

# Barquilla de la Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society -  
Diocese of Columbus

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Oct. 9: St. Denis of Paris

October, A.D. 1999

## The Church of the Assumption, Lawrence Township, Tuscarawas County

by Msgr. George J. Schlegel

*In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the oldest existing Catholic church in Tuscarawas County, Msgr. Schlegel has written a sketch of each Catholic church that has existed in the county. The sketches are being published serially in The Sacred Heart Beat, the newsletter of Sacred Heart Parish, New Philadelphia. The information presented here has been drawn from the first three parts of the series.*

Tuscarawas County forms the northeast corner of the present Diocese of Columbus. The first Catholic church to open in this part of the state of Ohio was St. John the Baptist, in Canton, in 1824. Subsequently, churches were built in Navarre, Stark County (St. Clement) 1833; Morges, Carroll County (St. Fidelis) 1834; Louisville, Stark County (St. Louis) 1836; and Calmoutier, Holmes County (Ste. Genevieve) 1836.

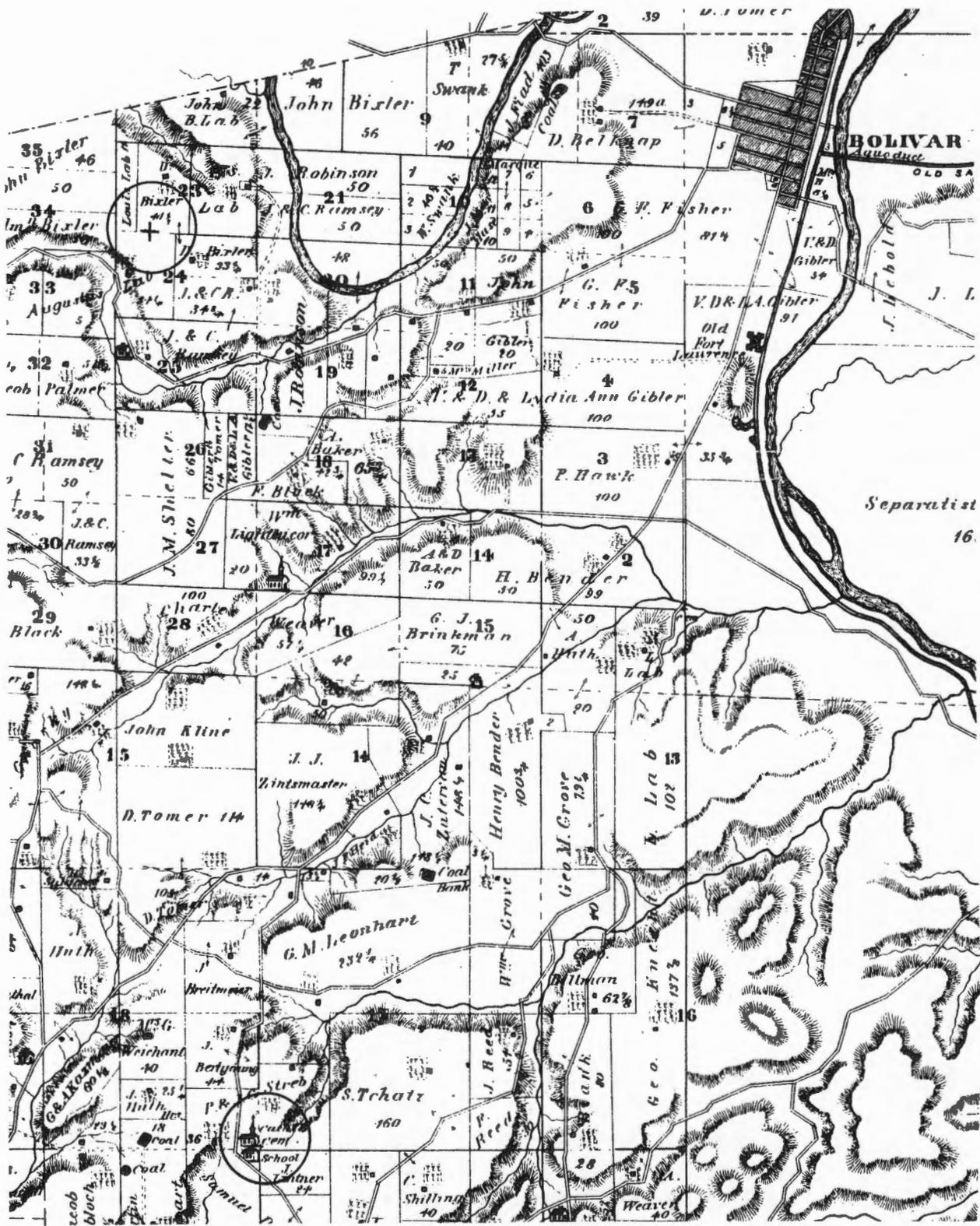
The first known Catholics of Tuscarawas County were farmers who had emigrated from France and Germany, and settled in Lawrence Township in the northern part of the county, in what were for some time known as the "Hessian Hills." In 1839, a group of these farmers incorporated in the state of Ohio as "St. Peter's Catholic Church of Bolivar." Construction of a church did not begin until 1840, and was not completed until 1841. Once the church was

completed, it was placed under the care of the new pastor of Canton, Father Mathias Wuertz, who visited only occasionally to care for the spiritual needs of the people.

Father Michael McAleer of Canton had reported visiting a large number of Catholics at Canal Dover in the central part of the county in 1838. Father John Luhr was assigned to organize the new German speaking parish of St. Peter in Canton at the end of 1844, and began periodic visits to Canal Dover in 1845. Construction of the first church began in 1849, and was completed the next year. In May of 1850 Father Peter Herman Joseph Muckerheide arrived as the first resident pastor of St. Joseph parish, with additional responsibilities of the churches of St. Peter in Lawrence Township, St. Fidelis in Morges, and St. Francis Xavier in Malvern, Carroll County. The second resident pastor, Father Dieter Martin Winands, arrived in 1853.

The third Catholic church of Tuscarawas County was that of the Assumption, a short distance west of Bolivar. The life of this church seems to have been totally dependent on the person of Father Augustin Rollinet, some time pastor of the church of Sainte Genevieve, in neighboring Holmes County.

Local tradition states that the church was two miles west, or three and a half miles northwest, of



This map of a portion of Lawrence Township, Tuscarawas County shows in the lower left old St. Peter's and in the upper left the site of the Church of the Assumption. From the Combination Atlas Map of Tuscarawas County, Ohio, L.J. Everts & Co., 1875, p 32. Courtesy of the State Library of Ohio.

the town of Bolivar, but that it can no longer be accurately located, as it was on the private property of one of the members. When not in use as a church, the building was known the local residents as "Pierre Lab's Blockhouse."

Father Rollinet, after being appointed to Calmoutier in 1849, began to care for the French speaking members of the predominately German Saint Peter church in Lawrence Township. Father Rollinet, and apparently other French priests, "were called as guests by the French settlers to baptize their children and to preside at the festivities celebrated by the French colony at the occasion of baptisms." Early in the latter half of 1850, some of the French-speaking parishioners withdrew from St. Peter, beginning the new congregation of the Assumption.<sup>1</sup>

In February of 1852, Father Rollinet wrote to Archbishop Purcell of Cincinnati, "Your Grace, in the two little French Missions of Bolivar and Mils creek, near Coshocton, in your diocese, the two chapels were built. They did not know about turning over to the Bishop the title to the land given for worship, cemetery, etc. That is why I beg Your Grace in your reply to impose on me the duty to rectify the title of these two small parishes and assure that way a regular stability for the future."

The statement "in your diocese" perhaps needs some clarification. The diocese of Cincinnati was divided in 1847, with the northern part of the state of Ohio being established as the Diocese of Cleveland. The original decree set the boundary between the two dioceses at forty degrees, forty-one minutes north latitude. This was soon amended, for practical reasons, to a boundary along county lines. Counties divided by the line of the original decree were to go entirely to the diocese in which the greater part of the county had originally been placed. By this decision, Holmes county, entirely south of the line, belonged to the Diocese of Cincinnati, as did

Tuscarawas County. However, by agreement between the two bishops, the Bishop of Cleveland accepted responsibility for Holmes County and its two Catholic churches. Thus Father Rollinet wrote as a priest of the Diocese of Cleveland about two missions in the Diocese (Archdiocese since 1850) of Cincinnati. The final disposition of Holmes County was not settled until 1868, when it became a part of the newly established Diocese of Columbus.

It seems evident that Archbishop Purcell did give Father Rollinet the requested direction, as the property was transferred to the Archbishop's name on April 8, 1852.<sup>2</sup> It is described as one half acre and the buildings thereon, 371 feet east of the southwest corner of a forty-two acre tract owned by Joseph and Jeane Saint Voirin. The Saint Voirin property is described as a portion of Lot 23 of the Military Lands in quarter township two. The location of the church half acre is the southwest edge of a hilltop at 81° 29' 45" west and 40° 38' 43" north. There is no immediate public access to the location, but it is within a quarter mile of County Road 99, the Strasburg-Bolivar Road. This places the former church site about two and a quarter miles west-southwest of the center of Bolivar. It is interesting to note that the Wills Creek mission property in Coshocton County was not transferred to the Archbishop until 1856.

In the death register of Ste. Genevieve church, under the date of February 19, 1852, Father Rollinet lists the burial of Françoise Morhang, wife of Pierre Etienne Lab, who had died the day before.<sup>3</sup> Burial was at "Assumption cemetery among the French people of Bolivar." No other record of this cemetery has been located. Mrs. Lab now is memorialized on a tombstone in the Catholic cemetery in Bolivar.

Father Rollinet was released from parish work near the end of 1852, to begin novitiate with the Society of Mary at Dayton. His departure

marked the practical end of the Church of the Assumption.

Father Rollinet returned to Calmoutier as pastor in 1856, remaining there until his death, January 1, 1859. He did nothing in those final years to resurrect the Church of the Assumption, probably because the new church of St. Martin in the town of Bolivar was by then in operation, making the rural chapel of the Assumption unnecessary.

#### NOTES

1) V. Rev. John N. Lenhart, O.F.M.Cap., *The History of Old St. Peter's*, [1952], p 49.

2) Tuscarawas County Deed Record 32/315. One day earlier, on April 7, 1852, Louis, Alexis, and Auguste Lab (sons of Pierre and Marie Françoise Lab), in return for \$5.00, agreed that on or before September 1, 1857 they would give Archbishop Purcell a deed for a piece of land in the northwest corner of lot 24, Quarter 2, Township 10, Range 2, with buildings, improvements, and appurtenances. This was some seven hundred feet west of the site sold to the Archbishop by the Saint Voirins. No further mention of either site can be found in the deed records.

3) See the *Bulletin*, Vol. VIII, No. 5 (May, 1982), page 136.



### St. Martin (Now St. Stephen) Cemetery, Bolivar

Some history of this cemetery will be presented in the November *Bulletin*. This reading was checked against the one published some years ago by the Tuscarawas County Genealogical Society; a few differences were found and newer stones are now present. Rows are numbered from west to east and are read from the central drive outward. Brackets or braces indicate inscriptions on the same stone.

#### Row 1 North

{Augustus C. Lab, born March 16, 1821, died Oct. 13, 1882, aged 61 Y's 6 M & 27 D  
{Mary F. wife of Augustus C. Lab, born Dec. 10, 1827, died Sept. 18, 1887, aged 59Y 9M 8D  
Valentine Gilbert, born 1798, died Dec. 17, 1881, aged 83 yrs  
two illegible stones  
Geo. Bachtel, born 1803, died Feb. 20, 1881, aged 71 y  
Lewis J. Kaufman, born Sept. 4, 1862, died Dec. 15, 1876  
John B., son of Alexix & M. Lab, Died Dec. 7, 1876 aged 18 y'rs 10 ms & 17 ds  
Malinda wife of A. F. Agnes, died Aug. 10, 1876, aged 22 Y 7 m 7 d  
Franz Kienzle, geboren Oct. 5, 1849, gestorben Feb. 11, 1875 Alt. 25 Jr 4 m 6 t  
{Lab: (Father) Alexis, 1827-1908  
{ (Mother) Mary, 1837-1873  
Isidor, Sohn von H. & C. Strobel, geb. 15 Apr. 1838, gest. 9 Mar. 1863 Alt. 24 J 10 m 24 t  
Barbara Gilbert, died July 31, 1861, aged 10 yrs 1? m 16 d  
And'w Gilbert, Co. G., 126 Ohio Inf.  
(Mother) remainder illegible  
Elizabeth Gilbert, 1839-1917  
Mary A. Hammer, July 25, 1862-Nov. 21, 1952  
John Hammer, May 8, 1852-Apr. 5, 1935

Row 2 North

{Lab: Marie Francoise, 1795-1852  
{ Peter Stephan, 1797-1877  
{ Francis E., 2nd wife, born in France  
Felix Pfeffer, died Apr. 13, 1860, aged 51 Y 7 M 5 D [TCGS reading; now illegible]  
Katharina, wife of Friedrich Kohl, ---- 2- Nov., 1807, ---- -- Aug., 1882?  
Mary A., wife of P. A. Lab, born Jan. 20, 1860, died Jan. 19, 1884, aged 23 yrs  
{Joseph Kohl, born Feb. 11, 1833, died Dec. 6, 1884  
{Mary E. wife of Joseph Kohl, born Nov. 5, 1827, died Oct. 16, 1887  
Elizabeth S. Agnes, born Apr. 14, 1859, died Jan. 19, 1885  
Josephene Malcuit, born 1862, died 1886, age 24 Y.  
{John Streb, born Mar. 2, 1811, died Apr. 2, 1889  
{Anna Mary wife of J. Streb, born Mar. 19, 1811, died July 5, 1897  
Lewis B., son of Alexis & M. Lab, died June 20, 1885, aged 22 yrs 9 m 22? d  
{Philippine wife of Peter Egler, born Jan. 6, 1842, died May 12, 1889, aged 47 yrs 4 m 6 d  
{Peter Egler, born July 19, 1836, died July 4, 1891, aged 54 y 11 m 15 d  
George Schilling, born Jan. 13, 1846, died Apr. 26, 1893  
{(Mother) Mary wife of Celestien Malcuit, born 1835, died 1892, age 57 Y  
{Charley Malcuit, born 1877, died 1893, age 16 Y  
Regina Heim, 1820-1894  
Clara C. daughter of John G. & C. Streb, born Feb. 24, 1879, died Nov. 14, 1894, aged 15 y 8 m  
20 d  
{Streb: John G., Nov. 5, 1848-Jan. 1, 1932  
{ Catherine Antony his wife, Mar. 6, 1856-July 11, 1913  
Florence H. Fisher, Aug. 26, 1894-Jan. 29, 1917  
Mary E. Blend, 1897+1920  
Richard John, son of Asa & Helen Marshall, 1934-1938  
Josephine M. C. Lab, 1862+1924  
{Kohl: Anna E., 1867-1924  
{ Lena M., 1862-1927  
[Fete: Elizabeth M., 1869-1948  
[ Amos A., 1864-1936  
Helen Annette Marie Christiner, Oct. 13, 1906 - Dec. 30., 1980  
{Stephens: Phyllis A., Sept. 1, 1923 - blank  
{ Charles D., Feb. 26, 1922 - blank

Row 3 North

Sgt. Felix Lab, Co. C 2nd Inf., Sept. 9, 1829-Nov. 29, 1896  
{Alexander Agnus, born Jan. 1, 1825, died Oct. 16, 1901, aged 76 Y 9 M 1 D  
{Sophia wife of A. Agnus, died Mar. 28, 1897, aged 70 y's  
[Kohl: William F. 1864-1910  
[ Matilda C. 1867-1940  
{Lab: Mary A. (Mother) 1866-1950  
{ John L. (Father) 1860-1937 Rest in Peace  
[Girard: Felicia M. 1854-1936

[ Charles T. 1858-1939  
 {Henrietta Lab, born Sept. 24, 1832, died Jan. 29, 1917  
 {Louis Lab, born Mar. 1, 1825, died Nov. 1, 1900 Requiescant in pace  
 [Amable C. Lab, Jan. 15, 1827 - Sept. 12, 1902  
 [John P. Lab, May 15, 1819 - Nov. 20, 1900  
 Mary E. wife of Owen Foley, 1856-1906 Rest in Peace  
 Xeviar Malcuit, born 1856, died 1906, age 50 Y  
 {Zeiger: Magdalena 1832-1916  
 { Conrad 1827-1907  
 Leon'd Huth, Co. H 100 Ohio Inf.  
 {(Father) Celestien Malcuit, born 1833, died 1915, age 82 Y.  
 {Felix Malcuit, born 1871, died 1912, age 41 Y.  
 Jennie J. wife of Andrew Rohn, Feb. 2, 1862 - Jan. 16, 1925  
 Mary Heim wife of Louis Krantz 1857-1928  
 {Lab: Henry J. 1871-1960  
 { Anna J. 1871-1955  
 (Mother) Mary H. Malcuit, Oct. 29, 1894?-Nov. 8, 1953 [The 9 of 1894 is cut as a zero, with the  
 a line partially cut across to form either 8 or 9.]  
 David Charles son of Phyllis & Charles Stephens, Oct. 18, 1948-Nov. 25, 1953

#### Row 4 North

two matching stones, now illegible, read by TCGS as:

- Louisa Celesta daughter of L. & L. Bucher, died Feb. 29, 1888 aged 1 Y 1 D  
 - Stephen son of ----  
 Howard son of R.M. & L.M. Frederick, died Oct. 23, 1891, aged 4 yrs 4 ms 28 d  
 Victor A. son of H. & A. Lab, born Dec. 26, 1894, died Aug. 15, 1895  
 Charles, son of L. & M. Lab, 1895-1895  
 {Meininger: Clarence E. 1896-1896  
 { Ollie M. 1898-1899  
 Mariena C. daughter of John G. & C. Streb, born Sept. 13, 1896, died Apr. 14, 1901  
 Howard E. & Harold E. sons of Chas. E. & Mary A. Murray, 1900-1901  
 {children of J.C. & M.E. Lab:  
 {Clara E. Lab, Feb. 16, 1903 - June 13, 1906  
 {John S. Lab, June 16, 1904 - Feb. 9, 1905  
 James son of Conrad & Catherine Rieger June 14, 1933  
 Walter H. son of Walter H. & Evelyn Trachsel July 18, 1935 - Mar. 9, 1936  
 {Huth: (Mother) Cornelia E. 1894-1981  
 { (Father) Irvin F. 1880-1951  
 [Pay: Carma 1891-1970  
 [ Lawrence 1883-1951  
 {Kienzle: Mary C. 1890-1979  
 { Albert C. 1888-1961  
 [Burkhart: Lillian M. Jan. 2, 1887 - Oct. 30, 1964  
 [ Roy J. Aug. 30, 1909 - May 15, 1953 PFC 464 AAA AW BN CAC World War II

(To be concluded)

## Abstracts from *The Catholic Telegraph*

(Continued from Vol. XXIV, No. 8)

September 21, 1848 (concluded)

EPISCOPAL VISITATION. -- Delaware, on Tuesday the 26th inst., and on the following Friday, Xenia, where arrangements will be made for the erection of a new church.

September 28, 1848

EPISCOPAL VISITATION. -- Logan, Hocking Co. -- The Bishop preached in the court-house on Tuesday evening, 19th inst., and on the following day the new Church of St. John was blessed, and forty-three persons confirmed. This new church, the improvements made since our last visit in the church of Lancaster, and the large number of eminently well instructed candidates for confirmation, attest the zeal and devotion of the Rev. Josue M. Young, who has applied himself so diligently and successfully to the study of the German, in behalf of a large portion of his flock, which must otherwise have been left destitute of instruction -- as to be able to converse and preach fluently in that language. On Thursday there were three confirmed in the church of Our Lady of Dolours, Chauncey, Athens co., which we had not been able to visit before, this year, as announced. This congregation needs more pastoral attention than can, unfortunately, for the present, be afforded to it. Again another confirmation of a young lawyer, from Pomeroy, at Logan.

Columbus. -- The Church of the Holy Cross greatly improved since its dedication. Sanctuary and altar beautiful -- choir excellent -- Pastor devoted -- people faithful -- seventy-five confirmed. Rev. Josue M. Young preached an impressive and well reasoned sermon, in the afternoon, on invocation of Saints, especially on the honor due to Mary and her power in heaven.

Subscriptions: -- Dautremont, Wheelersburg, O.; D. McCarthy, Logan, O.

October 5, 1848

EPISCOPAL VISITATION. -- Among the confirmed at Columbus were nine converts.

At Delaware, church was held in the house of a worthy German Catholic. There were several communions and three confirmed, one of whom was a convert from Lutheranism. Bishop preached to a large audience in the court house.

*Springfield ... Xenia...*

Subscription: Mrs. Harper, Lancaster, O.

October 19, 1848

The Corner Stone of a new Church was laid on the 11th inst. by Rev. Mr. Luhr, at Canal Dover. The communication referred to by our correspondent respecting the ceremony has not been received.

The corner Stone of a new Church was placed last Sunday, in Lawrence county, between the Pine-Grove and Etna Furnaces, by Rev. Mr. Thienpont. Rev. Mr. Gavienzel, of this city, preached twice on the occasion, to immense audiences.

Subscription: John Gallagher, Batesville, O.

October 26, 1848

Subscription: Joseph Lilly, Lancaster, O.

November 2, 1848

[This issue contains an account of the laying of the cornerstone of the Cathedral in Cleveland.]

November 16, 1848

Subscriptions: David Eckenrode, Danville, O. A. Buckingham, Danville, O.

December 7, 1848

[An account of the dedication of St. James Church, Wheeling, "one of the handsomest and

cheapest Gothic structures erected on this or the other side of the mountains."]

**Subscriptions:**

Hugh Brenan, Marietta, O.  
John McNally, Frankfort, O.  
Dr. McNally, Chillicothe, O.  
William Brophy, Michael Boyle, and Raph. Payne, Mt. Vernon, O.  
Ed Gallagher and Chrs. Gallagher, Batesville, O.

**December 14, 1848**

Died, at Lancaster, O., 8th inst., HUGH BOYLE, Esq., at a very advanced age. The deceased, a native of Ireland, was one of the Pioneers of our Great Valley and State and an early settler of Fairfield County where he spent a great part of his life in the public service. He was consoled in his final moments by the rites of Religion, and sank calmly to rest, without a struggle or a sigh or a wish to remain longer here. May his soul rest in peace. Amen.

**December 21, 1848**

[On "Sunday week" Rev. Casper Borgess was ordained a priest by Rt. Rev. Dr. Whelan, Bishop of Richmond, at St. Peter's Cathedral.]

**DIED --** In Cincinnati, October 30, Miss Mary Terrill, a native of Lancaster, Ohio, and a convert to the Catholic Faith. During a residence of four years in this city, she edified the church by her fidelity to all the duties of our holy religion.

**Subscriptions:**

John O'Rourke, Rehoboth, O.

Rev. N. D. Young, Somerset, O.  
Rev. E. Thienpont, Portsmouth, O.  
Jacob Fink, Somerset, O.  
Thomas Ewing, Lancaster, O.

**December 28, 1848**

**Subscriptions:**

Denis M'Connell and W. M. Anderson, Chillicothe, O.; Rev. P. Carabin, Newark, O.; James Postlewaite, Homer, O.

**January 11, 1849**

**DIOCESES OF CINCINNATI AND CLEVELAND. --**

In order to prevent any misunderstanding, or uncertainty, with regard to the extent of jurisdiction, as defined only by the Geographical line of 40 deg. 41 min., the Right Rev. Bishops of these two dioceses have agreed among themselves, and they direct us to publish, that the counties of Mercer, Auglaze, Hardin, Marion, Morrow, Knox, Tuscarawas, Carroll, Jefferson, which belong to the diocese of Cincinnati shall constitute the northern boundary of the diocese of Cincinnati. And that all the counties north of those just named, shall compose the diocese of Cleveland. Holmes county, which is for the greater part south of the line above traced, is by mutual consent, assigned to the diocese of Cleveland. Any new counties that may hereafter be formed, by the authority of the Legislature, will belong to that diocese in which the largest portion of them will be situated. Application will be made, as early as possible, to the Holy See, to sanction this arrangement. In the meantime, the clergy of the two dioceses can regard it as having already received such sanction.

(To be continued)

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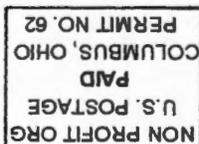
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