

BULLETIN

Vol. V

March

No. 3

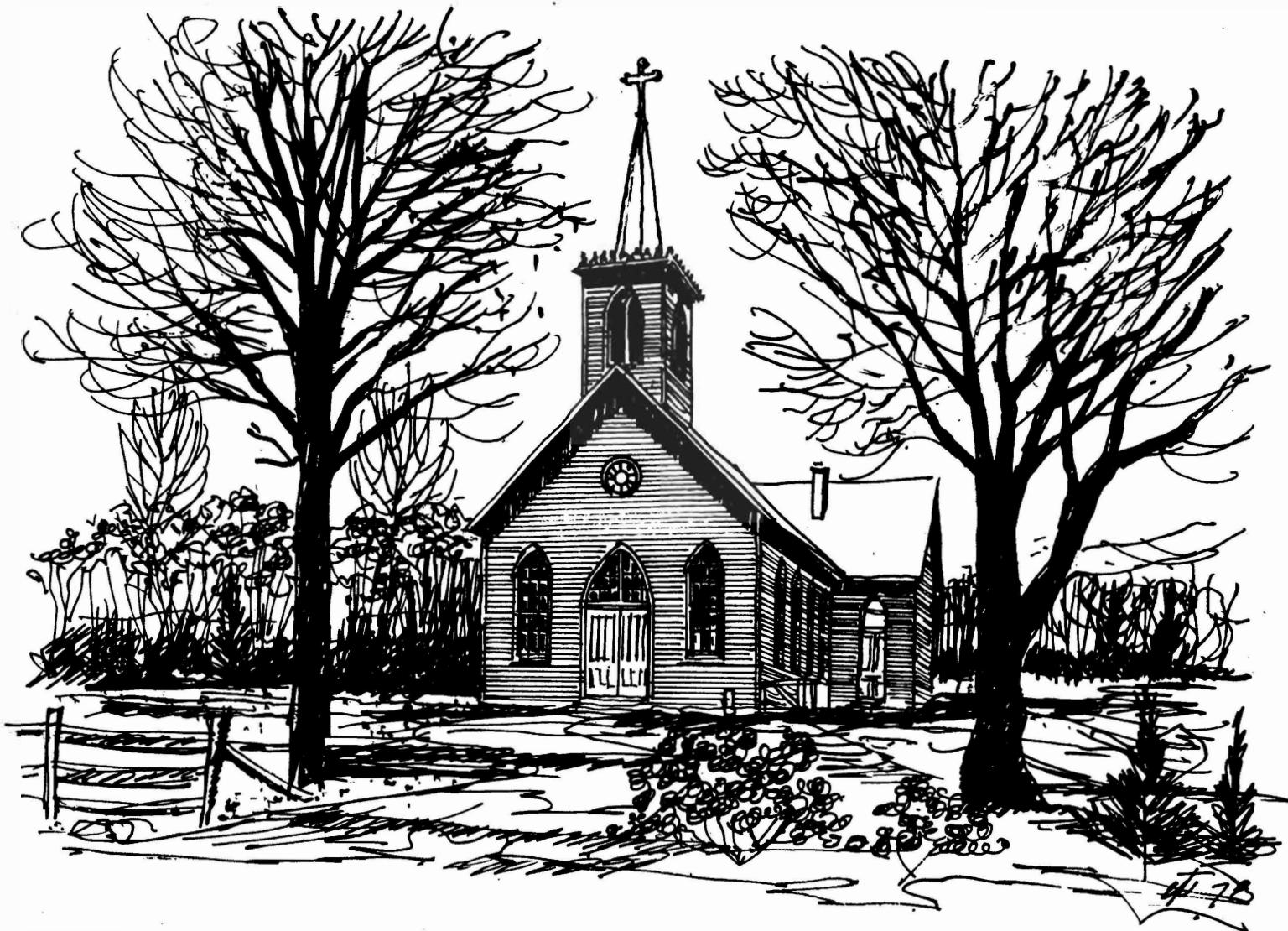
1979

CATHOLIC RECORD SOCIETY

Diocese of Columbus

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ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

JERSEY TOWNSHIP, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO

Built in 1875 to replace a hewed-log chapel, St. Joseph's Church, Jersey Township, Licking County, Ohio was razed in 1949. Irish settlers came into the area in the 1830's and increased in number so that in 1850 a small log church was built. There were more than twenty Catholic families in 1871 when the above illustrated church was built. The little parish received its first resident pastor in 1893, and became a mission of Ascension parish, Johnstown in 1912. (The above sketch was drawn by Mr. Wally Toscano of Karlsberger and Associates, Architects, Columbus.)

A HISTORY OF ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
JERSEY TOWNSHIP, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO

The hills of eastern and northern Licking County diminish westward until in the northwestern township of Jersey is found rather level agricultural terrain. It was to this area in the early 1830's that some Irish Catholic pioneers journeyed to set up their homes and make a living by farming.

Probably the first of these to arrive was Francis Carr, a tailor, and his wife, Catharine, both born in Ireland. They had seven children. About the same time Robert Garret and his family of ten bought property nearby. More Garrets were to come later so that the little community was to become known as Garrets Settlement.

During the 1840's Thomas Garret and his wife, Ellen, both born in Ireland arrived with their seven children. He was a wagon maker. In his household also were John Garret, a farmer, and Richard Garret, a blacksmith. Both were born in Ireland, and were probably brothers of Thomas. Another brother, David, died in 1845. A tombstone in the little Jersey cemetery, erected by his brother, John, marks his resting place.

Also arriving from Ireland during this decade were Roddy Lafferty and his wife, Roseanna. They had three children by 1850, all born in Ohio. The 1850 Federal Census also lists John Doherty from Ireland. His wife, Polly, had died in 1847.

Daniel Cush, his wife, Catharine, and five children added to this settlement of Irish Catholics during this period. (Catharine Cush was formerly Catharine Carr.) The names Lafferty, Cush and Carr were to be associated with the parish for many years. And the Cush family was to give to the Church a priest-son, Rev. Austin A. Cush (1855-1942).

It is reliably recorded that the first priest to visit the area celebrated Mass in the home of Francis Carr. He was Father Nicholas Dominica Young, O.P., of Somerset and Lancaster, who was the first to report to Bishop Purcell of Cincinnati that there was a small group of Catholics halfway between Columbus and Newark. Father Young was a nephew of Bishop Edward Fenwick, first Bishop of Cincinnati. He was stationed at St. Joseph's, Somerset, and later at St. Mary's, Lancaster. It was from the latter place that he visited the Catholics in Jersey Township.

Father John Baptist Lamy, later the famed Archbishop of Santa Fe, is said to have been one of the early missionaries to visit the area. He was the first resident pastor (1839-1847) of St. Luke's, Danville, and attended the then missions of Mt. Vernon and Newark. It was in connection with the latter mission that he visited the Jersey settlement.

Bishop Hartley in his Diocese of Columbus, the History of Fifty Years, 1868-1918, states that among the priests to visit the Jersey area in the early years were "Farhers Borger, Louis, Daly and Young." Father Young's connection has already been given. No Father Borger is known. This was probably Father Thomas Boulger who was ordained in 1847 and for his first assignment was sent to St. Patrick's, Columbus. In 1848 he attended St. Francis, Newark.

The "Father Louis" named by Bishop Hartley is unknown. It could possibly have been Father Louis Cartuyvels who was pastor at Newark from 1863 to 1872. And the "Father Daly" mentioned was likely Father P.J. Daly who was at Newark in 1867 and 1868, and at St. Patrick's, Columbus, in 1869.

Surely among the early visitors were Fathers Joseph Brunemann, O.S.F., stationed at Newark from 1848 to 1854, and by Father Frederick Bender, successor to Father Brunemann at Newark.

As early as 1848 the small group of Catholic settlers in Jersey Township Had become large enough that consideration could be given to the building of a church. Accordingly, on Dec. 9 of that year, Father Joseph Brunemann, O.S.F., wrote (1) from Newark to Bishop Purcell of Cincinnati stating that he had an offer of donation of land for a church. In his letter he informed the Bishop that the people were prepared to take care of the expenses involved in building a log church. This was to include much voluntary labor. A Mr. Cush (2) had offered the land provided that the Bishop would give his approval in writing for the erection of a church.

Apparently Father Brunemann was unaware that the Bishop had already bought property. The Deed Books of Licking County (3) reveal that under date of April 20, 1847, James R. Stanberry and his wife, Eliza, had deeded two acres to Bishop Purcell. The Deed was recorded Jan. 1, 1849.

The Deed reads in part as follows: "Jean Baptiste Purcell, Bishop of the Catholic Church of the Diocese of Ohio, his heirs and assigns, to and for the use and benefit of the congregation of Catholics at Garretts Settlement in Jersey Township, Licking County, Ohio, the following parcel of land situate in said Jersey Township, being two acres in the southwest corner of Lot number 9 in Range 15, Township one (4) and section four, United States Military land, to be laid out in as near a square form as may be.

"To have and hold the lot of land hereby conveyed with all the privileges thereto belonging to him the said Jean Baptiste Purcell, Bishop, as aforesaid, his heirs and assigns, to have and for the use of said congregation at Garretts Settlement as a place for the burial of the dead belonging to the said congregation and whereon to erect a house of worship and such other buildings as the authorities of the Catholic Church of Ohio may from time to time see fit."

There was, however, a mortgage deed signed Feb 28, 1846, indicating that Mr. Cush had bought forty-one acres of land Jan. 17, 1842, from James R. Stanberry "excepting two acres of land to be taken out of the South West corner thereof for a Catholic Church and Church yard...." This means that Mr. Cush owned the land immediately east and north of the two acres set aside for the Church.

Bishop Hartley states in his history of the Diocese (5) that a lot was donated to the Diocese by William Dusenberry "who had sold farms to many of the Catholic settlers." No deed of this transfer has been recorded. Further, the land offered by Mr. Cush seems to have been the two acres already bought by Bishop Purcell from Stanberry.

Bishop Hartley further states (6) that a log church was built about 1851. And N. N. Hill in his history of Licking County published in 1881, states that a "hewed-log building was erected in 1855" (7).

The date of the erection of the log chapel is known from a letter written (8) November 21, 1850, by Father Brunemann of Newark to Bishop Purcell of Cincinnati. He informed the Bishop that the "church at Jersey is erected but not finished." Later, on Aug. 13, 1852 (9), he wrote the Bishop that the "church at Jersey is finished" and out of debt.

The population of the mission grew steadily. An early Jersey Township Clerk's record gives the following as early members of the congregation: Edmund Hawe (10) and wife; Michael Hughes, Roddy Lafferty and wife; Patrick Dinan and wife; Francis Carr and wife; Daniel Cush and Wife; Thomas Hawe, Edmund Sheehan and Thomas Sheehan and wife. This is evidently an incomplete list. The record states that the church was on "St. Joe Road."

During these years the mission was visited by priests from Columbus. Among them were Father Edward Fitzgerald, afterwards Bishop of Little Rock, and his brother Father Joseph Fitzgerald; and Father Nicholas Gallagher, afterwards Bishop of Galveston. Father J.F. Rotchford, O.P., also visited the mission.

In the 1860's consideration was given to replacing the log chapel with a frame church. About this time Father John Murray, stationed at St. Patrick's, Columbus, was in charge of the mission. He was ordained in 1863 and spent his first two years at St. Patrick's. After assignments in Chillicothe, Urbana and Cincinnati, he became Rector of Mt. St. Mary of the West Seminary. He died in 1920.

Father Murray seems to have been succeeded in his care of the Jersey mission by his brother, Father Jeremiah Murray, who was at St. Patrick's from 1870 to 1873. During his term at Jersey a new frame church was built. Finished in 1871, it was not dedicated by Bishop Rosecrans until 1876. Father Jeremiah was in charge for four years.

The new church was 26x46 feet. It was built at a cost of one thousand dollars and a lot of voluntary labor (11). The altar and pews were obtained from the church of a discontinued mission at Linnville in south central Licking County.

The succession of priests ministering to the Jersey congregation during the next few years is not clear. Three are known to have gone there from the Cathedral in Columbus. Father Henry Anderson is known to have gone to the mission in 1875. He was probably followed by the "much loved Father Meara" (12). Father J. B. Kuehn who also visited Groveport, went to Jersey about 1880. Records of these years are not continuous making it difficult to determine tenure of missionaries.

Father Dennis A. Clark, also of the Cathedral, was in charge of the Jersey Settlement for several years beginning in 1880. The story of his tenure is given by Bishop Hartley in his history of the Diocese (13). "Under his pastorate the old church was remodeled and enlarged and a beautiful altar, donated by Roddy Lafferty, a pioneer member of the Mission, was erected. On Sunday, June 11, 1882, the church was solemnly dedicated by Rt. Rev. Bishop Watterson. He was assisted in the ceremonies by Fathers DeCailly, Mulhane and Clarke. Solemn High Mass followed the dedication in the presence of the Rt. Rev. Bishop. The celebrant of the Mass was the Rector of the Mission, Rev. D. A. Clarke, assisted by Rev. Louis DeCailly, of Newark, as Deacon; Rev. L. W. Mulhane, Bishop's Secretary, as Subdeacon, and Master Frank Howard of Columbus, as Master of Ceremonies. Father Mulhane came to the church by buggy, twenty miles, having celebrated an early Mass in the Convent of the Good Shepherd in Columbus.

"After Mass, the Bishop preached a most able and instructive sermon on the Gospel of the day. The non-Catholics in attendance gave the closest attention and afterwards expressed themselves delighted with all they heard.

"In the afternoon Solemn Vespers in the presence of the Bishop was sung by the same ministers as in the morning. After the Magnificat the Bishop again preached to the large congregation, nearly all of whom had been present in the morning, having partaken in the meantime of the hospitalities of the neighbors, but many had brought their refreshments. Confirmation was administered to a class of twenty-five, two adults being converts.

"In the Spring of 1883 Father Clarke resigned on account of ill health, but took charge again in August, 1884. After two months he was appointed to Holy Family Church, Columbus. Father Schlichter succeeded and was in charge about seven years. For one year no priest was appointed."

Father Clarke in a financial report for the first six months of 1883 gave the receipts as \$156.30. Improvements and repairs totalled \$149.80. He reported that there was no debt.

Father Louis DeCailly (1832-1898) was in charge for one year. He came to Jersey from St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark, where he was pastor 1874 to 1884. He reported receipts of the little mission as \$152.56 for the last half of 1883, and of \$182.00 for the first half of 1884. It is worthy of noting that the mission gave \$30.00 for the Diocesan debt during this time.

Father DeCailly was born in Lyons, France. He was ordained in 1855 and served in the Diocese of Dubuque. He came to Columbus at the invitation of his friend, Bishop Rosecrans. He returned to Iowa in 1884 and was killed there in 1898 when his buggy was struck by a train.

Father Henry Schlichter gave his address as St. Joseph's Orphanage, 721 E. Main St., Columbus [This was the Josephinum.] He was appointed to take care of the Jersey mission after Father DeCailly. He was born in Westphalia, Germany, in 1837, and came to America in 1865. He first became a Brother of the Holy Cross at Notre Dame. He left there to come to Columbus where he became Father Jessing's "first priest" (14). He was ordained by Bishop Watterson Aug. 15, 1884. He remained at the Josephinum, but served a number of missions, including Galloway, Groveport, Taylortown and St. Francis Hospital, all in Franklin County, and St. Joseph's, Jersey, in Licking County. He died at the Josephinum in 1905.

For the year 1885 Father Schlichter reported receipts of \$212.11 at his Jersey mission. An interesting item among the expenses was the payment of \$4.50 for Cathedricum (Diocesan tax). In 1887 he wrote that he visited St. Joseph's once a month with additional visits on the feasts of All Saints, All Souls and Christmas. He reported 66 practical Catholics in all his missions, 24 of them being at St. Joseph's. Nineteen were confirmed that year. A class of ten children attended catechism. On July 1, 1888, he reported that during the first part of that year he had visited the mission seven times, while "Rev. A. Cush held services 3 times on Sunday."

Finances of the little mission continued precarious. On January 1, 1890, Father Schlichter wrote that "I have a contract with the congregation charging

them \$8.00 a trip, R.R. fare (\$2.00) included. I advanced all the money needed and the congregation is now indebted to me for the balance of \$59.39".

The growth of the mission is reflected in Father Schlichter's statement of July 1, 1891. He then had 20 families at St. Joseph's with 150 souls. Insurance on the church was for \$2,500.00. The parish was now indebted to him for \$86.13.

Despite the financial difficulties of Father Schlichter, the mission grew in population during the years 1865 to 1885. From a daybook (15) of the firm of Harrison and Brother in the village of Jersey, names of new families can be gleaned. Among them were Paul Lafferty, James Cush, Robert Donovan, John Dennis, David and Michael Hoy, William Lafferty, Frank Lafferty, John Lafferty, Thomas Ewing and the McKinney family.

This growth warranted the appointment of a resident pastor. Accordingly, in the summer of 1892 Father Peter Gladu was sent to live at St. Joseph's. He took up residence in Alexandria until he could get a rectory built. That same year the rectory, along with a barn for his horses, was erected for the most part out of hewed logs.

Father Gladu was born and educated in Canada where he was ordained in 1881. He was received into the Diocese of Columbus in June 1889, and served at Zaleski and Newark before becoming the first resident pastor at Jersey. After seven years he was transferred to Wellston. He died in 1903.

Father Gladu also had charge of a Station at Taylorsville (or Taylorstown) in Franklin County. On Dec. 4, 1892 (16) he reported that there were 17 families at St. Joseph's and 17 at Taylor Station, with a total of 186 souls under his care. There were 20 children in the catechism class at St. Joseph's. The report also stated that there was a cemetery, fenced and in good condition. On Jan. 1, 1893, he could report receipts totalling \$596.15, with \$316.15 realized from a festival. On July 1 of that year receipts totalled \$999.10, with \$461.13 coming from a festival. This was quite a different financial picture from the one given by Father Schlichter, and gave evidence of the value of a resident pastor. At the same time he had 20 in regular attendance at catechism class.

During the last half of 1893 receipts were \$344.80, and during the first half of 1894 they were \$269.88. Financial weakness was also reflected in an accumulated debt of \$760.60 owed the pastor for salary.

During part of his tenure at Jersey Father Gladu gave his address as Cress P.O., Licking County. No longer known today, Cress was merely the location of a general store at the corner where "St. Joe Road" met the road from Jersey to Johnston. The number of families was 33 in 1897, and Father Gladu reported the establishment of the League of the Sacred Heart. He wrote that he had \$2,000.00 insurance on the rectory and "cuthouses" (barns).

Although the parish collections continued about the same, Father Gladu seemed not to be taking his salary, so that the parish owed him \$1,684.99 by the end of 1897, and \$2,066.01 by the end of 1898. It is no wonder, then, that he wrote the following suggestion in his report of July 1, 1897: "All what I have to say with regard to this parish is that it is not large enough to support a resident priest as he should be supported."

After Father Gladu's transfer to Wellston in 1899, he was succeeded by Father Andrew J. Johnson. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., June 19, 1865, Father Johnson was ordained at Watertown, N.Y., Dec. 23, 1894. He was received into the Diocese of Columbus in November, 1898, and was stationed at the Cathedral. After eight months he was placed in charge of St. Joseph's, Jersey, and the mission of St. Thomas the Apostle, Rarigsville (The present St. Thomas, East Columbus). Father Johnson died in 1916 and is buried in Brooklyn.

On July 1, 1899, Father Johnson made his first report stating that it was for a period wholly under his predecessor. There were 26 families at St. Joseph's, 12 in Catechism class, and 105 enrolled in the League of the Sacred Heart. One year later he reported total receipts of \$766.22, with \$180.00 owed the pastor. He still gave the parish address as Cressk P.O. Sacramental records indicate that Father Johnson remained at Jersey until the Fall of 1902.

Bishop Hartley writes (17) in his History of the Diocese of Columbus that Father Gladu was followed at Jersey by Fathers Johnson, Ritter, Pohlman (or Pollman) and Vonville. Since many sacramental records for the little mission are missing, it is impossible to determine when Fathers Ritter and Pohlman were in charge.

It is known that Father Pohlman was at Fulda, Noble County, until 1904. It would seem correct to assume, then, that Father Ritter was in charge from the time of the departure of Father Johnson in 1902, until the arrival of Father Pohlman in 1904.

Father Ritter was born Oct. 17, 1841, in Germany. He was ordained by Bishop Domenec in Pittsburgh, Pa., March 13, 1873, and was received into the Diocese of Columbus in September, 1875. He served at Miltonsburg, Wheelersburg and Bremen before he came to Jersey. He died in 1911, following retirement in 1900.

Father Pohlman was born Oct. 12, 1850, in Steinheim, Westfalen, Germany. He came to the United States and studied at the Josephinum. He was ordained for the Diocese of Columbus by Bishop Watterson Nov. 1, 1892. He was first assigned to Glenmont and missions where he served for 8 years. He went to Fulda where he remained until coming to Jersey in 1904. He was transferred to Minerton in 1905, and retired in 1912.

There seems to have been no pastor for the period 1905 to 1908 when Father J. Philip Vonville was appointed. Father Vonville was born in Alsace-Lorraine May 18, 1873. He was ordained at Lyons, France, July 6, 1896, for the African Missions. After six years as a missionary in Africa he came to Columbus in July 1905. He served at St. Francis Hospital, Columbus; at Rosswell and Sherrodsburg, and at Dillonvale before being assigned to St. Joseph's, Jersey. After four and one half years he was transferred to Minerton. He retired to St. Francis Hospital in 1920, and died in St. Louis April 6, 1936.

After Father Vonville's transfer in 1912, Father Bernard M. O'Boylan, pastor in Newark, came to Jersey to say Mass once a Month. During that summer Father O'Boylan began to say Mass once a month in Woodmen's Hall in Johnstown. This was done for the accomodation of some fifty Catholics in and about Johnstown who found it difficult to go five and ten miles to St. Joseph's at Jersey (18).

On September 1, 1912, Father William C. O'Brian was appointed pastor of St. Joseph's and Missions. He took up residence in Johnstown. He celebrated Mass two and three Sundays each month at St. Joseph's, and also on holydays. In 1913 he made repairs to the church and rectory and added much need coats of paint to both.

In 1918 Father O'Brian was succeeded by Father William Sullivan. Meanwhile St. Joseph's was decreasing in attendance. Mass was celebrated less frequently in the old mission church. The property, church and rectory, began to deteriorate. In an effort to revive and repair the mission, Father Sullivan called for a reunion of all those interested in July, 1926 (19). But the historic mission seemed doomed.

Father Richard Crosser succeeded Father Sullivan at Johnstown in 1919 and remained until 1945, saying Mass occasionally at Jersey. Father John Krajovice was the next pastor at Johntown, remaining one year. He was succeeded by Father William Meyer, C.P.P.S., who remained until 1949.

Father Vincent Mooney became pastor in Johnstown in 1949. It was during his pastorate that the old church of St. Joseph's had deteriorated to such an extent that it was thought best to have it razed. This was done in 1949.

As a memorial to all the pioneers of the parish, and to mark the spot where so many received the consolations of their Holy Faith, a Celtic Cross was erected by former members led by John Trenor. The Cross stands on the spot where the altar of the church was located. It was dedicated in 1949.

Thus ends the history of one of the many discontinued mission churches of southeastern Ohio. The history of these churches, many of them now sadly forgotten, is the history of the founding of the Church in this area of Ohio important to the beginning and building up of the Faith in the State.

[Note: Sacramental records and tombstone inscriptions of the St. Joseph Mission will be given in future issues of the Bulletin.]

- (1) The University of Notre Dame Archives, Purcell Papers.
- (2) Mr. Daniel Cush.
- (3) Licking County, Ohio, Deed Books, Vol. 53, p. 169.
- (4) This should read "quarter township one."
- (5) The Diocese of Columbus, The History of Fifty Years, 1868-1918, by Bishop James J. Hartley, p. 298.
- (6) Ibid.
- (7) The History of Licking County, Ohio, by N.N. Hill, 1881, p. 486.
- (8) The University of Notre Dame Archives, Purcell Papers.
- (9) Ibid.
- (10) This should be "Haugh".
- (11) N. N. Hill, op. cit., p. 486.
- (12) The Catholic Columbian, Columbus, Ohio, July 26, 1926, p. 1.
- (13) Bishop James J. Hartley, op. cit., p. 298.
- (14) Monsignor Joseph Jessing, (1836-1899), Founder of the Josephinum, by Miller, Plumpe, Hofer, Undreiner. Columbus, Ohio, 1936, p. 222.
- (15) Harrison and Brother Daybook, 1865-1883, Ohio State Museum Library, Columbus.
- (16) Census data and financial reports given in this article are from original documents in the Columbus Diocese Archives.
- (17) Bishop James J. Hartley, op. cit., p. 299.
- (18) Ibid., p. 300.
- (19) The Catholic Columbian, op. cit., p. 3.