Michael T. Ready, father of the bishop, was born in Scotland of Irish parents in the year 1859 and was raised in Birkenhead, England. In 1878 he married Miss Mary A. Ellis, of Birkenhead. In the mid-1880s the young couple and their oldest children came to America and settled in New Haven, Connecticut. In 1900 they moved to Mansfield, Ohio and in 1905 to Barberton, Ohio, where Mr. Ready was foreman for a boiler manufacturer. He was an early member of the Knights of Columbus shortly after their founding in Connecticut and was an organizer of the Akron and Barberton councils. The Readys had fourteen children, of whom seven were still living in 1900. Michael J., born in New Haven on April 9, 1893, was the second youngest child and the only surviving boy.

Michael received his elementary education at St. Peter's parish school in Mansfield. His higher education was received at St. Vincent College, Latrobe, Pa.; St. Bernard Seminary, Rochester, N.Y.; and St. Mary Seminary, Cleveland. He was ordained to the priesthood in Cleveland on September 14, 1918 by Bishop John P. Farrelly.

For thirteen years he labored in the Diocese of Cleveland, as assistant pastor at St. Mary Parish in Painesville, teacher at the Cathedral Latin High School (1919 to 1922), and assistant at Holy Name Parish, Cleveland. He also was director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for that diocese in 1927.

In 1931 he was sent to Washington, D.C. as assistant general secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference (predecessor of the USCC/NCCB). He became the NCWC general secretary in 1936. During those years, the
NCWC was the voice of the leadership of the Church in this country. It developed strong programs to aid the growth of the Catholic schools, a national news service, and lay participation in the internal affairs of the Church. It presented the Church in America to the world as a united bloc, to exert a strong, beneficial influence in the matters of faith and morals. Ready gave a great service in a position of high responsibility, taking a lead in every effort that would make America's laws, social institutions, and public policy consonant with Christian teaching. Then and later, he would not fail to give a Catholic viewpoint when he thought moral injustice was being done.

Father Ready was named a Monsignor in 1934 and received honorary doctorates from St. Vincent's, Notre Dame, Duquesne, and Villanova.

Fifth Bishop of Columbus

Monsignor Ready was elected to the see of Columbus on November 11, 1944. He was consecrated on December 14, 1944 in St. Matthew Cathedral, Washington, D.C. by Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, apostolic delegate to the U.S. Cicognani was assisted by Archbishop John T. McNicholas of Cincinnati and Bishop Edward F. Hoban, coadjutor of Cleveland. Bishop Ready was installed in St. Joseph Cathedral in Columbus on January 4, 1945.

One of his first tasks was overseeing, as Administrator Apostolic, the erection of the Diocese of Steubenville from the southeastern portion of the Diocese of Columbus, and the consolidation into Columbus of portions of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati (the western counties of the present diocese).

In Columbus, in addition to building upon Bishop Hartley's many efforts at parish development, Ready worked very hard on the diocesan level, symbolized by the present chancery building, which he had built in 1949 to house his administrative staff.

He began his episcopate calling for the fullest cooperation of the laity in carrying out important programs for the welfare of Church and society. Major themes of his episcopate were the growth of the local church and opening up the local church to its potential strength and influence. To assist in these endeavors, he had several diocesan priests sent for graduate studies in social service, education, social action, and canon law.

He established the Catholic Welfare Bureau of the diocese, with branches in Newark and Zanesville, and soon appointed a Director of Charities for the diocese. The bureau's goal was to serve Catholics and help them preserve their faith. The bureau did case-work and had a man who worked with young boys who needed counseling. A resettlement program was added in 1948. Until 1949 the bureau was entirely supported by the diocese and fees. That year, the agency funding included public money for the first time. By the 1950s, non-Catholics were seeking assistance from the agency.

Bishop Ready also organized the Laymen's Retreat League, the Diocesan Union of the Holy Name Society, a diocesan Parent-Teacher Organization, and the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. He was organizing a Diocesan Council of Catholic Men at the time of his death. These federations of lay organizations literally transformed the role, work, and influence of Catholics in nearly every community in the diocese. Other organizations on the diocesan level were the Council of Catholic Nurses, the Catholic Youth Council, a Hospital Council, the St. Vincent dePaul Society.

On the local level, he created eighteen new parishes and oversaw the construction of nine
elementary and five high schools. He had several possible patterns for the future of Catholic secondary education in Columbus drawn up and accepted the idea of central Catholic high schools. He founded St. Raphael and St. Rita homes for the aged, the Diocesan Child Guidance Center, and the Catholic student center at Ohio State University. He invited the PIME fathers to establish their first seminary in this country in Licking County and during his episcopate the cloistered Carmelites came to the diocese.

With Archbishop McNicholas of Cincinnati, started the first statewide Catholic Conference in the nation. The Ohio Catholic Welfare Conference now is the Ohio Catholic Conference. It quickly established beneficial relationships at all institutional levels with the State of Ohio.

On the national level, Bishop Ready continued working with the NCWC, serving as chairman of its immigration and press departments. He also was an advisor to the Legion of Decency. He was sent to Japan in 1946 to determine the religious needs of that defeated country.

Bishop Ready died suddenly of a cerebral hemorrhage on May 2, 1957, the day after he has buried his friend and classmate, Monsignor Paul Glenn. He was sixty-four years old. Buried was at St. Joseph Cemetery.

A "Difficult" Man

Bishop Ready was endowed far beyond the average with quick intelligence, creative imagination, eloquence, and administrative ability.

He was of a generation of churchmen who "envisioned the pre-eminence of the Church in mustering human resources for the betterment of society." Their concept was that the Church was the center of their lives and their service to the Church meant their service to their people.

It also has been remarked that Ready was very princely and handsome but had "a terrific temper." Rev. Nicholas Maestrini of the PIME Fathers illustrates Ready's temper in his recent history of that organization. Father Maestrini was negotiating with A. J. Wehrle for the farm near Newark where the PIME seminary eventually was established and went to report to Ready on their progress. After a cold reception and giving the report, the Bishop gave him "what probably was the most distressing scolding of my life" for causing him embarrassment with another religious group whom he was asking to take the property. Only after receiving a long letter of explanation, and a statement that the PIME Fathers would gladly give up the site to the other community, did Ready's cheerfulness and friendliness to the PIME Fathers return.

Monsignor Roland Winel, who knew him well, explains that Ready was an impetuous person who wanted to get things done and move the Church forward. He was demanding and impatient both with himself and with those who were closely associated with him. Some observed him as a "difficult" person, but he was a man dedicated to serving the Catholic Church with respect, dignity, and honor.

SOURCES

Federal censuses of 1900, 1910, and 1920
*Catholic Times*, March 3, 1968 and February 26, 1993
*Columbus Register*, May 16, 1947
*Bulletin*, XVI, No. 6, October, 1991
The distribution of Premiums at St. Mary's Seminary, Somerset, Perry County, Ohio was, as is always the case, attended by a numerous and respectable concourse of delighted visitors [sic]. The institution has conferred substantial benefits, not only on its immediate vicinity, but likewise on other portions of the State, by the sound and useful system of instruction which it has adopted and the religious principles and correct sentiments which it has long successfully instilled into the minds of the young ladies who are confided to its care. This excellent institution, which is most prized by those by whom it is best known, deserves a wider range of patronage.

The examination of the young ladies of St. Mary's Seminary, Somerset, Perry Co. took place on the 19th and 20th of July, and was attended by a numerous audience. The Premiums were distributed as follows:

Juniors department, names alphabetized and summarized: Misses Mary Batice, Catharine Beckwith, Mary Bradly, Margaret Bruinstutter, Martha Burns, Rose Ann Busy, Ann Marie Dittoe, Matilda Finck, Cecilia Garaghty, Mary Gillespie, Mary Griner (Guner, Guiver), Mary Guin (Gun), Sarah Hart, Elizabeth Hareholster, Mary Hastingly (Mattingly?), Mary Hewitt, Elizabeth Hickok (Kickok), Ellen Hodge, Louisa Hodge, Louisa Huffer, Maria Jackson, Margarett Jackson, Cecilia Jackson, Ameilia Jennings, Mary Johnson, Emily King, Angeline Kishler, Agnes McCartney, Mary McCartney, Susan McDonald, Ellen McDonald, Mary McDermot (McDunnot), Eliza McKenney, Catharine McKenny, Mary Magruder, Mary Mattingly, Loretta Moeller, Louisa Moolin, Susan Moore, Catharine Moore, Catharine Need, Mary Need, Martha Nonemaker, Margaret O'Brien, Mary Sanders, Susan Shaeffer, Mary Sheridan, Sarah Ann Slevan, Julia Stal, Laura Steinman, Catharine Tiller, Sarah Ward, Emily Wilson.

The Seminary will be re-opened on the first Monday in September.

August 13, 1842
MARRIED. - At Columbus, Ohio, on the 9th inst., by Rt. Rev. Bishop Purcell, Charles W. Russell, Esq. of Wheeling, Virginia, to Margaret W., eldest daughter of Henry Moore, Esq., of Columbus.

August 20, 1842
[an article, "The First Missionaries to Michigan", with a list of priests at Detroit from 1703, etc.]

[advertisement]

ST. MARY'S FEMALE SEMINARY, SOMERSET, PERRY COUNTY, OHIO

THE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

Embraces the English and French languages, Orthography, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, Elements of Astronomy, the use of the Globes, Sacred and Profane History, Ancient and Modern Chronology, Composition, Rhetoric, Natural and Moral Philosophy, Music on the Piano Forte, Plain and Ornamental Needlework, Tapestry, Lace and Bead Work, Embroidery, Filigree, Italian Wax work, Chenille, Net and Shell work, Painting on Velvet and Satin. Drawing and Painting in Water colors.

[Terms are listed; in addition, vocal music and guitar are offered.]

August 27, 1842
DEDICATION

MR. EDITOR,

On the 24th ult. the Church of St. James -- at Meig's Creek, was dedicated to Almighty God. At 9 1/2 o'clock Rev. James McCaffrey the
pastor announced to the people that their beloved Bishop not being able from his numerous and pressing calls, to perform himself this consoling ceremony, had delegated the power to him. He, accordingly, with his assistants, discharged the duty, at the end of which he delivered a very appropriate address explanatory of the object for which they were assembled -- interwoven with warm and moving exhortations to ardor in spirit and in truth that God whom they had thus honored by adding, for the glory of his name another to the number of his numberless Temples.

Divine service then commenced and after the Gospel the Dedication Sermon was preached by Rev. C. McCallion, Pastor of St. Dominic’s, Guernsey. If the prompt and liberal assistance of many of our dissenting brethren, by whose aid the few but faithful and zealous Catholic families of this congregation were enabled to complete their generous work, if this be a proof, the conduct of this devoted servant of his flock and of his God, and the consequent good example of that flock, have gone far to remove all Anti-Catholic prejudices from that neighborhood. If the presence of more than 1200 persons -- if love of good order in the house of the Lord and perfect harmony among his people be true marks, there is already among them the beginning of wisdom. I was a stranger there that morning but long before night I wished myself one of them -- and I wished in my heart that all the Catholic people whom I know would offer as large a proportion of their property to Him who gives them all: and I thought that they were especially worthy to dedicate to the one God a temple under the invocation of the first Apostolic Martyr to their faith.

Their Church is a beautiful frame building of 50 by 25 feet, surmounted by a very handsome Cross of 7 feet in height. To the building is attached a neat Sacristy of 15 feet by 12. The Altar, the Sanctuary, the whole interior, presents a most imposing view. As the traveller rests by the way side to gaze upon it and the burying ground that tops the neighbouring hill, viewing its gigantic Cross and its shadow on every tomb, he cannot but think of his God, of his Redeemer and of the dust to which he must return, and say in his heart that house is a house of prayer. ALIQUIS

DIED. -- In Lancaster, Ohio, August 19th, after a protracted illness, MICHAEL GARAGHITY, 63 years of age. -- The life and the death of this worthy man demand a briefly extended notice...[a half-column notice follows.]

September 10, 1842
We again call the attention of Catholic settlers to Mr. Quin's tracts of land near Wilkesville, Gallia county, only 18 miles from the Ohio river. The title we are assured on good authority is indisputable and the other advantages such as we have represented. The station will be regularly visited by a German and an English priest.

September 24, 1842
INFORMATION WANTED of Cornelius McNally and his wife Catherine Cassily, when last heard of they had left Providence, Rhode Island for the purpose of coming to Somerset, Perry County, Ohio. Any information will be thankfully received at the Catholic Bookstore, Cincinnati for AGNES DUGAN.

October 29, 1842
We regret to announce the death of Mr. P. Quinn who died recently at Wilkesville in Gallia County.

December 10, 1842
DIED. -- On the 30th ult., at his residence in Beverly, Washington County, Ohio, in the 66th year of his age, Mr. Peter McCune, a native of the County Armagh, Ireland, but for the last twenty years a resident of this State during which time he proved himself a good citizen, an affectionate husband a kind parent and a practical Catholic!
December 17, 1842

PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS. -- Rev. Joseph Gallinger has been appointed by the Bishop of this Diocese Pastor of the German Congregations of Zanesville and Taylorsville, Muskingum County; of St. Joseph's and Somerset, Perry County; and of the other German settlements in those neighborhoods. It is hoped that the German Catholics of the last named places will imitate the noble example in Church-building, set them by their brethren in Zanesville, whose beautiful new Church, we understand, will soon be ready for Dedication.

Rev. Mr. Gallinger will officiate next Sunday and on Christmas day, God willing, in Columbus.

Rev. Daniel Hallinan will, henceforth, attend the Catholic settlement commenced by Mr. P. Quinn, near Wilkesville, in Gallia County. The want of a resident Pastor has been the chief drawback to the growth of this new Colony. We trust that it will now prosper to the extent of the anticipations of its pious founder.

We have heard with great pleasure that the new Catholic Church of Portsmouth, begun with such spirit, only a few months past, by Rev. Joseph O' Mealy, will be ready for service, though yet, of course, in an unfinished state, by Christmas, or New Year. The united efforts of all the Catholics of that growing city -- American, German, Irish, French, are above all praise.

December 24, 1842

NOTICE

William Ryan, Gardiner, late of Columbus, Ohio, will please call at Mr. E. Kenna's Office.

December 31, 1842

The Subscribers to the Catholic Telegraph in Zanesville, Ohio, will please call on Mr. John McCartney during the absence of the Rev. Mr. Wilson, and settle their accounts.

(To be continued)

St. Luke Parish, Danville, Ohio
Baptisms and Marriages, 1829-1842
(Continued, from Vol. XXII, No. 5)

1839

Fragment 5, May 19-20, continued
Mary Jane Swartz born 19 March 1837 d/o
Jacob Swartz & Margaret Breckler Sps:
Francis Breckler.

Elizabeth Jones d/o James Jones & Catherine
Devise Sps: Mary Shults.

Richard Dial born 13 June 1838 s/o William
Dial & Rebecca Arnold Sps: Samuel
McKenzie & wife.

Mary Matilda Arnold born 11 April, 1839, d/o
John Arnold & Christina Sapp Sps: William
Carter & Rebecca Dial.

Keziah Lorena White born 7 September, 1838
d/o Anthony White & Keziah Wade Sps:
George Sapp Sr & Mrs Mary Draper.

Peter McKenzie born 31 January, s/o Ignatius
McKenzie & Eliza McKenzie Sps: Elizabeth
Dermit? & Stephen Elias McKenzie

Elizabeth Durbin born 18 [or 10 or 16?] September, 1839 [1838] d/o Henry Durbin &
Nancy Stofler[Stoffer] Sps: Elias Durbin &
Christina Arnold.

Levi Francis Colopy born 1 January, 1839 s/o
Jacob Colopy & Delila Sapp Sps: Jonathan
Sapp & wife Mary.

Catherine Isabel Payne born 14 January, 1839,
d/o Raphael Payne & Winifred Porter Sps: Mr
Aneas Quin & wife.

Elias Porter born 27 January, 1839 s/o John
Porter & Rachel Arnold Sps: Benjamin
Durbin & wife.


Catherine Margaret McKenzie born 22 September, 1838 d/o Gabriel McKenzie & Ann Logue Sps: Benjamin Blubaugh & Honora [?] Blubaugh.


John Peter Magers born 20 October, 1838 s/o William Magers & Drusilla Sapp Sps: Wm Magers & Catherine Durbin.

Drusilla Losh born 27 October, 1815, w/o Thomas McGough

28 July, Benjamin [Swarts], born July 10, s/o Jacob Schwarz & Margaret Schwarz or Brekler [Breckler] Sps: Benjamin Blubaugh & Esther McKenzie. J.G.A. Alleman, O.P.

28 July, Raphael Hilary [McKenzie], born 14 January, s/o Moses McKenzie & Esther McKenzie or Logue [Sapp] Sps: Jacob Sapp & Mary Blubaugh. JGAA

same day, Sara [McGough], born in June, d/o Patrick McGough & Eilen [Helen Durbin] McGough Sps: David Durbin & Winney Blubaugh. JGAA

11 August, Henry Purcell [Pratt], born 8 March, s/o Henry Pratt & Penelope Pratt or Buckingham Sps: David Durbin & Sara Buckingham Alleman

same day, Theodore [Alardin] born 27 January, 1838 s/o Michael Alardin & Elizabeth Alardin or Antony Sps: Theodore Schainthal & Mary Alarden. Alleman

same day, Charles [Logsdon], born 21 May, s/o David Logsdon & Rebecca Logsdon or Uhl Sps: David Logsdon & Honora Durbin Alleman

same day, August, Mary [Stoffer] born 1 September 1837 d/o John Stoffer & Harriet Stoffer or Durbin Sps: Samuel Durbin & Helen Durbin [page 39 gives the birth month as "7ber" but fragment 9 gives it as "Jan".]

[This is the only record on page 39; page 40 is blank.]

19 October, David Alfred Mitten s/o Lewis & Amelia Magers. Sps: Timothy Colopy & Barbara Helen Brophy. J. Lamy

25 October, Anna Durbin d/o Martin & Sara [Sapp] Durbin Sps: Jonathan Sapp & Anne Sapp. JL
1 November, David Jonathan McKenzie s/o Jacob [McKenzie] & Elsa [Ellen] Arnold Sps: Jacob Houbac & Rebecca Houbac. JL

13 November, Rufus Rowley, age 28 Sps: J. Lamy JL

14 November, Martin Linnert s/o Henry [Linnert] & Bridget Work (?) Sps: J Lamy. JL

page 42
17 November, Elizabeth Losh d/o Joseph [Losh] & [Frances] Anna Balsher. JL

same day, Catherine Aofert [Eifert] d/o Michael [Eifert] & Elizabeth Brolole [Brell]. JL

same day, Henry Chapp s/o Adam [Chapp] & Martha Hunt. JL

same day, Margaret Helen d/o George & Regina Jumbard. JL [Note: the surname Jumbard is in the position where Father Lamy normally put the maiden name of the mother; but no other surname for the family appears.]

same day, John Bime [Beam] s/o Jacob [Beam] & Maria Crowelor [Kroughler]. JL

same day, Jacob Bime [Beam] s/o Jacob [Beam] & Maria Crouelor [Kroughler]. JL

page 43
7 December, Maria [Zimmerman], ---- weeks old, d/o Frederick [Zimmerman Jr] & Sara Colopy Sps: Levi Sapp & Maria Colopy. JL

same day, Matilda Hunt, 3 years old, d/o Richard Hunt & Nancy Colopy Sps: Levi Sapp & Maria Colopy. JL

same day, William Hunt, 9 months old, s/o Richard Hunt & Nancy Colopy Sps: Levi Sapp & Anna Sapp. JL

8 December, John Millenpuc [?] s/o John [Millenpuc?] & Helen Koor Sps: Edward Hook & Maria Fretke. JL

page 44
25 December, Samuel Brent, age 3 months, s/o Joseph [Postlewait] & Margaret Glesson Sps: M. Morton & Mrs Colopy. JL

1840
6 January, Caroline Postlewait, 6 years old, d/o Joseph [Postlewait] and Margaret Glesson Sps: M. Morton & Mrs Colopy. JL

6 January, Debora Postlewait, 4 years old, d/o Joseph Postlewait Sps: same JL

12 February, Edward Brent, 2 weeks old, s/o Edmund [Brent] & Fanny [Frances Isabella] Sapp Sps: George Sapp & Martha Sapp. JL

18 February, Martha Catherine [Durbin] d/o Baptist [Durbin] & Catherine King Sps: Absalom Buckingham & Maria Murphy. JL

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(To be continued)