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Rev. Msgr H. E. Mattingly
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FIRST PARISH SCHOOL OF COLUMBUS DIOCESE OPENED IN 1830

By Norris Schneider

The first Parish school in the Diocese of Columbus, and, probably, in the State of Ohio, was opened in 1830 on North Fifth street in Zanesville. In a dark basement room of their little church located where St. Thomas now stands, the pioneer Catholic families of the town began their first school. Through the years they have continually modernized their educational buildings and improved the instruction of their children.

Today St. Thomas and St. Nicholas parishes in Zanesville operate separate elementary buildings, and maintain for their children of high school age the up-to-date and efficient Rosecrans high school, named after the first bishop of Columbus.

When the William Colerick family, the first Catholics in Zanesville, arrived in 1815, there was no free public education in Ohio. Pioneers who wanted their children educated sent them to private academies. In 1825 the Ohio legislature passed an act requiring county commissioners to assess a tax for public schools.

However, to provide for the religious education of their children, the Catholic pioneers of Zanesville decided to have their own school. Accordingly, the first parochial school of the diocese of Columbus was opened in 1830.

John Dugan was outstanding among Zanesville's Catholic pioneers. Although he died before the school was opened, his devotion and liberality in establishing the Catholic Church in Zanesville deserve recognition. Without the Church there would have been no parochial school.

Dugan, a hat maker of Brownsville, Pa., visited Zanesville and decided that the town offered business opportunities. He bought the Western Star tavern at Fifth and Main streets, later the site of the Kresge store, and moved his family to Zanesville in April, 1816. He removed the board with the western star and hung in its place the sign of the Green Tree. In a few months he acquired a reputation as a genial host who served delicious meals.

One of Zanesville's most distinguished guests signed the register at the Green Tree on August 30, 1817. He was returning from an inspection of defenses at Detroit. Fifty men on horseback road as escort for this visitor, President James Monroe. The President's visit increased business. Dugan prospered. In 1819 he built a three-story brick addition.

Father Nicholas Dominic Young, O.P., hitched his horse to the post in front of this new tavern. Seeing the clerical garb of his guest, Dugan quickly assembled the 18 Catholics in the town of Zanesville. In the second floor hall of the

Green Tree Father Young celebrated the first Mass in Zanesville.

That historic event inspired Dugan to provide a church. He paid \$2,000 for a brick warehouse which was later to be the site of Cinema I on South Fifth street. In November, 1820, Father Young dedicated the remodeled structure as Trinity church, which became known as "the brick chapel."

That was a good beginning. But Dugan had higher ideals for his faith. He bought the lot on NOrth Fifth street now occupied by St. Thomas church, and donated it to the congregation. Father Stephen H. Montgomery laid the cornerstone for a new church there on March 4, 1825. John Dugan's dreams were coming true. He shared the profits of his tavern liberally for the advancement of his faith.

Dugan felt the highest elation and pride in driving his own stagecoach to Baltimore to bring Bishop Edward Fenwick home to Ohio after a visit to Rome. Near Cumberland, Maryland, while trying to control a runaway horse, Dugan was caught in the lines and dragged to his death. He died on March 11, 1825, only seven days after the laying of the cornerstone of "his" church. His body was returned to Zanesville and buried at the rear of the church.

In their sorrow, members of the congregation worked to complete the church. It was dedicated on July 2, 1827, as St. John the Baptist Catholic church. The Right Reverend Edward Dominic Fenwick, O.P., first bishop of Cincinnati, officiated at the dedication.

Just three years later the members of the little congregation were filled with pride and joy when the first parochial school of Zanesville was opened in the basement of their small church. Lay teachers were employed, men for the boys and women for the girls.

In 1842 the little St. John's church was no longer adequate for the growing congregation. While demolition began, the school was moved across North Fifth street to a lot called "the hay market." Classes were held in an old building at the southwest corner of Sewer and Spruce alleys.

The cornerstone of the present church was laid on March 17, 1842. Archbishop John B. Purcell of Cincinnati consecrated the building on December 14, 1851, as the Church of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Meanwhile classes had been held in the old building at the intersection of the two alleys. After consecration of the church, Father C. P. Montgomery, O.P., the pastor, lost no time in providing a better parochial school. He bought a tier of lots on the west side of NOrth Fifth street extending from Spruce alley to Shinnick street in 1856. On this site he built a three-story brick parochial school.

Four Dominican Sisters resided in the building and taught the children of the parish. When their rule restricted them to the instruction of girls, the Congregation of the Holy Cross sent two Brothers from Notre Dame, Indiana, to teach the boys. The Brothers lived with the Dominican Fathers during their stay from 1857 to 1859.

Laymen took their places at the teachers' desks. They taught until 1866. Then the Sisters assumed responsibility for teaching the small boys, and in the early 1870's took charge of all classes.

St. Columba's Academy

In 1854 a spacious three-story brick building was erected and two years later it was opened as "a select academy for girls." It was called St. Columba's academy. For twenty years St. Columba's maintained high standards of education. Then, permitted by a change in Dominican rule, the Sisters took complete charge of the St. Thomas parochial school. They closed the academy and used the building as their convent home. It was demolished in 1962.

Before the days of interscholastic sports, school spirit was strong at St. Thomas. In 1879 the girls of the school held a fair. It featured a contest between 80 men of the St. Patrick's society and 20 St. Thomas boys in the sale of votes ten cents each for a silk flag. The boys won the flag and the fair netted \$1,000.

St. Thomas school flourished in the three-story building that stood from 1856 to 1921. In 1869 it had an enrollment of 350. By 1900 this number had increased to 500. The disastrous flood of 1913 spread the muddy waters of the Muskingum river into the basements on North Fifth street. St. Thomas school, already old, needed replacement. Father Lawrence F. Kearney, O.P., began working for a new school soon after he became pastor in 1911.

The work of demolition of the old building was begun on March 28, 1921. Classes were held in the old rectory across the street during the construction of the new school. The cornerstone was blessed on August 7 by Bishop Hartley of Columbus, and the new building was dedicated to "God and Country" on May 1, 1922.

Many successful alumni of St. Thomas school testify to the high quality of their education. Among them was Mary Maginnis. She attended St. Thomas until the age of 14, transferred to the Ursuline academy in Brown county, Ohio, entered the Ursuline sisterhood as Sister Monica, took her Ph.D. in history from Notre Dame university and wrote three books acclaimed by critics. Her sister Helen, also attended St. Thomas and the Ursuline academy. She became an Ursuline nun, taking the name of Sister Josephine. She wrote a book called "Peace Grows in my Garden."

A later student was George Curran. Born May 10, 1892, he quit St. Thomas school before graduation to work as a telegrapher at the Pennsylvania railroad station. He published several volumes of verse and sold poems to literary magazines.

Charles Gebest attended St. Thomas school. He came from a musical family in Zanesville. As musical director and arranger for George M. Cohan, he attained national prominence. Raymond Hitchcock starred in Gebest's musical comedy, "The Red Widow." Gebest died in New York in 1937.

Other distinguished former students of St. Thomas include Prof. W. F. Luby, instructor of Greek at Ohio State University, and headmaster of Riverdale Country school, N.Y.; and Bernard J. Mechling, director of Zanesville Theaters, Inc., and composer of Zanesville high school "Alma Mater."

William J. Burns, world-famous detective, lived on North Fifth street in Zanesville and attended St. Thomas; Dennis A. Hayes and John A. Voll, both presidents of the International Green Glass Blowers association, were also alumni; and George Aitken, a former student, became assistant to Nelson Rockefeller, Soordinator of Inter-American Affairs, and was budget and fiscal officer of the Technical Assistance Administration.

SAINT ALOYSIUS SEMINARY
HONORED ITS PRESIDENT IN 1873

The students of St. Aloysius seminary (1), Columbus Ohio, honored the institution's president during a special program arranged for June 21, 1873. It was the day of the students' departure for summer vacation. Although the exact number is not known, there were probably 30 seminarians at St. Aloysius that year who assembled to express their regard for Father N. A. Gallagher, their superior.

A gold headed cane was given to Father Gallagher as an outward expression of the seminarians' esteem for him. The account of the ceremony as printed in the "Daily Dispatch and Ohio Statesman" of Columbus on Saturday, June 21, 1873, follows:

Father Gallagher Caned. - This morning the students of St. Aloysius' Seminary assembled to express somewhat, before dispersing for summer vacation, their regard and appreciation for their President, Rev. N. A. Gallagher. All arrangements having been perfected the Rev. President was ushered into the study hall, which was tastefully festooned for the occasion, and was requested to accept, in the shape of a gold headed cane, a memorial of the good spirit and feelings which have ever existed between superior and students. One of the theologians, Mr. Francis Campbell, delivered the presentation address, which was responded to in a few appropriate remarks on the edifying conduct and general deportment of the students on the institution, especially during the past year. His remarks were received with loud applause by the students, and all dispersed well satisfied with the success of the whole enterprise.

Father Gallagher was named Administrator-Bishop of Galveston, Texas in 1882. His life and work have been recorded many times (2). The seminarian who spoke in the name of all the students in making the presentation of the cane, Francis Campbell, was ordained the following December by Bishop Rosecrans.

Francis J. Campbell was born in Columbus, Jan. 29, 1850, the son of Nicholas and Mary Campbell. Members of St. Patrick's church, his parents were among the pioneer Catholic families of the city. Young Francis was among the early students of the parish school and later served for several years as an altar boy.

To begin his studies for the priesthood Francis went to the Old St. Thomas College, Bardstown, Kentucky. While there he was regarded by his fellow-students as the brightest in his class. Due to the kindness of some well-to-do friends and relatives he was able to go to Paris to study the classics. Frome there he went to the American College in Rome to study philosophy and theology. During his vacations he travelled extensively in Europe. As a result of his time spent abroad he became fluent in Italian, French and German.

After completing his studies in Rome, Campbell returned to Columbus and assisted in the teaching at St. Aloysius seminary. After his ordineation in December, 1873, he spent some time at the Cathedral and Chancery. It was probably during this time that he assisted at St. Patrick's church, Columbus. He was highly esteemed by the Irish of the city who gave him a gold chalice, now in the possession of the Diocesan Archives. It was inscribed as follows:

"Presented by the Irish Catholics of St. Patrick's Church, Columbus, Ohio, to their Esteemed, Zealous, Pious and Talented Pastor, Revd. Francis Campbell." It is not likely that he held the post of pastor of St. Patrick's.

After a short stay at St. Francis de Sales church, Newark, he became assistant pastor at St. Mary's, Lancaster. But he was not there very long when he was appointed pastor of Athens and its missions. In January, 1875, he reported to the Chancery that he attended, besides Athens, "Gallipolis, Hockingport, Long Bottom, Little Hocking, Cooleyville, Canaansville, Chauncey, Pilcher, New England, Big Run, etc. etc." He went on to write, "It is almost impossible for me either to enumerate the number of souls or the missions, as the great number are a floating population moving from one place to another. By the first of April I will have perhaps seven or eight other missions which are not enumerated above."

From Athens Father Campbell went to St. Mary's, Marietta, where he spent two years. He was then transferred to Immaculate Conception church, Dennison, by Father Gallagher who was at that time administrator of the diocese of Columbus. He remained in Dennison for 16 years and was highly regarded by Catholic and non-Catholic alike. He died Feb. 7, 1896, and was buried in Calvary cemetery, Dennison. Bishop Watterson was celebrant of the Funeral Mass. In his sermon the bishop noted that Father Campbell was greatly esteemed by his fellow-priests for his learning and noble character.

- (1) For the history of St. Aloysius seminary, see "Bulletin," Catholic Record Society, Diocese of Columbus, January, 1981.
- (2) Cf. "Rt. Rev. Nicholas A. Gallagher, D.D., Third Bishop of Galveston," p. 273, History of Mt. St. Mary's Seminary of the West, Cincinnati, Ohio, by Michael J. Kelly and James M. Kirwin, Cincinnati, 1894.

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BAPTISM RECORDS
SAINT JOSEPH'S, SOMERSET, OHIO
1848-1871
(Continued)

(Containing some records for St. Louis Bertrand, Rehoboth, and St. Dominic's, McLuney.)

1851 (Continued)

- May 11: Richard Mannes, b. 7 May, son of Bernard SMITH and Margaret McGonigle. Sprs: Richard McGonigle and Rosanna McGonigle. D'ARCO
- May 21: Infant dau. of James SNIDER and Elizabeth Stine. Baptized in danger of death by Catharine Swartz.
- June 5: Elizabeth Anna, b. 10 March, dau. of Rubin DEAVER and Ruth Pearl. Sprs: Benedict pearl and Bridget McGoldrick. [From Deavertown] D'ARCO
- June 15: [From Sunday Creek - Chapel Hill] Henry, b. 10 April, son of Isaac WISE and Catharine Ricard. Sprs: Francis Kronanbetter and Catharine Diess. D'ARCO
- June 15: [From Sunday Creek] George, b. 2 March, son of Heli WISE and Anna Messenland. Sprs: John Wise and Mary Mester. D'ARCO
- June 15: [From Sunday Creek] Sarah Elizabeth, b. 9 March, dau. of Joseph SWARTZ and Lydia Travennor. Sprs: James Snider and Catharine Swartz. D'ARCO

1851 (Continued)

June 22: Rosa, b. 20 June, dau. of Peter FIELTY and Anna Sweeney. Sprs: James Meenan and wife. D'ARCO
June 29: James Myles, b. 24 Feb. son of John KNOWER and Elizabeth Murphy. Sprs: Myles Green and Caroline Kircher. D'ARCO
July 4: -----, b. 29 June, son of James HAMMOND and Catharine Krig. Sprs: Henry Warthon and Christina Krig. D'ARCO
Aug. 10: [From Sunday Creek] Joseph Charles, b. 2 June, son of Hugh FRIEL and Sarah Delong. Sprs: Patrick Friel and wife, Anna. -----
Aug. 19: [Via Ferrea, near Columbus] Thomas, (birth date not given) baptized in danger of death, son of Patrick COX and Grace Kelly. Sprs: Dennis Kelby and Mary Kelby. D'ARCO
Aug. 19: Infant son of Bernad DOLEN and Mary Doud, baptized in danger of death by Mary Dolen, wife of Daniel Doud. D'ARCO
Nov. 15: James Thomas, b. 9 Oct., son of Hugh DEAN and Theresa Sherkey. Spr: Sophia McElwee, wife of Cornelius. D'ARCO
Dec. 1: Caroline Cecilia, b. 29 Oct., dau. of James SCHNEIDER and Catharine Schwartz. Spr: May Lynch, wife of James Elder. D'ARCO

1852

Jan. 4: Mary Mathilda, b. 20 Dec., dau. of Robert HAMMOND and Mary Anna Snider. Sprs: John Snider and Anna Meloney. D'ARCO
Feb. 20: Bernard Joseph, b. 1 Jan., son of James FRIEL and Elizabeth Hillis. Spr: Bridget McGoldrick. D'ARCO
Feb. 29(!): Catharine Anna, b. 10 Feb., dau. of Michael CARY and Anna McGoldrick. Sprs: John McGoldrick and Mary Tague. D'ARCO
March 28: Elizabeth, b. 10 March, dau. of Patrick DOLAN and Mary Boier. Sprs: Eugene Greene and Bridget O'Neill. D'ARCO
March 29: Infant of Catharine FIELTY, b. 18 March, naptized in danger of death.
April 3: Stephen Robert, b. 4 March, son of Peter SNIDER and helen Dean. Sprs: Robert Hammond and Maryanna Snider. D'ARCO
May 9: Mary Minerva FORGRAVE, adult, age 19, wife of James Murphy. Sprs: John Noon and wife, Lydia Delong. D'ARCO
May 9: Martin Mannes, b. 16 April, son of David RAMSY and Susanna Miller. Sprs: John Noon and Mary Ramsy wife of James Dean. D'Arco
May 29: Charity, b. 10 May, dau. of Henry FLOWERS and Joanna Hillis. Sprs: John Giles and wife, Rebecca Hillis. D'ARCO
June 20: John, b. 10 June, son of Joseph DELONG and Cecilia Snider. Spr: Helen Dean, wife of Peter Snider. D'ARCO
July 4: Mary Joanna, b. 29 June, dau. of Bernard SMITH and Margary McGonigle. Sprs: Peter Nugent and Rose McGonigle. D'ARCO
July 18: Daniel, b. 13 July, son of Cornelius McELWEE and Sophia McElwee. Sprs: David and Dorothy Fielty. D'ARCO
Aug. 12: Aloysis, b. 2 years, dau. of Bernard SERAGO and Margaret Giles. Sprs: John Giles and wife, Rebecca. D'ARCO
Aug. 17: [At the home of Reilly] Martha Joanna, b. 3 July, dau. of James BARNES and Barbara Forquer. Sprs: John Forquer and wife, Susanna. D'ARCO
Oct. 18: [Via Ferrea] Bridget, b. 16 Oct., dau. of Patrick MURRAY and Margaret Murray. Sprs: William Laffy and wife, Mary. D'Arco.
Oct. 19: [Via Ferrea] John, b. 13 Oct., son of James CLINCE and Mary Clinice. Sprs: Michael Hart and Helen Barry Donaugh. D'ARCO
Nov. 7: Mary Theresa, b. 31 Oct., dau. of John TAGUE and Catharine O'Neill. Sprs: Patrick McGoldrick and Mary Tague. D'ARCO

1852 (Continued)

Nov. 27: [From Deavertown] James, b. 2 Oct., son of Philip LONGSTRETH and Anna Geiger. Sprs: Florentine Trost and wife, Mary Barbara. D'ARCO
Dec. 1: Infant, b. 30 Nov., of Louis SNIDER and Anna Dean. Baptized in danger of death by Theresa Sharkey.

1853

Jan. 1: Hugh James, b. 3 Oct. 1852, son of Hermand DEAVER and Ruth Pearl. Sprs: Joseph Rihart and Elizabeth Pearl. D'ARCO
Jan. 1: [Deavertown] George Louis, b. 30 Nov. 1852, son of Joseph BEINDER and Mary Wagoner. Sprs: Bernard Wagoner and Catharine Wagoner. D'ARCO
Jan. 16: [From Deavertown] Charles, b. 24 Nov., son of Joseph RIHART and Agatha Gansman. Sprs: Andrew Gansman and wife, Catharine Hinger. D'ARCO
Feb. 4: John, b. 17 Jan., son of Patrick McMULLEN and Emilia Gibbins. Sprs: Richard Mulloy and Margaret Smith. D'ARCO
Feb. 12: Infant, b. 10 Feb., of John GILES and Rebecca Giles. Baptized in danger of death by Mary Flowers.
March 4: Mary, b. 20 Feb., dau. of James SNIDER and Julia Stine. Spr: Cecilia Snider wife of Tilman Delong. D'ARCO
March 17(?): Infant, b. ---, of Bernard SMITH and Margary McGonigle. Baptized in danger of death by Mary Sanders.
March 17(?): Benjamin, b. 11 Jan., son of Serr(?) ESTER and Anna Giles. Sprs: Alexander Mullen and wife, Elizabeth Hoover. D'ARCO
April 11: David Chrysostom, b. 22 March, son of Patrick CALLAHAN and Elizabeth O'Neill. Sprs: Davide Griley and Anna O'Neil. D'ARCO
April 21: James, b. 9 March, son of Stephen DELAHAY and Catharine Brady. Sprs: James Sheeran and wife, Mary Sharkey. D'ARCO
April 21: William, b. 27 March, son of John KEENAN and Bridget Brady. Sprs: Richard McGonigle and Theresa Sheeran. D'ARCO
April 21: Anna, b. July 1852, dau. of Edward BROWN and Anna Hillis. Sprs: John O'Connor and Cecilia Brown Reilly. D'ARCO
April 23: [Deavertown] Mary Magdalen, b. 5 Dec. 1852, dau. of Charles WEINER and Veronica Gansman. Sprs: Daniel Dickes and wife, Magdalen. D'ARCO
April 25: [Via Ferrea] -----, child of Matthew COLLINS and Mary Waghen(?), baptized in danger of death by Dr. Crosbie. D'ARCO
May 24: Cecilia, b. 15 April, dau. of George BENNETT and Anna Carroll. Sprs: John Reilly and Mary Fitzsimons Bennett. D'ARCO
May 24: Anna, b. 14 May, dau. of Owen SLEVIN and Helen Lynch. Sprs: Patrick McNamee and Margaret O'Connor. D'ARCO
June 1: Hiram Augustine, b. 24 May, son of Perry Joseph ANKNEY and Helen Hoy. Sprs: John Hoy and Mary Ann McLoughlin. D'ARCO
June 21: [Deavertown] Caroline, b. 20 May, dau. of James KREUDER and Theresa Stiessa(?). Sprs: Emmanuel Brachs and Caroline Rothberger. D'ARCO
June 28: Timothy Peter, b. 28 June, son of John McAULIFFE and Printeple(!). Spr: Grace Gibbons for Mary McAuliffe. D'ARCO
June 30: Mary Anna, b. 22 June, dau. of Francis O'ROURKE and Mary Hart. Sprs: John O'Rourke and Rosa Dolan. D'ARCO
July 2: Peter, b. 28 June, son of Bernard McNULTY and Sarah Mackan. Sprs: Patrick McMullen and Grace Sweeney Gibbons. D'ARCO
July 7: [Via Ferrea] Catharine, b. 2 July, dau. of Patrick CARY and Helen Fitzgibbons. Sprs: John Brown and Mary Gorman McGonigle. D'ARCO
July 11: [Via Ferrea] Bridget, b. 1 July, dau. of Langhan McCANN and Mary Castolo. Spr: Michael Meagher. D'ARCO
July 13: [Via Ferrea] Bridget, b. 10 July, dau. of Michael FITZGIBBONS and Helen O'Donnell. Sprs: Thomas Hetlen and Winefort Hartken. D'ARCO

1853 (Continued)

July 21: Mary Anna, b. 4 July, dau. of ----- HAUGHRAN and Catharine Masterson.
Sprs: Patrick and Mary McNamee, children of John. D'ARCO

July 21: Thomas Jerome, b. 18 July, son of Thomas CRADDOCK and Helen Sarence.
Sprs: Richard McGonigle and Joanna Wilson Forquer. D'ARCO.

(To be continued)

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

Family Portraits by Marion McCandless, St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, 1952. Gift of Donald Schlegel.

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