



Barquilla de la Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society -
Diocese of Columbus

Vol. XXXII, No. 4

April 8: St. Julie Billiart

April, 2007



Students in the library of St. Joseph's Academy, 1952.

A Survey of Catholic Secondary Education in Franklin County

Catholic education in Franklin County began with the elementary school at Holy Cross Parish in 1843 and has continued until the present in a grand, unbroken tradition of individual and combined parish schools. Secondary education, on the other hand, had a much rockier beginning and has taken several forms. Academies for girls were begun as private schools by Dominican Sisters and Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in the 1860s and 1870s and continued into the second half of the twentieth century. Secondary

education for boys, however, did not take a firm hold for many years.

A parish high school was begun at St. Patrick Parish in 1869, but today this would be called a middle school, covering grades seven through nine. Boys, in particular, did not take much advantage of this opportunity. The situation of the boys was described in 1876 after a letter in the *Catholic Columbian* complained that no report was made of an examination of the boys of St. Patrick's High School:

“It is not true that the same care was not taken of the boys as of the girls, although we are willing to admit that they cannot show the same results; the cause, however, being not in the school, but in the pupils themselves, as we shall proceed to show: 1st. the boys, generally, do not remain long enough at school to complete any of their studies. 2d. They do not attend regularly during the time they do remain. 3d. There are many cases of tardiness and truancy, which resist all efforts towards amendment. It is a fact, patent to all who have any knowledge of the school, that as soon as the boys arrive at a certain age, and have begun to attain some proficiency, they leave school to go to work. There are some exceptions, but this is the general rule...

“Many of the boys do not attend regularly; they are absent often, sometimes through necessity, but frequently for very insufficient reasons; many remain away weeks or months at a time; others attend only during the winter months....

“It will be seen, from these circumstances, how difficult it has been to maintain discipline and efficiency; nevertheless, those pupils who have attended regularly have done well, and their parents, without exception, express themselves well pleased with the progress and standing of their children.” (*Catholic Columbian*, July 8, 1876)

Bishop Watterson saw clearly the spiritual malaise of uneducated young men, as well as the physical dangers they encountered in industrial jobs. He started a Catholic College for boys and young men in the 1880s. This provided Catholic education for those who could pay, but not for the ordinary, relatively poor parishioner. This school failed and Watterson never was able to remedy this situation.

It was during Bishop Moeller’s short tenure in this diocese, from 1900 to 1903, that the full impact of the Papal documents *Tolerari potest* (1893) and the *Testem benevolentiae* began to

be felt. “Thus the limitations of possible cooperation with, and dependence upon, secular and state agencies were made apparent, and the need of providing a truly Christian education, even at great financial sacrifice, was brought home to American Catholics. A natural corollary of this was the realization that to safeguard the children of worldly-minded Catholics it was imperative that the Catholic School System, at all levels, provide an educational program at least as good as, if not superior to, that offered at public expense. Hence, the crying need was for free schools sufficient to provide for the education of Catholic boys and girls at both elementary and secondary levels—in short, a tremendous expansion of school systems in every diocese in the United States.” (*Fiftieth Anniversary of the Principals and Teachers Meeting, 1903-1952, Diocese of Columbus*; “More than a Teachers’ Institute—” by Dr. Ann Bernardine Whitmer, p. 19)

Bishop Moeller was called to Cincinnati as Archbishop and it was Bishop Hartley who in his first pastoral letter in September, 1904 called for the establishment of high schools for both boys and girls. He asked the Dominicans to start Aquinas College High School for boys, founded in 1905. He founded a second school for boys, St. Charles Preparatory School, as part of his new seminary in 1923. Sacred Heart Parish established a commercial school for girls in 1908 and in the 1910s and 1920s parish high schools were established at St. Mary, Holy Family, and Holy Rosary parishes, to be followed in 1931 by Our Lady of Victory. In addition, three parish schools at different times offered grade 9 or grades 9 and 10. These parish high schools from the 1930s through the 1950s were educating some 1,100 to 1,300 students each year. The parish high schools usually had a disproportionate number of female students, because of the large numbers of boys who attended Aquinas. The student bodies of St. Mary of the Springs Academy, St. Joseph Academy, Aquinas High School, and St. Charles Preparatory School

generally totalled between 1,000 and 1,400 in this era. All of these schools were staffed primarily by religious sisters and religious and diocesan priests.

Monsignor John J. Murphy, diocesan superintendent of schools from 1909 until 1947, served as mediator between state and local authorities and the parish schools. When questions were raised concerning the admission of parochial high school students into college without undergoing examinations, he carried on the negotiations to ensure the certification of every high school within the diocese. During the Great Depression, when the state legislature created a fund to assist high schools, he worked tirelessly but unsuccessfully to obtain a portion of that fund for the Catholic high schools.

By 1950 the parish-based high schools were not able to provide the facilities, experiences, and opportunities that could be found in larger institutions. Increasing enrollments of the baby-boom generation in the early primary grades indicated that additional planning of secondary schools was necessary. The loyalty of Catholic parents to religious-centered education was demonstrated by the fact that over 90 per cent of the graduates of parochial grade schools continued their education in Catholic high schools. (Bishop Watterson High School history, probably written by Msgr. Spiers.)

That year Bishop Ready had several possible patterns for the future of Catholic secondary education in the diocese drawn up. Many choices were examined: vocational vs. classical courses; co-educational vs. separate schools; methods of staffing and administration; state requirements regarding curricula and accreditation. The idea of centralized high schools started in the parishes, in Steubenville (when it still was part of this diocese) and by 1952 was also in place in Chillicothe, Zanesville, and Portsmouth. From the options offered, Bishop Ready chose to continue the use of this model of the central, co-educational school. Monsignor Ed Spiers was the architect of this school system, became

principal of Bishop Watterson, the first of these schools in Columbus, and was building supervisor for the rest of the schools. As a result of these decisions, along with the decline in vocations among the religious orders, the 1950s and 1960s saw the replacement of the religious order and parish high schools by the consolidated diocesan high schools. The consolidated schools originally were staffed by religious sisters with priests as principals and teachers of religion and a few other courses. As religious vocations dwindled, these staffs were replaced, at greater cost, by lay teachers. Increasing costs, compounded with declining enrollment, caused one of these schools, Father Wehrle Memorial, to close in 1991.

Four consolidated high schools, named for St. Francis de Sales, patron of the diocese, and bishops Watterson, Hartley, and Ready, together with St. Charles Preparatory School, today are providing a Catholic education at the secondary level to some 3,750 students in Franklin County.

ACADEMIES FOR GIRLS

St. Mary of the Springs Academy, 1868-1966

St. Mary's Academy, founded in Somerset in 1830, was moved to Shepherd, northeast of Columbus, in 1868 and was renamed St. Mary's of the Springs. Theodore Leonard of Columbus offered the Sisters a piece of land and assistance in building. The academy initially had ninety students and the first graduating class in 1869 had two members. Over the years the academy and convent building were expanded by adding two new stories and a rear section. Classes of between 40 and 60 were the norm at this school in the 20th century.

In July 1964 the Sisters announced its closing. The last class of 55 was graduated in June, 1966. To continue the Sisters would have had to invest in new equipment and facilities, which they did not think was justified in view of the new diocesan high school system. This allowed them to accommodate the expanding needs

of the associated college. From 1894 through 1966 there were 1,930 graduates of the Academy. Records of earlier years are incomplete, but it is estimated that the number of graduates from 1868 through 1966 was about two thousand.

Sacred Heart Academy, 1873-1879

The academy of the Dominican Sisters of the Sacred Heart was opened as a “select school of high culture for young ladies” in January, 1874, at the request of Bishop Rosecrans. It was first located in a house on the southwest corner of Gay and Fifth and then moved into a former residence at Broad and Grant (now the site of the defunct Seneca Hotel). Although not included initially, secondary level courses soon were offered. Enrollment, including primary and secondary levels, topped out at about 120, including 20 boarders. In 1879 the school moved to Somerset and in 1882 it closed when the Sisters moved to Texas. (See the *Bulletin* of July, July, August, and October, 1993)

St. Joseph Academy, 1875-1977

In 1874 Bishop Rosecrans asked the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, then teaching in the schools of Holy Cross and St. Patrick parishes, to open an academy. The girls’ high school was opened in 1875 on Rich Street east of Sixth. A new building for the high school was opened at Rich and Sixth in January, 1925 to provide for increasing attendance.

The high school building was renovated in the summer of 1966. Major expansion was planned at the end of 1966, which was to include a high school addition to replace the 1875 building. This expansion never was carried out. The Board of Trustees announced closure of the Academy in December of 1976, due to rising costs and declining enrollment. In the fall of 1975 the school had garnered only 27 freshmen. The falling enrollment was blamed on lack of recruiting as well as a lack of Sisters to teach. In addition, the Sisters were not able to match the course offerings of larger schools and were not

willing to compromise the quality of the education they offered. The last graduates were those of June, 1977. Students who completed grades 7 through 11 that year had to transfer to other schools to complete their education. The Academy had 2,480 graduates. Its building now is used by Franklin University.

COLLEGES and HIGH SCHOOLS FOR BOYS

St. Aloysius Seminary, 1871-1876

Bishop Rosecrans’ little seminary had a classical school attached, to prepare the young men for entry to the higher classes and eventually to the school of theology. It was located in a large old house at Grubb and Shepherd streets on the West Side (now a parking lot beside the Jubilee Museum). The subjects taught were Christian Doctrine, English Grammar, German, Latin, Greek, Rhetoric, Algebra, Geometry, Ancient History, Natural Philosophy, and Astronomy. An article in the *Catholic Columbian* of February 6, 1875 lists ten students at this school. Of these, only five can be identified. Andrew Bethge from Springfield and William Goebels from Marietta were then about 17 years old and Walter Cooney, son of the superintendent of the Columbus City Park, was about 16 years old. John Howard also was from St. Patrick Parish in Columbus, one of two cousins of that name. Two others went on to be ordained to the priesthood, namely John S. Hannan, who in 1875 was 23 years old, and John McGuirk, who was 21. A list of the first students in Bishop Hartley’s diocesan history includes Bethge, so it is clear that the classical school was in place when the seminary opened in 1871. Most of the students in the classical school did not go on to become priests.

Columbus Catholic College, 1883-1887

In 1883 Bishop Watterson opened the Columbus Catholic College, a school for boys, in the former Medary mansion of 28 rooms on

25 acres near Northwood and High. Its purpose was to see that the boys were cultured not only in those matters relating to a literary and scientific education, but also in those relating to the soul. The students' ages ranged from about ten to nearly twenty years. The head of the school was a diocesan priest and the other professors were laymen. In the first year some 30 boarders and 20 day scholars took the classical course. In 1885 the school moved to a house on the southwest corner of Gay and Fifth and became a day school only. That October it moved again, to a rented house across Broad Street from the Cathedral. A night school was added for young men who were already at work. In 1886/87 there were 49 day students and 28 night scholars. Five were expected to graduate in 1888, but the school was closed suddenly at the end of the 1886/87 academic year when the rented house was taken away by the owner. (See the *Bulletin* of Sept., Oct., and Nov., 1996)

Aquinas College High School, 1905-1965

This high school for boys was opened in 1905 by the Dominican Fathers at the request of Bishop Hartley, as St. Patrick High School. It began in the St. Patrick parish school building at Grant and Mt. Vernon and moved to a new building on the old graveyard, on Mt. Vernon east of Washington, the same year. Additional buildings were erected and the name was changed to Aquinas College in 1912. A new gymnasium and classroom building was erected in 1925. Into the 1950s, Aquinas was the largest Catholic high school in the diocese, with enrollments usually above 500. Some 4,200 young men were graduated over the school's life. Aquinas was unique in many ways, but its history is so well known that no details need be given here.

The closing of Aquinas was announced in the spring of 1962. It was caused by the need for new facilities, lack of personnel, and orders from the Vatican to provide more missionaries. The freshmen who entered that fall were given choices in the spring of 1963 of transferring then,

attending two more years and transferring for their senior year, or attending three summers and graduating in August of 1965. Thirty-seven chose the latter course. The site was sold to the Columbus Board of Education and forms the core of the present Columbus State Community College. The building constructed in 1925 is Columbus State's Aquinas Hall.

St. Charles Preparatory School, founded 1923

Bishop Hartley started this boys school in 1923, apparently in reaction to the numbers of diocesan boys who were attending Aquinas High School and then opting for priesthood in the Dominican Order rather than in the service of the diocese. It opened in the fall of that year with a handful of students in rooms of Sacred Heart parish school. This school, named for the 16th century reformer and seminary educator St. Charles Borromeo, was staffed primarily by diocesan priests. The new school building at 2010 East Broad Street was completed and occupied in 1925. It included quarters for Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity (Stella Niagara) who provided domestic services. The first class was graduated in 1927 and College classes were opened that fall.

Bishop Issenmann in 1962 requested that only boys having some intention or thought of becoming a priest enroll at St. Charles, which caused the student population to drop dramatically. Bishop Elwell, with the encouragement of some of the school's alumni, and Aquinas having closed in the interim, and the number of seminarians having dropped dramatically, closed St. Charles Seminary and re-opened St. Charles as a college preparatory school for boys in 1969. It continues to prosper, the most recent incarnation of the ideal that had been embodied in the Columbus Catholic College and Aquinas College High School. There have been about 4,827 graduates from the first graduating class through 2006.

(To be continued)

Abstracts from *The Catholic Telegraph*

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

July 7, 1855

[Advertisement]

St. Peter's College, Chillicothe, Ohio.

This Institution, situated one mile west of the old and beautiful city of Chillicothe and within a few hundred yards of the Bellvue Chalybeate waters, will open for the reception of students on the 1st Monday of September, 1855.

The site of the College is one of the most healthy and picturesque in the country. The play grounds extensive and convenient—a large tract of land being attached to the College.

The entire course of studies will consist of eight years—four in the Primary and four in the Collegiate departments, but students from other colleges will be allowed to enter the classes for which upon examination they will be found qualified. Students under the age of ten will not be received, nor those who may have been expelled from other colleges.

The discipline of the College will be mild but firm.

The College will be under the direction of secular clergymen, assisted by eminent Professors in the various departments.

During the entire course special attention will be paid to the study of the Modern languages, English literature and Greek and Latin Composition.

Students intended for Commercial pursuits will be required to study the French and German languages.

The religion of the House is Roman Catholic, but while the uniformity of discipline requires a conformity with the religious exercises of the College, the religious principles of pupils of the different denominations will in no respect be interfered with.

Candidates for graduation will be publicly examined in the following subjects:

Logic, Metaphysics, and Ethics—Latin.—Sallusk, Georgics and Æneid of Virgil; Cicero's

Orations; Contra Catalinam et pro Milone; Horace; five first books of Livy's History—1st, 3d, 10th, 13th and 14th; Satires of Juvenal; Perseus; Annals of Tacitus, and one of the plays of Terence.

Greek.—Acts of the Apostles; Cyropedia of Xenophon; the first eight and last six books of Homer's Iliad; Demosthene's "De Corona" and Philippics; Selections from Herodotus; the Iphigenia of Euripides, and the Ædipus Tyrannus and Coloneus of Sophocles.

Mathematics.—Algebra to Equations of the 4th Degree; Plane and Solid Geometry; Plane and Spherical Trigonometry; Surveying; Conic Sections and Astronomy.

Physical Sciences.—Physiology; Natural Philosophy and Chemistry.

Terms per session of ten months, which will include all expenses, except for Music and Stationary:

Borders in the Collegiate Department	\$150 00
Do. in the Primary.....	135 00
Half-Boarders.....	100 00
Day Scholars.....	50 00

PROFESSORS

Rev. M. Forde, A.M., President, and Professor of Greek Literature.

M. F. MacDermott, Ex-Scholar, A.M., and first Classical Priroman of Trinity College, Dublin, Professor of Latin and English Literature.

A. Worthington, M.D., Professor of Physiology, Natural Philosophy, and Chemistry.

Mr. J. Brennan, Prefect of Discipline.

Besides the above named, there will be four Assistant Professors.

July 14, 1855

An account is given, from the Chillicothe *Metropolis*, of the celebration of the Fourth of July at St. Peter's College. It mentions the beautiful grove just back of the college and the supper in the college hall. In addition, the

oration on the Life and Services of George Washington by Thomas D'Arcy McGee, delivered on this occasion, is printed.

Dedication.

The Church of the "Most Holy Redeemer," Portsmouth, was dedicated on Sunday, 15th July, by Archbishop Purcell, assisted by Rev. Messrs. Gilmour, pastor, and Rev. Mr. Karge, of St. Mary's. The church is a well-built edifice of brick, 70 by 40 feet, with lofty ceiling, and high Gothic windows. Owing to the zeal and disinterestedness of the pastor, it is out of debt, except for the lot on which it stands; which debt we trust in the liberality and spirit of the congregation will soon be paid. It amounts to

\$500.

There were far more in attendance at the ceremony than the church could contain, and we noticed many braving the hot sun's rays outside the windows in their anxiety to hear the sermon and witness the proceedings. The High Mass was sung by the Rev. Mr. Karge and the German choir of St. Mary's. All passed off in the most orderly and edifying manner. In the afternoon, the candidates for Confirmation of both churches received that Sacrament in St. Mary's Church; they numbered sixty-nine, of whom two were converts.

The German church is soon to be enlarged.

(To be continued)

Zanesville St. Nicholas Parish, Deaths, 1844-1867

(Continued, from Vol. XXXII, No. 3)

1862, continued

- 1 August died John Emmert, born 4 April 1801, in communion of Holy Mother Church, whose body was buried on 3 August by me, A. Hechinger pastor, holy confession and viaticum and holy oils conferred by me.
- 3 Aug. died Anton, son of Francis Schmitz and Barbare Helfert, born 2 Sept. 1860; he was buried the same day after noon.
- 4 Aug. died William John, son of William Barton and Maria Keller, born 20 June 1861; buried the following day.
- Oct. 26 Margaret daughter of Francis and Barbara Schimpf died, aged 6 years, and was buried on the same day. John Jos. Rauck
- Oct. 29 Elisabetha, wife of Joseph Vetter, age 43 years, was buried in our cemetery on Nov. 1.
- Nov. 5 Emma Elisabeth, daughter of Conrad and Philippina Winter, died, and was buried on 6 Nov. in the cemetery of the English-speaking Catholics. Age 3 years 10 months.
- Oct. 28 Marianna daughter of Francis and

Margaretha Pfluger died on 27 October, and was buried in our cemetery. She was 10 years and 10 months old.

- Nov. 29 died George Durand, 83 years old, buried in the Catholic cemetery 1 Dec.
- 11 Dec. died Clara, daughter of Peter & Elisabetha Durand, three years old, was buried on Dec. 13 in the cemetery of the English Catholics.

1863

- Jan. 20 was buried John, son of Anton and Josephina Armbrust, 4 years old.
- Feb. 5 Maria Emma, daughter of Jacob Hegel and Maria Louisa his wife, was buried here. Her age was 3 years.
- Feb. 11 Anna, daughter of Martin and Sibilla Armbruster, two years old, was buried in our cemetery.
- 24 Feb. Infant daughter of Peter and Barbara Romer, deceased without baptism, was buried in our cemetery on 25 Feb.
- 1 March infant son of Philip and Elisabetha Hess deceased without baptism was buried in our cemetery (in the place where I bury

such children)

2 March Maria Elisabetha, daughter of Jacob [no surname given] and Marianna born Christ, 7 months old, was buried in the cemetery of the English-speaking congregation.

April 20 John Albert, died yesterday, was buried in the cemetery here, born 1801 in lower Bavaria, son of Michael and Anna Albert.

30 April died Leo, son of Michael Weber and Dina born Klausung, born 1 March, was buried on 2 May.

July 7 Elisabetha, daughter of Henry and Elisabetha Schweizer, was buried today, near two years old.

July 23 William, son of Anton Saup and Margaret his wife, 1 1/2 months old, was buried today in the cemetery of the English-speaking Catholics.

July 24 Theodore Heilmann, son of Adam and Catharine Heilmann, 6 years 3 months old, was buried in the cemetery of the English-speaking Catholics.

July 16 Julia Clara Elisabeth, daughter of Henry and Elisabeth Se—— [page cut off], 7 months old, was buried in the cemetery of

the English-speaking Catholics.

6 Aug. John Jacob Freidrich, 55 years old, was buried today in the cemetery of the English-speaking Catholics.

13 Sept. Elisabetha, daughter of Jacob Hackel and Maria Louisa born Adams, 19 months.

4 Oct. Magdalena, 39 years old, wife of Caspar Bott, was buried.

5 Dec. Catharina Schramm was buried, age 82 years, widow of Peter Schramm.

14 Dec. Louisa, daughter of Caspar Bott, about 10 years old, was buried, died the 13th.

1864

8 Jan. Sebastian Fischer, 93 years old, was buried, died 7 Jan.

14 Jan. Ignatius Roll, 83 years old, was buried here, died 12 Jan.

1 Feb. Catharina Thomas born Heinz, in the Duchy of Nassau, 86 years old, was buried.

1 Feb. Maria Horn, wife of John Horn, was buried in our cemetery.

Feb. 20 Martin son of Michael Weber and Carolina born Hafele died, 4 years old, was buried in our cemetery on the 21st; died on the 20th.

(To be Continued)