



# Barquilla de la Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society -  
Diocese of Columbus

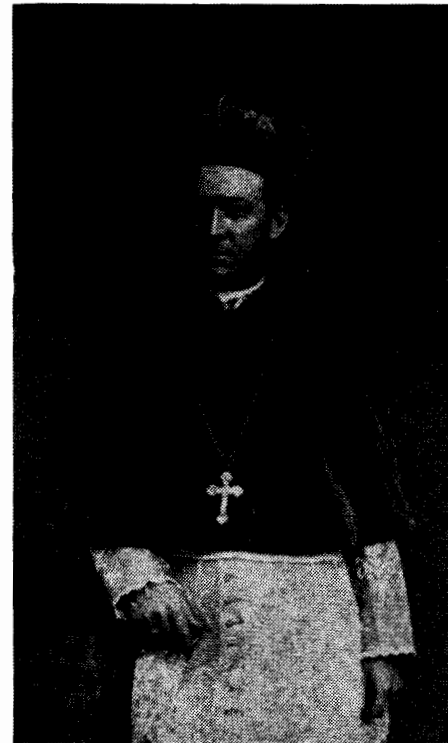
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- Dec. 30: Holy Family -

January, 1989



Sisters Mary Beatrice, Mary Robert,  
and Mary Agnes Gallagher, O.P.



Rt. Rev. Nicholas A. Gallagher  
(1846-1918)

## THE RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS IN THE GALLAGHER FAMILY OF BEAVER ST. DOMINIC PARISH

According to one biographical sketch of Rt. Rev. Nicholas A. Gallagher, the Gallagher family came to America from County Meath, Ireland. Edmund Gallagher "was one of the aides of Lord Edward Fitzgerald and Robert Emmet during the stormy days of 1798, and was in consequence compelled to fly from his native land to escape the vengeance of England inflicted upon the brave, patriotic and liberty-loving sons of Ireland." (1) Edmund was born on November 11, 1772 (2) and so was of an age to have been a soldier in that near-hopeless rising, perhaps in the battles of Dunboyne and Tara in County Meath in May, 1798. He settled in Chester County, Pennsylvania, and there with his wife Anna Dorsey began raising a family. The baptisms of their four oldest children were recorded at St. Joseph Church in Philadelphia between

1801 and 1806. (3) The family came west to Ohio and settled north of Batesville in Beaver Township in the present Noble County in 1818. They were instrumental in founding, and undoubtedly in winning converts to, the parish of Beaver St. Dominic. (4) Edmund died on Nov. 22, 1860, "and never saw a steamboat, railroad, or telegraph line." (5) From three children of this family at least twelve priests and religious sisters have sprung.

Rt. Rev. Nicholas A. Gallagher, D.D.

The first religious vocation developed in the old parish of Beaver St. Dominic and in the Gallagher family was perhaps the most famous, that of its priest and bishop-son, Rt. Rev. Nicholas A. Gallagher, D.D. Nicholas Aloysius Gallagher, son of John and Mary Ann (Brinton) Gallagher and grandson of Edmund and Anna (Dorsey) Gallagher, was born in Temperanceville on February 19, 1846. The site was the stone house still standing there, across the street from St. Mary's Church. The church in use at that time was still the old log structure on the site of the present parish cemetery; there apparently was no resident pastor at that time and his baptism was not recorded in his home parish. In the poetic language of the last century, his mind was made open to the possibility of a priestly vocation by his parents: "The true spirit of Catholic devotion was instilled into Nicholas' young life by devout parents, and the tales of self-sacrificing heroism related of the Irish priests, by his good mother...placed the imitation of their lives before him as the ideal of his existence."

At the age of ten years Nicholas was placed with the pastor of Beaver, Rev. John M. Jacquet. This probably was not hard on the young Nicholas, for by that time the family had left Temperanceville and returned to their land in Beaver Township - they lived in the house nearest to the rectory. From Father Jacquet he learned the qualities that make up the devout Christian and the idea of studying for the priesthood was confirmed. He entered Mt. St. Mary's of the West in September of 1862 and after six years of study was ordained by Bishop Rosecrans on Christmas Day, 1868 at Holy Cross Church in Columbus, the first priest ordained for this diocese.

Father Gallagher was sent to St. Patrick Parish in Columbus in January of 1869 and remained there until 1871, when he was appointed President of the new St. Aloysius Seminary on the west side of Columbus. He served in that capacity until that institution was closed, for financial reasons, in June of 1876. He then returned to St. Patrick's as pastor. Upon the death of Bishop Rosecrans in 1878, Father Gallagher was appointed administrator of the Diocese, a post made most difficult by the lack of written financial records. The statement by Father Eis calling this "an administration which defies description" is the only criticism of Father Gallagher in this position which has come to light. (6) In 1880 the diocese was given a new bishop in Rt. Rev. John A. Watterson and Father Gallagher returned to his position as pastor of St. Patrick's; he also was Bishop Watterson's Vicar General.

On December 26, 1881, news of the appointment of Father Gallagher as administrator of the Diocese of Galveston was received in Columbus by cable. (7) The bishop of that diocese, Rt. Rev. Claude Dubuis, had retired to France and resigned its administration. Father Gallagher was named titular bishop of Canopus on January 10, 1882 and was consecrated in Galveston on April 30, 1882 by Rt. Rev. Edward M. Fitzgerald, Bishop of Little Rock, formerly pastor of

St. Patrick Parish in Columbus. The feelings of the new bishop upon taking charge of his flock are hinted at in a letter he wrote to Bishop Watterson that July:

Almost three months are past since I entered on this new life of labor in a vaster field; and although there is enough here to occupy my time and engage my attention, still frequently my thoughts revert with pleasure to the work and endearing ties that bound me to the Diocese of Columbus. I need not tell you my feelings in starting out in my new field of labor, among total strangers, because you no doubt experienced the same on coming to Columbus and therefore can appreciate my situation and it is not for me to say that the condition of things here was any worse than there, nor that I was any more anxious to come here than you were to go to Columbus. Divine Providence has so willed it, and as for me I am here, and with God's help I shall endeavor to do the work I am sent to do. (8)

The Diocese of Galveston at that time comprised all of Texas east of the Colorado River, a vast area stretching some 700 by 300 miles at its extremes. In the letter quoted above, Bishop Gallagher mentioned that he had already made a trip of about one thousand miles and had seen some of the finest parts of his new diocese, but in fact had not yet seen half of it. In this area there were about forty priests, fifty churches and chapels, and about thirty-eight thousand Catholics. Much had to be done by the new bishop to restore order and meet the difficulties of the diocese confided to him. He did not hesitate to turn to Ohio, and especially to his home diocese, for help.

One of Bishop Gallagher's first moves was to recruit a group of religious sisters from the Diocese of Columbus. From his work in Columbus, he must have known well the work and problems faced by a small group of Dominican nuns who were struggling to keep their girls' academy alive. In 1873, two of the Sisters of the Congregation at St. Mary's of the Springs had refused to accept the election of their new prioress. With the permission of Bishop Rosecrans these two, Sister Mary Agnes Magevney and Sister Rose Lynch, former Prioress, had withdrawn from St. Mary's and founded the Sacred Heart Academy and Novitiate in a large building at the southeast corner of Broad and Seventh (Grant) in Columbus. It was intended as a day school for the education of the young ladies of the city. About 1879, the Sisters moved this academy to a rented building in Somerset. They operated there for two or three years with about 20 sisters, twelve or fifteen boarding students, and about sixty day-students. Construction was begun of a new school for them on the site of the Dominican Sisters' old convent and school, opposite Holy Trinity Church, but just when it was nearing completion they made the decision to help Bishop Gallagher in Galveston. (9)

Bishop Gallagher recruited them almost immediately after his consecration and with Bishop Watterson's permission they went to Galveston that summer of 1882. There they founded a new convent, their third under the name of the Sacred Heart, and soon were teaching as many as 200 students in the new Cathedral school Bishop Gallagher started. The Sisters became officially the "Dominican Congregation of the Sacred Heart". Bishop Gallagher recruited his sister and several of his nieces to join this Dominican congregation in Galveston. He also found an able priest, rector of his Cathedral, and later administrator of his diocese in Rev. James M. Kirwin of Circleville, who was

ordained for Galveston at Mt. St. Mary Seminary in Cincinnati in 1895.

At the request of Bishop Gallagher, his diocese was divided and the Diocese of Dallas was formed in 1890, so that his responsibilities were limited to the area east of the Colorado River and generally south from Waco, Texas. Still his diocese, in numbers, was as large as it had been when he arrived in Galveston and it continued to grow. Bishop Gallagher finally succeeded to the See of Galveston on December 16, 1892. The "Good Bishop," as he was known, died on Sunday, January 21, 1918, after a few months' illness with cancer.

#### Texas Dominican Sisters(10)

Julia Anna Gallagher, daughter of John and Mary Ann (Brinton) Gallagher, was born in Temperanceville on February 25, 1844; she was the child next older than Bishop Gallagher. She wished for some years to enter the convent, but at the request of her brother the Bishop she remained in Ohio and kept house for Father John M. Jacquet at Coshocton. After Father Jacquet's retirement to Galveston, her services were no longer needed in Ohio and she too made the journey to Galveston, there to fulfill her dream. She received the Dominican habit on August 15, 1897, at the age of fifty-three years. She took the name Sister Mary Anna. She taught kindergarten for a while, but much of her time was spent at St. Mary Seminary in La Porte, Texas. She died on October 26, 1935 at Sacred Heart Convent, Galveston.

Clara Louise Malone was born in Temperanceville on January 20, 1886, the seventh of the eleven children eventually born to Sarah Louise Gallagher and Michael Malone. Sarah Louise (1851-1936) was the youngest child of John and Mary Ann (Brinton) Gallagher. At the age of eight, Clara went to Coshocton to live with her aunt Julia, Father Jacquet's housekeeper. In the evenings, Clara was present for the long hours of prayer that Father expected Julia to attend. Clara used to relate the story of Father Jacquet's disapproval of dolls, which, he said, made little girls think only of marriage and children. Her aunt Julia nevertheless gave her a doll for Christmas, with instructions to play with it only in her own room or when Father was away at the missions, which was most of the week. "One time he almost caught me! I had the measles and was playing in my darkened room when I heard his footsteps. I threw my doll under the bed and into the corner and hopped into bed and covered up just as he got to my room," she would laugh.

During that year, Clara's aunt Mary Gallagher Schmueser died in Colorado, leaving four sons and an only daughter, Frances Schmueser. The Bishop wanted the young daughter to come to Galveston to be with the Dominican Sisters, and she agreed to come if one of her cousins would come too. Clara, age nine, therefore was asked, agreed to go to Galveston for her cousin's sake, and accompanied the Bishop there from Ohio on the train in 1895. There she attended Sacred Heart Academy. She received the Dominican habit on March 25, 1903, after a postulancy of less than two months, the Bishop declaring that she did not need a long one, having been a boarder since she was nine years old. The names of the sisters at that time were selected by being drawn from among ten or twelve slips of paper which had been placed under a statue of the Blessed Virgin. She drew the name of Agnes, the name of the virgin and martyr to whom she was particularly devoted, having been born near her feast day, and the name of the foundress of the community, Sr. Mary Agnes Magevney.

Sister Mary Agnes taught music and elementary school in Galveston, Brenham (Texas), and Riverside (California). She served the Congregation as Councillor for 18 years and served terms as prioress of the Motherhouse and of St. Agnes Academy. In 1967 she "retired" to St. Dominic's Villa in Houston. In the following years she pursued her favorite occupation, oil painting, and spent her spare time before the Blessed Sacrament. In 1976 she was described as "An optimist by nature and faith, and a loving soul with a pixie-like sense of humor...a treasure we cherish." She died on November 7, 1980 in Houston.

Teresa Slevin was born in Temperanceville on February 14, 1872, daughter of Edward and Hannah (Gallagher) Slevin. Her mother, Hannah (1832-1914), was one of the older sisters of Bishop Gallagher. She received the habit of the Dominicans in Galveston on March 25, 1903, with her cousin, Sister Mary Agnes. Her religious name was Sister M. Aloysius. She had taught school for some years before going to Texas and as a Dominican Sister she continued that occupation in schools throughout Texas until in 1922 she became Bursar General of the Congregation. She had to give up this work when she became ill in 1947. She died at Sacred Heart Convent, Houston, on June 27, 1952.

Francis Viola Schmueser, was born in Temperanceville on May 11, 1884, daughter of Henry and Mary (Gallagher) Schmueser and niece of Bishop Gallagher. She was the cousin whose mother died in Colorado, and for whose sake Clara Gallagher went from Ohio to Galveston. She came as a boarder to Sacred Heart Academy in Galveston after her mother's death. She received the habit of the Dominicans on May 24, 1904 and was given the name Sister Philomena. She taught in various schools in Texas and California but was chiefly a music teacher. While teaching in Whittier, California she became ill and she died in a hospital in San Bernardino, California on June 26, 1933.

Edna Rose McCort was born in Temperanceville on July 27, 1904, a daughter of William Michael and Mary Ann (Malone) McCort. Her mother Mary Ann (1880-1981) was a daughter of Sarah Louise Gallagher Malone and a sister of Sister Mary Agnes, mentioned above. It was through the influence of Sister Mary Agnes that she decided to go to Texas and enter the convent. She worked as a postal clerk for two years before deciding to enter Sacred Heart Convent in Galveston. She received the habit on March 25, 1924. As Sister M. David, she taught in elementary and high schools throughout Texas and California for several years. Then she obtained her Master's degree in Library Science and served as librarian at Dominican College from 1956 until 1975. When the college closed in 1975, she continued her library work in the parochial schools. She went to live at St. Dominic Villa in Houston in 1980 and retired in 1985. She still resides at St. Dominic Villa.

Loretta McCort, a sister of Sister M. David, was born in Temperanceville on October 6, 1906. She went to Galveston in August of 1925 and attended Sacred Heart Academy there until February 15, 1926. She then entered the convent but continued her studies, graduating with her class the following May. She received the Dominican habit on August 15, 1926; her religious name is Sister M. Beatrice. She was a novice when the motherhouse was moved from Galveston to Houston in the fall of 1926 and she made her profession in the new Motherhouse. She taught in elementary and high schools throughout Texas and California until she retired in 1982. She now lives at St. Dominic Villa in Houston.

Caroline Pekari was born in Beaver Township on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 1906, a daughter of John and Genevieve (Malone) Pekari. Her mother Genevieve Malone (1871-1924) was a daughter of Sarah Louise Gallagher Malone and sister of Mary Ann Malone McCort. She went to Texas with her cousin Loretta McCort in 1925, attended the Academy with her, and with her also received the Dominican habit on August 15, 1926. Her religious name is Sister M. Robert. She taught in schools throughout Texas and California until her retirement in 1984. She now lives at St. Dominic Villa in Houston.

#### Monsignor A. P. Gallagher

Rev. A. P. Gallagher arrived in Mena, Arkansas on October 16, 1897. He had been ordained a priest only four months earlier; the town of Mena had been "born" only one year earlier. The priest served the people of the town and the surrounding territory for over fifty years, becoming "part of the soul of the place -- like the mountains that rise to watch over the town in their gracious, peaceful manner."

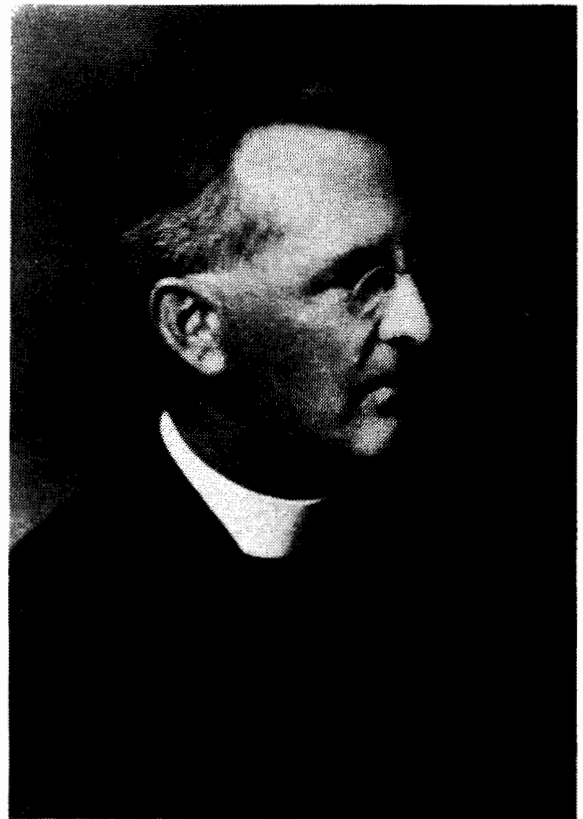
Augustine Patrick Gallagher was the fourth son of William Gallagher and his wife Barbara, born Reasbeck. William was one of the twelve children of Christopher and Mary (DeLong) Gallagher; Christopher was a son of Edmund, the Irish immigrant. Augustine was born in Temperanceville on March 15, 1871 but the family left Ohio when he was only a child and he received his education in Arkansas. He attended St. Vincent's College, Cape Girardeau, Missouri and studied theology at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. He was ordained to the priesthood in Little Rock, Arkansas on June 19, 1897 by Bishop Edward Fitzgerald, the former Columbus pastor.

The town of Mena had been "born" all in one day in 1896 when the railroad brought a thousand people to settle there. When young Father Gallagher arrived, he found ten Catholic families and a parish in debt. The small, poorly constructed church of St. Agnes, the tiny rectory, and the frame school stood at the foot of a hill, threatened by a nearby creek which raged after each rain storm. The post included responsibility for a large territory running north and south nearly 200 miles along the state line which contained, eventually, thirteen missions. Father Gallagher set about the slow process of ministering to his people and winning friends in Mena and the missions, to which he journeyed on foot, horse-back, and hand car in the early days. When he first came there, not one person in ten had ever seen a Catholic priest and through all the years up to the World War he struggled to overcome the sometimes virulent anti-Catholic bias of many of the residents.

Once the parish debt had been paid off, it was time to remedy the problem of the church's location. The parish buildings were moved to higher ground four blocks away by being placed on log rollers and pulled by mule teams. The move took a week and during that time Father Gallagher continued to offer Mass in the church, wherever it happened to be. A new brick school was built in 1914 after a fire destroyed the old one. A new church of native stone was erected in 1922 by the hands of local people, who, though poor in earthly terms, were rich in love and enthusiasm for God and His house.

That the Church had prospered thus far in Mena was due to Father Gallagher's hard work, the friends of all faiths whom he had won, and his devotion to community affairs. It was also, he would say, due to the

Almighty, for when he worked hardest God seemed with him; when he needed money or help, these would be mysteriously supplied in ways he never considered coincidental. By his efforts and God's grace, the whole diocese was blessed when his former altar boy and fishing companion, Rev. Albert Fletcher, was consecrated to be Auxiliary Bishop and later Bishop of Little Rock. It was at the time of Bishop Fletcher's consecration in 1940 that Father Gallagher was named a Monsignor (Domestic Prelate); he always considered this to be a reflection of the honor bestowed upon the Bishop.



Msgr. A. P. Gallagher

Monsignor Gallagher many times was offered larger, more prosperous parishes, but he preferred to stay with the people he loved. He stayed on in Mena where he found real happiness in his fishing and hunting and in the local baseball and football games. In 1945, at the age of 74, he became ill and his life was despaired of but, the prayers of many being heard, he was spared for a time. As he recovered, letters of sympathy began arriving from across the country and indeed from around the world. Friends and relatives had written to sons and daughters at war in Europe and the Pacific and these "good boys and girls" were sending letters to him. His friends did not forget him; they filled his life with happiness. (11)

The boy from Ohio finally went Home; he died at Mena on July 14, 1950.

[To be concluded.]

1. Kelly, Michael J. and James M. Kirwin, History of Mt. St. Mary's Seminary of the West; Cincinnati: Keating & Co., 1894; page 273. The first two paragraphs of this sketch contain several errors.
2. Date given by his descendant Mrs. Constance (Hughes) Biedenbach in Guernsey County, Ohio: A Collection of Historical Sketches and Family Histories; Guernsey County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society, 1979; page 74.
3. Records of the American Catholic Historical Society, Vol. 18 et seq.
4. See the Bulletin, Vol. XIII, pp. 62-63.
5. Caldwell, J. A., History of Belmont and Jefferson Counties...; Wheeling: Historical Publishing Co., 1880; pp. 409-410.
6. Eis to Watterson, Aug. 8, 1880. (See the Bulletin, XII/207.)
7. Catholic Columbian, Jan. 25, 1918.
8. Gallagher to Watterson, July 18, 1882. Archives, Diocese of Columbus.
9. Materials are being gathered to document the story of the origins of this congregation for a future issue of the Bulletin.
10. Sister Mary David, O.P., kindly provided the information about her immediate relatives.
11. The story of Monsignor Gallagher was compiled from clippings and other data supplied by Mrs. Pearl (Gallagher) Reischman of Barnesville.

MT. CALVARY CEMETERY, COLUMBUS  
Cathedral Division, Old Portion of Single Grave Section A  
Tombstones

+ Michael McLaughlin died July 28, 1889, aged 26 yr 5 mo & 14 da.  
Sleep brother dear, and take your rest,  
God called you home, He thought it best.

Anna Schulz, Geb. 25 Apr. 1866, gest. 7 Aug. 1888.  
+ Mary Kennedy [no dates]  
Peter J. Young, died Jan. 30, 1888, aged 63 y'rs.  
John Coplin [no dates]  
(Mother) Catherine Studer, died Apr. 23, 1902. Gone but not forgotten.  
Anne Scott, died Apr. 20, 1900, age 83 y'rs.  
[matching stones]  
John Scott, died May 27, 1888, age 85 y'rs.  
Esther Cochran, Jan. 13, 1829 - Mar. 15, 1888.  
In memory of Patrick Flynn, died July 2, 1887, aged 45 y'rs.  
+ Elizabeth, wife of John Reidy, Native of County Down (?) Ireland,  
died Aug. 19, 1861, aged 30 (?) Years.  
+ Mary, daughter of A. & S. J. Savage, died Dec. 6, 1890, aged 14y 2m 19d.  
(Father) Wm. Henry Coughlin, born Mar. 14, 1866, died Dec. 28, 1890.  
Andrew Boyhan of Mountain Parish Co. Westmeath, Ireland of Co. II 26 Reg. OV,  
Died Oct. 19, 1881, aged 55 years. Erected by his friend James Converse.  
Abba A., wife of Hugh McNulty, died Feb. 3, 1880, aged 44 yrs & 7 mos.  
May her soul rest in peace.  
Thomas Keogan: Native of Co. Westmeath Ireland, died Nov. 7, 1876, aged 60  
y'rs. Requiescat in Pace.  
Acostina Mercurio, wife of Matthew Dago, died Apr. 15, 1891, aged 38 yrs.  
Patrick Gormley, of Co. Tyrone, Ireland, died Mar. 2, 1891, aged 70 yrs.  
Miss Kate A. Reilly, died Oct. 3, 1864, aged 22 yrs. 6 m. & 8 ds.  
Mary Abott [no dates]  
James Normill (?), age 2 yrs 8 (or 9?) mos, of Smiths Ferry, Va.  
(Mother) Lena Gale, 1871 + 1938.  
[Same stone:]  
Saphorine Boyer, died in 1874.  
(Father) J. Finouf, died June 20, 1874.

The following are in the children's portion, the northeast corner:

(Darling...Momma's baby) Margaret Hunter, born Sept. 5, 1892, died Nov. 22,  
1895, aged 3 yrs 2 m 18 days.  
Joseph, son of W. & E. Malzac, died Aug. 26, 1892, aged 4 mos.  
Nellie, only daughter of C.A. & M.C. Kreher, 1879-1891. Mother's dearest  
pride.  
Catherine Mulbay, sister of Mary Annie Mulbay, died Sept. 26, 1892, aged 1Y  
11M 1D. Rest in peace.  
John William, son of W.G. & A.E. Dame, died Apr. 3, 188(0?), aged 6 m & 3 d.  
(To be continued.)

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197 E. Gay Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 Donald M. Schlegel, editor  
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