

Barquilla del Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society -
Diocese of Columbus

Volume XI, Number 8

August, 1986

1845

May 19 *Carolus filius Basilii Gardes, et Mariae Ryle, in iorn. S. Ma-
tris Ecclesie die 18 animam Deo reddidit, cuius corpus hodie
sepultum est in cimiterio S. Joseph.* *F. Mannes D'Arco*

May 21 *Green filius Georgii Green, et Margaritae Zahm, in communione S. Mariae Ecclesie huius animam
Deo reddidit, cuius corpus hodie sepultum est in cimiterio S. Joseph.* *Fr. Sadoc Vilarrasa Ord. Prad.*

May 25 *Maria Joanna filia Joannis Forster et Joanne Forster aetatis 4. mensium in communione S. Ma-
tris Ecclesie huius animam Deo reddidit, cuius corpus hodie sepultum est in cimiterio S. Joseph.* *Fr. Sadoc Vilarrasa O.P.*

Father Sadoc Vilarrasa's Comments on the Church and People of St. Joseph Parish

The above is a copy of part of a page of the burial register of St. Joseph Church, near Somerset, copied for the Society by its pastor, Rev. Joseph Gilsenan, O.P. The top entry was written by Rev. Mannes D'Arco; the next two are examples of the careful script of Rev. Sadoc Vilarrasa, O.P., one of the many devoted Dominican priests who have served that parish through its long history. Rev. Francis Sadoc Vilarrasa was born in La Pobla de Lillet, Province of Catalonia, Spain, on August 9, 1814. He made his vows as a Dominican at Barcelona in 1830. He was educated in Spain and at La Quercia, near Viterbo, Italy, where he apparently was ordained in 1837. "The little dark man is said to have just attained the height required by canon law for admission to the priesthood. However, the records of La Quercia show that, while small of body, he was great of mind, an industrious student, an observant religious and of a character that won the hearts of all." He came to St. Joseph near Somerset early in 1845. In 1850 he went to California with Bishop Alemany, where he started the Dominican Province of the Holy Name in an adobe shanty. He spent most of the rest of his life in Bernicia, California, where he died on March 17, 1888.

On April 5, 1845, shortly after his arrival, Father Vilarrasa wrote to his parents in Spain a letter describing his situation here, which gives us a

valuable glimpse of the Catholic community of that time. The letter was published in the "Revista Catholica" of January 1846 and was translated into English and published in 1918 by the Novices of St. Joseph's Novitiate in their booklet The Centenary of Saint Joseph's Parish Somerset, Ohio. Father Vilarassa wrote, in part, as follows.

..."our Convent situated two miles from a small village called Somerset. The convent is in a thickly wooded country with a few houses scattered here and there. The residents are for the most part Irish and German, and nearly all are Catholics; since the Protestants do not wish to live out here for fear of becoming what they call 'perverts.'

"In Somerset the greater part of the people are Protestants. There we have a most edifying convent of nuns who devote themselves to the educating of little girls, among whom there are several Protestants. These nuns observe our Constitutions to the letter and wear the habit openly. They are not cloistered, and by means of this wise and prudent exception they are able to silence the calumnies of non-Catholics. However, they rarely go away from the convent muchless does any one enter it. Father Cubero, an Aragonian, is their chaplain, and at the same time he has charge of the Somerset Catholics.

"A short time ago the Protestants loaned us their church for services, but after our Father Provincial [Fr. George Wilson] preached there, they were not so willing to let us have it a second time....

"Our Convent of Saint Joseph is as yet unfinished. The church, too is new, but consists of only four walls and a roof with a single altar, as our funds failed us before it was completed. The altar is surmounted by a large crucifix which Father Alemany brought from the Island of Cuba, and its decorations are a few branches, nothing more. Nevertheless, there is greater reverence shown here than in the magnificent basilicas of Europe.

"On feast-days, the faithful come from a great distance to assist at Mass and Vespers, despite the snow, the inclement weather and the bad roads. One Mass is said at eight and after it catechism in German. At ten the Rosary is recited, catechism is explained in English and Mass is sung terminating with a sermon in English. After dinner we sing Vespers and catechism is again explained in English. This is the order observed on all feast-days. As on these days not more than two priests remain here, and at times only one, it is sometimes necessary to spend the whole day in the confessional. This necessitates the omission of the other exercises. On Palm Sunday I was here alone, and had to say two Masses, but I omitted the sermon and catechism.

..."The Holy-Week services were carried out to the letter, since there were no sick-calls or missions to require attention. The priest and people came out from Somerset. We sang Matins; had the washing of the altars; the mandatum, in a word, everything. On Good Friday before the adoration of the Cross, Father Cubero delivered a sermon befitting the occasion. Although it was extremely cold that morning, nearly all the Catholics who were in the church, seeing that we adored the cross with bare feet, did likewise."

These, the faithful people whose bodies await the Resurrection in the old cemetery beside the church of St. Joseph.

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
NEAR SOMERSET, PERRY COUNTY
BURIAL REGISTER, 1815-1873

(Continued from Vol. XI, Number 4)

1840

Jan. 23 James McCuen F.J.H. Clarkson
July 6 Infant of Michael Riley, 1 year old
July 10 Philip Gainer, 5 years F.J.H. Clarkson
July 13 Rosa Keenin, age 22
July 13 Frances McGahan, age 37
July 16 James Gordon, age 46 J.H. Clarkson
Aug. 2 James Cahoe J.H. Clarkson
Aug. 5 Maria Blessington, 27 years J.H. Clarkson
Aug. 9 Catherine Stark, age 22, at St. Patrick J.H. Clarkson
Aug. 14 Daniel McKiernan, age 30, at St. Patrick J.H. Clarkson
Nov. 14 Peter, son of James M'Keever & Maria Lynch, age 2 yrs J.H. Clarkson
Nov. 15 Jerome, son of John Litzinger & Julia Stine, age 5 mos J.H. Clarkson
Nov. 24 Five-year-old son of John Econroad A.P. Anderson
Nov. 24 Patrick Sheeran, age 64 J.H. Clarkson
Dec. 4 Maria Gordon, age 19 J.H. Clarkson
Dec. 27 Peter McKanna, at St. Patrick J.H. Clarkson

1841

Jan. 1 John, son of John Stalter and Mary Stakley, 3 mos.
P. A. Anderson [not in his own hand]
Feb. 14 Ann, in her first day, daughter of James (?) Keenes and Mary Ann
Schwab. A. P. Anderson
Feb. 14 One day old daughter of William Foncannon and Sarah May.
A. P. Anderson
Apr. 1 Thomas McIngire A. P. Anderson
Aug. 10 Mary Welsh or Kintz, 36 years. A. P. Anderson
Nov. 22 Elias son of James Gordon and Serah Reinhart (born 20 Jan. 1840).
A. P. Anderson
Dec. 4 Anna Maria, born 11 Jan. 1841, daughter of Mathias Flowers and
Mary Elder. A. P. Anderson

1842

Jan. 20 Buried at St. Patrick, Elizabeth, daughter of John & Elizabeth
McGary, age 8 years. A. P. Anderson
Jan. 21 Thomas McMannis, age about 70 years. A. P. Anderson
Jan. 27 John Clark, age about fifty years. A. P. Anderson
Feb. 16 Young daughter of Frederick and Margaret (Elder) Kintz, one day old.
Mar. 7 Francisca Horahan, age 21 years. Rev. P. Franciscus Cubero
Mar. 31 John William, son of George and Helen (Bennett) Saunders, born 5 Feb.
1838. A. P. Anderson
Apr. 3 John Beaver, sixty-eight years old. A. P. Anderson
May -- Margaret Riley (formerly ----), age thirty years. A. P. Anderson
June 1 At St. Patrick, Mary Ring (formerly McMullin), age thirty-seven.
A. P. Anderson
June 2 Mary Magdalene, daughter of Christopher and Odilia (Coan) Ruffner,
age sixty-five years. A. P. Anderson
June 10 Michael Cody, son of [blank], aged [blank]
Aug. 14 Robert Bennett, age 67 years.
Aug. 14 John Charles, son of Anton Gleiter [?] and Catharine, born 6 (Apr?)
1841.

Sept. 19 Anna Connelly, in the cemetery of St. Patrick. Rev. Eug. Hyac.
 Pozzo, O.S.D.
 Sept. 26 In Cemetery of St. Louis, Thomas McGlaughlin, age 48. A. P. Anderson
 Oct. 10 John Nugent, in cemetery of St. Louis, age 53. J. H. Clarkson
 Dec. 15 Susanna Deal.

1843

Aug. 15 John Dollan, age about 25 years, at St. Louis, Rehoboth. Eug. Hyac.
 Pozzo
 July Owen Dolan, age 45 years. J. H. Clarkson
 Sept. 17 Three sons of Sylvester Walker. A. O'Brien
 Sept. 17 Appeles and Anastasia, daughters of Sylvester Walker. A. O'Brien
 Sept. 20 John Green, age 21 years.
 Sept. 25 Old Mr. Fisher.
 " " Old Mr. Metzger.
 ---- 9 Infant of Miles Green.
 Nov. 16 Biddy Horahan, age 13 years.
 ---- 18 Infant of Brian McNulty.
 ---- 23 Dominic Green, born 24 August. Eug. Hyac. Pozzo

1844

Feb. 1 William, son of Benjamin and Bridget (Forker) Dial. J. H. Clarkson
 May 13 Daughter of Michael Cody.
 --- 14 James Arbaugh [probably Harbaugh] about two years old. Eug. Hyac.
 Pozzo
 July 17 Isabella, daughter of Linus Dittoe, three years. J. T. Jarboe
 July 23 Son of [blank] Tharp, three years. J. T. Jarboe
 Aug. 6 George Miles Sutter, age three months. Eug. Hyac. Pozzo
 Oct. 11 Apolonia Metzgar, age 59 years. J. T. Jarboe
 Oct. 11 Vincent, son of Levi Burgoun, age 13 years. J. T. Jarboe
 Oct. 14 Mark, age two days, son of John Haynes [Hynus?]. J. T. Jarboe
 Nov. 15 Dorothea, daughter of Josue Green, age eight months. Eug. Hyac. Pozzo
 Nov. 18 Maria Anna Dittoe, age about one hour, daughter of Linus and
 Elizabeth Dittoe. Eug. Hyac. Pozzo

1845

Feb. 1 Patrick Sheeran, son of James and Mary (Sharkey) Sheeren, age 11 yrs.
 Feb. 17 John, son of Francis and [blank] (Flowers) Clark, three years old.
 J. T. Jarboe
 Feb. 22 Mary Dougherty, age 84 years. J. T. Jarboe
 Mar. 30 William Jacob, son of Nicholas and Margaret (Pierreion[?]) Dumold,
 age 1 year 4 months, died March 29.
 Mar. 30 Matthew, son of Richard and Catharine Farley, died yesterday, about
 two years old, buried at St. Joseph. Rev. Sadoc Vilarrasa,
 Ord. Praem.
 Apr. 2 Peter [?] son of John and Rose (Caton) M'Karnah, died yesterday, age
 five years, at St. Joseph Cemetery. Mannes D'Arco
 Apr. 4 John, son of John and Rose (Caton) M'Karnah, age two years, died
 yesterday; at St. Joseph Cemetery. Mannes D'Arco
 Apr. 6 Augustine Mgahan, age about six years, son of James and Frances
 Mgahan, died yesterday; St. Joseph Cem. Sadoc Vilarrasa
 Apr. 9 Mary Ann, age 1 year 9 mos., daughter of Basil and Mary Gorden, died
 yesterday; St. Joseph Cemetery. Sadoc Vilarrasa
 Apr. 29 Elizabeth, daughter of James & Mary (Griffin) Fink, age 2 years 6
 months, died yesterday; St. Joseph Cemetery. Mannes D'Arco
 Apr. 19 Rose Ann Forker, daughter of Michael Dugan, age 60 years, buried

today at St. Joseph. Sadoc Vilarrasa

May 11 Nicholas Dominic, son of Matthew Flowers and Mary, age 8 years, died yesterday.

May 19 James, son of Basil Garden [Gordon] and Mary Riffle, born May 17, died May 18. Mannes D'Arco

May 21 Son of George Green and Margaret Zahm, born yesterday, died yesterday, buried at St. Joseph. Sadoc Vilarrasa

May 25, Mary Jane, daughter of John & Jane Forker, age 4 months, died yesterday, buried at St. Joseph. Sadoc Vilarrasa

July 9 Elizabeth Grimes, daughter of Bernard Grimes and Mary Cassilly, age 2 years, died yesterday, St. Joseph Cemetery. Mannes D'Arco

June 22 Hugh, son of Bernard and Mary (Cassilly) Grimes, age 6 years, died about yesterday, buried at St. Joseph. Sadoc Vilarrasa

July 11 Mary, daughter of Joseph & Rose Ann (Clark) Reynolds, age one year & 10 months, died yesterday, St. Joseph Cemetery. Mannes D'Arco

July 28 Son of Nicholas and Margaret (Pyront) Dumeult, born today and died after a few hours, buried this same day before sunset at St. Joseph Cemetery. Mannes D'Arco

Aug 14, John Schlim died; from Germany, age 63 years, buried at St. Joseph on the 15th having been baptized on the same day [same as death, i.e. the 14th]. Sadoc Vilarrasa

Dec. 12 Anna Flower, daughter of James Edington and Mary Cole, age 35 years, died. Buried at St. Joseph on the 13th. Sadoc Vilarrasa

1846

Mar. 27 Cornelius Crossen [adult], died; buried at St. Joseph on the 29th. Sadoc Vilarrasa

Apr. 13 Sarah Catherine Suter, age 3 years, died; buried at St. Joseph on the 14th. Sadoc Vilarrasa

Apr. 20 James Hugh Martin, son of Henry and Catherine Griffen, age 6 months, died yesterday, buried at St. Joseph. Mannes D'Arco

Sept. 27 Joseph Hyldebrand, son of Helwig Hildebrand and N. Sinder, from the Diocese of Cologne in Germany, age 62 years, died in his own house; buried at St. Joseph on the 28th. Sadoc Vilarrasa

Sept. -- John William, son of Henry Poorman and Margaret Stroll, three days old, buried at St. Joseph. Fr. James Whelan, O.P.

Nov. -- Infant son of Jacob Dittoe son of Michael, died yesterday, buried at St. Joseph. James Whelan

1847

Apr. 27 James son of Josue Reynolds, age 19 months, died yesterday, buried at St. Joseph. James Whelan

May 11 Elizabeth Brady daughter of Edward Brady, died in her house, age one year, buried on the 13th at St. Joseph. Sadoc Vilarrasa

1849

Nov. 23 Mary C. Butler, age about fifteen years, died. Buried at St. Joseph. Fr. Franciscus Cubero, O.S.D.

1850

May 8 Elizabeth Gordon died in Telersville; buried on the 10th at St. Joseph. Francis Cubero

May 25 Catherine Benett died, buried 26th at St. Joseph. Francis Cubero

July 25 Catharine Redmond died in her house, age 47 years, buried at St. Joseph on the 25th. Fr. Albert Bokel, O.P.

[This completes the first book of burials at St. Joseph. To be continued.]

SACRED HEART CHURCH
GENEVA, RUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP, FAIRFIELD COUNTY
1856-1963

Editor's note: A search in the baptismal register of Lancaster St. Mary parish has turned up the name of Rev. Joseph Specht, who signed an entry on February 12, 1874. This must be the "Polish priest" Specht, mentioned in the 1918 history as pastor of Sacred Heart after Father Gallweiler. This Rev. Specht was not mentioned in Monsignor Mattingly's list of "Priests of South-eastern Ohio in the 19th Century" in the 1977 and 1978 Bulletin.

[Concluded from Vol. XI, Number 7]

Rev. James T. Nevin became pastor of St. Joseph in 1913. He began copying the old Sacred Heart baptismal register in 1915 and in the front of the new book left the following account of the reconstruction of Sacred Heart Church:

The old church was torn down in the latter part of August in the year of 1913. The frame, and floor, beams of the old structure were found to be in a perfect state of preservation and over and upon these the present church was erected during the fall of 1913 and the spring of 1914.

Tuesday May fifth, Nineteen hundred and fourteen the present structure was completed and on that day The Right Reverend James Joseph Hartley, D.D., Bishop of Columbus, Ohio dedicated the new church under the patronage of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Dedication Mass was sung by the Reverend Cornelius J. Norris of St. Joseph Cathedral in Columbus, O. On this occasion the sermon was preached by the Right Reverend Bishop. Immediately following the Mass, the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered by the Bishop to thirty nine candidates. Assisting the Bishop were Reverends C. J. Norris of Columbus, Dennis J. Dunne, Junction City, and the Pastor, Reverend James T. Nevin.

The Committee in charge of the building of the Church were Mss. John Schmeltzer, Joseph Bosh, John Leahy.

During the month of October of the same year, the Forty Hours Devotion and a Mission preached by the Rev. J. B. Logan, O.P., took place in the Church.

The main Altar now in use was purchased from the church at Logan, O., and re-decorated.

He recorded the following list of those who contributed toward the rebuilding:

John Schmeltzer	Philip Schmeltzer	Nicholas Kunkler
Peter Schmeltzer	John Leahy	Joseph Boch
Adam Boch Sr.	Mrs Albert E. Kessler	Abraham Boch
Anthony Kessler	Christian Kunkler	Thomas C. Schmeltzer
Charles Schmeltzer	William H. Funk	Frank Boch
John Messbarger	William Schmeltzer	George J. Kellenbarger
Gervase Schmeltzer	Laurence & Barbara Schmeltzer	
John C. Noll	Henry Boch	George Boch
Charles Boch	Abram Boch Jr.	Louis Schmeltzer
Peter Kellenbarger	Clement Boch	Edward Schmeltzer

Jacob Myers	Walter Boch	Philip Kunkler
Ambrose Schmeltzer	Stephen Kunkler	John Kellenbarger
Clement Mossbarger	Mrs. Carl Rice	Peter Bash
Mrs. Louis Schmeltzer	James Moses (Bremen)	D. W. Grove
Laurence Schmeltzer	Albert Justice	Joseph Hufford
August Schmeltzer	Neil Murray	Mrs. Rose Kost

Altar furniture was donated by the following:

Mrs. Jacob Myers	Mrs. Albert E. Kessler	Miss Mary Boch
Abram Boch Sr.	Thomas Schmeltzer	Charles Boch
James Moses	Mrs. L. Schmeltzer	Miss Lena Schmeltzer
Teresa Boch	George Noll	John Schmeltzer
Peter Schmeltzer	Nicholas Kunkler	Joseph Boch
Anthony Kessler	William Schmeltzer	

Gertrude Schorr donated the Sacred Heart statue over the tabernacle on the high altar, in memory of her mother, Mrs. Julia Schorr. The Tabernacle Society of Columbus, through Sister Teresa Aloysius, donated a set of white vestments, benediction cope and veil, and black requiem and green cope. Father Nevin himself gave a set of imported white vestments and the collection from All Souls' Day, 1913.

Rev. Charles Walsh succeeded Father Nevin as pastor at St. Joseph's for a short time in 1916 and was succeeded in the same year by Rev. Lucius Kessler, a native of Lancaster. In the summer of 1917, Bishop Hartley asked Father Kessler to start a parish and build a church in the town of Bremen. Bremen's fortunes were rising while Geneva's were still low and Bishop Hartley apparently thought that, rather than assign a pastor to Sacred Heart, he should assign one where the larger population could be reached. Bremen had grown dramatically, from a population of 244 in 1890 to 466 in 1900, to 925 in 1910, and to 1,400 in 1912. By 1912 it had a waterworks, sewerage system, gas and electric lights, newspapers, two banks, two hotels, several small industries, and four churches: Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian, United Brethren, and Dunkard. It was in the center of an oil field, its first well having "come in" in 1907. (7) Father Kessler took up his residence at Sacred Heart while the new parish was being organized and its church was being built on Marietta Street in Bremen. Father Kessler "often would make the arduous trip back to Sugar Grove and then drive to Geneva parish, seven miles distant, to conduct services. During the severe winter of 1917, while he was traveling back and forth in a rattling, puffing Ford, Father Kessler was frequently stranded in snow drifts." (8)

The first Mass at the new St. Mary Church was celebrated on Christmas Day, 1917. The church was dedicated on May 5, 1918 and its baptismal register begins August 13, 1918; from about that time Sacred Heart was a mission of St. Mary parish. At this time the mission included 118 souls.

The next pastors at Bremen, who took care of Sacred Heart, were Rev. John N. Diegelman (1922-1926), Rev. William G. Dowd (1926-1929), Rev. Maurice J. Donovan (1929-1945), Rev. Paul Hammer (1945-1946), Rev. Joseph W. Lappan (administrator, 1946-died 1949), and Rev. Angelo Gallorini (1949-1963). Little changed at the mission until the late 1940's. In 1943 the old rectory beside the church was still standing and was being used for parish purposes. In

January 1946, although almost thirty years had passed since a priest had lived there, Bishop Ready still insisted that the annual report made by the pastor at Bremen should contain separate statistics for Sacred Heart. On January 22 of the same year, Father Hammer wrote a letter to the Bishop describing the situation of the mission. Sacred Heart Church was being used in the summer months, all of the people coming to St. Mary's throughout the rest of the year. "The summer schedule has been observed in deference to the sentimental attachment of the older parishoners to the old church and their interest in the cemetery located there. The expenses incurred at Sacred Heart are negligible while the income received from the people nominally belonging to the Sacred Heart parish constitute about half of the total income."

In January 1948 it was reported that Sacred Heart Church had been cleaned, the windows repaired, and water spouting installed. Needed painting, repairs of walls, floor, pews, and roof, and new doors were projected to cost over \$3,000. Only about \$1,600 for painting was recorded as actually spent, but one cannot imagine the devoted people allowing God's little house to fall into disrepair through neglect. (9)

Some fifteen years later, in February 1963, the little church was in a similar need of repair, this time due in large part to vandalism. Among its needs were paint, a new roof, and windows. Rather than see the church in such neglect and disrespect, with the approval of Bishop Issenmann, the parishoners razed the venerable structure. The little graveyard, one of the best kept in the diocese, has been extended to include the site of the church.

NOTES

- (7) Miller, op. cit., pages 184 & following.
- (8) Newspaper article concerning Father Kessler, published about 1951, just after his retirement. Diocesan Archives.
- (9) Letters in Bremen parish file, Diocesan Archives.

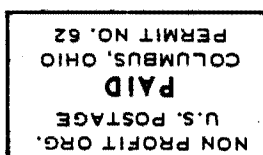
[Records of Sacred Heart will be published as space permits.]

ACQUISITIONS BY THE SOCIETY IN 1985

The following completes the list of books purchased by the Society in 1985:

- O'Rourke, Timothy J., Catholic Families of Southern Maryland; Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985.
- The Goshenhoppen Registers, 1741-1819; Baltimore: reprint by the Genealogical Publishing Co., 1984.
- Sesquicentennial Commission of Logan, Ohio, Journey to Tomorrow; 1966.
- A Debate on the Roman Catholic Religion: ... between Alexander Campbell ... and the Rt. Rev. John B. Purcell...; Cincinnati: J. A. James & Co., 1837.

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