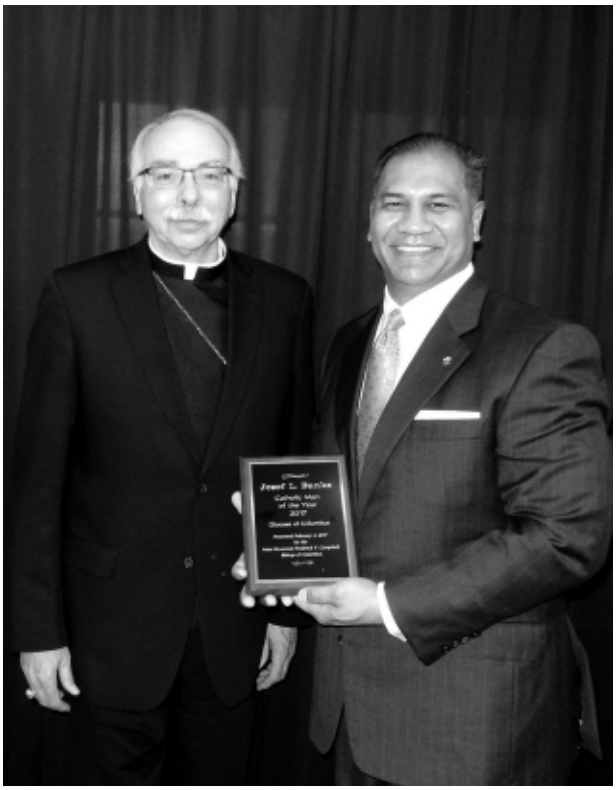
Barquilla de la Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society-Diocese of Columbus

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John Igoe 1957
First Catholic Man of the Year
With Father Bernard McClory
Photo by Jim Evans Courtesy of Catholic Times



Josef Banks 2017
Catholic Man of the Year
With Bishop Frederick F. Campbell
Photo by Tim Puet Courtesy of Catholic Times

The Founding and Evolution of the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club

by Ed Quickert

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club is probably best known for the annual award known as the Diocese of Columbus Catholic Man of the Year. The first and last recipients are shown at the top of this article. But this award was first presented eleven years after the formation of the Club. The when, how and why these men decided to come together follows a convoluted pathway with many bumps as well as zigs and zags through time.

This history of the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club is based on information found in the diocesan newspapers of the day and therefore of necessity is sketchy at best. The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club, hereafter referred to as the Club, is and has always

been rather loosely organized and administered, having originated as a group of friends meeting once a week over lunch. The loose structure today projects a welcoming environment to the largest possible audience of Catholic men. Today there are no dues, no secret handshake, no password, and no obligations. Attendance alone confers automatic membership. However, this has not always been the case. Every aspect of the todays Club has evolved, in one way or another, changing with the changing times.

Founding

A 1956 *Catholic Times* newspaper article reported that five unnamed friends formed the Club either in 1936 or in 1941. The early date probably indicated the period when the Club was a part of Council #400 of the Knights of Columbus. The second date would probably mark the time when the Club evolved into a more general, non-affiliated structure in order to attract a larger population of Catholic men.

What we do know is that John M. Gehlhausen founded the Club April 1936. Mr. Gehlhausen, a member of Council #400, Knights of Columbus, founded the Club as an integral part of Council #400. He reportedly founded the Club in order to promote good fellowship and to give fellow Knights and local Catholic men an opportunity to meet each Tuesday at noon and interact with each other in a relaxed lunch environment. The discussions at these meetings were to explore topics of local, national and international interest and importance to the Catholic community. The Club was officially named the Knights of Columbus Luncheon Club or K. C. Luncheon Club for short. The organization reportedly grew rapidly under the direction of Mr. Gehlhausen until his death in 1939. Those around him remarked as to his obsession to reach the 100 mark in attendance, a goal he never achieved.

Leadership Team

John M. Gehlhausen as founder was the first president, but the identities of the four others who joined him in the beginning are unknown. Candidates for the other four founding members of the Club possibly among the first officers of the club. The first officers were Frank Schreick, vice president; R. P. Kirwin, secretary-treasurer; Edward B. Gerlach, Tom J. Duffy, Frank A. Hunter, Dan McEneaney and Edward Moriarty, board of governors. It is also possible that the origin story of five friends meeting for lunch is just a myth. What we do know is that the men listed were all members of Council #400, and that the club was composed of executives, professional men, labor leaders and politicians from the area in and around Capital Square.

The early Club was structured so that the annual election of the governing body usually took place during the scheduled meeting of Council #400, as a part of regular Council business. The results of the election would then be announced to those members attending the next weekly Luncheon Club meeting. In some years, an election was held at the conclusion of a Luncheon Club meeting with all members present voting. Rarely has there been a detailed record of the selection process or size or scope of the governing body. No formal by-laws or similar governing rules have as yet surfaced.

Organization

The Club structure and membership criteria were established early in the formation of the club. The criteria for membership in the club required only attendance at three consecutive meetings, with attendance being taken at the door. The attendance records were the basis for the mailing lists, the U.S. Mail being the primary means of communication for the Club in the early days. In one effort to increase membership, the Club had asked other Catholic men's fraternal organizations to share their membership rolls in order to expand the Club mailing database.

Currently there are no membership requirements other than attendance at a meeting. Attendance is not taken nor are there any extant rosters or rolls to identify past or present members or to track the number of people in attendance at each meeting. There have never been any dues or fees, the only cost being the cost of lunch.

Evolution of Meeting Sites and Days

The site of the first meeting of the Club, in April 1936, was the Neil House Hotel, which was located on South High Street across from the State Capitol building. These meetings took place every Tuesday at noon. Starting in July 1936, the meetings moved to the Virginia Hotel, located on the southeast corner of Gay and Third Streets. Then in June 1937, they again moved this time to the Elks Home located at Broad and Fifth Streets.

In November 1938, the meetings were not only moved to a new location, the Knights of Columbus Home at State and Sixth Streets, but the day was moved from Tuesdays to Fridays. One incentive for the move to a new day and location was said to be for "special fish dinners and outstanding speakers." Remember, at this time all Fridays were meatless. The luncheons served at today's meetings at St. Patrick's Church are also (deliciously) meatless.

It was in 1944 that the meetings were changed from weekly to the first Friday of each month. One reason given was food rationing and increased pressure on the workplace during WWII. Finally, in July 1949, meetings were cancelled during the summer months, leaving the current meeting structure the first Friday of each month from September to June. Meetings have been frequently moved or cancelled over the years due to the New Year's holiday, Good Friday and other events falling on the first Friday of the month.

The evolution of meeting sites has continued. Not only the Virginia Hotel, Neil House, Elk's Home and K. of C. Home, but also the Seneca Hotel (1965, at Broad and Grant), Beasley-Deshler Hotel (1967, at Broad and High), St. Charles High School (2000), and the current home, St. Patrick's Church (1977 & 2004).

The Evolution of the Name

The Club has experienced several name changes over the years from the original, Knights of Columbus Businessmen's Luncheon Club, May 1936, to the Catholic Businessmen's Luncheon Club, October 1943, and finally to the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club, January 1944. All of these name changes were an effort to increase attendance by broadening the membership base. Curiously, after disassociating from the Knights of Columbus in order to attract a broader membership, Bishop Michael J. Ready, during his second visit to the club in November 1947, suggested that the Club closely associate with a national organization such as the Serra Club.

Evolving Proposes

The stated purpose of the meetings has also evolved over the years mainly in response to the changing situation in the community and the world. Initially, the purpose was to create a better understanding of the Catholic Church and its teachings on social and economic doctrines, especially those threats posed by international Communism.

The club's beginnings in 1936 put it squarely in the middle of some serious international disturbances. The Great Depression, international Communism, and the National Socialist (Nazi) movement rose as huge challenges to be faced by the Catholic Church. The papal Encyclicals *Rerum Novarum* (Pope Leo XIII) and *Quadragesima Anno* (Pope Pius XI) addressed some of these concerns and were frequent topics of meeting discussions. The Club president in 1937, George Doyle said he would like to see "100 Catholic business, professional and labor officers affiliated with the K. C. Club to help in moulding sentiment favorable to Catholic Action ideals, to create a better understanding as to the Catholic Church and its teachings on social and economic doctrines, propounded in the great Encyclicals of Leo XIII and the present Pope Pius XI."

A very short list of topics may help you see how things have changed over time:

1930s – Catholic Day at Buckeye Lake, missions, musical programs, the courts, taxes, divorce.

1940s — Laymen's retreats, trade unions, papal Encyclicals, "Rosaries for Russia".

1950s – Catholic social philosophy, DAV smoker, labor, charity, Catholic schools, slums.

1960s – Catholic education, poverty, Vatican II, crime, heart attacks.

1970s – Nixon economy, drug rehab, aging, Charismatic movement, Blessed Virgin Mary.
1980s – Permanent deacons, prison mission, crime, media, animal rights, Encyclicals, drugs.
1990s – Catholic apologetics, Holy Week, aging, Catholic Press, taxes, Diocesan Tribunal.
2000s – Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Eucharist, vocations, faith, Pope Paul II, prayer.
2010s – Conversion, husbands and fathers, evangelization, St. Gabriel Radio, Rosary.

In the 1930s and 1940s the Club sponsored some outreach programs that targeted the poor youth in the community. In one instance, there was a box at the entry table to the luncheons for donations to send poor boys to Camp St. Joseph. There was also a committee formed assist Father George Mason in the athletic activities of the Catholic elementary schools of Columbus.

Other early programs that earned their support were the first diocese-wide Catholic Day at Buckeye Lake and the Catholic Press Convention held in Columbus in 1936. In 1937, the Club sponsored a Christmas party for 100 under-privileged boys, supported the lecture series at St. Mary of the Springs College, and spearheaded an effort to place the diocesan newspaper in every Catholic home. In addition to the service projects a series of broader goals evolved as the Club matured.

Goals like the Christopher Movement

John H. Baker, a Columbus attorney, and Club president in 1950, during a radio interview said that the Luncheon Club, like the Christopher movement, keeps its members informed on basic Christian truth with an aim toward strengthening the individual to serve as a forceful antagonist against errors being spread today. At that time, post-World War II, the rise of the Soviet Union made international Communism the chief threat to Christianity and western Democracy.

This goal was accomplished, Baker said, through competent speakers whose brief talks touch upon the four fields enumerated by the Christopher Movement of Father James Keller. These areas that affect the lives of most people, namely, education, government, trade unions, and media to include, newspapers, magazines, books, radio, motion pictures and television were most vulnerable to Communist and atheistic propaganda. It is these areas that are most in need of strengthening. Father Keller's aim was not to establish separate schools, media or institutions, but to encourage action from the inside: public school teachers integrating moral values in their instruction, writers addressing news stories from a base of Catholic values, etc. These four fields are delineated in the book *You Can Change the World* by Father James Keller, the founder of the Christopher movement.

The Club has always encouraged First Friday Devotion based on the twelve promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary. However, the Club did not initially meet on Fridays and it was not until 1977, when the meetings began at St. Patrick's Church, that Holy Communion was a convenient possibility for those attending the Club meetings. With Mass at St. Patrick's being held from 11:45 to 12:15 and the luncheon meeting commencing in a room adjacent to the church from 12:20 to 1:00 First Friday devotion was a possibility for many.

Although the Christopher Movement and the First Friday devotion were not among of the founding purposes of the Club the evolution of the world political environment and disorder have led to their incorporation into the Club fabric.

Catholic Man of the Year

Probably the most notable occurrence in the evolution of the Club is the Catholic Man of the Year Award. The award was initiated in 1957, eleven years after the formation of the Club. Just as the name of the Club evolved over the years, so also did the name of the award. It evolved from Columbus, Franklin County, Central Ohio and finally to Diocesan Catholic Man of the Year. The purpose of the award is to recognize laymen of the diocese who "through their daily actions, words, and prayers exemplify the good and faithful servant."

The first Catholic Man of the Year award was presented to John Igoe of St. Agatha Parish. At that time, nominations were solicited from each pastor in

the diocese and from active lay organizations. A committee of the Luncheon Club leadership then made the selection from the nominations. This process has also evolved over the years with current selection being made by an 11-member committee consisting of members of the Catholic Men's Retreat League, the Catholic Men's Ministry, the Serra Club, The Knights of Columbus, and the Luncheon Club. Anyone can submit a nomination for a candidate for the award. In the fall of each year nomination information is sent to each parish in the Diocese for inclusion in the parish bulletin. Complete nominating information is also published in *The Catholic Times*.

Since the award has been given, men from thirty-two parishes have received the Catholic Man of the Year award, with five from St. Catherine's and four each from St. Andrew's and Christ the King. In 2017, Josef Banks of St. Dominic's Parish was the Diocesan Catholic Man of the Year. Tragically, at the time of this writing, Josef Banks has died as the result of an accident, which occurred while he was helping a person in need.

Firsts

The founder of the Club was John M. Gehlhausen in April 1936.

The first Club venue was the Neil House Hotel.

The first speaker to the Club was John Connor explaining the new Social Security legislation, May 1936.

The first project supported by the Club was Catholic Press Convention held in Columbus in 1936.

The first elected president of the Club was George Doyle in January 1937.

The Most Reverend Michael J. Ready was the first Bishop of Columbus to speak at the Club luncheon in May 1945.

The first Chaplain of the Club was Rev. William E. Kappes of Our Lady of Mercy Church, Upper Arlington, in September 1945.

Conclusion

The evolution of the Club over the past eighty some years, from a Knights of Columbus Council #400 project to a Diocese wide organization continues to this day. The Bishop of Columbus is now a featured speaker every year, usually at the first meeting in the fall. A member of the Catholic Men's Retreat League and a recently ordained priest or seminarian have regular places in the program of speakers. The topics may and will continue to change and evolve just as they did in the 1930's, though the basic purpose of the Club, the moral education of the membership in the basic tenets of the Catholic faith, will continue.

Abstracts from the *Catholic Telegraph*

(Continued from Vol. XLII No. 11)

May 27, 1863

Bishop Rosecrans presided at a marriage at the Cathedral on Tuesday evening, May 26.

June 3, 1863

Bishop Rosecrans conferred minor orders, subdiaconate, and diaconate on several men at the seminary chapel on May 27, 28, and 29.

June 10, 1863

Bishop Rosecrans and two priests and two laymen are appointed by Archbishop Purcell as a Board of Examiners of applicants as school teachers in the diocese, on June 8. He administered confirmation in St. Mary's Church, Delhi, on May 24th.

An obituary is reprinted from the *Chillicothe Advertiser* of May 15, of Mrs. Elleanor Watts, who had died there on the 10th. She was the wife of Dr. Watts of Chillicothe, a sister of Mrs. Sarah Peter and like her a convert to the Catholic faith.

June 17, 1863

Last Sunday the new Church of St. Anthony was blessed, at which Bishop Rosecrans sang High

Mass. He will deliver a lecture in Urbana on the 24th for the benefit of the local Catholic school.

GIBSON'S STATION, Ohio,
June 9, 1863

TO THE EDITOR:—

Very Rev. and Dear Sir:—The gentleman whose subscription I hereby send in, is a recent convert to our Holy Religion, and one who joins me in admiring and endorsing the noble, patriotic and Catholic stand you have taken in defense of the Heaven-born prerogative of indiscriminate human liberty.

It is a fact—lamentable, but yet a fact—that even among Catholics themselves the monstrous doctrine that the Church of God favors the enslavement of one portion of the human family by another, gains ready credence, and boasts even some fiercely zealous defenders. I know it is so in this locality, and I believe it is so in other places. Here, there are quite a number calling themselves Catholics, who denounce the editor of the TELEGRAPH, and even their own exemplary and patriotic pastor, as "Black Abolitionists," and who quote Scripture and the *Freeman's Journal* alternately to establish the *divinity* and *constitutionality* of the barbarous institution of slavery. But, thank God, the influence of the TELEGRAPH is beginning to produce a wholesome effect. The deluded lovers of the "institution," who would fain force Religion to the support of their un-Christian theories, are beginning *to pause* before the logical array of crushing facts embodied in your unanswerable arguments in vindication of the Church from the atrocious charge of encouraging slavery; and I am proud and happy to know that the almost only Catholic paper that has had the moral manliness to stem the current of a diseased public opinion, so fast growing in circulation and winning for itself an enviable position in the hearts of all the truly Catholic and liberty-loving citizens within the range of its extensive and ever-increasing influence.

Wishing you and your paper every success, I remain, &c., M. D. CARR

Subscriptions, second quarter, 1863
(Name, Post Office, issue)

J. Bags, West Jefferson 6/17
C. Blikely, Gallipolis 4/29
Rev. J. Brent, Mt. Vernon 6/24
Ed. Buck, West Jefferson 6/17
J. Buckle, Newark 5/13
P. Clark, Washington Furnace 5/6
Thomas Collins, Columbus 5/13
J. W. Corneyn, Zanesville 5/20
M. Cummins, Steubenville 6/3
M. A. Daugherty, Lancaster 5/13
G. W. Derrich, Columbus 5/6
Rev. J. D. Duffy, Circleville 5/13
Wm. M. Edwards, Chauncey 4/15
Wm. Fink, Zanesville 5/20
T. Flood, Batesville 6/17
D. G. Galle, Marietta 4/15
Patrick Healy, Ironton 4/8
Patrick Healy, Ironton 5/6
J. Henon, Circleville 5/13
M. Hort, Steubenville 6/3
D. Hurley, Steubenville 6/3
M. Kane, Steubenville 6/3
P. Kane, Pioneer Furnace 5/6
M. Keegan, Steubenville 6/3
J. Kelly, West Jefferson 6/17
Rev. Klueber, Enoch 6/17
B. McCaffrey, Steubenville 6/3
J. McGinnis, Steubenville 6/3
P. McDonald, West Jefferson 6/17
Thos. McDonald, Delaware 5/27
G. D. McMahon, Zanesville 5/13
J. McMurray, Dresden 6/17
S. M. McNally, Chillicothe 4/1
John McNally, Frankfort 4/1
E. McNamara, Newark 6/17
Cath. McShane, St. Joseph 6/17
Jos. Mooter, St. Josephs 6/24
J. Norris, Frankfort 4/1
Rev. P. O'Donohoe, Ironton 5/6
William Poland, Chillicothe 4/1
J. Postlewaite, Homer 4/29
Ed. Powell, West Jefferson 6/17
J. Reardon, West Jefferson 6/17

J. V. Reid, Steubenville 6/3
J. F. Robinson, Circleville 5/13
B. Scullion, Steubenville 6/3
R. Seipel, Lancaster 5/13
J. & L. Settler, Columbus 5/6
Sisters of Notre Dame, Chillicothe 4/22
Edw. Smith, Circleville 5/13
J. Smith, Steubenville 6/3
J. P. Smith, Circleville 5/13
S. Snider, Somerset 6/10
Mrs. S. C. Stambaugh, Lancaster 5/13
J. Tarrell, West Jefferson 6/17
Rev. Thienpont, Steubenville 6/24
Jas. Toole, Lancaster 4/22
M. White, Mt. Vernon 5/6
J. F. Zimmer, Columbus 5/6

(To be continued)

Church of the Nativity, Portsmouth, and Missions
Baptisms, 1841-1853

(Continued, from Vol. XLII, No. 11)

1846, continued

Sept. 13, Pine Grove, continued
John Frederick, son of John Feuke and his wife Elizabeth Catherine Wessebing; spons. Frederick Kleyen and Catherine Feuke. Eml Thienpont

same day Juliana, daughter of Frederick Munning and his wife Elizabeth Krukker; spons. John and Juliana Krukker. ET

Sept. 18 at Portsmouth, John Joseph, son of Joseph Trick and his wife Martha Hag; spons. John Fecker and Mary Hag. ET

Ripley

Sept. 19 Levi John, son of Patrick Wall and his wife Mary Ann Ludwhick; sponsors Michael Staffert and Catherine Ludwhick. ET

same day Joseph, son of [blank] Weber and Magdalene Jacob; spons. Anthony and Catherine Stephen. ET

same day Mary Ann, daughter of John Weber and his wife Catherine Bentley; spons. Mary Ann Miller. ET

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Portsmouth

Nov. 22 John, son of Joseph Steigerwalt and his wife Agnes Conker; spons. Herman Bolts. ET

same day Caroline, daughter of Herman Bolts and his wife Mary Betz; spons. Joseph Steigerwalt and Agnes Conyer. ET

Oct. 4 at Pine Grove, Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Carl Meyer and his wife Mary Elizabeth Kruger; spons. John Henry Kruger and Mary Elizabeth Meyers. ET

Oct. 18 at Wilksville, Joseph, son of Daniel Quinn and his wife Catherine Steigh[?]; spons. Daniel Cooney and Joanna Cooney. ET

Oct. 31 at Pine Grove, Juliana, daughter of Frederick Staus and his wife Mary Kleyfort; spons. Ferdinand Goldcamp and Arbaida Meyers. ET

Nov. 22 at Portsmouth, Elizabeth, daughter of Peter Dages and his wife Ann Hobaert; spons. John Dages and Ann Mary Hobaert. ET

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Nov. 23 at Portsmouth, Thomas, son of Michael Kerry and his wife Mary Brady; spons. Patrick Corcoran and Mary Fitspatrick. ET

Nov. 29 at Pine Grove, Catherine Mathilda, daughter of Frederick Clien and his wife Ann Mary Fenke; spons. Christopher Onger and Catherine Elizabeth Fenke. ET

Dec. 6 at Portsmouth, Barbara, daughter of John Baron and his wife Helen Ganly; spons. John and Barbara Shearer. ET

Dec. 26 Mary Ann, daughter of James Wilt and his wife Mary Hobaert; spons. Nicholas Hobaert and Mary Ann Karl. ET

Dec. 27 at Pine Grove, Catherine, daughter of Conrad Mengebirt and his wife Catherine Coolman; spons. Bernard Kanulman and Mary Coolman. ET

1847

Jan. 1 at Scioto, Michael, son of John Wobert and his wife Elizabeth Gresser; spons. Michael and Barbara Thiel. ET

Jan. 18 at Pine Grove, Mary Ann Frances, daughter of John Herning and his wife Elizabeth Butman; spons. Francis and Mary Ann Forts. ET

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Jan. 20 at Portsmouth, Elizabeth, daughter of John Hofmann and Magdalene Damryn; spons. James Wilt and Elizabeth Damryn. ET

Jan. 31 at Portsmouth, Mary, daughter of Lawrence Karll and his wife Eva Hobaert; spons. Joseph Karll and Catherine Hulbrick [or Hullerick]. ET

Feb. 14 at Pine Grove, Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Bauwner and his wife Elizabeth Gramann; sponsors John Gramann and Elizabeth Wimmer. ET

Feb. 17 at Portsmouth, Mary Ann, daughter of Joseph Werner and his wife Barbara Hugh[?]; spons. Joseph and Mary Ann Best. ET

Pine Grove

Mar. 21 John Henry, son of Frederick Dierky and his wife Julia Kruger; spons. John Henry Kruger and Mary Weber. ET

same day Joseph, son of John Ferdinand Goldcamp and his wife Mary Gertrude Becksmith; spons. Francis Backsmith and Elizabeth Meyer. ET

same day Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph Morman and his wife Mary Schildmeyer; spons. Henry Louisman and Engel Meyer. ET

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Mar. 31 Charlotte, daughter of George Rale and his wife Angelica Waterspielt; spons. George Woss and Charlotte Papst. ET

May 16 Daniel, son of Daniel Johnson and his wife Rosann Frenner; spons. Henry Stratner and Mary Ann Nugent. ET

May 17 Sophia, daughter of John Fillinger and his wife Agnes Housenhorger; spons. John Fecker and Sophia Sheep. ET

May 24 at Portsmouth, George Joseph, son of John Michael Baker and his wife Catherine Wisener; spons. Mark Nicolaus and Elizabeth Hiser. ET

May 8 George, son of Andrew Renbolt and his wife Barbara Modin; spons. Christopher Dierker. ET

May 30 at Pine Grove, Christopher, son of Michael Fict [or Feit?] and his wife Ann Mary Gibeling; spons. Christopher Mauer and Theresa Shilling. ET

June 21 Cornelia, daughter of Michael Walter and his wife Mary Ann Borbanch; spons. James Wilt and Catherine Wodler. ET

[*The register entries are quite jumbled beginning at this point, so we have put them into chronological order but note the pages.*]

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July 4, 1847 Elias, son of Chapman Zecker and his wife Martha Zecker; spons. John Carr and Mary Joan Sprull. ET

same day Mary Ann Moore, convert; spons. Simon Dolin and Bridget Dolin. ET

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Aug. 8, 1847 Mary, daughter of Henry Strotner[?] and his wife Barbara Baum; spons. Michael and Mary Ann Baum. ET

Aug. 27 Elizabeth, daughter of Nicholas Geblin and his wife Mary Deguin; spons. James Wilt and Mary Smith. ET

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West Union

Sept. 12, 1847 James, son of Dennis McCafferty and his wife Mary Ellis; spons. Bernard McDonold and Catherine Mollon. ET

same day Catherine, daughter of Thomas Mollon and his wife Catherine Benton; spons. John Fellon and Mary Hesson. ET

Sept. 18 Catherine Louise, daughter of William Newbrugge and his wife Elizabeth Newbrugge; spons. Henry Vorlager and Arlaid Meyer. ET

Sept. 19 Valentine, son of Catherine Meyer; spons. George and Barbara Mauer. ET

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Oct. 10 Elizabeth, daughter of Vincent Wobler and his wife Catherine; spons. Adam Eck and Elizabeth Eck. ET

(To be continued)

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