, Carbon Hill and Stewart's, 1885-1888;  
Holy Redeemer, Portsmouth, 1889-1900+.
- McKenna, Rev. C.A., O.P.  
St. Joseph's, Somerset, Prior, 1890-1891.
- McKiernan, Rev. L.  
St. John the Baptist, Union Twp., and Ave Maria, 1871; Gallipolis and  
Long Bottom, 1872; St. Louis', Gallipolis, 1873-1874.
- McMahon, Rev. Arthur L., O.P.  
St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1894-1895; 1898-1899.
- McMahon, Rev. Philip  
St. Michael's, Wilkesville, and Raccoon Creek, 1858; St. Malachy's (sic!),  
Wilkesville, Zaleski and other stations, 1859-1860.
- McMannus, Rev. H.J., O.P.  
St. Thomas', Zanesville, 1885; St. Patrick's, Columbus, 1886-1893.
- McNally, Rev. John  
St. Joseph's Cathedral, Columbus, 1884; St. Dominic's, McLuney, 1885-  
1891; St. Dominic's, McLuney, and St. Pius', South Fork, 1892; St. Francis',  
Toronto, 1893-1894; St. Francis', Toronto, Hammondsville and Irondale,  
1895-1900+.
- McPhillips, Rev. Joseph  
St. Mary's, Delaware, 1870-1874.
- McShane, Rev. F.D., O.P.  
St. Thomas', Zanesville, 1875-1876; St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1882 and  
1893-1899.
- McSweeney, Rev. John E.  
St. Mary's, Wilkesville, 1867; Athens, St. Mary's, Wilkesville, and St.  
Sylvester's, Zaleski, 1868; Athens and St. Sylvester's, Zaleski, 1869.
- Nageleisen, Rev. Urban  
Jackson, 1891; Harrietsville and Fox Settlement, 1892-1897.
- Newmayr, Rev. L.J.  
St. Peter's, Lick Run, 1875; Millersburg, Holmesville and Oxford, 1877;  
Harriettsville, 1879-1881.
- Nonnen, Rev. Aloysius A.  
Nativity, Portsmouth, and Little Scioto, 1872; Nativity, Portsmouth;  
Little Scioto and Pond Creek, 1873-1875; Nativity, Portsmouth, 1876-1877;  
Nativity, Portsmouth, and Pond Creek, 1878-1880; Annunciation, Portsmouth,  
1881-1900+.

(To be continued)