



Barquilla de la Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society - Diocese of Columbus

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Mar. 27: St. Rupert, Missionary to Bavaria

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A GLIMPSE OF THE OHIO VALLEY

or

Letters about the Struggle and Revival of the Catholic Church in the Far West of the United States of North America

by Rev. John Martin Henni

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

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This valuable text, which sheds considerable light on the condition of the Church in Ohio and the Ohio Valley in the 1830s and earlier, originally consisted of twelve "begging letters" in German, sent to the Archbishop of Munich-Freysing in Bavaria by the missionary priest John Martin Henni, later Bishop of Milwaukee. Henni gathered them together, appended notes, and had them published in Munich in 1836 by Franz Seraph Hübschmann.

In the late 1970s the late Monsignor Herman Mattingly learned of the book and located a copy at the Benedictine Archabbey Library of St. Vincent, Latrobe, Pa. Monsignor Joseph Hakel, then pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Columbus, kindly undertook the great task of translating the text for the Society. It was the intention of the Society to publish the work in booklet form, but since that has proven impossible during the intervening twenty years, we now propose to publish the work in this and the next two annual volumes of the Bulletin, so that the entire work will appear in the next triennial bound volume. This is estimated to require some 75 pages or roughly one-quarter of the space in the Bulletin during this three year period, but we believe devoting such resources to this cause will be worthwhile.

The numbered endnotes of the letters were appended by Henni when the booklet was prepared. Notes in square brackets [] are those of the translator or the late Monsignor Mattingly or the current editor; the titles of the letters have also been added. We begin with the booklet's foreword.

To His Excellency the Most Reverend Lothar Anselm, Archbishop of München-Freysing, Knight of the Bavarian Royal Order of Saint Hubert, Grand Cross of the Royal Bavarian Civil Service, Commander and Counselor of the Archducal-Tuscan Order of Saint Joseph.

Since Church affairs, even in far distant lands, enjoy the grace and favor of Your Excellency, and America especially has enjoyed Your Excellency's pastoral kindness, gratitude makes it a duty to show in several sketches whether a renewed appeal to yourself for further goodwill might be made with confidence in your customary responsiveness and goodness.

That some reports of our mission activities might be made was also the expressed wish made to me by a number of very zealous and esteemed members of the Bavarian clergy. Therefore, I did not hesitate to satisfy in some measure this

desire, especially since I had drafted some letters at the request of one of my outstanding benefactors, the teacher of my youth, the Very Rev. and learned Dr. Johann P. Mirer, former Prefect, Professor and Episcopal Vicar, and now Dean and Pastor of Sargans in St. Gallen, Switzerland. In accordance with this intention of mine and to respond to the impulse of a grateful heart, I composed the following account in the form of letters to my above mentioned benefactor (a form that makes it easier to preserve continuity). He it was who seemed to see in my modest vocation a sign of Divine Providence, and through his conviction and that of others, helped to sever those bonds which seemed to bind me doubly to my family and my fatherland.

The purpose of this presentation cannot ignore the charity of Christian friends of religion. Here we have the cooperation of brothers working together for the honor of God and the support of those far from home in the establishment of the Church we share together.

To this expression of our mutual entreaties I feel all the more impelled because the will and firm intention of my Most Reverend Superior is presently to allow me to depart soon from the scene of my labors in Ohio where I have lived for seven years.

The sacrifices and hardships which advance the expansion of the Church of Christ in all ages, are great and extraordinary. Even greater are the difficulties of making such conquests of the Faith, of binding them together and of firmly establishing the united congregations in towns and forests without the help of necessary assistance. The quick progress of civilization in a new land of immeasurable extent, the swift increase of the population, and the sudden influx of immigrants exceed ordinary measures of time and help. It is a most difficult task to provide on time even the barest essentials for the greatest

needs of mankind and to be able to keep them firmly settled.

This distress of the American Church was described by the bishops assembled in 1829 at Baltimore in their letter to Pope Pius VIII of blessed memory in the following words: "The small number of priests and workers which has not at all grown with the needs of our dioceses, the evangelization of the little ones who hunger for the Bread and the Word of God, our heart transfixed as it were by a sword seeing the lack of those who could break that Bread to them, the shortage of means to maintain students in our seminaries, these are evils that urgently demand remedy from us."

Nevertheless, they [the bishops] are exceedingly consoled by the growth of the tiny grain of seed. They write, "We see these developing churches presented with such great blessings from God, and this vineyard so beautifully prospering, that those who planted and watered it, and those who harvested it and trod the overflowing wine press, must acknowledge and admire the finger of God."

Another source of consolation is the charity of fellow Christians. At an opportune time and in abundance, the charitable gifts of Catholic Europe poured in. Even though distributed widely in all directions, they brought and still bring new life to the development of the Church, new vigor to the bishops, and new courage to the missionaries who bore the heat of the day.

And now with glad confidence in the patronage of Your Grace, and your Most Reverend brother bishops, we await the further charity and generosity of the pious faithful of Bavaria towards the diocese of Cincinnati and America in general. Their charity is a proverb in the mouth of all Europe. And while the Most Reverend Bishops set a shining example of Christian generosity, the excellent Bavarian clergy shrank

from no sacrifice to come to the relief of the spiritual needs of so many souls redeemed by Christ. May these noble priests, full of zeal for souls and the faithful entrusted to them by their reverend chief shepherd, accept the thanks of the missionaries and, what is more precious, the thanks of those saved for eternal life. Their reward is from God, for the names of those who assist in the spread of the Gospel are written in the Book of Life.

May the young Church of North America be commended to the apostolic zeal and prayers of Your Grace. To express their most sincere thanks is the holiest duty of the undersigned.

With expressions of deepest respect and devotion, I am, Your Grace,

Your most humble,

J. M. HENNY, Missionary.

LETTER 1 U.S. Dioceses and the Far West

Very Reverend and Learned Dean!
Best Patron!

I still owe you an actual answer to your valued letter of January 20th which I received in Cincinnati, Ohio, a few months before my departure. "Write me very much, etc., about the blossoming land," so runs your admonition to me. I could weary you now with so much more detail, partly because I am the reporter and partly because I have more leisure after completing my journey, to put in order my previously made notes.

Do you want interesting things about our distant mission and Church conditions? In my opinion the most interesting news would be about the Far West if it be presented in the proper light and

context. For our Missions here are basically the fruit of a century and a half of continual struggle, made new only by new obstacles among new persons and under new circumstances and regimes. What progress the Catholic Church has made in general in the United States of America in the last 40 years is known to you from many reports. You know that we already number twelve bishoprics in the same Province where about 40 years ago hardly a Vicariate General could be found.

A. At the head stands Baltimore rightly as the oldest bishopric and up to now the only archbishopric. The present archbishop is S[amuel] Eccleston, an American, with jurisdiction over the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia. He is also administrator of the vacant diocese of Richmond, which comprises the state of Virginia. This entire archdiocese is cared for by 68 priests.

B. The bishopric of New Orleans comprises the states of Louisiana and Mississippi. The bishop is A[nthony] Blanc,¹ a Frenchman. Priests, 27.

C. The bishopric of Bardstown stretches over the states of Kentucky and Tennessee,



The Cathedral at Baltimore. When its cornerstone was blessed in 1806, this cathedral represented the only diocese in the U.S.

headed by Bishop [Benedict] Flaget, together with his Coadjutor [Guy Ignatius] Chabrat [S.S.], both Frenchmen, with 33 priests.

D. The bishopric of Philadelphia comprises the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware together with the western part of New Jersey. The bishop is Most Reverend [Henry] Conwell with his Coadjutor Fr. G. [Francis P.] Kenrick, both natives of Ireland. Priests, 45.

E. The bishopric of New York encompasses the state of the same name as well as the eastern half of the state of New Jersey. The bishop is the Most Reverend Jno. [Henry John] Dubois [S.S.], a Frenchman, with 35 priests.

F. The bishopric of Boston, at whose head an American, Benedict Fenwick, stands, comprises the northernmost six small states, called New England states. Priests, 25.

G. The bishopric of Charleston includes the states of North and South Carolina, together with Georgia. The bishop is Most Reverend Jno. England with a Coadjutor or Auxiliary Bishop, [William Clancy], both Irishmen. Priests, 17.

H. The bishopric of Cincinnati comprises the state of Ohio. The bishop is Most Reverend John Baptist Purcell, an Irishman, with 19 priests.

I. The bishopric of St. Louis covers the state of Missouri and the west half of the state of Illinois, together with the territory of Arkansas and the rest of those lying west of the Mississippi. The bishop is the Most Reverend Joseph Renati, from Italy, with 39 priests.

K. The bishopric of Mobile, of which the Most Reverend Michael Portier, a Frenchman, is bishop, stretches over the state of Alabama and the eastern and western territory of Florida. Priests, 11.

L. The bishopric of Detroit includes Michigan and the Northwest Territory. The bishop is the Most Reverend Friederich Rese, a German, with 18 priests.

M. The bishopric of Vincennes which includes the state of Indiana together with the eastern half of the state of Illinois. The bishop is

the Most Reverend Simon Bruté (Frenchman) with 4 priests.

From this quick review the dioceses arranged according to their dates of establishment, it is clear how much was accomplished in a short time for the expansion of our Holy Church, which will grow stronger and more enduring roots in measureless regions, through the labors of almost 340 priests with a total of nearly a million² Catholics, while the total population of the United States at present comes to about 14 million people. However, I intend to limit my remarks to only a part of the above regions, namely, the Far West - so called because of its great distance from the former eastern colonies, that on this side are bounded by the Allegheny mountains, and on the far side by the Atlantic sea coast.

The Far West was called "backwoods" by the colonists, and often even "bloody ground" because of the many bloody wars waged there in former times with the aboriginal inhabitants.

The Far West now includes the entire Mississippi Valley which has a number of tributary valleys formed by connecting streams. The western boundary of this huge valley is formed by the Oregon mountains, i.e., the Rocky Mountains, from the foot of which plains on various levels descend toward the south and north up to the Mississippi. From the Father of Waters in like formation the Allegheny Mountain range appears in the east. From both mountain heights many smaller streams arise and empty into either the Ohio or the Mississippi. Toward the north this main valley stretches unbroken by any mountains to the beautiful lakes which give this vast wilderness variety and life. As only America rivals America in national grandeur, so can the Mississippi Valley be compared only to the Amazon River.

Of the tributary valleys, the most important are

those that are formed by the Missouri and the Ohio rivers; and of these two, the latter, the Ohio Valley, is the most notable, because it is better known, most populous and outstanding for its location and productiveness. Its ground, like the west generally, is lush with extremely varied vegetation. It is rich in animal life and in no way laid waste by suffocating ash or wide streams of lava from dead volcanoes like in South America. Bypassed by the glacier, the sparse evergreen trees are scattered among the proud oaks and the highest peaks of the Alleghenies in the splendor of the lingering evening sun. The greatest part of this land is generally devoted to agriculture; and though it does not seem to be rich in precious metals such as silver which the southern area produces, yet it is perhaps inexhaustible in lead and iron, coal deposits and salt mines.

This Ohio Valley includes the states of Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, a part of Illinois, and the larger half of Tennessee, the western part of Pennsylvania and Virginia. To it the daily emigrations from Europe and even the Atlantic colonies now stream in many directions; here, as also in the Missouri Valley, is the showplace of the most productive activity and flourishing of our holy religion since the Ohio, like a mighty guardian deity at least hinders that Negro slave trade and slavery that foreshadows its own punishment in the south and east. Scarcely 40 years ago an unbroken ocean as it were of virgin forest still spread over this valley, even though earlier attempts at colonization had been made, especially by Canadian hunters. Not so long ago this was the home of ferocious wild animals where today homesteads and towns arise; here in the homeland of warring tribes of wild men, three million people now enjoy in security the blessings of civilization. And now I hasten to present in short sketches with what effort our religion advanced from the earliest times in these forests of measureless wilderness and planted its Cross there; how it struggled and even seemed to be overcome; how it finally in our days emerged

gloriously from this solitude and hurries to spread its light.

NOTES

1. Not having the latest official notice, I do not yet know whether this worthy Vicar was actually made bishop. This only is certain, that he consented to the unanimous wishes of the United States bishops, and by them was earnestly requested of the Holy See to be the successor of the Most Reverend De Necker [Leo De Neckere, C.M.] who already wanted him to be his coadjutor. The Very Reverend Jeanjean refused to take upon himself such a burdensome office, and Rome has also likely listened to his reasons.

2. The total number of Catholics in the Provinces [States] of the United States was estimated at 540,000 by the Provincial Council of Bishops that met in Baltimore in 1829.

Later addition to note 1: We know now from a reliable source that Anthony Blanc, former vicar general, was appointed by Rome as successor to the Most Reverend Leo De Neckere, C.M., and was actually consecrated as Bishop of New Orleans on Nov. 12, 1835, the last Sunday after Pentecost.

(To be continued)



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

(Continued, from Vol. XXV, No. 2)

1836, continued

January 23 James, son of George Chri[s]ty and Sarah Simms; spon. Martha Conway. Fr. Joseph Jarboe, O.S.D.

February 21 John, son of William Roose [*interlinea*: Koos] and Anna Maria Schlagle;

spons. Ramake Kesingner and Helen Rhodoher. JTJ

February 24 Joseph, son of James Debolt and Mary Keltz; sons. Ann Fitsimmons. JTJ

February 27 William Henry, son of George Spurck and Ann Dugan; spons. Thomas Hughes and Margaret Barret. JTJ

February 28 Francis Greening Flanagan, son of Francis Flanagan and Catherine Greening; spons. Mary Mead. JTJ

March 4 William James, son of James Harman and Mary Logan; spons. William McCaddon and his wife. JTJ

March 25 Sarah, daughter of James Marshal and Sarah Rosse; spons. Margaret Lynch. JTJ

March 26 Mary, daughter of Louis Kiernan and Elizabeth Carr; spons. James and Electa Small.

same day Thomas Andrew son of Peter Cassilly and Catherine Shorb; spons. Thomas Cassilly. JTJ

March 31 Susan Catherine, daughter of Joseph Wine and Cynthia Ann Hasket; spons. Maranda J. A. Hasket. JTJ

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April 3 James, son of Robert Israel; spons. Ann Hasket. C. P. Montgomery, O.S.D.

April 11 Mary Ann, daughter of Thomas McMahn and Bridget Martin; spons. Chidney and Margaret Mattingly. CPM

April 14 Elizabeth, daughter of Christopher Mulvaney and Elenor Mullen; spons. B. C. Taylor. CPM

April 17 Mary, daughter of Jacob Huff and Maria Eighman; spons. Anton and Maria Anna Huff. CPM

same day Francis J., son of Francis J. Heiner and Catherine Shran(?); spons. Elizabeth Venord and Francis Werner. CPM

April 23 Mary Ann, daughter of John Cassilly and Bridget Harkins; spons. Richard Dugan and Mary Victor. CPM

April 28 Michael, son of Jeremy McCarty and Ann Berk; spons. Martin and Ally Kennady. CPM

April 29 Catherine, daughter of William Lynch and Catherine Raymelia; spons. Patrick Gorg [Gory?].

same day John, son of James Divine and Mary McDonough; spons. Thomas Gory.

same day Bridget, daughter of William Lynch and Catherine Raymelia; spons. Denis Ryan. CPM

May 2 Maria Anna, daughter of Theobald Cappel and Catharina Moffey; spons. Willibald Kuss [Koos] and Maria Schlegel. Aleman

May 8 Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Orndo[r]ff and Catherine Harkins; spons. Andrew and Margaret Dugan. CPM

May 15 Catherine, daughter of Ignatius Roole and Magdalen Fisher; spons. Mary Ann Keltz. CPM

May 23 Sarah, daughter of Henry Musselman and Lydia Mart; spons. Michael Rigney and Christine Lynch. CPM

May 24 Elizabeth Cryner; spons. Margaret Watkins. CPM

May 29 Robert, son of Robert Keightly and Frances Brown.

June 2 Lora Josephine, daughter of George H. Flood and Catherine Gory; spon. Mary E. Mead. CPM

June 9 Anthony, son of Joseph Ruder and Anastasia Hyme; spon. Fidelis Findley and Gertrude Fisher. CPM

same day Sarah, daughter of Salem McCoy and Margaret Musselman; spon. Ann McCaddon.

same day Michael R., son of Richard Magher and Catherine Cantwell; spon. John Brennan and Ann Dorsy. CPM

July 3 Barbara C., daughter of Elias Speers and Mary Ann Dugan; spon. Ann Rogers. CPM

July 10 William, son of James Heenan and Charlotte Filon; spon. Robert Keightly. CPM

July 23 Joseph, son of James Mamea [perhaps Morris?] and Mary Ann Miller; spon. Joseph Morris and Helen Rhodecker. CPM

July 30 was baptized Elizabeth, daughter of Anton Eberst and Catharina Grether, born the 23rd of this month; spon. Gregor Henle and Barbara Bassarts.

same day was baptized Catherine, daughter of Michael Till and Barbara Simon, born June 15; spon. William Fallen and Mary Ann Huck.

July 31 Isabel and Ann McCaddon, daughters of John McCaddon and Susan, that one thirteen and this eleven years old and converts to the Roman Catholic faith; spon. William McCaddon for Ann, and for Isabel, Barbara Caroline Taylor. +Joan. B. Ep. Cth

same day Mary J., daughter of David Victor and Ann Sweeny; spon. Ann B. Cassilly. CPM

same day Elizabeth Doherty; spon. John Faust(?) and Sarah Lochory. CPM

August 16 Thomas, son of Frances Cassay at the moment of death. CPM

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August 22 Philip, son of William Monahan and Louise Romine; spon. Cecilia Wine. CPM

August 24 Mary, daughter of George Mart and Mary Smith; spon. Catherine McMahan. CPM

August 28 Elizabeth Ann, daughter of George Christy and Sarah Simms; spon. John Tool and Mary Flin. CPM

Sept. 18 James, son of Francis McDonough and Jane; spon. John Cassilly and Ann Worel. CPM

September 25 Herman, son of Nicholas Long and Maria Boost; spon. Mary Ann Koos. CPM

same day Eleanor, daughter of John Tool and Catherine Cunnigham; spon. Margaret Lynch. CPM

October 2 Elizabeth Ann, daughter of Joseph Ruoh [*interlinea* Rosh] and Barbara Waver; spon. Martin and Elizabeth Deedobeck. CPM

October 7 Maria Catharina, daughter of Windlin Kaudz and Magdalena Roll; spon. Joseph Roll. CPM

October 9 Denis, son of Edward Farrel and Margaret Denny; spon. William McCaddon. CPM

November 1 Joseph Hasket, convert; spons.
Elizabeth Padgit. CPM

November 6 Charlotte Mary Rink, daughter of
Francis Rink and Frances Margaret Koll;
spons. Gaspar and Catharina Dedepeck. CPM

November 7 Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel
Farrel and Rebecca Fox; spons. Edward Farrel.
CPM

November 20 Peter, son of George Hunt and
Mary Fall; spons. Peter Shrom and Barbara
Shrom. CPM

November 24 Conrad, son of Fidelis Hengley
and Victoria Bider; spons. Joseph Bider and
Sophia Stlzer [sic]. CPM

same day Catherine, daughter of Minrod
Stehle and Gertrude Fisher; spons. Fidelis
Kisler and Barbara Simon. CPM

November 27 Eveline, daughter of John
Masterson and Rose Rogan; spons. Patrick
McCannon and Mary Ennis. CPM

December 20 Ann, daughter of Michael
Meltner and Ann Mary Reigherton; spons.
Fidelis Kisler and Ann Fitsimmons. CPM

December 25 Sarah Catherine, daughter of
George Ratliff and Susan Simmr [sic]; spons.
Sarah Martial. CPM

1837

January 1 John, son of George Powers and
Catherine Snider; spons. John Emert and
Margaret Ross. CPM

January 8 Nicholas, son of Martin Hooren and
Elizabeth Maura; spons. Nicholas Grether and
Barabar Dedebeck. CPM

January 30 Elmira Jane, daughter of William
Conklin and Brodget McKernan; spons. Ann
McKernan. CPM

February 12 Catherine, daughter of Chrystus
Sore and Maria Dutzin; spons. William Koos
and Catharina Cappel. CPM

February 5 John, son of John Emmert and
Margaret Goss; spons. John J. Cert and
Catherine Snyder.

same day Catherine Ann, daughter of John
Redmond and Catherine Jordan; spons. Ann
Meanor. J. Reid

March 5 William, son of William Koos and
Maria Anna Slagel; spons. Remigius Kessinger
and Adelaid Koos. CPM

March 9 James Taylor, son of Lewis H. Dugan
and Sarah Culbertson; spons. B. C. Taylor.
CPM

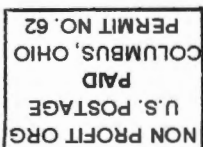
(To be continued)

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