THE 1827 JOURNEY OF THE OHIO MISSIONARIES
PROCLAIMING THE JUBILEE OF POPE LEO XII

Pope Leo XII, who became St. Peter's successor in 1823, because of those troubled times was unable to fulfill at once the custom of proclaiming a jubilee to commemorate his election. It was not until May 12, 1824 that he issued a bull announcing a jubilee and the spiritual exercises did not begin until Christmas, 1824. One year later, December 25, 1825, he published Exultabat Spiritus Noster, by which the jubilee was extended to the whole world. A plenary indulgence was offered to those who participated in the right spirit and this blessing, rarely offered at that period, made a strong appeal to the Catholics of Ohio. The jubilee has been said to have marked an epoch in the history of the Diocese of Cincinnati (which at that time included the entire state). The authority to extend the benefits of the jubilee to the people reached Cincinnati in 1826 and was promulgated in Cincinnati on Christmas of that year. Two years were allowed for promulgation of the jubilee throughout the wide territory for which Bishop Fenwick was responsible. The following summer the bishop and two of his priests, Dominican Fathers Young and Mullan, set out through Ohio to bring the jubilee to the rest of the Diocese. The following account of their journey was published in the U.S. Catholic Miscellany, Vol. VI, pages 390 and 391. It was dated Canton, June 1, 1827 and was probably from the pen of Rev. N. D. Young, O.P. (Provided by Anthony J. Lisska, Denison University.) [The article has been broken into paragraphs for ease of reading.]

--

OHIO
Canton, Stark Co. Ohio, June 1st, 1827.

Mr. Editor, -- If the following details of the progress of religion in the church of Ohio be deemed worthy of attention, you will please to give them publicity through the medium of your valuable Miscellany, and accept the thanks of yours, &c.

-- A MISSIONER.

The spiritual exercises of the Jubilee were commenced in the Cathedral Church of Cincinnati, on Christmas, and terminated on New-Year's day; and notwithstanding the rigours of the season, and the extreme severity of the weather, the members of the congregation attended with great fervour and devotion. It was a source of edification and spiritual advantage to all. Several were received into the church and confirmed by our Right Reverend Prelate. As soon as the inclemency of the weather and high waters permitted our missioners (only three in number) to resume their labours, they set out from Cincinnati to visit the different congregations in the State, by
different routes. The Right Rev. Bishop ascended the Ohio river in a steam boat to Wheeling, from whence he took the stage to Somerset, visiting his scattered flock along the road on either side. St. Joseph's Church, in the neighbourhood of Somerset, had been designated as the place of rendezvous for all to meet. The Rev. Mr. M----, travelled from Cincinnati, through Clermont, Highland, Ross, and Fairfield counties to Lancaster, where we have a neat little church, under the patronage of the B. V. called St. Mary's. Here, in pursuance to the Bishop's orders, the Rev. Mr. Y. from St. Joseph's met Mr. M. and commenced the exercises of the Jubilee on Sunday, the 4th of March; they continued the exercises for eight days, each preaching every day, the one at 10 A. M. the other at five P. M. The church was numerously and respectfully attended. Five years ago, there was no church in this place, only two or three Catholic families, and about four communicants; on this occasion there were upwards of sixty communicants, two families received into the church, numbers are preparing for the sacrament of confirmation as soon as the Bishop returns to Cincinnati.

From Lancaster the missioners proceeded to Rushville, the residence of one Catholic family; the Rev. Mr. M. preached in this village to a numerous assembly of various denominations of Christians. The discourse gave general satisfaction; some declared themselves convinced of the truth of the Catholic doctrine; three adults and several children were taken into the church. From thence they repaired to St. Joseph's near Somerset, where, united with their much respected Bishop, they resumed the exercises of the Jubilee with renewed fervour, prompted by the assiduous attendance, devotion, and piety of that edifying congregation, many of whom attended the church daily from a distance of 8 and 10 miles, and mostly on foot; others remained the whole week in the neighbourhood, postponing temporal interest and convenience to the "one thing necessary," viz. the sanctification of the soul. The number of communicants was about 400; 110 were confirmed, and several converts were admitted into the fold.

Thence the Rt. Rev. Bishop with his two fellow labourers visited a small but neat chapel about 10 miles from St. Joseph's, raised by the zeal of about 20 Irish families. The chapel was dedicated under the patronage of St. Patrick with as much solemnity as the place and time afforded. The Rev. Mr. M----, delivered on the occasion an appropriate and instructive discourse. The ceremony closed here with the Bishop's charge, which was fraught with Apostolic unction.

The missioners repaired to St. Barnabas in Morgan county. This congregation consists of about 30 families -- the church was built 5 years ago by the piety and zeal of a few individuals. They spent 4 days among them in performing the exercises of the Jubilee, which closed with great spiritual benefit to the people -- 40 communicants -- 4 baptisms, and two taken into the church.

From St. Barnabas, they proceeded to Zanesville where there is a decent brick church under the patronage of St. John the Baptist. With their good Bishop at their head, though now nearly exhausted by fatigue and infirmity, they continued the ordinary exercises of the Jubilee for eight days, with the usual solemnity -- two sermons were delivered each day, which were well attended by the congregation, -- the effect was a great revival of faith, fervour, and piety in that new and respectable congregation -- there were 90 communicants and three taken into the church.

-154-
Messrs. Y. and M. proceeded through Muskingum to Guernsey—on the way they preached at Washington. The Church in Guernsey is nearly [neatly?] finished; it was lately erected by the zeal and piety of the good people of that congregation. It is worthy of remark, that 8 years ago there was not a Catholic in this neighborhood— it was about that time that the first convert to the Catholic faith was taken into the church. There are now about 40 families, chiefly converts a few emigrant Catholics, all distinguished by their lively faith, piety, and devotion, affording a small, but consoling specimen of the union, charity, and fervour, which characterized the primitive Christians, and which renders the excellent flock peculiarly dear to the their respected Prelate. There were upwards of 50 communicants, and about 43 baptized, and some taken into the church. We were deprived of the cooperation of our Prelate on this mission, as he was obliged to repair, in haste, to Canton, 100 miles distant to console the Pastor of that place who was confined by severe illness. We were, however, indemnified with the satisfaction which the good people afforded to us by their assiduous attendance. There are about 100 to be confirmed on the return of the Bishop.

They next proceeded to Monroe county, visiting the scattered Catholic families on the way, and preaching to numerous assemblies of dissenters, many prejudices were removed by these exercises, and the path opened for sincere enquiry. From Monroe, they travelled through Belmont, Harrison, Jefferson, and Columbiana, to Canton, in Stark Co. Here they were received by the Bishop, who was anxiously awaiting their arrival, to commence the Jubilee in the Church of St. John the Apostle. The church is neat and beautifully situated on an elevation overlooking the village. The Rt. Rev. Bishop opened the Jubilee with a very impressive discourse. We spent 8 days here as usual, the people attending twice a day with zeal and piety—there were about 100 communicants, the same number confirmed, and 13 adults besides 6 children baptized—10 converts.

Our two missionaries thence proceeded to St. Paul's in Columbiana Co. The building is of brick, not yet finished—here they remained 5 days—there were about 50 communicants, and a few baptisms. At the solicitation of some of the citizens of New Lisbon, Mr. M---- preached to a very numerous and respectable audience in the Court House of that place—considerable prejudice was removed by the discourse.

I had almost forgotten to observe that we blessed and opened three churches during the missionary tour—on our return we will communicate a further account of the effect of the Jubilee in the places we are now about to visit.

A MISSIONARY.

A NOTE ON SAPP'S SETTLEMENT

Regular readers will remember that some time ago we were trying to find evidence of the date of organization of the mission at Sapp's Settlement or Danville, Knox County. The following line which throws some light on the subject was recently noticed in a letter written by Rev. N. D. Young, O.P. as Provincial to Bishop Purcell on September 20, 1834. He told the Bishop that Knox County was too distant from the Dominicans' base near Somerset and that it needed a resident priest. He wrote, "I am willing to give that place [Mt. Vernon] as well as Sapps with all the right & title that our services for
these 15 years have merited & as well as that granted by the will of Bp. Fenwick to you at any moment." Fathers Fenwick and Young had taken up residence in Ohio at the end of 1818. The provision of services for "these 15 years" would indicate that they began their regular visitations at Sapp's when travel was possible in the following year of 1819. That, of course, does not preclude the possibility or even likelihood that they had made irregular visits on previous missionary trips from Kentucky.

---

ST. JOSEPH MISSION AND PARISH
PLEASANT VALLEY OR PLAIN CITY, MADISON COUNTY, OHIO
BAPTISMS, 1864-1874
(Concluded, from Vol. XIV, No. 5)

June 8 at Woodstock, Catherine, born June --, daughter of James Bendon and Eileenor Holleran (?); spons. James Molony and Elizabeth Connors. MFM

July 25 Margaret, born July 23, daughter of James Noonen and Mary Johnstone; spons. Michael and Mary Tully. MFM

July 31 at Marysville, Eleanor Trucella, born June 9, daughter of Henry Melcher and Susan Storm; spons. Matthew Kennedy and Jane Ryan. MFM

Aug. [blank], at Pleasant Valley, Mary, six weeks old, daughter of Caspar Becker and Rose Hoffman; spons. John Flee and Mary Miller. MFM

Sept. 7 at Woodstock, Eleanor, born July 25, daughter of Jeremiah Stapelton and Bridget Ryan; spons. Andrew Canton(?) and Mary Lenihan. MFM

Oct. 9 at Marysville, Eleanor Ann, born Sept. 22, daughter of John Cuddity and Susan Trainor; spons. William and Mary McGrath. MFM

---

1872


Dec. [same ?] James Edward, son of Bartholomew Keefe and Elizabeth Murphy; spons. Michael Noonan and Katherine Connor. Kiff

1873

Feb. 2 James, born Dec. 21, 1872, son of John Flanagan and Mary Malone; spons. Pat Strab [Strapp] and Anna Rehn. H. Kiffmeyer

Apr. 22(29?) William Henry, born Apr. 7, son of Michael Malone and Cecilia Collins; spons. Michael Noonan and Anna Noonan. H. Kiff


1874

March 6 John Edward, son of Michael Strapp and Bridget Maher, born Mar. 1; spons. John Reidy and Ellen Strapp. Bennet M. Müller

-156-
Aug. 12 Edward Charles, son of B. F. Cain and Jane Beard, born Jan. 23, 1873; spons. Patrick Clarke and Susan Murray. BMM
Sept. 27 Margaret, daughter of Patrick McGrath and Catherine McLaughlin, born Sept. 24; spons. Patrick and Catherine Strapp. BMM

PLEASANT VALLEY OR PLAIN CITY ST. JOSEPH
EARLY MARRIAGES

The first marriage record was written not in the Register of baptisms and marriages, which did not yet exist, nor on the sheet of paper used to record baptisms from 1864, but in the subscription book. It is not labelled, but obviously is a marriage record, baptisms of the couple's children being recorded later. The next marriage register of the parish begins in 1904.

[In the subscription book:]
July 5, 1868 Michael Strapp and Bridget Maher; [witnesses:] John Mulcahy and Kate Strapp. F. C. Mallon
[On the last page of the Register:]
Dec. 25, 1869 Patrick Strapp and Ann; witnesses John Clark and Mary Strapp. MFM
same John Donnelly and Mary Ann Molony; witnesses John Cligero and [blank] Connors. MFM
Dec. 9, 1869 at Mechanicsburg, George Davis (non-Catholic), and Mary Mealy (dispensation obtained); witnesses Patrick and Sabina Mealy. Previously married before a civil magistrate. MFM
Sept. 8, 1870 at Marysville, Lawrence Martin and Ann Kennedy; witnesses Matthew Kennedy and Rose Lovell. MFM

TOMBSTONES OF PLAIN CITY CATHOLICS

There has never been a Catholic burial ground at Plain City and a reading of the inscriptions in the public cemetery reveals no early Catholic names there. The Catholics of St. Joseph's went long distances to inter their deceased relatives in consecrated ground in the early days. It is known that the London St. Patrick, West Jefferson Calvary, and Columbus Mt. Calvary cemeteries were used. In addition, the Nugents had a family burial plot on their farm. This could not be located recently, but it was discovered that gravestones for Mrs. Nugent and two of the children are at Mt. Calvary in Columbus. The family burial plot apparently was moved into Mt. Calvary. The parish burial register does not begin until 1924 and by that time most of the deceased Catholics were being interred in the Plain City cemetery.

At Calvary Cemetery, West Jefferson

James Strapp, 1876-1893
Walter Strapp, 1834-1914
Mary, wife of Walter Strapp, Native of Drangan, Co. Tipperary, Ireland, died Sept. 18, 1881, aged 40 years.
Strapp: Wife, Hannora M., 1870-1935
Husband, John J., 1869-19___
Elizabeth Strapp, 1860 + 1931

-157-
Patrick Smith, died Aug. 4, 1889
Bridget his wife, died Aug. 7, 1906
Mary Ellen, daughter of Patrick and Bridget Smith, born Aug. 11, 1864,
departed on July 17, 1879.

Patrick Quinn, Mar. 17, 1825 - Jan. 6, 1902
Ann his wife, Feb. 24, 1832 - Feb. 27, 1920
James E. Quinn, June 21, 1860 - June 7, 1945
Katherine Quinn, May 9, 1865 - Jan. 11, 1954

Edward M. Quinn, 1829 - 1912
James, 1861 - 1939

At St. Patrick Cemetery, London

No attempt was made to search through this large cemetery, but the burial
register at London St. Patrick Parish, which begins in the mid 1890s, lists
two burials from Plain City:

Jeremiah Heafy, born Co. Kerry, Ireland, 75 years old, died near Plain City on

Catherine Brennan, born Madison County, 44 years old, died in Plain City
Mission on Oct. 26, 1898; buried Oct. 29 on Thomas Brennan's half lot, Sect.
K, 21-1.

At Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Columbus

The work the Society has been doing on the Cathedral half of Mt. Calvary
Cemetery has brought to light three lots, at least, used by Plain City
Catholics, and one grave in the single grave section.


The Nugent tombstones are on lot 20-D and are as follows:
Isabala wife of Francis Nugent, native of the Co. Tyrone, Ireland,
Died Aug. 20, 1864, aged 40 Years. May she rest in peace.
Isabala, daughter of F. & I. Nugent, Died Aug. 20,1864, Aged 2 mo. & 2 ds.
James F., son of F. & I. Nugent, born Feb. 25, 1860, Married to B. Butt,
Apr. 26, 1888, Died Jan. 21, 1892. May his soul rest in peace.

Andrew Boyhan, who lived with the Nugents, was interred in a single grave at
Mt. Calvary; see the Bulletin, XIV, 110 and 125.

CORRECTION
In the May issue of the Bulletin, concerning Plain City St. Joseph parish, the
name of the gentleman pictured on page 139 was Noonan, not Noon.

DONATIONS and ACQUISITIONS FOR THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY
[Your editor apologizes for getting so far behind in acknowledging gifts to
the library. The intention was to transfer these notices to the newsletter,
but that has not been possible.]

Marian Swickard donated a collection of clippings and booklets, including these:
- Premium to Miss Katie Cohen, St. Patrick School, 1874.


The following items are gifts from Tony Lisska:
- Golden Jubilee booklet, 1952, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Columbus.
- Rahill, Peter J., *Catholic Beginning in St. Louis*; St. Louis: Bureau of Information, Archdiocese of St. Louis, 1964 (Bicentennial Historical Series No. 1).

Julia Herman has donated two original prints of a photograph of Rev. John A. Mattes (1871-1926), pastor of Galloway St. Cecilia from 1896 to 1902, and a print of a photo of Monsignor Simon P. Weisinger, late pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Columbus.

Father John Cody has donated some items from St. Ladislaus Parish in Columbus, including the 1958 booklet commemorating the dedication of the new church and the golden jubilee of the parish and the 1983 75th anniversary booklet.

Note cards with color photos of the Nativity and Ascension windows of Holy Redeemer Church, Portsmouth. Gift of Miss Evangeline Justice.

The following are gifts from Father John Kempf:
- *Key of Heaven: A Manual of Spiritual Exercises for Catholics*; St. Louis: B. Herder (1868?).
- Goffine, Rev. Leonard, *Explanation of the Epistles and Gospels...*, translated from the German; two editions, dated 1880 and 1908.
- *The Roman Missal, translated into the English Language*; Philadelphia: Eugene Cummiskey, 1869.
- *Missale Romanum...S. Pii V...*; Turinibus: Typis A. Mame, MDCCLXXXIX.
The little log church of St. Joseph near Somerset, the first Catholic church in Ohio, was dedicated on December 6, 1818. Soon, due to the influx of settlers, this building was woefully inadequate. It was enlarged by knocking out one end and building on a large addition of stone. This structure also was outgrown in just a few years. In 1828 and 1829, the log portion was replaced by a structure of brick, forming what is known as the second church for the parish. By 1839, however, the congregation had again grown, so that people had to stand outside the doors to hear Mass on Sundays. It was decided to build a new church entirely of brick. This third church was burned in an accidental fire in 1864, but the walls were sound and the church was rebuilt; it is still in use today. The cornerstone of this church was laid on July 4, 1839, which happened to be the day on which the cornerstone of the Ohio Statehouse was laid. The inscription reads:

FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD
AND IN HONOR OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY MOTHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
IN HONOR OF THE PATRIARCHS SAINT JOSEPH AND SAINT DOMINIC
IN THE 9th YEAR OF THE PONTIFICATE OF POPE GREGORY XVI
JOHN BAPTIST PURCELL BEING BISHOP OF CINCINNATI
MARTIN VAN BUREN * PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
WILSON SHANNON * GOVERNOR OF OHIO

VERY REV. C. P. MONTGOMERY, PROVINCIAL OF THE PROVINCE OF ST. JOSEPH
AND H. VOGELER OF THE ORDER OF ST. FRANCIS
IN THE PRESENCE OF A DISTINGUISHED GROUP OF CITIZENS
HAVE BLESSED AND SET THIS STONE ON JULY 4, 1839, in the 64th YEAR OF
THE BEGINNING OF LIBERTY.