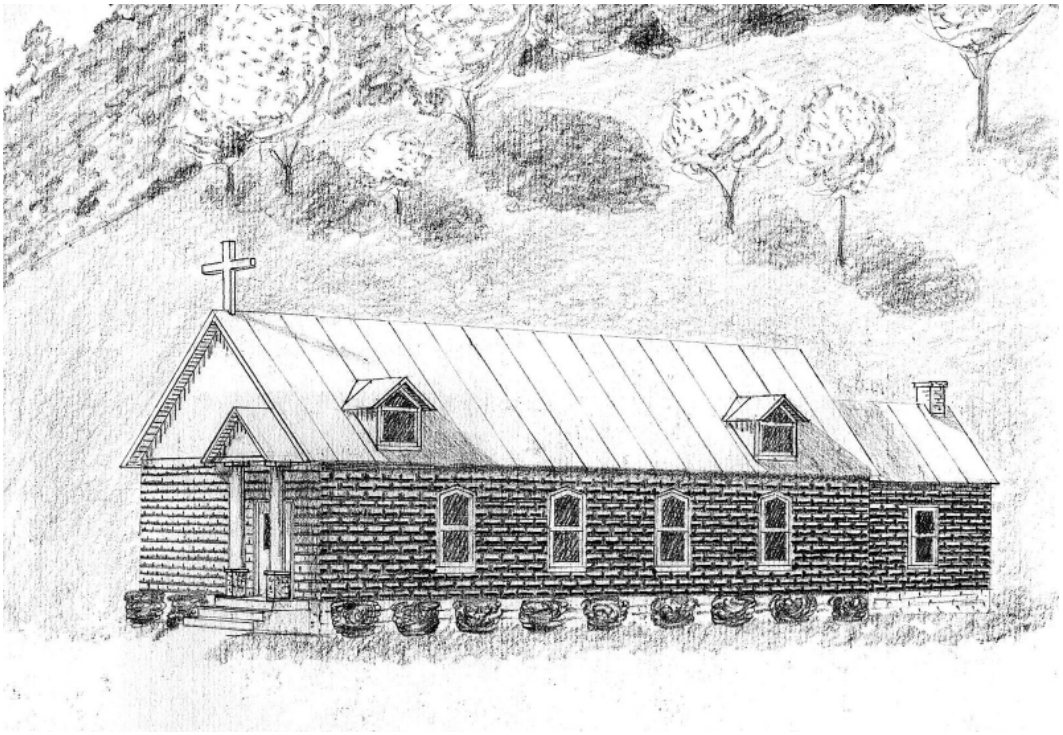
Barquilla de la Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society - Diocese of Columbus

Vol. XLII, No. 4 | April 30: Pope St. Pius V. | April, 2017



St. Pius Church, Superior, Elizabeth Township, Lawrence County 1912-1924

St. Pius Church at Superior was used by another little congregation formed in Bishop Hartley's time that, like those organized for the immigrant coal miners early in the twentieth century, was subject to the vagaries of local employment and survived less than two decades.

The town of Superior was in Elizabeth Township, Lawrence County. It was on Ohio Route 522 and Bear Run, four miles east of Ohio Route 650, where the South Buckhorn-Superior road (County 41-S) runs north. Most of the town lined the south side of the state route, from about 2,000 feet west to 500 feet east if the county road. The north side of this road had been the site of Center Furnace, a producer of pig iron founded in 1836. The furnace site was sold to the Superior Portland Cement Company. This company built a cement plant north of town and east of the county road in 1909. A spur of the Detroit Southern Railroad (later the DT&I) was built through the town to the new cement plant. The cement plant operated until 1987. Although it once had a school, two churches, a

restaurant, a boarding house, a hotel, and a large company store, there is nothing left of Superior today. One church was a Methodist Episcopal church at the west end of town, the other was St. Pius Catholic church, on the east side of the county road, not far from the hotel and the company store.

About 2 1/2 miles by road northwest of Superor was the former Clinton Furnace, in Vernon Township, Scioto County, which was a Catholic station attended from Lick Run from 1865 to 1868 and there were a few Catholics in Center Furnace around 1901. But it was not until immigrants from the part of Poland under Austrian control were brought in to build and operate the cement plant[1] that a Catholic congregation was organized. They contacted the closest Catholic parish, St. Mary's at the Furnaces, Pine Grove, about seven miles to the south by road. In November of 1908 Rev. J. J. McCann, pastor at Pine Grove, asked Bishop Hartley for permission to offer Mass for them, and on the 27th the bishop gave his permission.[2] Father McCann offered Mass in the houses of the people.[3]

Just a few days later there was talk of a church building. Apparently the cement company offered use of one of its buildings, but on December 4 the Bishop told Father McCann, "It would be much better for you to try and get a small strip of ground some place near for the chapel. The Church and people must be entirely independent of the Company in spiritual affairs. So to make everything sure see if you cannot secure a small piece of ground for the chapel."[4] The thought of a building was placed on hold for over two years.

In May of 1911, John Mazier of Superior wrote to Bishop Hartley. Apparently Mr. Mazier had had some dealings with Father J. J. Schneider of St. Joseph Church in Ironton. In his reply the bishop pointed out that all sacraments at Superior had to be attended by Father Philip F. X. Clark, who had replaced Father McCann at Pine Grove. Significantly, he wrote, "I wish you would all get together and build a small chapel at Superior for yourselves and I will have Father Clark say Mass there for you. I will also see that a Polish priest will come once in a while to hear confessions. I think it would be right if the company would put up a small chapel for you."[5] This must have encouraged both Father Clark and the Superior plant employees, for an announcement that a new mission chapel would be established in Superior in the near future appeared in the May 31, 1912 issue of *The Catholic Columbian*.

By June 7 Father Clark had sent a sketch of a proposed church to the bishop. On that date the latter wrote to Father Clark, "You may go ahead with the little Church at Superior. The sketch looks very nice. The Cement Co. deserves great credit for their generous donation. You must be very careful in dealing with the Polish people, win their confidence, treat them kindly, and you will have good influence over them. This will be appreciated by the Cemt Co."

The cornerstone of the church was laid on Sunday, June 9, 1912 after a High Mass offered at 11:15. Father Clark was assisted by Father James Cotter of St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish in Ironton, who delivered the sermon, and Father N. N. Goesselin of Ashland, Ky. Those attending included members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Knights of Columbus, and the St. George Association of Ironton and the Sacred Heart Society of Pine Grove.[6] The *Ironton Register* of June 10, 1912 confused the issue by calling the cornerstone laying a "dedication." It reported that about 136 people went out from Ironton, mostly by railroad but some by auto. The Spanish-American war band provided the music. Commencement of construction was announced by the *Columbian* on June 21, 1912.

In December, 1912, probably to complete the new church, the Superior congregation borrowed $300 from the parish at Pine Grove. Bishop Hartley expected this to be paid back within a year, but in fact it was not paid until the mission closed.[7] It might be, in light of the "generous donation" mentioned by Bishop Hartley, that the cement company provided the materials for the chapel. The only building expenses reported by Father Clark for Superior for the year 1912 were $650 for a capenter and $163 for a tinner. In 1913 $23.05 was spent as a "Donation to Fr. Hannan for altar and freightage on

same."[8] Apparently an altar from the old St. Joseph Church at Circleville, which was replaced by a new edifice in 1911, was acquired from its pastor, Father John S. Hannan, for St. Pius. In 1914 $140 was spent on pews.

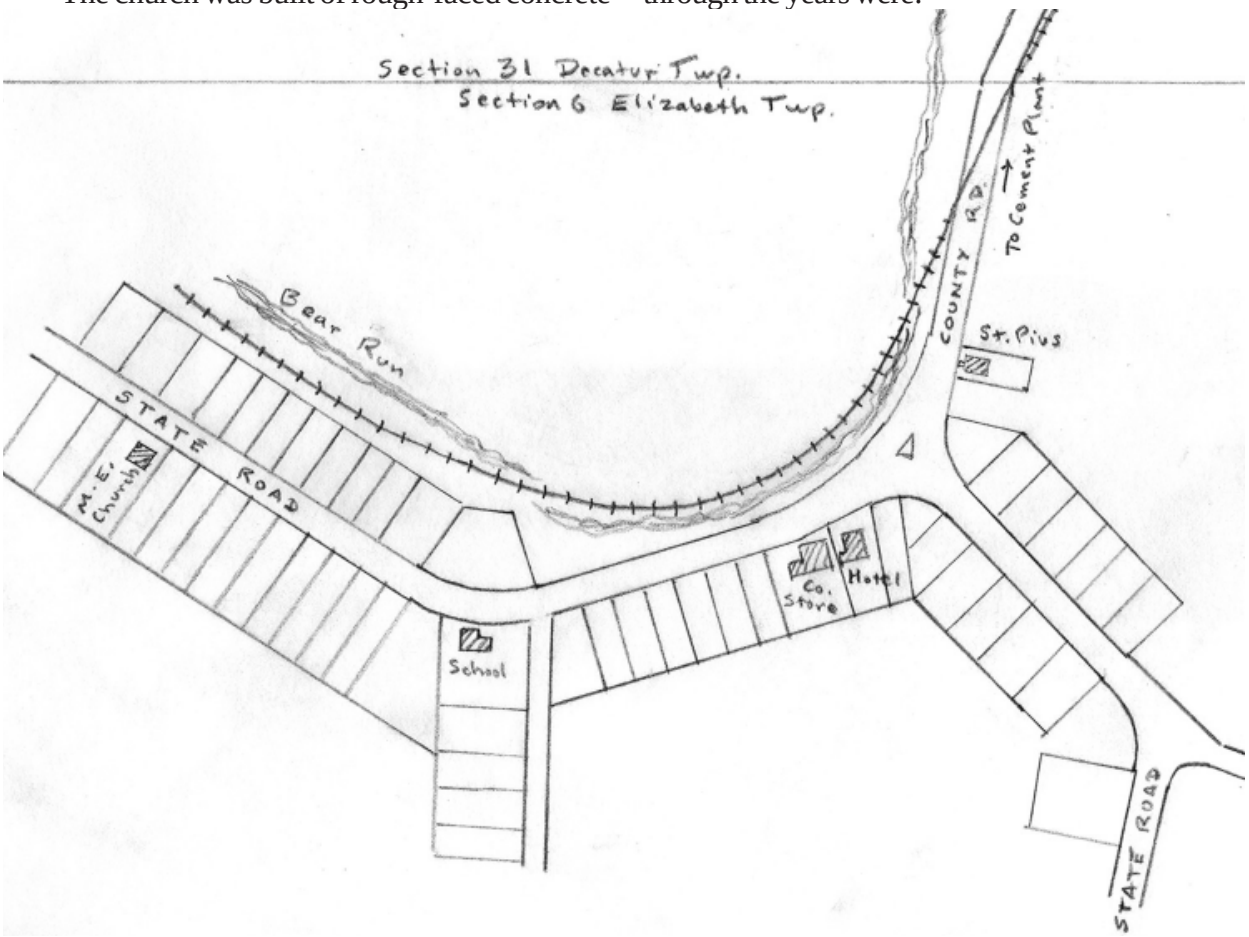
No record of the completion or dedication of the church has been found. It was named in honor of Pope St. Pius V but was called simply St. Pius, since there was only one saint of that name until 1954. The land on which it stood was not purchased but leased for ninety-nine years beginning March 20, 1913. The lease specified a lot of 60 by 140 feet and rent of $1 per year. It was signed by Justus Collins, President of the Superior Portland Cement Co., and John Berry, Secretary.[9] The site was on the east side of the county road, about 440 feet north of the company store. Across the road were only the railroad line and Bear Run.

The church was built of rough-faced concrete blocks and measured about 44 by 30 feet, exclusive of the rear section that probably housed both the sanctuary and a small sacristy.

The first census of the little congregation, dated July 1, 1912, found 63 Polish and 18 English-speaking members. Three Superior residents rented seats at St. Mary Church in Pine Grove. Father Clark offered Mass at St. Pius on every Sunday and holy day and taught catechism to four English-speaking children after the Sunday Mass.

St. Pius was a busy place in 1916. It was used by a large number of members of the Pine Grove congregation after their church burned in November of 1915, and until its replacement was opened in March, 1917. During this period, Father Clark offered Mass at the parish school at Pine Grove and at St. Pius Church on alternate Sundays.[10]

The priests in charge of the Superior congregation through the years were:



Map of Superior, showing the site of St. Pius Church, based on Lawrence County Plat Book 3, pge 107.

1912-1915 Rev. Philip F. X. Clark
1916 Rev. Francis W. Gloeckner
1917-1922 Rev. Philip F. X. Clark
1923 Rev. Stanislaus Karwowski
1924-1925 Rev. Otto Guenther
1926-1928 Rev. P. B. Crelly
1929 Rev. George Vetter

Like the congregations of immigrant coal miners in this period, the membership of St. Pius was not stable. Father Clark remarked that already in 1912 the bishop told him to have no financial committee for Superior, "on account of their migrating so often but, take counsel from Fr. Cotter."[11] The Catholic population indeed dwindled rapidly. In 1915 there were 42 Polish, 7 English, and 3 German members; Father Clark came for Mass only on the second Sunday of each month and taught catechism on those days. In 1917 there were only two families, nine souls, all of whom spoke English; Father Clark attended only on the second Wednesay of each month. By 1918 only one family remained and their donations did not amount to one-eighth of the railroad fare for Father Clark's visits. In 1920 he again reported only one family, who attended Sunday Mass at Pine Grove and Ironton alternately. In 1921 there were no Catholics living at Superior, but the population ticked up a little in 1923.

According to R. D. Null's history of Superior, the last services at St. Pius Church were held by Father Otto Guenther late in the Spring of 1924. Three years later the church building was used as the company store after the store building burned down.[12] These statements are supported by the lack of any mention of St. Pius in the reports of the pastors of Pine Grove to the bishop from 1925 through 1929, except for the sale of the property. The Rallston Iron & Steele Company, which had taken over the cement company property, offered $500 cash for return of the lease, then offered instead $400 in notes, but finally on September 4, 1929 paid the $500 cash.[13]

The former church was used as the Superior community center, providing entertainment such as pool tables and movies.[14] It was still standing in 1949 when the town plat was filed for purposes of dedicating public rights of way, but it was razed a few years later.[15]

The mission continued to be listed in the annual Catholic Directory until 1944, probably at the insistance of Bishop Hartley, but most of the reports from the pastors at Pine Grove ignored it. Father Trogus in 1935 reported one English-speaking Catholic at Superior, the last shadow of St. Pius Congregation and Church.

NOTES

Thanks to Msgr. George Schlegel for assistance on two trips to Ironton.

1) Null, R. D., *Superior! Lest We Forget*; Knoxville: Tennessee Valley Publishing, 2004; p 206.
2) Archives, Diocese of Columbus (ADC), Bishop Hartley to Rev. J. J. McCann, Nov. 27, 1908.
3) Null p. 206, but he misnames the priest.
4) ADC, Bishop Hartley to Rev. J. J. McCann, Dec. 4, 1908.
5) ADC, Bishop Hartley to John Mazier, May 12, 1911.
6) *The Catholic Columbian* June 14, 1912.
7) ADC, Bishop Hartley to Rev. F. X. Clark, Pine Grove, Dec. 13, 1912. 1919 and later Financial Reports of St. Pius mission.
8) 1913 Financial Report of St. Pius.
9) Lawrence Co. Lease Record 7/403-405.
10) Catholic Record Society *Bulletin*, XXIII No. 7 (July, 1998) pp 149-150.
11) 1912 financial report, St. Pius.
12) Null pp. 207 and 159.
13) Pine Grove parish census, July 1, 1929. Rev. Geo. J. Vetter to Bishop Hartley, Feb. 1, 1929. Bishop Hartley to Rev. George Vetter, Feb. 4, 1929. Lawrence Co. Recorder, Miscellaneous Record 1, page 230. The release was dated Feb. 9, 1929 but the receipt was not signed until Sept. 4, 1929.
14) Null, p. 223.
15) Lawrence County Plat Book 3/107. Kline, Ben, *The Story of St. Mary's Catholic Church of Pine Grove, Ohio, 1848-1998*; Ironton, 1998; p. 22.

Center Furnace and Superior Baptisms, 1900-1928
Recorded at St. Mary's at the Furnaces, Pine Grove

With thanks to Pat Coyle, volunteer, Archives, Diocese of Steubenville.

1900

Sept. 23 child of Francis Haubert and Catherine Burke, born 24 Aug. 1900 in Center Furnace; spons. Lindsey Absosius and Hannah Campbell. Rev. M. A. Smith

1901

Oct. 6, Mary Emma, daughter of Peter Scherer and Nancy A. Douglas, born Sept. 15 in Center Furnace; spons. Joseph Ball and Mary Ann Scherer. Rev. M. A. Smith

Dec. 8, William James son of James Francis Haubert and Catherine Burke, born Nov. 2 in Center Furnace; spons. Francis Altherr and wife. Rev. M. A. Smith

1902

May 4, John, son of Edward Burke and Margaret Gallagher, born Apr. 23 in Center Furnace; spons. James Gallagher and Helen Gallagher. Rev. M. A. Smith

1911

May 29, Pauline, born May 26, daughter of Joseph Javinzki and Catherine Moskal; spons. Walter Moskal and Pauline Paraska. Rev F. X. Clark

Oct. 15, Nora Catharine, daughter of William Green (noncatholic) and Emma Labre, born July 9; spons. Joseph Laber and Catherine Bobb. Rev F. X. Clark

Oct. 25, John Michael, son of Michael Tofilski and Stanislisha Helibiski, born Oct. 23, baptized at St. Joseph's Church in Ironton; spons. John Helibiski and Teresia Karniska. Rev. John J.Schneider

Dec. 5, Stanislaiska, daughter or John Helibiski and Helen Mazurkieski, born Dec. 1; spons. Joseph Dudzic and Stanislisha Tofilski. FXC

1912

Feb. 5, John, son of Andrew Hawrylo and Barbara Dziecheiary, born Feb. 2; spons. John Dziecheiary and Regina Tofilski. FXC

Mar. 4, Catherine Theolithea, born Feb 29, daughter of Leo Mazier and Barbara Mossack; spons. George Mazier and Theolithea Mossack. Rev F. X. Clark

Mar. 2, Helen, daughter of Lawrence Kato and Mary Florek, born Feb. 29; spons. Joseph Moskal and Helen Helibiski. Rev F. X. Clark

May 11, Cecilia, daughter of Stephen Parisky and Paulina Dubois, born May 5; spons. Stanley Tofilski and Katherine Javinski. Rev F. X. Clark

July 14, Barbara, daughter of Stanislaus Tofilski and Regina Kato, born July 12; sons. Martin Kato and Barbara Haveral. Rev F. X. Clark

Aug. 29, Barbara M., born Aug. 27, daughter of John Dziechciarv and Josephine Lopora; spons. Michael Maska & Barbara Hawrylo. Rev F. X. Clark

Nov. 24, Edward Charles, son of Henry Libercha and Louisa Wamrzkiewicz, born Nov. 15; spons. Lawrence Kato and Stanislisha Tofilski. Rev F. X. Clark

Dec. 1, Walter Patrick, son of Walter Furlong and Sara Hacker, born June 29; spons. John Furlong and Elizabeth Furlong. Rev F. X. Clark

1913

Oct. 9, John W., son of William Meyers and Sara Wilson (non-Catholic), born May 29, 1902 in Pine Creek; spons. John Dearford and Mary Dearford his wife. Rev F. X. Clark

Oct. 9, Josephine, daughter of William Meyers and Sara Wilson (non-Catholic), born Feb. 28, 1907; spons. Francis F. Altherr and his wife Sophia. Rev F. X. Clark

Oct. 12, Mary Vivian, daughter of Jerome Altherr and Florence Powers, born Sept. 23; spons. Francis J. Altherr and his wife, Sophia. Rev F. X. Clark

Oct. 12, Mary, daughter of Andrew Hawrylo and

Barbara Dziechciarv, born Oct. 7; spons. Joseph Dudzic and Mary Kata. Rev F. X. Clark

Nov. 9, Joseph, son of Joseph Kreutger and Helen Sagley, born Oct. 16; spons. Louis Sagley and Victor Sagley. Rev F. X. Clark

Dec. 7, Peter, son of Peter Bugdaniewiz and Lucy Taborski, born Nov. 29; spons. Michael Sakeski and Barbara Haveral. Rev F. X. Clark

1914

Feb. 8, Agatha, daughter of Michael Siviski and Michelle Ulecha, born Feb. 6; spons. John Golick and Barbara Haveral. Rev F. X. Clark

Feb. 22, Lawrence, son of Stanislaus Tofilski and Regina Kata, bor Feb. 18; spons. Lawrence Kata and Michaeline Siviski. Rev F. X. Clark

Mar. 8, Mary, daughter of Lawrence Kata and Mary Florek, born Mar. 6; spons. Andrew Hariolo and Regina Tofilski. Rev F. X. Clark

1915

Jan. 4, Catherine Helen, daughter of Joseph Dudzic and Mary Altherr, born Dec. 29, 1914; spons. John Golick and Catherine Kata. Rev F. X. Clark

Apr. 15, Stanisluas, son of Andrew Hawrylo and Barbara Dziechiar, born Apr. 10; spons. Michael Hawrylo and Veronica Dulapa. Rev F. X. Clark

June 6, John E., son of Edward Dulapa and Veronica Kata, born June 3; spons. Lawrence Kata and Regina Tofiliski. Rev F. X. Clark

June 17, Catherine Margaret, daughter of Jerome Altherr and Florence Powers, born June 18; spons. Joseph Dudzic and Catherine Kata. Rev F. X. Clark

Nov. 21, Francis, son of Martin Kata and Catherine Gorcyca, born Nov. 15; spons. Stanislaus Tofilski and Barbara Hariolo. Rev F. X. Clark

Nov. 21, Catherine, daughter of Michael Siviski and Michaelina Ulecha, born Nov. 15; spons. Joseph Dudzic and Mary Kata. FXC

Dec. 11, Edward, son of Stanislaus Tofilski and Regina Kata, born Dec. 7; spons. Edward Dulapa and Mary Kata. Rev F. X. Clark

1916

Jan. 23, Mary Gertrude, daughter of Joseph Dudzic and Mary Altherr, born Jan. 14; spons. John Mierzwi and Florence Altherr. Rev F. X. Clark

Aug 13, Joseph, son of Lawrence Kata and Mary Florek, born Aug. 6; spons. Joseph Madzia and Michaelina Siviski. Rev F. X. Clark

Dec. 31, Joseph, son of Stanislaus Tofilski and Regina Kata, born Dec. 27; spons. Joseph Madeia and Catherine Kata. Rev F. X. Clark

1917

Feb. 4, Helen, daughter of Andrew Hawrylo and Barbara Dziechciar, born Jan. 31; spons. Michael Siviski and Mrs. Mary ——. Rev F. X. Clark

Feb. 18, Martin, son of Edward Dulapa Veronica Kata; born February 10, 1917; spons. James Waskiewic and Barbara Hawrylo. Rev F. X. Clark

July 29, John A., son of Jerome Altherr and Florence Powers, born July 22; spons. John Coleman, Louise Coleman, and Joseph Krutz. Rev F. X. Clark

1919

Mar. 2, Joseph, son of Andrew Hawrylo and Barbara Dziechciario, born Feb. 20; spons. John Wolzyl and Mary Kata. Rev F. X. Clark

1920

Feb. 10, Jerome W., son of Zalmon Dalton and Mary S. Altherr, born Jan. 26; spons. Jerome Altherr and Eva Altherr his wife. Rev F. X. Clark

1923

Apr. 22, Helen Leitana, daughter of Harley Scarrett and Margaret Graham, born Mar. 2; spons. Margaret Graham - proxy for Isadore Beanard. Rev. Otto F. Guenther

1928

June 3, John Edward, son of Henry Long and Mary Long, born Mar. 2 in Superior; spons. Joseph Long and Josephine Long. Rev. George Vetter

Abstracts from the *Catholic Telegraph*

(Continued from Vol. XXXXII No. 3)

September 17, 1862

CONFIRMATION.

On Sunday, 7th inst., the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered to nineteen persons in St. Mary's Church, Noble Co., by the Right Rev. Bishop Rosecrans. Three were converts. The High Mass celebrated by the excellent Pastor, Rev. J. M. Jacquet, was very numerously attended. The Bishop preached at both Mass and Vespers. There are many volunteers in the army from this congregation. Two brothers, Long, who were exemplary in their attention to duty, have already lost their lives in the service.

Bishop Rosecrans administered Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in Middletown on Sunday last.

Gen. Rosecrans' Division—Mass in Camp.

Camp, 27th Ohio Infantry, near Iuka, Miss., August 8th, 1862

Editors Catholic Telegraph:

Yesterday...for the first time the Catholic members of the "Army of the Mississippi" had the chance of devoting Sunday to their God...under the canopy of heaven. At 10 o'clock Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Tracy...

After Mass he delivered an eloquent sermon to a large congregation, amongst who our beloved leaders, Gen. Rosecrans, Gen. Stanley,... and Major-General Ord...were to be seen....

Generals Rosecrans and Stanley did all in their power to render this occasion one of the highest solemnity. A large wall tent was pitched...and thus we did have as good a church as if it had been the Cathedral.

...I also heard today that the chapel is to be a permanent institution, for which every Catholic member in our army of the Mississippi will thank their able leader, Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.

September 24, 1862

CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF COLUMBUS.

Last Sunday the Most Rev. Archbishop gave the Papal Benediction, after Solemn High Mass in St. Patrick's Church, Columbus. The Rev. Mr. Kearney of Urbana, sang the High Mass, Rev. Mr. Fitzgerald, the respected and zealous pastor, being Deacon, and Rev. Mr. Coppinger, Subdeacon. The Archbishop preached. Eight hundred of the St. Patrick's Congregation received the Holy Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist on the solemn occasion. A still larger number profited by the late Mission given in the same church by the Rev. Father Damen, S.J., who, it seems, was authorized to give at its close a similar Benediction and Plenary Indulgence.

In the afternoon, the Archbishop presided at Vespers in the German Catholic Church of the Holy Cross, and in the evening preached and gave Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. At least twelve hundred persons received Holy Communion at the morning Masses in this church.

The Papal Benediction can be given only on Sundays and the more solemn festivals, and only once a day in the same place. Hence, in the Church of the Holy Cross, the Archbishop gave the Plenary Indulgence, which our priests are authorized to give three times a year *contritis confessis et Sacra Communione refectis*.

These two congregations are among the most prosperous, pious and edifying of the diocese. Rev. Mr. Hemsteger is the truly worthy pastor of the Holy Cross congregation. He was assisted in hearing confessions by Rev. Messrs. Fahlings [Fehlings] of Marges, and Schiff of Dayton, as Rev. Mr. Fitzgerald was by Rev. Messrs. Kearney, Blake of Xenia, and Duffy of Circleville. As an instance of the toils to which a Catholic priest is exposed at every moment, we might mention that Rev. Mr. Duffy, though in poor health, had to leave Columbus a little before midnight, on Saturday, to go thirty-three miles to attend a sick call and probably officiate, fasting until noon of the next day.

The schools of the two congregations of Columbus are admirably well conducted and attended. There are upwards of three hundred little boys and girls in

the English school and, we believe, four hundred in the German school. In each, the girls are taught by the Sisters of Notre Dame. They are a blessing to the community.

The devoted Franciscan Sisters have lately rented a small two-story house for a hospital, in Columbus. They have only a few patients. It is but an experiment. If not successful here, where there is no complaint of any want of attention in the county poor house, they will always have enough to do in Cincinnati.

On Sunday last the...new marble altar..in St. Patrick's Church of this city [Cincinnati] was solemnly consecrated by the Right Rev. Bishop Rosecrans, who also celebrated pontifical high mass and preached upon the occasion. The appropriate subject of the sermon was *Sacrifice*....

Subscriptions, Third Quarter, 1862 (Name, post office, date of issue)
Mich. Bennett, Canal Dover 7/30
Cor. Boyle, Mt. Vernon 8/6
H. Brennan, Marietta 8/13
John Brown, Chillicothe 7/30
Miss M. Clarke, Columbus 8/6
D. Commisky, Bailey's Mills 9/17
Thos. S. Dillehay, Enoch 8/6
William M. Edwards, Chauncey 8/20
P. Fay, Chillicothe 9/24
Mrs. Gilden [Gildea], Gibson Station 9/17
P. Haffey, Zanesville 9/10
Mary E. Haveland, Chillicothe 7/30
J. H. Jeffries, Temperanceville 8/13
P. Krier, Philo 8/6
Thos. Lucas, Marietta 8/13
P. McMallen, McCluney 9/17
Sarah M. McNally, Chillicothe 7/30
Mrs. Midlebach, Gibson Station 9/17
Miss S. Mills, Lancaster 7/2
Mary Monahan, Cooleville 7/23
Rev. M. Monicar, Chillicothe 9/24
James Moore, Chillicothe 7/30
M. Mortine, East Plainfield 9/17
Jas. O'Rourke, Zanesville 8/6
J. Schields, Chillicothe 9/24
James Shields, Chillicothe 7/30
J. P. Smith, Circleville 9/17
S. Suce, Steubenville 7/23
And. Wangler, Hanging Rock 8/13

October 1, 1862
On October 28, Bishop Rosecrans blessed the Church of St. John the Baptist in Tippecanoe and St. Peter's Church in Troy, Miami County. Rev. E. M. Fitzgerald of Columbus celebrated the high Mass in Tippecanoe and the vespers in Troy. The Bishop preached in the open air from a platform in the morning and in the church in the afternoon.

October 8, 1862
On Sunday last Bishop Rosecrans offered pontifical High Mass at the Church of St. Francis on Vine Street.

The banner of the St. Boniface Society will be blessed by Bishop Rosecrans at Holy Trinity Church next Sunday afternoon; he will preach.

October 15, 1862
Bishop Rosecrans administered Confirmation at St. Philomena's, Stone Lick, on Sunday, October 12. He preached in the open air to a large congregation. He attended the celebration of Archbishop Purcell's 29th anniversary of his episcopal consecration, at Mt. St. Mary's, on Monday the 13th.

October 22,1862
Last Sunday Bishop Rosecrans dedicated the recently enlarged St. Joseph's Church in Dayton. He preached to a large congregation.

(to be continued)

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