



Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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The Bishops of Columbus: Most Rev. Clarence Edward Elwell, S.T.D.

As a boy in Cleveland, Clarence Elwell served Mass for his assistant pastor, Father Michael J. Ready. He followed Ready into the priesthood and the episcopacy, and in time was Ready's successor in the See of Columbus. It even has been said that he had a temper, somewhat reminiscent of Ready's. However, unlike Ready, whose main achievements were in the social action arena, Elwell primarily was an educator.

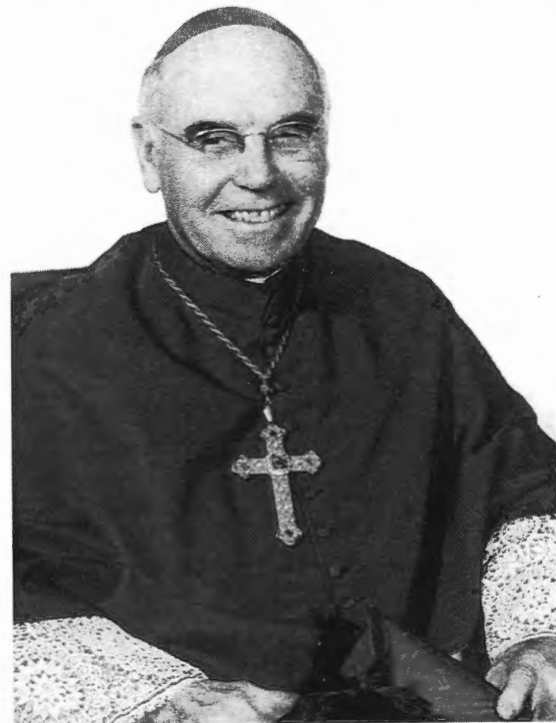
Son of the Working Class

George Elwell was born in the steel district of nineteenth century England and migrated to America as a young man, seeking a better life. He came to Danville, Pennsylvania and there married Susanna McCaffrey, an immigrant from County Fermanagh, Ireland (where, as her grandson said, "one still fights for his faith"). About the turn of the century they moved to Cleveland, following an older Elwell brother to work in the steel mills there. Their son George A. Elwell, born in Danville, also worked in the Cleveland mills. George A. married Josephine Messer, a Cleveland native, daughter of Joseph and Marianne Messer, who ran a small store on Orchard Avenue. George and Josephine had seven children, one of whom became a Sister of Charity (Cincinnati) and another became the eighth Bishop of Columbus.

Clarence E. Elwell was born in the Newburgh area, in Holy Name Parish, on February 4, 1904.

Young Elwell attended the parish elementary school and served Mass there. He went on to the parish high school and in 1920 was captain of the football team, playing fullback and center. He was graduated in 1921.

Clarence put off thinking about a religious vocation in high school, because he thought he was not good enough for the priesthood. When any of the priests or nuns at Holy Name would hint that he might have a vocation, he laughed. During his second year of preparation for a



Bishop Elwell

career in medicine at St. Ignatius College, a priest suggested to him in Confession that he might have a vocation. He then gave serious thought to the matter and made up his mind in one day. The next fall he was enrolled at St. Mary Seminary, Lakeside. He next attended the Canisium, the seminary at the State University of Innsbruck, Austria, from 1925 to 1929. He was ordained in Innsbruck on March 17, 1929 by Bishop Sigismund Waitz, auxiliary of Brixen.

Educator in Cleveland

From 1929 until 1933 he served as assistant pastor at St. Cecilia Parish in Cleveland. He then was appointed instructor in religion and education at Sisters' College, Cleveland, and Assistant Superintendent of Schools. Meanwhile he was enrolled at Western Reserve University, where he received his M.A. in Education in 1934. In 1936 he went to Harvard University, where he received his Ph.D. in Education in 1938. His dissertation was *The Influence of the Enlightenment on the Catholic Theory of Religious Education in France, 1750-1850*; this was republished in 1967.

Returning to Cleveland, in 1938 he was appointed director of Catholic high schools and academies in the city. In 1946 he was named Diocesan Superintendent of Schools. In that capacity he did much to improve the school system, including returning the system to the phonics system of reading; furthering advanced teacher training; establishing an FM radio station for the schools; and expanded the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine program. He was involved in the writing of several series of textbooks. These were: the four volume high school religion textbook series *Our Quest for Happiness: The Story of Divine Love* (1945-46; Mentzer, Bush of Chicago; revised and republished in 1955-1958); the *Land of Our Lady Series* (1953); *Catholic School Spelling Series* (1957, republished in 1966 as the *Christian Spelling Series* for grades 2-8, for use in Protestant

Schools (7 vols) by Laidlaw); and *Child Semantic-Phonetic Series in Reading* (1959, republished in 1960-1969 as *The Christian Child Reading Series: A Modern Linguistic Approach to Reading*, by Reardon, Baer, and Co., Cleveland). He was involved in the publication of other sets on Arithmetic and U.S. History. His royalties from these works were used by Cleveland's Diocesan School Board.

Father Elwell was named a monsignor in 1949 and raised to the rank of Prothonotary Apostolic in 1960. He also received an honorary doctorate from John Carroll University in 1960. On November 5, 1962 he was elected to the titular see of Cone and appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland. He was consecrated in St. John Cathedral in Cleveland on December 21, 1962 by Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi, apostolic delegate to the U.S., assisted by Bishops Lloyd L. Bergin of Oakland and John F. Wheaton, auxiliary of Cleveland. As auxiliary bishop, he attended the Second Vatican Council. He was named Rector of St. John's Cathedral in 1966.

Bishop During Trying Times

Bishop Elwell was appointed Ordinary of Columbus on May 29, 1968 and was installed in St. Joseph Cathedral on August 22. He was Bishop of Columbus during an especially trying era. "It was no longer possible for a bishop to be extremely authoritarian," but the Church had not learned to be democratic, or even how democratic Christ wanted Her to be. Progressives thought things were not changing fast enough, while others thought that too many things were changing, and too quickly. Bishop Elwell felt that he ought to be both a consolidator and a conciliator; he worried a great deal about currents that might erode the good foundations that he and others had worked to build.

He gave permission for Saturday evening Mass of obligation and other liturgical changes. However, he cautioned the diocese against too

liberal use of women as lectors at Mass and once walked out of a "totally unauthorized liturgy" at a Sisters' meeting in Dayton.

Neither "liberal" nor "conservative", Bishop Elwell took studied positions on the issues of his day, some of which are still not resolved. He took part in successful campaigns in 1969 and 1971 to halt the liberalization of Ohio's abortion law, only to see the laws of Ohio and most other states overturned by federal court shortly before his death. He joined top leaders of other Ohio churches in denouncing the bombing of non-military areas in North Vietnam and called for unconditional amnesty for war protesters, draft dodgers, and deserters.

Diocesan Schools

A number of times Bishop Elwell stated his conviction that the Church in America was strong because of Her school system and that the preservation and further development of that system was one of Her principal tasks.

He was convinced that parents had a right to choose the kind of education their children would receive and that Catholics should fight to obtain this right without being burdened by the tax system that did not support this choice. He worked through the Catholic Conference of Ohio to obtain just legislation in the state. A law providing for teacher salary supplements was implemented and in place for one year, until a similar law in another state was declared unconstitutional by a federal court. He also campaigned for a parental grant program and a state tax credit, but these too were declared unconstitutional, by a federal court in Columbus. To this he also had an answer: Catholics should work to change the constitution.

He conceived and brought to completion three diocesan high school buildings: Tuscarawas Central Catholic (a merger of Dover St. Joseph and Dennison St. Mary high schools); Fisher

Catholic in Lancaster, replacing Bishop Fenwick High School; and Rosecrans High School in Zanesville. He closed St. Charles Seminary (high school and college) and turned it into a college preparatory school for boys.

Other Work Here

Among other developments, Bishop Elwell founded Resurrection Cemetery for the Columbus area. He closed St. Peter parish on the northeast side of Columbus and founded St. Peter in Worthington. He officially established the Diocesan Sisters' Council and the Diocesan Pastoral Council and revived the Priests' Senate. He also moved lay persons into positions of trust formerly filled by priests, such as director of cemeteries, editor of the diocesan newspaper, superintendent of buildings, etc. He firmed up diocesan finances by expanding the Diocesan Development Office, the Parish Aid Fund, and the diocesan self-insurance program.

The Bishop died on Friday, February 16, 1973. He had done a full day's work and went up to his apartment, above the Chancery, about four o'clock. Father Michael Donovan, Vice Chancellor, went up to the apartment about 5:30 and found the bishop seriously ill. He administered the Anointing of the Sick and the Bishop died a few moments later. In accord with his own wishes, the bishop was interred at St. Joseph Cemetery, next to Bishop Ready.

Clarence Elwell was an energetic, dedicated servant of the Church. His temper, his stamina, and his zest for a good argument led him into some shouting matches, but he could not stay angry with anyone who was willing to communicate. His broad, welcoming smile was perhaps his best known characteristic. As priest and bishop he was, primarily, an educator, a role most fitting for the shepherd of the diocese.

SOURCES: Archives, Diocese of Columbus; and the *Catholic Times*, February 23, 1973.

**Abstracts from
The Catholic Telegraph**
(Continued, from Vol. XXII, No.11)

February 3, 1844

[Statistics: Portsmouth, Church of the Nativity, Catholic population 200. Little Scioto Settlement and 3 nearby stations, 100 people. Pine Grove St. Mary's and neighboring farmers, 65 Easter communions. Quinn's settlement, Gallia County, 20 souls. "A neat frame church was built here during the past summer, and notwithstanding, says the Rev. Joseph O'Mealy, who attends all these missions..."]

February 10, 1844

[Statistics: St. Joseph's, Perry County; Holy Trinity, Somerset; St. Louis, Rehoboth; and St. Patrick's, under the care of the Dominican Fathers, Rev. J. I. Jarboe, Prior and pastor, a Catholic population of at least 4,000. Zanesville, St. Thomas Aquinas and Taylorsville St. Ann's, 2,500 souls.]

OBITUARY

We regret to learn that the excellent community of St. Mary's, Somerset, has lost another of its pious inmates - Sister Frances Whelan departed this life on last Sunday [Feb. 4] night about 11 o'clock...

February 17, 1844

[Statistics: Rev. Joshua M. Young at St. Mary's Church, Lancaster, 260 families. In Hocking and Fairfield Counties. In Logan a neat log church about two miles from town, 30 families. 260 families, widely scattered, belong to St. Mary's. "During the year 1843...the congregation of St. Mary's have built and furnished, a pastoral residence."

Rev. H. D. Juncker, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Chillicothe, Frankfort or Old-Town, and

Waverly, 120 souls. When he arrived in June, 1837, his mission extended from Portsmouth to Marion. In Portsmouth there were then but few Catholics; now there is a good brick church, pastoral residence, and growing congregation. In Columbus there were but 80 or 100 poor Catholics, but now a considerable congregation, brick church, pastoral residence, school-house, and resident pastor. "At Circleville, there was then no one known to be a Catholic. Now there are several Irish families, whose generous efforts, though they are poor and newly arrived, with the aid of the charitable of Chillicothe have enabled us to buy a lot for a church, in the centre of the town, for three hundred dollars."...

At Chillicothe are 3 churches, 3 resident pastors, two schools, a church lot.

Rev. Mr. E. Olivetti, in Morgan, Athens, and Jackson counties has within the last three years built three churches, one of brick, St. Michael's, Deavertown, with pastoral residence; one at Sunday Creek, cut stone, St. Francis of Assisium, with a dwelling; one at Chauncey, also of cut stone, Our Lady of the Seven Dolers. Two more are being built, one 12 miles from Logan, of cut stone, and one in Meigs County, six miles from Chester. There were 250 Easter communions.]

February 24, 1844

[Statistics from Rev. Mr. Olivetti:
Sugar Creek, Perry Co., St. Francis - 95 families
St. Michael's, Deavertown - 25 families
Monday Creek - 47 families
Our Lady of the Seven Dolers, Chauncey -
20 families
in Meigs County - 10 families]

March 9, 1844

[Ordinations: Friday of Ember Week: Cornelius Daly, subdeacon. Saturday, tonsure was conferred on Thomas Boulger, John H. Lewis, and James P. Cahill, the latter of whom also

received minor orders; Michael A. Byrne and James Kearney, subdeacons; Cornelius Daly, deacon. Sunday, Cahill was ordained subdeacon and Philip Foley and Cornelius Daly were ordained to the priesthood.]

Rev. Louis de Goesbriand, of Louisville, Stark County, reports at St. Genevieve in Holmes County, which he visits every five or six weeks, 34 families, 156 souls, but only 30 Easter Communions.

The new and beautiful church lately erected by Rev. Mr. Lamy at Mt. Vernon, was destroyed by fire on the evening of the 2d of March. All the woodwork was consumed. There is nothing left standing but the walls, which are partially damaged. The cause of the fire is not yet ascertained.

March 16, 1844

[Statistics from Rev. James Conlan: 35 families, about 200 souls in Steubenville; a total of 250 families, 1,478 persons including St. Paul's in Columbiana County and East Liverpool. "During the last two years we have endeavored to liquidate a debt contracted for the erection of the church of St. Pius, Steubenville."]

May 4, 1844

Episcopal Visitation [Schedule]
Sunday 19 May, Nativity, Portsmouth; 23, Octave of Ascension, St. Mary's, Chillicothe; 26, Pentecost, St. Mary's, Lancaster; 29, St. Joseph's, Perry County; 30, St. Patrick's; 31st, St. Louis Bertrand, Rehoboth; June 2, Holy Trinity, Somerset; 6th, Corpus Christi, St. Remigius, Columbus; 9th, forenoon, St. Thomas Aquinas, Zanesville; 9th, afternoon, St. John's (German), Zanesville; Sunday, 16, St. Francis, Perry County; ensuing week, St. Ann's, Taylorsville; St. Michael's, Deavertown; Seven Dolours, Chauncy; Sunday, 23d, St. Mary's, Marietta; 25, St. James, Meigs Creek; 27, St. Michael's, Archer's Settlement; SS. Peter & Paul,

St. John's, Malaga, Monroe co.; Sunday, 30, St. Dominick's, Guernsey County.

(To be continued)



Tombstone Readings of the Columbus Catholic Cemetery

On the following pages are presented three readings of the tombstones that still remained in the Columbus Catholic Cemetery in the late 1890s. The first column is the fine reading taken by William Pengelly and published in the *Old Northwest Genealogical Quarterly*, Volume I (1898) and published in the *Bulletin* of December, 1977. The two names in brackets are taken from a newspaper article of about 1897 as copied by Charles W. Wagner.

The second column represents the names found by Michael Fahey and his daughter during the suit concerning taxation of Church property in Franklin County. Mr. Fahey testified that generally he read the names from the stones and his daughter wrote them down. He then read the list as part of his testimony and it was written down by the court recorder. Thus, not much weight needs to be given to the spellings.

The third column is a list compiled in March of 1899 by Joseph M. Howard, witness for Bishop Watterson. In his own words, "I started on coming into the cemetery to take down some of the names and as I got toward Washington Avenue I took also the dates of the dead and it took me about an hour to take about 20 or 25 names and I saw it would take me too long so I stopped it." His list also was read into the testimony and the existing list is as written by the court recorder.

Each of the readers found stones not found by the others, and sometimes readings of the same stones differ from each other.

Pengelly	Fahey	Howard
Henrietta Amy Born Kuerpenning native of Veyesack, New Bremen Died at Cols. O Sep 15, 1852 aged 52 yrs		Henrietta Amy Sept. 10, 1851
	J. Broderick 1858	
Mary wife of M. Buchert Died Sep 2 1859 *** 11 mo 23 ds.	Mr. Buchert 1857	Mary Bueherd Sept 18, 1859
	A. Comer May 9th, 1854	
Children of Michael and Ellen Conlen [William P.] Died Aug 20 1851 aged 1 yr 6 mo John A. Mary - E. Died May 7 1861 aged 7 yrs 2 mo		
Francis Craven a native of the Co. Dublin, Ireland Died Mar 4, 186* aged 60 years	F. Craven 1861	Francis Craven 1861
[Dennis] DALY native of Westport, Co. Mayo Ireland Died July 7, 1865		
Bridget Moren wife of Dennis Daly native of Westport Co Mayo Ireland Died Sep 3 1854 aged 32 years		
	J. Derrick 1860 two other Derricks 1852	
	George Dill October, 1863 Three children of George Dill 1857, 1854, and 1862	

Pengelly	Fahey	Howard
Peter Dogate native of Ireland, Co. Dublin Died Jan 6, 1861 aged 46 years	Peter Dogate 1861	
	Doyle 1857	
MARY wife of Martin Doyle native of the Co Carlow Ireland Died Aug 9 1858 aged 44 years	Mary Doyle 1852	Mary Doyle 1858
	two children of Peter Eisel 1854	
John George son of John & Elizabeth ENGLER died July 28 1849 aged 50 yrs 6 mo 15 ds	John Engler July 28, 1849	John George Engler
	V. Engler	
Bridget Wife of Wm Feely died June 28 1862 aged about 28 years		
	Roger Fitzpatrick	
	Jacob Frank 1855	Jacob Frank
	wife of Patrick Gallagher 1856	
	J. Goss 1864	
Daniel Geary native of Co Cork Ireland Died Feb 13 1864 aged 45 yrs	Daniel Geary 1864	Daniel Geary 1864
	Marguerite Gunter April, 1849	

Pengelly	Fahey	Howard
In memory of John Healy native of Co. Kerry, Ireland Died Mar. 16, 1861 aged about 65 yrs.	J. Healy 1861	John Healy 1861
Edward H. son of John M. Jacobs Died July 7, 186* aged 24 yrs 1 mo 14 days	J. Jacobs 1868	
DAVID JOICE died Nov 28, 1864 aged 47 yrs		David Joyce 1864
Thomas Joyce died Aug 27 1850 Aged 27 yrs also his brother EDWARD died May 18, 1854 aged 19 yrs They were natives of Co Kilkenny - Ireland		Thomas Joyce 1850 Edward Joyce 1854
	P. Paulkalmn 1848	P. Paul Kalli
MARGARET aged 10 mos dau of Margaret Keating Catherine dau of Mary Keating aged 3 years		
MARGARET wife of Patrick Keating died May 9, 1862 aged 38 years Anne aged 1 year Sarah J. 9 mos		
	three Kellys 1859, 1859, and 1860	Alice Kelly 1859 John Kelly 1859 William Kelly 1860

Pengelly	Fahey	Howard
Edward Kinsalla native of the Co Wicklow Ireland Died Aug 11 1861 aged 61 years		
Catherine wife of E. Kinsalla Died Dec 5, 1863 aged 40 years		
Thomas Lennon native of the Parish of Dishard, Co. Roscommon Ireland Died June 6, 1859 aged 49 years also Michael, Mary Ann, and Patrick, children of Thos & Ellen Lennon	T. Lennon 1859	Thomas Lennon 1859
Dennis Lyons Died July 1, 1865 aged 34 years native of the parish of Ballyvourney, Co. Cork Ireland	three of the Lyons family 1861, 1863, and 1865	Dennis Lyons 1865
Ellen Buckley wife of Charles Lyons native of Kilcarme, Co. Cork Ireland Died Dec. 30, 1863 aged 30 yrs		Helen Buckley wife of Charles Lyons 1863
Jeremiah son of C and E Lyons Died May 7, 1864 aged 6 mo		
	McCormick 1864	
	McCormick children 1860, 1862, and 1865	
Roger McLane native of Co. of Wexford Ireland Died Jan 19 1866 aged 66 yrs also his son Pat'k McLane died July 31 1865 aged 22 years	R. McLean and another in his family 1865 and 1866	Rodger McLane 1866

Pengelly	Fahey	Howard	Pengelly	Fahey	Howard
Timothy McLoughlin native of Burr, Kings Co. Ireland Died Dec 22 1861 aged 55 years	T. McLaughlin 1861	Timothy McLaughlin 1861			William O Driscoll
James M Son of J and L M'Namee died Sep. 29, 1855 Aged 4 yrs 6 mo	two children of James McNamee	James M. McNamee		O'Heim 1857	Catherine C. O'Heim 1857
Mary Ellen dau of J and L. McNamee died July 30, 1850 Aged 1 yr 10 ds				John Powers 1864	
		Alois Mier		G. Reistler (two in the grave)	
	P. Mollon 1861			Henrietta Shay 1851	
Dennis Moriarty a native of Ireland Died May 8, 1867 aged 62 years				H. Slattery 1863	Honorah Slattery 1863
	Murphy 1854 two Murphys 1859			Timothy Sullivan 1859	
William Nixon Jr Died Mar 29 1853 aged 8 mo. 22 d's	William Nixon 1851	William Nixon		three of the Trainor family 1860, 1861, and 1849	
MARY NIXON Died July 21, 1851 Aged 3 mo 29 d	Mary Nixon 1853			Wife of Peter Fry [Ury] Born in Germany Jan 5, 1787 Departed this life Aug 16 1853 aged 64 yrs 7 mo 10 ds	
	O'Brien 1861			Wilson 1862	
				Magdaline Zeangerle and two children	Mary M. Zeangerle
				Agnes Ziegelmilller Gestorben am 6 un Juni 1848 Un Aller von 23 Jahren	Agnes Ziegelmilller 1848

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