"Notice on the state of the Catholic Religion in the State of Ohio"

From the U.S. Catholic Miscellany, Vol. VI, p. 246 (Feb. 24, 1827)
Courtesy of Anthony J. Lisska, Denison University

The rapidity with which the new State of Ohio has advanced to the rank of one of the foremost of the Union; the fertility of her soil, her local advantages improved by the enterprising spirit of a numerous population, will serve to render even a brief account of the Catholic religion in this State, peculiarly interesting to every member of that communion. -- The following notice, confined to a simple statement of facts may be relied upon for its accuracy.

In the year 1808, father Edward Fenwick of the Dominican Convent of St. Rose's in Kentucky, was sent by his superior as missionary to the state of Ohio. He traversed it in every direction and found some catholic families thinly scattered through the forests. These visits being repeated during several years, Mr. Jacob Dittoe, of Perry county, proposed to give half a section of woodland and build a church and house upon it, provided this Rev. Father would be willing to reside there. Two years were employed in making the necessary preparations, at length by the assistance of some neighbouring families, a small log house and church were completed; and the Rev. F. Fenwick, and his fellow-labourer the Rev. F. Young, of the same convent, with the consent of their superiors, took up their residence at the new church of St. Joseph's, near Somerset, in the county of Perry. Their habitation was so deeply buried in the woods, that immediate precaution was requisite to avert the danger of trees falling on the buildings; there, for several years, they patiently submitted to severe privations, and felt the pressure of poverty and want. They, nevertheless, extended their missionary rides to every part of the state. Churches were erected in various directions; and congregations successively formed, partly by converts to the faith, and partly by emigrants from other states.

The Bishop of Kentucky to whose Diocese the Ohio was then annexed, admiring the progress of religion, and the zeal of these indefatigable missionaries, judged it would be expedient, to erect the State of Ohio into a separate Diocese, under the care of the Dominican Order, and proposed at Rome, F. Fenwick for Bishop. This proposal being approved of by Pope Pius VII, F. Fenwick was consecrated first Bishop of Cincinnati, by the Right Rev. Doctor Flaget, bishop of Bardstown, at St. Rose's convent, in Kentucky, in January 1822. The ensuing spring, attended by two other Dominicans, he made his
entrance into Cincinnati; and never surely did a bishop take possession of a see more destitute of the means of support. The congregation, few in number, were too indigent to offer him even a lodging. A small rented house served both for palace and Seminary for himself and clergy. The church (if it might be so called,) a mile distant from the town, was an unfinished frame building, without ceiling or plaster. Such was the Cathedral in which he was installed, with humble ceremony and silent panegyric. After a few months, this building was removed into town, and decently fitted up for divine service. But so rapid was the growth of the congregation, that in less than two years, it was not able to contain the numbers that flocked to it every Sunday. A larger church became indispensably necessary. The bishop aware of the impossibility of procuring sufficient means at home, passed over into Europe to solicit funds for that purpose. It pleased Divine Providence to bless his zealous endeavours.

Cincinnati now possesses a Catholic Cathedral, justly admired for the elegance of its structure, correctness of taste, and above all for its chaste simplicity. The building, which reflects credit on the architect, Mr. Michael Scott, is 110 feet in length, 50 in breadth, and 30 in height. Between the five gothic windows on each side, hang some valuable Italian paintings, a present from his eminence Cardinal Fesch []. The altar piece is an excellent painting of the Rosary, by the Flemish artist Verschoot. This cathedral was opened with the usual ceremonies on the third Sunday of Advent. The Jubilee, which had been deferred until the church could be finished, was solemnly published on Christmas day in the evening, by the Bishop, who presided at the exercises of the week. Two sermons in English, and one in German were every day well attended, notwithstanding the extreme rigour of the season. How truly consoling was now the comparative state of the congregation of Cincinnati! Five years have not elapsed, since the Easter communicants of this place were only eleven in number; and on the Sunday morning within the Jubilee, above two hundred persons of both sexes received the holy communion, with edifying devotion.

The distant congregations have increased in like proportion, and full four hundred persons have been converted to the catholic faith. Eight years ago, when the church of St. Joseph's, the first in the state, was built, there were only five catholic families in that neighborhood. At present they exceed 200 families. This church, although considerably enlarged four years ago, being found too small, a larger brick church, 70 by 45, was erected last summer, at Somerset, two miles distant. A handsome church, nearly of the same dimensions, has lately been completed at Sanesville. At Canton, in Stark County, N. Lancaster, N. Lisbon, Danville, Beaver (Guernsey Co.), Jonathan's Creek, East-fork of the little Miami, are churches of various dimensions, in brick and in wood, some begun, and other finished; at which places there are congregations, varying from 20 to 100 families. These, and many other isolated families, some 50, and some 100 miles distant, one from the other, are visited by the missionaries, chiefly from St. Joseph's or Cincinnati. To convey some idea of this fatiguing duty, it has been ascertained by correct computation, that two Dominican missionaries, between the beginning of May last and the end of the month of December, travelled on horseback 2,500 miles, exposed to the extremes of heat and cold. Many clergymen might here be usefully employed, and would be very acceptable, provided they could bear fatigue and poverty.
The missionaries of this Diocese have no fixed salary. They content
themselves with the trifling collection made in the church on Sundays, the
produce of the farm of St. Joseph's, or what little the faithful are able or
willing to spare. The bishop has notwithstanding ordained six priests.
Preparations are making for establishing Colleges at Canton and Cincinnati.
At the latter place, a school for females has been commenced by some religious
Ladies from Europe. They have already 70 scholars, and attend besides a
numerous school of poor children on Sundays.

From this simple and correct account of the progress and prospects of the
Catholic religion in the state of Ohio, catholic families wishing to emigrate
to this rising state, may rest assured, that they will occasionally be visited
by clergymen of their own religion, and that in a short time, they will be
offered the advantages of a suitable education for their children; and it has
been principally with a view to communicate this intelligence to the public,
that the Editor of the Catholic Miscellany has been requested to insert this
short notice.

MODERNISTS' DISTINCTION WITHOUT A DIFFERENCE
by Rev. James H. Cotter

[This piece is presented as a sample of Father Cotter's editorial style. It
appeared on pages 68-70 of Lances Hurled at the Sun.]

Protestantism has lately been drivelling over Modernism that lies wounded
with Roman javelins, directed as skilfully as that with which St. George
defeated the dragon. As "fellow feeling makes us wond'rous kind,"
Protestantism would fain join hands with the last rebellious set against the
truth of Christ and His Church. In so doing heresy only shows that she is the
logical parent of infidelity, for Modernism is nothing more nor less than the
denial of the fundamental truths upon which Christianity stands, and the
modernist is a Czołgosz that would veil his murderous hand to destroy Christ's
truth, the while he cowardly declares, as did the trickster in Holy Writ,
"Master, we know that thou art a true speaker."

The pitiable and ridiculous distinction without a difference that Modernism
uses to show its keenness of vision is unique.

First and worst of its declarations is that the divine facts related in the
gospel are not historically true. Is not a fact always true? Take the
resurrection of our divine Lord, the fact without which our faith is vain: is
not this fact as solidly a historic truth as that Rome's seal on the tomb was
broken; as that Pontius Pilate sat in judgment; as that Tiberius Caesar ruled
in Rome, and was in his Caprian villa when Christ died? Or would the
modernist have a divine fact only a human fancy? Is not this substantially
the same as denying God altogether, in refusing to see Him in His work? To
count a fact of holy writ only a figment of fancy in history, is as
nonsensical as to regard a fact of history as a nothing in its bearing on
scriptural narrative. To say that a fact, produced by God and given in holy
writ, is not a fact outside the bible's cover, is as villainous as to exclude
the Deity Himself from history. Are we to believe that anything will do for
the scriptures, but that when it comes to history, which has been rightly
defined as "a conspiracy against truth," greater care has to be used? If this

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is not obliterating the Divinity by making man's pen more important than the evangelist's stylus, what is it?

The modernist will tell us that Christ did not, for most of His life, know He was God. Wonderful discovery! Infinite wisdom then grew in days and years. We always supposed that the infinite transcended time and space, and had its life not measured by time, its being not trammelled by space. Here again the modernist shows that reason was the great rule whereby to measure revelation, for human reason revealed God to Himself. Could anything be more impious? Christ, the Son of God, was not God always, only until human power disclosed the divinity and did its character by impiously dating its beginning. Here certainly is the infidel character of modernism manifested in placing humanity superior to divinity by showing its heavenly glory, and unlocking with crippled hand the tremendous and limitless powers of the infinite.

The modernist denies that Christ founded the Church, instituted the sacraments, and as a consequence declares there is no perpetuity in its dogmas. Mad conceits are these, which are undone by the miracle of the Church's existence, despite all the forces of the world—tyrants, wild beasts, bad philosophy, and meaner still, the betrayals of false brethren. The modernist comes under the ban of those whom St. Paul pronounces "wise in their own conceits," and he has in truth read history poorly when he did not learn humility from man's knowledge—a beautiful fabric, if he wills, but one dyed all over with error, absurdity, misconception or sin, as contrasted with an infallible Church that has schooled and will forever guide the generations in reason, common sense, truth, and sanctity.

On the tomb of Modernism will one day be written an epitaph, but Catholic truth will never have on it the dust or the touch of the grave.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, SOMERSET, OHIO
REGISTER OF BAPTISMS AND MARRIAGES, 1827-1851
(Continued from Vol. XIV, No. 2)

(page 23) 1834, continued
In Chillicothe: 1834, continued
---- -4 E---- Godclif, daughter of Valentine Gorif and Mary Mickly;
 spons. Gregory Huntman and Caroline Bowman.
 same Bertha Caroline, daughter of Jxerome(?) and Caroline Swik (?);
 spons. Eve Bowman and Barbara Jeune (?).
 same Stephen, son of Paul Burger and ---- Eykelberger; spons. John
 Bowman.
 Mary Ann, daughter of Jerome Preyer and Anna Maria Birick (?);
 spons. Bartholomew Rile and Frances Willinger.
 Ferdinand, son of Bartholomew Rile and Ursula Birket; spons.
 Ferdinand Rile and Eva Bowman. TJVDB
 Feb. 16 Mary, daughter of Eneas Bradly and Elizabeth Sholt; spons. John
 Litzinger and Rose Donaly. DJO
 Feb. 17 Elizabeth Bradley, daughter of John Sholts and Lucy Squires.
 DJO
 Mar. -- Louise, daughter of Joseph Hodges and Elizabeth Hodges; spons.
 Michael Ditoe and Barbara Ditoe. TJVDB
Mar. 14  James Henry Finck, son of John and Elizabeth Finck; spons. James Finck and Mary Walker. NDY

Feb. 6  John Wach, son of John and Mary Wach; spons. Martin Stafford and Mary Runion (?). NDY

same  Margaret M., daughter of Michael and Catherine McFa---; spons. Mary Runion (?). NDY

Mar. 15  Rose Ellen Busey, daughter of Patrick Busey and Elizabeth Juri (?); spons. Joseph Juri and Elizabeth ----. DJO

Mar. 23  Robert McLochlin, son of John and Ann McLochlin; spons. Bernard Polind. NDY

Apr. 6  Elizabeth Cook, daughter of James and Mary Cook. NDY

Apr. 20  Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Colman and Elizabeth Colman; spons. George Rese and Emily Rese, born Aug., 1833. TJVDB

May 2   Ursula Johnson, adult; spons. William Harper and Martha Down--. NDY

May 4   in Columbus, Mary, daughter of James Seytere and Ann Beel; spons. Simon Godeman and Mary Selsam.

May 5   in Columbus, William, son of William Wheit and Mary Mannin; spons. Thomas Here (?) and Juliana Cinnie.

same  John, son of Michael M. Radelhorst (?) and Theresa Clement; spons. Clement Baer and Agnes Tol; born in March. TJVDB

May 11  [This record is too faint to read on the microfilm, except for the name Forker. This record and the next two will be published at a later date, if they can be obtained from the original.]

June 15  Margaret Kelly, daughter of ---- Kelly and Elizabeth Campbell; spons. --ard McGuire and Bridget Herrington. J. M. M. Grady

June 15  John Sheehan, son of Patrick Sheehan and ---- Flinn; spons. Charles and Mary Elder. JMMG

June 24  Frederick Kame, son of Joseph and Teresa Kame; spons. Frederick Stiner and Magdalen Mongolt. JMMG

June 26  James Mackin, son of Patrick Mackin and Rosanna Mead; spons. James and Margaret Hamilton. JMMG

July 6   Elizabeth HUrhultzer, daughter of John HUrhultzer and Esther Snack; spons. Dominic Kim and Mary Ann Miller. JMMG

July 13  Elizabeth M. Geary, convert, age 21; spons. Felix and Mary Cull. JMMG

July 13  Anna Dempsey, daughter of William Dempsey and Mary Ann Here; spons. Patrick McDonnel and Bridget Kennedy. JMMG

July 22  El'a Theresa Moeller, daughter of Lewis and Elenora Moeller; spons. Henry Dittoe and Cath. Dittoe. NDY [L.J. Moeller was a physician and later was a newspaper editor and superintendent of the Franklin County Infirmary; Mrs. Moeller was a daughter of Jacob Dittoe jr.]

Aug. --  Martha, daughter of Charles Elder and Elizabeth Elder; spons. James Costigan and wife. NDY


Sept. 20  Mary Collins, daughter of John Collins and Rose Collins; spons. John Moun and Cridel (?) Cheny. DJO

Sept. 20  James Nicholas McGowan, son of J. McGowan and Mary; spons. James Huit and Frances Huit. NDY
Sept. 26 Margaret Jane Freele, daughter of Hugh Freele and Catherine; spons. Catherine Keenan. DJO
Sept. 26 Sarah Ann Wiest, daughter of Theodor Weist and Cecilia Wiest; spons. James Perogus and Sarah Perogus [Perrung - see Oct. 28, 1835]. NDY
Oct. 12 Ceremonies supplied for Catherine M'Donnell, daughter of Patrick M'Donnell and Elizabeth Fink alias M'Donnell; spons. James Fink and Catherine Ward. DJO
Oct. 24 Ceremonies supplied for George, son of Charles Vigors and Maria Huite or Vigors; spons. Mary Huite. DJO

Nov. 1 Elizabeth, daughter of John Steckle and Catherine Stine or Steckle; spons. James Snider and Elizabeth Snider. DJO
Nov. 2 Thomas, son of William Jackson and Mary Hodge or Jackson; spons. Henry Dittoe and Elizabeth Dittoe. DJO
Nov. 29 Mary Ann, daughter of Rody Ryan and Mary Donelly or Ryan; spons. Peter Early and Catherine Cull. DJO
Nov. 23 James Joseph McKenny, son of Michael and Mary McKenny; spons. ---- ---- and Mary Scallon. NDY
Dec. 3 Maryann, daughter of Henry McDevitt and Helen Donnelly or McDevitt; spons. John Lynch and Elizabeth Bradly. DJO
Dec. 23 Charles, son of George Stuter and Regina (Wert) [of Columbus]; spons. Michael Waganer and Mary ----. J. B. V. DeRaymacher

1835
Jan. 30 1834. Patrick Durfy (?) son of [remainder blank]

Feb. 15 Peter McIlarney, son of John and Mary McIlarney; spons. Patrick ---- and Mary Ann Butler Kirwin (?). NDY

Mar. 8 Mary Gongler [Kunkler?], daughter of G---- and wife Mary Rontyin [perhaps Kuntzin]; spons. ---- Dumolt and Ann Gongler. JMMG
Mar. 25 Mary, daughter of Anthony and Margaret Bloom; spons. John and Mary ----. A. Fahy
same Mary Ann, daughter of Joseph and Eliza Stickt; spons. Allas Fink. AF
Mar. 22 Clara L. Dittoe, daughter of Peter and Ann Dittoe; spons. J. Johnson and Sarah Johnson. NDY
Mar. 29 Elizabeth Rese, daughter of George and Emily Rese; spons. Robert Harkins and Martha Spurck. NDY
Apr. 5 James, son of James and Sara Gordon; spons. D---- and Helen Clarke, at St. Patrick's Church. AF
same George and John, sons of William and Catherine Gordon; spons. James Clarke and Mary McCleary; at the Church of St. Patrick. AF
same Anastasia, daughter of John and Mary Farrell; spons. Cornelius Sweeney and Margaret Grace, all at the church of St. Patrick, called Jackson Township. AF

Apr. 9 Christine, daughter of Fridolin and Mary Roarer; spons. Christine and Nicholas Gongloff [Gongloff]; all live near Somerset. AF
Apr. 19 Mary, daughter of George Borer and Margaret Mires; spons. John Hucket and Osillae [Otillia ?] Borer; all live in Rush Creek Township. AF
Apr. 18 Mary, daughter of James Jones and Jane Rice; spons. H. Dittoe
and wife. AF

Apr. 21 Elizabeth Jones, age about 50 years; spons. Mary Snib (?). AF
May 1 Catherine, daughter of Joseph McFarlin and Sophia Hawk. AF
May 2 at St. Patrick Church, James, son of John Diamond and Elizabeth Dempsey; spons. William Kelly and Sarah Dempsey. Antonius Fahy.
May 31 Samuel Hare, son of Henry and Teresa (?) Hare; spons. William Dempsey and Sara Syl—. NDY
same Lucy Hare, daughter of Henry and Sara Hare; spons. Mary Dempsey. NDY
[The surname in this record is not at all clear; it has been assumed the same as the record above, which is clear.]
June 7 Catherine Lambing, daughter of John Lambing and Margaret Wolf; spons. David and Sarah Perone. JMMG
same Catherine Clovis, daughter of Anthony Clovis and Cecilia Newyeare; spons. Anthony Friztes (?) and Mary Kreste. JMMG

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June 10 Agnes, daughter of Lewis and Nancy Sneider; spons. Massim and Mary Dean. AF
July 5 Peter, son of James Cull and Catherine Early; spons. James and Rosanna M. Kinney. JMMG
July 19 George, son of Philip Harvey and Elizabeth Hodge; spons. Robert Harkins and Catherine Dittoe. JMMG
same Nicholas John, son of David Fink and Elizabeth Gongloff; spons. Nicholas Gongloff and Mary Fink. JMMG
Mary Jane, daughter of Joseph McFarlin and Sophia Hawk, in April. AF
July 26 Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph and Rosanna Buchannon; spons. Emanuel Crosson and Esther Dempsey. AF
same Margaret, daughter of same; spons. William Dempsey and M. Buchannan. AF
same Mary, daughter of same; spons. William Dempsey and Mary Dempsey. ADF

Aug. 2 Edward, son of Henry and Bridget Gilligan, at St. Patrick; spons. Edward Brady and Bridget Nangle.
same Mary, daughter of John and Mary Wible; spons. Peter Bash and Margaret Bash. (all in Jackson Township) AF
Aug. 17 John, son of Arthur and ---- Runy; spons. Patrick Cull and Ally C----. All live in Somerset. AF

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Sept. 4 John, son of James Miner and Bridget McKean; spons. John Miner and Lenty Small. A. D. Fahy
Sept. 20 Ar(?)olia Hook, daughter of George and Rosanna Hook; spons, David Finck and Eliner Gongloff. NDY
Oct. 4 Charlotte, daughter of John and Julianna Litzinger; spons. William Stine and Mary Case. NDY
Oct. — Louisa, daughter of Richard and Catherine Louge; spons. Airan and Polly McKenzy. ADF
Oct. 25 Godfred son of Joseph and Rose Kim; spons. Edolph Kim and Magdalena Mangold. ADF
Oct. 25 Henry, son of Benjamen Horden and Ann Freeman(?); spons. Frances Tummel and Ane Musselman. AF

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Oct. 25 Mary Frances, daughter of Elias Vickers and Mary Huet; spons. James Huet and Frances Huet. AF
Oct. 28 Mary, daughter of James and Sera Perrung; spons. David and Sera Perrung. AF
Oct. 29 Rosana, daughter of Miles Clark and Abbalone Litzinger; spons. Willm. Musselman and Charity Ellen Clarke. ADF

Nov. 4 Jane, daughter of Michael Sweetman and Mary Howard; spons. John Sheridan and Anna Cummiskey. ADF

Nov. 25 Margaret, daughter of Dolph Ruddy and Elizabeth Herholzer; spons. John Herholzer and Mary Ann Miller. J. G. A. Alleman

Dec. 26 William, son of Philip and Ann Little; spons. Allick Bawn and Alley Dav--. [ADF]

Dec. 26 Francis Run, son of James ---- and Hester Herholster; spons. John and Mary Elder. [ADF]

Dec. 26 Ann, daughter of William and Margaret Patridge; spons. Hugh and Rose C[larke]. [ADF]

Dec. 31 Ellen, daughter of Terence and Catherine Kelly; spons. John Moor and Catherine Lennon. [ADF]

Jan. 1 Emily, daughter of Samuel and Deleliegh Benjamin; spons. Benjamen and Catherine Deane. ADF

Jan. 18 Margaret Cecilia, daughter of Reason Schrivner and Mary Sears; spons. Samuel Mc A. Fee [McAfee] and Jane Sears. JMMG

Jan. 19 Sarah, daughter of Elijah M'Kendriee and Susan Ciggins; spons. Teresa Wills. JMMG

Jan. 21 Ann Elizabeth Elder, daughter of John and Mary; spons. Joseph Elder and [blank] Case. NDY

Feb. 2 Matilda Frances Finck, daughter of Adam and Alice Finck; spons. Robert Harkins and Catherine Dittoe. NDY

Feb. 11 Alice More, daughter of John and Alice More; spons. Catherine Redmond and Thomas Scallion. NDY

Mar. 14 Frederick Florian, son of Jacob Bohrer and Anna Maria Bohrer or Bohrer; spons. Frederick Remigius Steiner and Catherine Steiner.

Apr. 3 Joseph Stutan, son of John Stutan and Mary Hyman; spons. Joseph Stutan and Catherine Freis. F. J. T. Jarboe

(To be continued)

CORRECTION

The Chronicle of Events in the Diocese for 1988, published in the February issue, stated that the groundbreaking for St. Joan of Arc Church and the dedication of the church, offices, and classrooms for St. Brigid of Kildare Parish took place on July 18. The correct date was September 18. In addition, the name of the chapel for St. Brigid Parish is not "St." but "The" Mary of the Gael, a title given to St. Brigid.

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