

Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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It is this same disciple who is the witness to these things...and his testimony, we know, is true. - John 21:24

THE SECOND CATHOLIC CHURCH IN ZANESVILLE SOME HISTORICAL PUZZLES

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Several historical disagreements exist over the correct patronage and the date of dedication for the second Catholic church established in Zanesville. In 1820, John S. Dugan, a loyal friend of Rev. Edward Dominic Fenwick, the "apostle of Ohio," purchased a brick warehouse which was used as the first church for the Roman Catholic community of Zanesville. This warehouse was located on the northeast corner of Locust Alley and Fifth Street in what is now downtown Zanesville. This house of worship was placed under the patronage of the Holy Trinity. (1) Most historical sources suggest that this building was the fourth Catholic church established in the state of Ohio.

Within five short years, however, this small former warehouse was insufficient for the growing band of Catholics. John Dugan again was the benefactor of the community with regard to the second church. He bought and donated a lot fronting on Fifth Street at the intersection with Spruce Alley. This is the site of the present Church of St. Thomas Aquinas. On this lot in 1825, a brick and stone building was constructed for the benefit of the Zanesville Catholics. This building served as a church until 1842 when it was razed in order to construct the present large, Gothic, Church of St. Thomas Aquinas.

That the second church was constructed in the middle 1820's is, for the most part, not in doubt. But there is some doubt under whose patronage it was placed and in what year the dedication took place. In The First Fifty Years, both St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist are given as patron saints before the name was changed to St. Thomas Aquinas in the early 1840's. In the entry on the parish of St. Thomas Aquinas we read the following: "This church, called the Church of St. John the Baptist, was dedicated on July 2nd, 1827." (p. 263) Yet a few pages later in the same historical account of the Diocese of Columbus, we find a different patron for the same church. In the narrative of St. Nicholas Parish, we read the following: "The first Catholic Church in Zanesville was built in 1820 and was under the patronage of St. John

the Evangelist." (p. 267) Both the St. Thomas Aquinas entry and the St. Nicholas entry refer to the Dominican missionary, Rev. Stephen Montgomery, as the first resident pastor. (2)

Three questions important to the historian come to mind when considering the early days of Zanesville Catholicism. First of all, was the church named after John the Baptist or John the Evangelist? Secondly, is the reference to Holy Trinity Church correct, when the St. Nicholas account refers to the first church as St. John's? And lastly, was the second church dedicated in 1827, or did this dedication occur one year earlier in 1826?

To the second question first. The Dominican historian, Rev. Victor F. O'Daniel, suggests that the warehouse purchased by Dugan held the title of Holy Trinity Church. The first building constructed especially for religious purposes was called St. John's. Hence, if one discounts the early warehouse as a "church", then one might argue that the first bona fide church was St. John's. Yet the Roman Catholic community of Zanesville did worship, O'Daniel suggests, in the warehouse as a church. Hence it appears to make good sense to refer to the building constructed especially for religious purposes as the "second" church in Zanesville. Moreover, as we shall soon see, since the second church was not built until the middle 1820's, the St. Nicholas account of 1820 as the church's building date is incorrect. Commenting on the order of seniority in Ohio's Catholic churches, O'Daniel mentions the Zanesville warehouse.

Prior to any of these churches, a brick warehouse had been fitted up in Zanesville and used as a temple of prayer. It was called Holy Trinity, and was really the fourth church in the state. But we are inclined to think that the bishop did not include it in his enumeration, for the reason that it was intended to use it only temporarily, and it was the property of John S. Dugan. (3)

Holy Trinity would be the fourth oldest church dedicated in the State of Ohio. Three earlier churches were St. Joseph's near Somerset, St. Mary's in Lancaster, and Holy Trinity in Cincinnati. (4) All were founded by the energetic band of Dominican missionaries, under the leadership of Rev. Edward Dominic Fenwick, all of whom journeyed through Ohio frequently in the early 1800's and who from 1818 onwards used St. Joseph's as their base of operations.

To the third question concerning the date of dedication of St. John's. It appears that 1826 is the correct date and the 1827 date found in The First Fifty Years and in other later accounts is off by a year. The warehouse served the needs of the Catholic community for over five years. Writing to Archbishop Marechal on May 26, 1826 Fenwick noted, "At Zanesville, a lot was given to R. Mr. Montgomery and a church is built on it." (5) Commenting on the growth of Catholicism in Zanesville near the first quarter point of the Nineteenth Century, O'Daniel wrote, "in Zanesville a finer and more commodious brick church was under way to take the place of the former warehouse that had been converted into a temple of prayer." (6) On March 4, 1825, Rev. Nicholas Dominic Young, O.P. from Somerset laid the cornerstone for the second church building. O'Daniel concluded that Fenwick dedicated St. John's Church on July 2, 1826. It was Fenwick who assigned Father Stephen Montgomery to become the first resident pastor for the Zanesville congregation. (7)

Later narratives, however, give 1827 as the date of dedication. Writing in 1973, long time Zanesville historian, Norris Schneider, gave the following account:

Plans for a new stone and brick church were donated by a New York architect. On March 4, 1825, the cornerstone was laid by Father Stephen H. Montgomery for a building 40 feet by 70 feet and 35 feet high. Bishop Fenwick dedicated the church to St. John the Baptist on July 2, 1827. (8)

In a 1914 essay, "The First Three Catholic Churches in Zanesville, Ohio," O'Daniel prints almost verbatim a narrative essay written to him by Robert J. J. Harkins, dated February 7, 1893. Harkins, who O'Daniel credits with saving much of the early history of the Zanesville parishes and who was a life-long member of St. John's and St. Thomas's, wrote that the cornerstone for St. John's "was laid in the spring of 1823." (9) And he further notes that "it took a good while to complete it, for it was not until 1827 that it was dedicated by Bishop Fenwick." (10)

This is not the end of the story, however. Writing in the Catholic Telegraph on June 13, 1834, the freshly consecrated Bishop of Cincinnati, Rt. Rev. John Baptist Purcell, gives the following account of his first episcopal visit to Zanesville.

The congregation, which numbers from 250 to 300 communicants, is under the pastoral care of the Rev. C. P. Montgomery. The church is a handsome (octagon) brick building, 75 by 40 feet, neatly furnished, with a good choir and organ. It was erected by the exertions of the Rev. C. P. Montgomery, and was consecrated in 1825, by the late Father Augustin Hill. (11)

Purcell, obviously gathering his information from the priests and parishioners in Zanesville during his visit, lists an 1825 construction date and a different person as the consecrating prelate. It should be noted that Hill, a Dominican from England, took charge of the Cincinnati diocese while Fenwick was in Europe for over a year in the middle 1820's. Also, it was Rev. Stephen Montgomery, not Charles Montgomery, who was pastor in Zanesville at the time of the building of St. John's Church.

Given this differing textual evidence, the historical narrative is murky. Nonetheless, after careful consideration of all the evidence available to him, O'Daniel suggests that the 1827 date often ascribed to the dedication is incorrect.

To the first question concerning the patron saint of the second church. Determining the correct ascription of "Baptist" or "Evangelist" is now a matter probably unsolvable. That there is disagreement is obvious from a mere reading of The First Fifty Years. O'Daniel, in his Life of Fenwick, was aware of this dispute. Although O'Daniel, careful historian that he was, did take a side in this issue, it is not one of his better established conclusions. It will be useful to quote extensively from a long footnote O'Daniel placed in his discussion of early Ohio churches while providing a fascinating narration of Fenwick's life.

The Miscellany's correspondent calls the church in Zanesville St. John the Baptist's but we are inclined to think this is a typographical error for John the Evangelist. Certainly tradition tells us that the church was dedicated to the apostle. When a young priest, the writer spent some time in Zanesville gathering notes on early Catholicity there. The old people were of one accord that the name of this fane was St. John the Evangelist's. Messrs. Robert J. J. Harkins, Lewis H. Dugan and William Colerick, the two former of whom had served the first mass said in the edifice, begged us to insist on this fact, if we should ever write anything on Catholicity in Zanesville, as Father George A. Wilson later sought to give the church the name of Saint John the Baptist's. The first church in Canton was dedicated to the precursor of the Lord; and it does not seem probable that two churches in a diocese with so few temples of prayer would have the same patron. The Catholic Almanac for 1833 calls this church Saint John the Evangelist's; then it appears as Saint John's until 1840. In 1841, Father Wilson, a convert from Methodism, being pastor and Father Francis Cubero, just from Italy, assistant, it is called Saint John the Baptist's; in 1842 it has the name again; in 1843, it is called Saint Thomas Aquinas. Father Cubero notes in the records that the church is Saint John the Baptist's. But this proves nothing. For these reasons, we are of the opinion that Zanesville's second church was Saint John the Evangelist's, and accordingly so designate it through all the bishop's [Fenwick] life. (12)

The plot thickens, however, when one considers an entry written in a ledger entitled Marriage Register, 1824-1895, Confirmations 1832-1897, discovered recently by Sylvia S. Hargrove, historian for St. Thomas Aquinas Church. The entry was copied by Rev. J. P. Roach sometime in the early part of this century. Principally a list of parishioners confirmed by Bishop Fenwick, the entry is titled "St. John Baptist, Zanesville, March 11, 1832." Father Roach goes on to write the following commentary on the dispute concerning the correct patronage of the second Zanesville church. This would be about the time O'Daniel was assembling his information for his biography of Fenwick which appeared in 1920. One suspects that Roach knew O'Daniel's theory and tried to set the record straight.

The foregoing record is a copy of the record made in a smaller book.... The original record is in the handwriting of Rev. R. P. Miles, Pastor [from 1828 until 1832], and it settles the question about the name of the church. Some held this Church was under the patronage of St. John the Evangelist. To Father Miles it was St. John the Baptist. No record of this parish shows any other name than St. John the Baptist until it was changed to St. Thomas Aquinas. (13)

What is to be made of all this? Documentation is contradictory, the Catholic Almanac giving both names, Fr. Miles writing St. John the Baptist in 1832, and Fr. Cubero providing the church's record book, as O'Daniel claims, with one designation nearly twenty years after it was dedicated [while the local community in the 1890's, including some who had been present at the dedication, strongly insisted that it was dedicated under the patronage of St. John the Evangelist-ed.]. Father Roach's entry indicates that as early as 1832 the church record book ascribes patronage to the Baptist rather than the

Evangelist. O'Daniel's claim about not having two churches in the same diocese under the same patron is not especially strong since both the first church in Zanesville and the first church in Cincinnati were under the patronage of the Holy Trinity. In his American Dominicans, Rev. R. M. Coffey, who was always very careful with his source material and who differed in writing often with O'Daniel on historical interpretations, appears to accept unhesitatingly the patronage of John the Evangelist for Zanesville's second church. To offer a definitive solution to his "historical chestnut" probably is not possible.

NOTES

1. In an 1899 account of the history of St. Nicholas Church the claim is made that this 1820 church "was dedicated as St. Patrick's, and was used by all the Catholics in the vicinity until 1842." No other reference to a St. Patrick's has been located and no evidence is provided to support this claim. The 1899 booklet can be found in the files of the Society.
2. Rev. Stephen Hyacinth Montgomery (ca1790-1855) was one of the original six young men to receive the habit of the Dominican Order at St. Rose Priory in Springfield, Kentucky in 1808 or 1809. He appears to have had a checkered career ranging from first seminary rector in Cincinnati to Prior at St. Rose in 1830 to a suspension from his sacerdotal duties later in life.
3. O'Daniel, Life of Fenwick, footnote 30 on page 253. In this extended footnote, O'Daniel provides what he believes to be the chronological order of churches in Ohio.
4. See the author's "O'Daniel and Mulhane on the Second Oldest Church in Ohio," Bulletin, Vol. XI nos. 9 and 10 (Sept. and Oct., 1986).
5. Letter found in Coffey, R. M., The American Dominicans, p. 156.
6. O'Daniel, p. 296.
7. Ibid., p. 310.
8. Norris Schneider, article in the Zanesville Times Recorder, July 8, 1973; reprinted in the Bulletin, Vol. 1 No. 1 (January 1975).
9. Records of the American Catholic Historical Society, Vol. XXIV No. 3, (Sept. 1914), page 200.
10. Ibid.
11. "Episcopal Visitation - Ohio," in The Catholic Telegraph, June 13, 1834.
12. O'Daniel, footnote 3, page 323.
13. This passage also contains a list of persons confirmed by Bishop Fenwick in 1832. There is no date on Father Roach's entry. However, since he was associated with St. Thomas Church in 1911, his entry probably was written in the early part of this century. Mrs. Hargrove notes that the original "smaller book" has not been located. One wonders if this is the record book O'Daniel mentions above.

Editor's note: Dr. Lisska included with this story a sketch of Rev. George A. Wilson, O.P., which will be presented in a future issue, and a too-brief sketch of John Simon Dugan, whose importance in the beginnings of both Holy Trinity and St. John's churches is obvious from this article. Perhaps a longer sketch can be prepared in the future which will do him justice. One way of looking at the controversy over the name of the second church may be that the ascription of its patronage to St. John the Baptist or St. John the Evangelist is not too important. Either one would do, for the name could well have been chosen to perpetuate the memory of John Dugan, devoted Catholic layman, who died about the time that the cornerstone of this church was laid.

MT. CALVARY CEMETERY, COLUMBUS
CATHEDRAL DIVISION LOT RECORDS, 1867-1926?
Transcribed by Mark R. Gideon
(Tombstone readings by the editor)

[continued from Vol. XII, Number 11]

page 4, Thomas Rourke, Bell St., West Columbus, lot 8-B, purchased Apr. 7, 1871; graves: June 17, 1881; July 15, 1902; Jan. 23, 1903; May 4, 1916; June 8, 1925.

(Mother) Rose O'Rourke, 1879-1933

(Father) Louis J. O'Rourke 1875-1957

In memory of Patrick O'Rourke, died Apr. 19, 1871, aged 60 years.

Also his wife Bridget, died Aug. 25, 1865, aged 59 years

Natives of Tralee [?], Co. Kerry, Ireland. Erected by his son Thomas.

page 5, Bridget Hurley, west half of lot 10-B, purchased May 18, 1871; graves: Dec. 24, 1909; Feb. 22, 1914; Jan. 28, 1923. [no stones]

page 5, Thomas Morrissey, 101 E. Goodale, lot 87-B, purchased July 17, 1872; graves: Apr. 8, 1899; Jan. 17, 1901; Sept. 1, 1906; Mar. 20, 1908; May 13, 1909; May 25, 1910.

(Mother) Julia wife of Michael Morrissey, died Apr. 7, 1899 aged 60 yrs.

John Morisey Sr. --- --- died July (?) --, 1872(?), aged -- Y.

John Morisey Jr., Native of Co. Kerry, Ireland, d July 20, 1873, aged 33 yrs

page 6, Catherine Walsh, Henry, Ohio, east half of lot 13-B, purchased Sept. 20, 1871; graves: Jan. 18, 1892. Noted later: Grace O'Brien [later owner?]

(Brother) James B. O'Brien, Sept. 3, 1877-Oct. 9, 1915

Pasquale Lepero, Nato in Molinara, Nel 1879, Morto in Columbus Agosto 4, 1924

Gennaro Apisa, Morto 31 Gennaio, 1918

Philomena McEntee, June 14, 1897-Dec. 26, 1917

Thomas Welsh, ---- Ireland, Died Sept. 19, 1871, aged 58 years

Patrick Welsh died May 1, 187-, aged 10 years (?)

page 6, Hugh Harmon, Worthington, lot 14-B, purchased June 18, 1871; graves: Jan. 12, 1882; Nov. 10, 1903; Dec. 8, 1905; June 17, 1910; June 10, 1914; June 18, 1923; June 24, 1929.

Hannon: Maria 1865-1871

Martin 1854-1882

Mother 1830-1897

Father 1816-1905

Hugh 1859-1929

John 1870-1942

Honora 1868-1952

page 6, Michael and David Harding, lot 15-B, purchased 1868; graves: June 13, 1878 (for D.H.); May 8, ---- (infant); Feb. 27, ---- (child); Feb. 27, 1887 (child); Mar. 1, 1888 (child); Oct. 29, 1891 (child); Dec. 21, 1895; Apr. 29, 1908; Mar. 4, 1914.

Children of David and Mary Harding
David P. Harding (Father) 1851-1931
Mary Jane wife of David P. Harding 1852-1922 (Mother)
(Husband) Thomas Harding 1844(?) - 1897
Wife of Thomas Harding 1855-1908
Ann, wife of M. Harding May 26, 1863, aged 36 years
Mary Ann died Aug. 28, 1856 aged 1 y 6 mos.
Children of Michael & Ann Harding:
Joseph P., died Jan. 28, 1862, aged 5 m's & 2 d's
Joseph P., died Jan. 28, 1861, aged 11 m's
Michael Harding, died Dec. 21, 1896, aged 72 y's
Brother, from Sister Elizabeth to John Harding

page 7, Henry Burns, south half of lot 16-B, purchased Apr. 28, 1871; graves:
July 13, 1904 (H. Burns); June 2, 1907.

(Father) Henry Burns died June 1, 1908
(Mother) Hannah Burns died July 13, 1904
(Daughter) Mary [Mame] Burns died Mar. 26, 1935
Thomas Ray, native of Ireland Co. Waterford, died Apr. 27, 1871; may his
soul rest in peace

page 7, Levi Neiswander, lot 17-B, purchased Nov. 13, 1872.

Agatha Neiswander, born Feb. 12, 1842, died Nov. 12, 1872

page 7, Stephen Brosemer, half of lot 17-B [purchased from Mr. Neiswander,
apparently]; graves: Feb. 8, 1877 (child); Aug. 7, 1887.

page 7, Cornelius Healy, east half of lot 18-B, purchased May 7, 1870; graves:
Nov. 15, 1876 (child); Aug. 24, 1877 (child); June 24, 1878 (child); Mar. 28,
1880; Nov. 21, 1886; Apr. 22, 1891 (use of vault); Aug. 16, 1910; Aug. 16, 1912.

page 8, Mrs. Mary McNally, East Chestnut St., west half of lot 19-B, purchased
March, 1870; graves: Sept. 3, 1877; two on Sept. 20, 1881; Feb. 6, 1889; Dec.
11, 1899.

Mary Mulally, Native of Co. Kilkenny, Ireland, died Sep. 15, 1870, 65 yrs
Thomas, son of M. & M. Mulally, died Sept. 2, 1877, age 21 years

page 8, Mrs. Ann Harris, 2625 Dayton Ave., east half of lot 19-B, purchased
Apr. 11, 1870; graves: Aug. 3, 1887.

Frank Harris, 1871 + 1872
William Harris * 1869 +
(Mother) Anna Harris July 15, 1846 - Nov. 4, 1925

page 8, Patrick and J. Bresnahan, lot 20-B, purchased Mar. 11, 1870; graves:
Apr. 4, 1877 for B. Shea; May 4, 1889 for Patrick; Oct. 20, 1904; Jan. 7,
1914; Sept. 11, 1918; Mar. 23, 1922, removal of King remains; May 7, 1925.

John Bresnahan 1826 + 1914
(Father) Patrick Bresnahan May 6, 1842 - Oct. 19, 1904
[to be continued]

ACQUISITIONS BY THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

Grassbaugh, Martha Leah, The Grassbaugh, Weber & Weil Families of Coshocton County, Ohio, 1987. - purchased

"Book of Record of Diocesan Conference - Diocese of Columbus, Ohio, Division II - Beginning May, 1903" (Record of the semi-annual clergy conferences, Lancaster Deanery and successor deaneries, from May 1903 until April 1947, with an additional record from October, 1957. Later meetings were held at New Lexington.) This book has been placed in the Diocesan Archives.
- sent in by Father Michael Ellifritz

Postcard of St. Joseph Cathedral, ca 1911.
- gift of Mr. Lou Calderone

Schorr, Rev. George F., A.B., J.C.L., priest of the Diocese of Columbus, The Law of the Celebret, A Historical Synopsis and Commentary (Catholic University of America, Canon Law Studies No. 332) (a dissertation); Catholic U. of A. Press, Washington, 1950. - purchased

Mattingly, Sister Mary Ramona, M.A., of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Nazareth, Kentucky, The Catholic Church on the Kentucky Frontier (1785-1812) (Cath. U. of A., Studies in American Church History, Vol. XXV) (dissertation); Cath. U. of A., Washington, 1936. - purchased

1944-1946 scrapbook of Herman J. Eichner, including the Aquinas High School newspaper The Patrician, Vol. 38, No. 6, Apr. 20, 1945.
- gift of Mrs. Margaret Mooney (his widow)

Kleinz, Monsignor John P., The Who's Who of Heaven, Saints for All Seasons; Christian Classics, Inc., Westminster [Maryland]: 1987.
- gift of the author

Wuerst, John B., O.F.M., Saint Francis Seraph Church and Parish, Cincinnati, Ohio, A Historical Sketch, 1859-1934. - anonymous gift

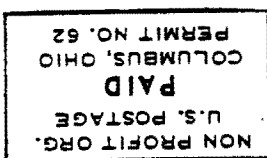
Hoffman, W. S., One Hundred Years Franciscan Pioneering (The Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, Motherhouse - St. Francis Convent, Springfield, Ill.), Springfield: 1944. - anonymous gift

The Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Conewago Chapel (Pa.):

- Death and Burial Records, 1752-1979 (copyright 1980)
- Marriage Records, 1796-1883 (copyright 1980)
- Baptism Records, 1790-1890 (1981)

All transcribed by Monsignor Thomas J. McGough; McSherrystown: John Timon Reily Historical Society. - purchased

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