



Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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A GLIMPSE OF THE OHIO VALLEY

by Rev. John Martin Henni

Translated for the Society by the late Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Hakel

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Letter 5 -

Institutions of the Church in the Far West

Esteemed Patron!

The new Bishop of Vincennes remarks, "Our little Republic of Vincennes (St. Xavier on the Wabash) is some 100 miles in extent and over a half century in Christianity and civilization stemming from the States of Kentucky and Ohio. It is a remarkable phenomenon." For a look at the map shows that Indiana and Illinois lie more to the west than the above mentioned states, yet the apostolic zeal of the Bishop of Baltimore reached out in fatherly concern to these distant backwoods. Hardly had he assembled his priests, as we have seen before [4th letter], and sent them back again to their difficult assignments when the young missionary, Father Flaget, appeared in the prairies of Vincennes and Kaskaskia in 1792. His labors took him across the Mississippi. St. Louis, today the see city of a splendid diocese, was at that time a poverty-stricken village called Paincourt [short of bread] by the same humorous person who gave names to such places as St. Genevieve Misere, Carondolet, and Vide Poche [empty pocket]. Other men followed Flaget, such as Levadaur [Levandoux?], Vicar General of the Bishop of Baltimore and Superior of the Sulpicians in the Illinois missions, and Rivet [Fr. John Francis Rivet] and Richard [Fr. Gabriel Richard]. Father Richard settled in Detroit and

died there of cholera in 1832 after he had devoted more than forty years to the most arduous missions. Father Rivet, whose holy life, charity to the poor and fervent devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Mother of God still lives in the memory of many good people, felt himself called above all to the savages. He worked among them with the help of interpreters whom he paid out of the small income sent yearly by the United States Congress. He was the first Catholic missionary to receive this benefit. His precious life ended all too soon. Alone in the wilderness where he had labored from 1796 to 1804, he fell ill. No one brought him the priestly consolation which he had brought to his dying brothers so zealously! As he felt his end approaching, he had himself carried into his chapel, opened the tabernacle with shaking hands and gave himself Holy Viaticum. Then he bid farewell to his weeping congregation whom he commended to God and so he died.

Father Rivet's spirit seemed to hover over the mission for he returned so to speak in the devoted work of his successors not only in Illinois but also in Kentucky. Father [Donation] Olivier¹, hardly a match for his many hardships and labors, worked here. Father [Stephen] Theodore Badin assembled the few Catholics who wandered in from Maryland and maintained them in the religion of their fathers. Father Nerings [Charles

Nerinckx], a Belgian, joined him and until his death a few years ago worked tirelessly with great success in Kentucky. Here in Washington County he established the Convent of the Sisters of Loretto or the "Friends of Mary at the Foot of the Cross of Christ."

At that time Edward Fenwick arrived in this forest region. God destined him to be a future Apostle of the wild Ohio country. This was foreshadowed in his early life. "Father Fenwick was descended from an old English family named Fenwick-Power from Northumberland County [England]. He was born in America, in Maryland, in 1766 and was sent to Europe for his higher education when he was about 20 years old, after his father's death. In Bornheim near Antwerp he devoted himself to higher academic studies under the direction of the Dominicans. One of his uncles was a Dominican and he himself eventually became a Dominican. During the French Revolution he was procurator of his order's house and consequently suffered a great deal. He was regarded as an Englishman and when he refused to hand over whatever was demanded of him by the civil authorities they threw him into prison and threatened to shoot him. He was saved only by a special grace of Divine Providence and the protection of the Mother of God (whom he also chose as Patroness of his diocese). [St. Francis deSales now is the official patron of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.] He himself often declared this. All the fathers had to flee to England where Father Fenwick remained until 1804.

About this time he received permission from his superiors to return to North America in order to bring consolation and help to the Catholics of his homeland and to bring others to the true Church. He labored in Maryland for two years for the spread of his religion and the Kingdom of God. Bishop Carroll then sent him west in 1806 where he used his own inherited money to build St. Rose Priory.¹² This institution soon flourished

and undertook the education of young men, especially young students for the priesthood under the direction of Father Wilson, an Englishman, who was the first Provincial of the Dominicans in America. Father Fenwick felt drawn to another vocation, namely, to devote himself exclusively to the missions. He visited them on horseback and as a result was seldom able to visit the house of his brother religious. A convent was soon built nearby for Dominican nuns under the patronage of St. Mary Magdalene. Thus the light of the Faith shone here for Catholics. Many Protestants also became converts. Thus even today St. Rose is one of the largest congregations not only in Kentucky but also in the entire west.

Such prospects called for a bishop for the West. Baltimore, like Quebec formerly, could not give the needed care at such a huge distance. Flaget was called back from Cuba where he had been sent with his friend Dubourg to set up a college in Havana. He was consecrated Bishop in Baltimore on November 4, 1809, and sent to Kentucky with jurisdiction over the entire Ohio Valley as far as the Missouri River in the west and over Michigan in the north up to the Great Lakes. A small village named Bardstown became his See city. He writes, "On June 9, 1811, I arrived in this small village accompanied by two priests and two young clerics. I hadn't a cent in my pocket and had to borrow 1,000 francs to pay for the trip. Thus without money, without a house, without property and practically unknown, I found myself in the middle of a bishopric that was two or three times the size of France and contained five huge states and two immense territories. Remember that all my Catholics were newcomers and were very poor, etc. etc."¹³ He had, in fact, made a trip to Europe before he set out for his diocese. He continues, "Not even the Pope and the Cardinals could give me the least donation since they were scattered all over by the Revolution. Bishop Carroll was poorer than I since he had debts and I had none (except the sum

already mentioned)."

So the good bishop took up his residence about four miles from Bardstown near St. Thomas. It was with emotion that the author of these notes [Henni] in June, 1828 saw two log houses made of rough timber that served as the bishop's residence and the seminary. My young friends in America, now experienced priests in the Kingdom of God, recounted to me with lively recollection how they devoted themselves to their studies there under the direction of Father David who was consecrated as Coadjutor on August 15, 1818. From the nice, new chapel, they showed me the secluded path that led to the crucifixion group on a wooded hill where a huge cross rising from the beautifully kept green lawn, stood out facing us as if guarding the entrance of an enclosure of graves of the dead on the rear slope of the hill. Dying garlands waving from the arms of the Cross and from the branches of the nearby trees bore witness to the rustic celebration of Corpus Christi which we dare to celebrate openly in the rural areas but not yet publicly in the cities of America. How long will "the Cross remain a stumbling block to the Jews and an absurdity to the Gentiles?" [1 Cor. 1, 23]'

But the above mentioned log cabins were soon replaced by more comfortable and much needed buildings through the extraordinary efforts of the bishops and the charity of European donors. Bardstown literally lifted itself up to a fine looking bishop's see city. A beautiful cathedral was built and consecrated in 1818. Next to it rose a spacious though plain building for the seminary and Bishop's residence. The college makes a splendid appearance and to it students stream from as far away as New Orleans in considerable numbers for the education that is not yet provided for them in their hometown. The beautiful college that was opened in the last few years near Mobile^s, the see city of Bishop Pottier, is receiving some compensation for the damage that a false, pernicious and irreligious

political policy caused among the southern colonists of America just as it did in France. I am afraid that our country will suffer for a long time from this old wound. Like so many other colleges under exclusively religious management, this Springhill College already numbers over 100 sons of rich southerners in its initial opening year.

In addition to the Bardstown College in Kentucky, a pious priest, Father W. Byrne, founded St. Mary's Seminary in Washington County. He died of cholera and after his death it was taken over by French Jesuits. Naturally, we hope for much good from their labors. The education of women was also provided for in Kentucky. Not far from Bardstown, like Loretto, Nazareth flourishes under the proven zealous direction of the Sisters of Charity, who have extended their schools in all directions, even to Vincennes.

Meanwhile our priests have to struggle with troubles everywhere. They engage in frequent public debates with the surrounding hundreds of religious sects. This happened a lot especially a few years ago. Other priests who devote themselves to the college and seminary publish in addition a monthly newspaper called *St. Joseph's Minerva*. The present head of the Seminary is Father Lancaster who returned from Rome with his friend Spalding just last year.

Less flourishing is the bordering State of Tennessee, which is under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Bardstown. Together with Kentucky it includes about 22,000 Catholics. However, any increase of the Catholic population from outside the state or from immigrants is unthinkable because of the slave trade that prevails there, as it does all over the states south of Ohio except for colonies which had opposed it like Louisville, where both Europeans and Americans settled and engaged in commerce. Louisville has grown so much in recent years that

it will soon challenge Cincinnati for leadership over the west. Father Abell recently built a fine-looking church here since the old one was too small. Last spring Bishop Flaget, the gray haired, well deserving senior bishop of our American Church, entrusted the active administration of his diocese to his newly consecrated Coadjutor Bishop Chabrat until he returns from his trip to France. (His Coadjutor Bishop David has resigned for reasons of health and old age.) May God bring him back safely to America.

NOTES

- (1) Father Olivier is still alive in his 89th year and is a great and encouraging example to the young seminarians around him at St. Mary's in Perry County, Missouri.
 (2) Taken from *The Catholic Telegraph*,

Cincinnati, Ohio, October, II Year.

(3) *Annales de la Propagation de la Foi a Lyon*.

(4) The introduction of the agents of the New Evangelical United Church of Prussia would appear to be spreading Catholicism along the Mississippi like they did along the Rhine (but actually they did not). Indeed an isolated attempt by a Lutheran preacher in Ohio aroused great resistance in his congregation. They would not even tolerate candlesticks on the altar. Even the English High Church would cause a scandal if they wanted to put the inspiring sign of the Cross on top of their church steeples instead of a rooster or an angel blowing a trumpet with puffed out cheeks on top of the church organ such as they have in some places ever since the time of Queen Elizabeth the first.

(5) Mobile in Alabama was erected by a Papal Brief of Pope Leo XII in 1829. Presently it has about 10,000 Catholics.

Abstracts from *The Catholic Telegraph*

(Continued, from Vol. XXV, No. 8)

April 13, 1850

Subscriptions: Logan, O.: Den. McCarty.
 Zanesville: P. Haffey, Jas. A. Johnson, Jno. Lynch, Mart. Walsh, P. T. Wright, Wm. Mattingly, Thos. Prissen.

Rev. PETER PERRY has been, by the Bishop, appointed Pastor of St. Mary's congregation, Marietta, and of the other congregations hitherto attended from Marietta.

Rev. Mr. KRAPF of Pomeroy will attend the German Catholics of the Church of St. Mary, five miles from Hanging Rock, on the first Sunday of every month. We are glad to learn that this Church is under roof.

April 20, 1850

Rev. Mr. Joseph MUCKERHEIDE has been appointed pastor of the congregations of Canal Dover, St. Fidelis, and Lodi... and Rev. Mr.

HERZOG, of St. Michael's [Cincinnati] goes to Zanesville.

Subscr.: Somerset: Jno. J. Jackson, Jacob Fink.

May 4, 1850

Subscriptions: Columbus, O.: John McNamee, John Middlewood, Mary Gains. Chauncey, O.: William Edwards. Dresden, O., John O'Malley.

May 11, 1850

[Contains an extract from a letter from Rev. Mr. Kramer, pastor of St. John's and St. Michael's churches, giving an account of the missions there, preached by Rev. F. X. Weninger, S.J, dated Malaga, April 27, 1850.]

MARRIED in the city of Washington, on the evening of the first of May, by the Rev. James Ryder, President of Georgetown College, WILLIAM T. SHERMAN, U.S. Army, and ELLEN

BOYLE EWING, eldest daughter of the Hon. Thomas Ewing.

May 18, 1850

Subscriptions: Wilksville, O.: Andrew Stanton. Somerset, O.: Miles Clarke, James Moynaugh, Jacob Costigan. Zanesville, O.: R. D. O'Hara, Patrick Haffey.

May 25, 1850

Subscriptions: Steubenville, O.: V. Owsney. Somerset, O.: Jacob Costigan, Michael Dittoe, Jos. Hodge.

June 1, 1850

Agents:

Columbus - John McNamee; Chillicothe - Dr. T. McNally; Circleville - James Feeny; Marietta - Martin Stafford; Dresden - John O'Mealy; Zanesville - Philip Haffy; Somerset - Jacob Costigan; Lancaster - Richard J. Lilly; St. Joseph Church, Perry Co. - Neal Crossen; Rehoboth, Perry Co. - J. McGulley; St. Patrick's Church, Jackson Township, Perry Co. - Daniel Clark; Danville, Knox Co. - Benedict Magers; Mt. Vernon & vicinity - Rev. T. J. Boulger; Chapel Hill, Perry Co. - Rev. C. Daly; Steubenville - Val. Owsney.

SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Rev. F. X. Weninger will preach an eight days' retreat, for the congregation of St. Nicholas, Zanesville, commencing on the 9th of June. The same Father will also give missions in the congregations of Canal Dover, St. Fidelis, near Waynesburgh, and Lodi, and still later in the summer at Portsmouth, Marietta, etc.

June 15, 1850

Subscriptions: Circleville, O.: Peter McLane, And. Lynch, Ed. Smyth. Rehoboth, O.: John McGinley.

June 22, 1850

Subscriptions: Chillicothe, O.: Patk. Sheerin.

Mt. Vernon, O.: Ralph Payne, D. Morton, Rev. T. Boulger.

[Letter from Somerset regarding First Holy Communion at St. Joseph Parish] ...High Mass was sung by the Rev. Father BOKEL, whose rich and harmonious voice filled the sacred edifice. [...evening procession of the Blessed Sacrament] I also take this opportunity of informing you that, on the 15th of May, the corner stone of a new Catholic church, near Rehoboth [at McLuney, Harrison Twp.], was laid, under the invocation of St. Dominic. The Reverend Superior of St. Joseph's performed the ceremony, with the permission of the Very Rev. Bishop. Although the day was rather impropitious, the assembly was large. It is contemplated to have the church under roof this fall.

June 29, 1850

[Episcopal Visitation schedule: July 21 St. Joseph's, Perry County and Holy Trinity, Somerset. St. Louis Bertrand [Rehoboth] and St. Patrick's [Junction City] the following week. July 29 St. Mary's, Lancaster. St. John's Logan and Seven Dolors, Chauncey, Athens County the following week. August 4 St. Francis, Chapel Hill. Deavertown and other nearest stations attended from St. Francis the following week. August 8 St. Ann's, Taylorsville. August 11 St. Thomas Aquinas [Zanesville] and St. Nicholas. Stations attended from Zanesville the following week. August 18 Canal Dover, St. Fidelis in Carroll County. Lodi and other stations during the week. August 25 Steubenville. August 29 St. Dominic's, Guernsey County. September 1 St. John's, Monroe County. September 5 St. Michael's, Archer's Settlement; S.S. Peter and Paul within the week. September 8 St. Mary's, Marietta. September 10 St. James, Meig's Creek. September 15 Pomeroy. Stations attended from there during the following week. September 29 Springfield, Clark Co.]

(To be continued)

St. John the Evangelist Church, Zanesville: Baptisms, 1828-1842

(Continued, from Vol. XXV, No. 9)

1839, concluded

Dec. 25 Francis Gregory, son of Samuel Barton and Rebecca Taggart; spon. Peter Rogers and Ann Cassilly. Fr A. J. Wilson, O.S.D.

Dec. 26 Regina, daughter of John Bolinger and Regina Freeman; spon. Martin Freeman and Mary A. Freeman. AJW

1840

January 2 Ellen, daughter of Hugh Fanning and Ellen Potter; spon. Thomas Condon and Catherine McGary.

same day [Mrs.] Rebecca E. Barton, daughter of James Taggart and Sarah Sindal; spon. Elizabeth Harkins. AJW

February 2 Sarah A., daughter of Samuel Barton and Rebecca E. Tindal [Taggart?]; spon. Philip Haffey and Mary McCormick.

[It seems that the grandmother's maiden name was entered in the above record in place of the mother's.]

same day Charles Augustine, son of Charles Roberts and Lucy Fuller; spon. John Cassilly and Ann Rogers. AJW

February 8 Isaac, son of George Christie and Sarah Syms; spon. Mary McCormick. AJW

February 11 Mary Elizabeth, daughter of John Murphy and Anastasia Ueichem; spon. Mary Ann Evans. AJW

February 16 George Anthony Bawer, son of Catherine Snider; spon. John Emmit and Catherine Keller. AJW

March 1 Francis, son of James Heenan and Charlotte Wilmott; spon. Thomas Kelly and Ann McHone.

same day Catherine, daughter of Jacob Huff and Mary Ann Eshm...[page torn]; spon. Remiguis Kesinger and Magdalena Huff. AJW

March 8 Patrick, son of James Friel and Mary Minion; spon. Ann Minion. AJW

March 11 James, son of Peter Magers and Catherine McGou...[page torn]; spon. James and Mary Durbin. AJW

March 22 Ferdinand, son of James Victor and Martha Ann Thermon; spon. James Victor and Mary Ann Victor. AJW

April 17 William, son of John Deibel and Catherine Rone...[page torn]; spon. William Fetler and Elizabeth Rina.

same day Susan Ann, daughter of James Jones and Lydia Whit...[page torn] (born 1816); spon. Daniel Durbin and Ellen Rackly. AJW

April 24 Patience (age 74), daughter of John Ellnes and Elizabeth Perry; spon. N.[*nomen?*] and Elizabeth Harkins. AJW

May 8 Francis Michael, son of John Lindsay and Rachael Ward; spon. James Victor and Mary Rhodes. AJW

May 11 Philip Anthony, son of John Martin and Bridget McFarlin; spon. Michael and Maria Beannet. AJW

May 14 Barbara, daughter of William Keltz and Elizabeth Kender...[page torn]; spon.

Gaspar Keltz and Barbara Kenderlon.

same day Catherine, daughter of Florand Krast and Barbara Dandel; spon. Michael Tile and Catherine Runes.

same day Mary (born April 27), of Jacob Debil [*interlinea* Debolt] and Mary Keltz; spon. Joseph Rehnes and Appolonia Keltz.

same day Frances, daughter of Joseph Hear and Crescentia Staile[?]; spon. Philip Hindley and Melker Staile; born April 9.

same day Charles (born April 30), son of Charles Bawmaster and Catherine Medews[?]; spon. James Bawmaster and Agnes Bean.

same day Catherine, daughter of Archibald Charr and Elizabeth McPerry[?]; spon. John and Bridget Martin. AJW

May 17 George (born May 7), son of Silas Montgomery and Mary Whi...[torn]; spon. John Snathline[?] and Mary McCormick. AJW

page 24

May 14 Silas Celestine, son of Basil Durbin and Mary Ann Boland [Roland?]; spon. Philip Haffy; born April 20. AJW

May 22 Frances, daughter of Patrick Bergin and Mahker[?]; spon. Michael Martin and Mary Ann Evens. AJW

same day John Dominic, son of John Tool and Catherine Cunni[n]gham; spon. Philip Haffy and Mary Agnes Ennis. AJW

May 24 Elizabeth, daughter of Owen Haley and Mary McBride; spon. Roger O'Hara and Elizabeth Smith. AJW

May 28 Ann, daughter of William Koos and Ann Sachgel; spon. Remigius Kesinger and

Adelheid Brawn. AJW

May 31 Jesse, son of James Hartman and Mary Logan (born June 20, 1839); spon. Ann Ward.

same day Mary Ann (born 20 August, 1837), daughter of Nicholas[?] Aman and Catherine Here; spon. Jane Martin.

same day Mary (age 29), daughter of Jeremy Syms and Elizabeth Sanders and she is the wife of George Christy; spon. Dennis Cavanaugh and Ann Rogers

June 8 Thomas, son of Felix McGinnis and Catherine McDermit; spon. John and Ann McGery. AJW

June 12 Victoria, daughter of Michael Till and Barbara Simon, born May 26; spon. Gregory Hindley. AJW

June 17 Mary Louise (age 6 years 8 months), daughter of William Spurk and Eliza. Ann Vanhorn; spon. James and Martha Spurk. AJW

same day Martha, daughter of William Spurk and Eliza. Ann Vanhorn (age 3 years 8 months); spon. James Kinsley and Martha Spurk.

same day Anthony (born Oct. 13, 1839), son of William Spurk and Eliza. Ann Vanhorn; spon. James Kinsley and Martha Spurk. AJW

June 21 Mary Ann (born May 21), daughter of Rudolph Reede and Elizabeth Herholtzer; spon. John Huff and Margaret Berkey. AJW

June 24 John Joseph (born June 18), son of John Cassilly and Ann B. Harkins; spon. Philip Haffy and Mary Hughs. AJW

July 17 Mary Jane (born April 20), daughter of Philip Parker and Elizabeth Harman; spons. James and Mary Victor. AJW

July 30 Michael (born July 24), son of Michael Shields and Ann Harpil; spons. James Cashman and Margaret Rherden. AJW

August 2 John Remigius, son of Christian Sawyer and Ann Mary Tulei[?]; spons. Remigius Kesinger and Ann Kesinger

same day Elizabeth Barbara (born June 8), daughter of John Tienhauir and Mary Margaret Egim; spons. Peter Keltz and Elizabeth Keltz. AJW

same day Mary Elizabeth (born July 3), daughter of John McCormick and Rose Timoney; spons. Thomas McCormick and Isabel McCormick.

same day Ellen (born July 17) daughter of Thomas Prosser and Ann Mulligan; spons. James Homhon[?] and Susan Ryan. AJW

August 9 Frances (born March 24, 1819), daughter of Abner and Sarah Thomson; spons. John Cassilly and Elizabeth Harkins. AJW

August 20 Jane, born August 18 at 7p.m. of Thomas Condon and Mary Hand[?]; spons. James Kinsley and Thomas Hortin. Fr. Joseph S. Alemany

same day George William, born March 4, 1838, son of Enoch Mullen and Lucinda Shire [?]; spons. Michael Milligan and Susan Mullen.

same day Henry Louis, born 1839, son of Enoch Mullen and Lucinda ...ire; spons. Samuel and Mary Cist. AJW

September 3 William, born Sept. 1, son of Christopher Mullon [overwritten Mullvaney] and Ellen; spons. John Bashartz and Reginal Kessler. AJW

September 5 Jane, born Dec. 13, 1839, daughter of George Morrison and Elizabeth Rennels; spons. Martin Barry and Bridget Syron. AJW

September 6 William A., son of Isaac Osmond and Elizabeth Mattingly; spons. Joseph and his wife Mattingly. AJW

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September 6 Louis Albert, son of George Spurk and Ann Dugan; spons. Charles Keleen and Ann Cassilly. AJW

September 16 Elizabeth, on the day of her birth, daughter of Thomas Collopy and Margaret Bulman; spons. Mary Halacy. AJW

September 12 Hipolita, a few days old, daughter of Martin Postmet and Elizabeth From; spons. Philip Movakem.

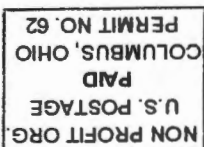
(To be continued)

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