March 5, 1853

VERY REV. AND REV. SIRS – Being lately in the neighborhood of Somerset, Perry county, I was induced to make a visit to the Dominican Convent and College of St. Joseph, about two miles from the little town, and being interested, too, in the agitation of the school question, now so important to the Catholic community, I was determined to make enquiry into the system of education carried out in this celebrated establishment.

St. Joseph's stands on a rising ground, in a fine, healthy district of country, and contrasting with the monotonous scenery of the surrounding country, it presents an agreeable and cheerful view to the approaching stranger. A handsome Gothic Church stands in front, running East and West; north of the Church is the convent, running nearly due north; to the rear of the Convent the College stands, East and West, and south-east of the Church is a public cemetery, which the good Dominicans have laid out and given, free of expense, to the Catholics of the neighborhood.* The religious community consists of twenty-six inmates—six Priests, thirteen novices, and seven lay brothers. Their dress is a white habit and cowl, emblematic of that simplicity and purity

*The religious community consists of twenty-six inmates—six Priests, thirteen novices, and seven lay brothers.
of soul so manifest in their manner, their
gate, and their appearance, but in nothing so
striking as in their bland and kind attention to
strangers.

[* The original priory ran west of, behind, the church
and the “old” cemetery lies to the northwest. It
probably was in use before the property was donated
to the Dominicans. Despite these errors, this account
establishes with certainty that the college stood roughly
behind the church, as depicted in a drawing in the
college newspaper; and not on the more northerly
site of the later ecclesiastical college, which now is the
“new” cemetery. - ed.]

The Convent is a good, plain building, well
ventilated, and affording a simple but healthy
accommodation to the holy inmates; it
contains also a fine library of 4,000 volumes,
from the choicest works of the ancient Fathers
and Ecclesiastical writers, with a fair proportion
of classical and miscellaneous literature.
This Order has already extended itself
considerably through the States, having a
branch in Kentucky, one in Memphis, and one
in Wisconsin, but the one at Somerset is the
parent house.
We are indebted to the pious Fathers of the
Dominican Order for the first introduction of
the Catholic Religion into the State of Ohio.
The deceased venerated Bishop Fenwick and his
Reverend nephew, Father Young, of Somerset,
were the first missionaries in this State, and
built a small log church in the year 1818 the
site where the beautiful gothic building now
stands. They alone had the spiritual charge of
this large State, and many a weary night and
day did they travel on horseback and on foot,
through snow and ice, and through pathless
wood, seeking after and hording the scattered
flock of Christ. The Bishop is gone to receive
his crown, the well merited reward of his
labors; the other, now in his old age, is still
pursuing the course of his holy calling with all
the fervor and zeal of a faithful missioner. The
Rev. Mr. Young is still doing the missionary
duties of Somerset, and officiating as chaplain
to the Dominican Convent of Nuns in that
town. I spent part of a day with this fine old
gentleman, and was much edified with the
accounts of his early mission.
But the College—the pupils count 75 in
number, a fine, healthy set of young boys,
neatly kept, and full of life and innocent frolic.
The education Department is conducted by
the Fathers, and gives a grand proof of their
literary taste as well as of their well tempered
moral discipline.
The school system comprises an English,
classical, and philosophical education. The
English department, again, comprises all that
is requisite to form the scholar, the gentleman
and the man of business, arithmetic, science,
globes, composition, and education.
The classical department includes the ancient
Green and Latin authors, together, with the
French and German languages. And the
philosophical course embodies as much of
material and moral philosophy, as the youthful
minds of the pupils could profitably receive.—
There are public examinations in all the classes
at the end of each session, at which the parents
of the children attend with much pleasure
and interest. There are also two debating
societies, in the College, the philopedian
society and the philohistoric society, at which
the students exercise themselves twice in the
week. It is needless to speak of the great
advantages of such societies. I was present at
one, in which the subject debated, was, “The
relative claims of Columbus and Lafayette on
American sympathy.” The young disputants
showed a thorough knowledge of these two
historic characters, and defended their views
with eloquence, and argument well worthy
of maturer years. But apropos! Our present
school question! This College is taxed by the
Government, and the library of the Convent is
taxed for the support of public schools, great
encouragement, no doubt, to good, sound,
and moral education! The charge to each
pupil at this college is $45 per session, that
is precisely $2 per week, for board, washing,
mending and education. The two dollars
per week, will pay for the board &c., but the education is entirely free, and the good Fathers are taxed by the government for giving a gratuitous education to the public. Hear this ye bablers and besotted bigots, and say that the Catholic Church is opposed to education and the enlightenment of her children. but, is not this a strong case, too, in favor of Bishop O’Connor’s admirable plan of educating the children according to the wish of their parents, and according to the principles of their religion?—Here are schools (that will be kept up) affording a general education, combined with morality, and with the teachings of that religion in which the children were baptised, and in which they will live. Here is cheap, on rather gratuitous education, don’t tax it but give it its full right, give it a share of the public taxes, and you will carry out a system of education, just in itself, and agreeable to the people, and you will materially lighten the public taxes.

But remonstrance is useless, let us agitate, let us use our right as American citizens, let us petition the Government, let us go further still, the law should come from the people, and the legislators are only the nominees of the people to make the laws, let us test our candidates, and vote for no man, Whig or Democrat—empty sounds—but for him that will stand up for our rights, and support those views which, we conscientiously hold, and which, under the principles of a free constitution we are authorized to enforce.

Unwilling to dwell any longer, for the present on this subject, I remain, Very Rev. and Rev. gentlemen.
Respectfully yours, &c.
JOHN FABER

April 16, 1853
PORTSMOUTH.—The Most Rev. Archbishop has recommended the establishment of a second congregation at Portsmouth which, accordingly, has been already organized by the respected Pastor, Rev. Mr. Gilmore. The German Catholics retain the present church and Priest’s house, for which they have paid cash $1200, and assume the debts and cost of repairs—and the English have rented the old Presbyterian meeting house, until they can erect suitable buildings for themselves, which, we hope, they may be able soon to accomplish.

MARIETTA.—Rev. Mr. Perry has, with permission, laid the corner stone of a new church, which is to be 100 by 50, at Marietta, with the usual ceremonies. We wish the good work “God speed.”

April 23, 1853
This issue notes the death of Rev. Stephen T. Badin and gives a sketch of his life and his character.

May 7, 1853
On Corpus Christi, in the forenoon, will be placed the corner-stone of the church of Urbana and that of Bellefontaine in the afternoon; and on the following Sunday, 29th, Piqua will be visited. Kenton will be visited on Wednesday, 1st of June. Ironton, Sunday, 5th of June.

On page 5 are printed letters from Bishop John Carroll to Father Badin, dated August 2, 1794 and Oct. 17, 1799, along with a picture of Badin sent from Nazareth, Ky.

May 14, 1853
A letter gives an account of Notre Dame de Lac, from PBE [perhaps P. B. Ewing?], “where I have been kindly entertained for the last few days.”

Subscriptions: James F. Furney, Columbus; Rev. Peter Perry, Marietta

May 21, 1853
Ordinations: at the Cathedral by Archbishop Purcell, to the subdiaconate on Sunday, Hemsteger, Kelly, J. B. Donohoe; to the diaconate on Tuesday, Kelly and Donohoe; to the priesthood on Saturday, May 21, Kelly and Donohoe.
May 28, 1853

A long note on page 5 accuses T. F. Meagher of being anti-Catholic.

Subscriptions: John O'Malley, Dresden; Patrick McMullen, Rehoboth; S. H. Zink, Lancaster.

500 LABORERS WANTED,
On the section of the Cincinnati, Wilmington, and Zanesville railroad, between Zanesville and New Lexington, Perry county, Ohio. Steady hands will have two years work, in the healthiest part of the State. - Wages $1,10 per day; boarding $2 per week; hands wishing to leave will be paid at any time. For further information enquire of Alexander Graham & Co. corner of Main and Fifth sts., Zanesville, Ohio. St. Dominick's Catholic Church is only 1 1/2 miles from the heaviest section of the work; information in regard to the above statements can be had by addressing the Rev. Pastor, Rehoboth, Perry county, Ohio.

June 4, 1853
The episcopal visitation of Urbana, Sidney, and Middletown is described.

June 11, 1853
KENTON, HARDIN CO., O.
The Archbishop visited this place on Wednesday, 2d June. The court house having been burned down, there was no place of meeting but a private Catholic dwelling. This was crowded almost to suffocation at the Masses celebrated by the Most Rev. Archbishop and Rev. Messrs. Sheahan, Eberhard and Kearney, by whom he was accompanied. - There were many communions, and nineteen were confirmed. Several highly respectable Irish Catholic families are settled in the neighborhood, and a large number of Irish Catholics are engaged on the Railroads. There are also some worthy German Catholic families. Rev. Mr. Sheahan is doing much for the spiritual welfare of his fast increasing flock here and in Sidney and Bellefontaine. He also buys for them cheap lands in healthful situations and thus contributes largely at the same time to their temporal well-being. A lot has been purchased and paid for in an eligible site for a church which we hope will be soon commenced.

June 18, 1853
TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 7. The ceremony of Laying the Corner Stone of the new Catholic Church was performed yesterday afternoon, in the presence of a very large and respectable assemblage of persons from the city and vicinity. The discourse of Bishop Whelan was listened to with profound attention. [The words on a scroll placed in the cornerstone are given.]
The contractors for building the new church, are as follows: - Carpenter, Jas. O'Neil; Bricklayers, Manley & Foster; Stone-mason, D. Naughten; Plasterer, A. M. Steward, and Painter and Glazier, Samuel Filson. The following are the names of the building Committee: - Rev. Emanuel Thienpont, present pastor of this congregation, President; Valentine Owney, Treasurer; James M'Ginnis, Sr., John Smith, Michael Feist; James V. Reid, Secretary.

Subscription: Bernard Mathews, Kenton
1842 continued...

Aug. 30 [SC], Elizabeth, daughter of James and Jane Lavin; spons. Bartholomew and Ann Mcdonnal AO
Sept. 3 [SC], Mary Agnes, daughter of John and Ann Curren; spons. Michael Curren and Alex Mallon AO
Sept. 18, John, son of Martin and Catharine Duran; spons. John Duran and Elizabeth Powers AO
Sept. 19 [A], Catharine, daughter of Edward and Ann Sheridan; spons. Michael Mccuait and Elizabeth Feagan AO
Oct. 6 [A], Margaret Jane, daughter of John and Bridget Bety; spons. Ml. Olivetti and Elizabeth Bety AO
Oct. 8 [C], Mary, daughter of Samuel and Susanna Dennan; spons. Ml. Olivetti and Mary Huingh AO
Oct. 10 [C], Mary Ann, daughter of John and Mary Sweefth; spons. Jeremy and Mary Kenrik AO
Oct. 16 [SC], John, son of Patrick and Bridget Mellin?; spons. John Mcgovern and Mary Curren AO
same day, Ann, daughter of Bernard and Mary Masterson; spons. Andrew and Catharine Masterson AO
Oct. 17 [L?], Johanna, daughter of Michael and Sarah Collins; spons. John and Mary Ryan? AO
Oct. 18 [A], conditionally, Thomas Cross, 24? years old; spons. Ml. Olivetti and Mary Feagan AO
same day, John, son of James and Helen Drumny?; spons. James Mclaglin and Elizabeth Crow? AO
same day, Mary Ross, 19 years old; spons. John Crow and Mary Sheridan AO
Oct. 23, I supplied the ceremony of baptism to Charles, son of Bartholomew and Ann Molligan; spons. Andrew Mckoernan and Mary Mulligan AO
Oct. 24 [D], Michael Herman, 4 years old, son of Aloyius and Fibia Flowers; spons. Frederick Gosman and Mary Flowers AO
same day, William, age 8? years, son of Aloyius and Fibia Flowers; spons. Frederick Gosman and Mary Flowers AO
Oct. 30 [SC], Christopher, son of Francis and Mary Riceker [Hopher Reisacher in Monroe Township in 1850]; spons. Michael Doyle and Mary Feagan AO
Nov. 8 [D], conditionally, Mary Fibia, age 25 years, wife of Aloyius Flowers; spons. Ml. Olivetti and Sarah Ann Gosman AO
same day, Matilda Ann, daughter of Henry and Mary Jane Flowers; spons. John and Jane Flowers AO
Nov. 24, Margaret, daughter of Francis and Elizabeth ----; spons. Michael Smith AO
Nov. 20 [D], Sarah Ann, daughter of Joseph and Mary Ann Pearl; spons. John Mallon and Sara Ann Pearl AO
Nov. 29 [SC], Mary Salem, age 24 years, daughter of n. Petet; spons. James and Ann Martin AO
same day, conditionally, Thomas Daniel, son of Daniel and Mary Salem Mcconelli, 5 months old; spons. Thomas Skennan and Margaret Mcconelly. Olivetti
same day, Margaret, daughter of James and Ann Martin; spons. Stephen Fagan? and Margaret Mccanely AO
Dec. 3, Michael, son of Michael and Ann Kenny; spons. Bernard Mccabe and Mary Mckeenan AO
Dec. 27, Henry Deaver, age 20 years, spons. Mr. Goulding and Catharine Thompson AO

1843

Jan. 1 [SC?], Susanna, daughter of James and Bella Gallegher; spons. Dominic Gallegher and Catharine Duffy AO
same day, Sarah, daughter of Michael and Catharine Welch; spons. J--- James? and Catharine Devany AO
Jan. 6, Thomas, son of Timothy and M--- Degens?; spons. John Linch and Helen Mitchel AO

Jan. 20 [D], conditionally, Mary Ann Patten, age 22 years; spons. Ml. Olivetti and Mary Geiger AO

Feb. 5 [C], Lucy, daughter of James and Mary Ryans AO; spons. Jeremy Kelly and Mary Ryans AO

Feb. 6 [C], conditionally, Michael William Bartlet, age 25; spons. William and Eufronia Edwards AO

Feb. 7 [C], Mary Ann, daughter of Jeremy and Ann Skelly; spons. Thomas Solon and Mary Hendebow AO

same day, Felix, son of John and Jane Mouren, 14 years old; spons. John and Mary Ryans AO

same day, Patrick, son of John and Jane Mouren, 12 years old; spons. William Edwards and Mary Ryans AO

same day, Daniel, age 10 years, son of John and Jane Mouren; sons. John and Mary Ryans AO

same day, Francis, age 8 years, son of John and Jane Mouren; spons. John and Mary Ryans AO

same day, Sarah Jane, age 4 years, daughter of John and Jane Mouren; spons. William Edwards and Mary Ryans AO

same day, Michael Robert, age 1 year, son of John and Jane Mouren; spons. William Edwards and Mary Ryans AO

Feb. 10, Thomas, son of William and Margaret Hokran; spons. Charles Mcgovern and Bridget Hakran AO

Feb. 15 [D], Catharine Fibiana, daughter of Charles and Mary Winer; spons. Catharine Pearl and Andrew Gosman AO

same day, John, son of Joseph and Agatha Rehart; spons. Solomon Gosman and Mary Gosman AO

Feb. 19 [SC], Bernard, son of Michael and Mary Hays; spons. James Ryans and Helen Mortah AO

Feb. 22 [SC], Mathew, son of William and Margaret Horen; spons. George and Catherine Thompson AO

[Feb.] 23 [SC], Sarah Ann daughter of Thomas and Catharine Skennan; spons. William Goulding and Mary Ann Skennan. AO

[Feb.] 26 [D], Anna Maria daughter of n.n. Trast; spons. Philip and Ann Longstreth AO

same day Matilda Ann daughter of John and Susanna Gasman; spons. Solomon Gosman and Mary Pearl AO

[Feb.] 27 [D], Catharine, daughter of Daniel and Mary Dikes; spons. Francis and Frances Geiger AO

March 5 Ann Mary, daughter of Michael and Alice Mccullar; spons. James Has and Ann Fennely AO

Apr. 1 [A], Helen Jane, six years old, daughter of James and Helen Sale; spons. Ml. Olivetti and Bridget Bety AO

Apr. 2, Mary, daughter of John and Alice Kelly; spons. John Brufy and Catharine Downey AO

same day, Jonathan Brower Edward, son of William and Luarentia Bartlet; spons. Ml. Olivetti and Anna Fennely AO

same day, Helen, daughterof Hugh and Mary Fitspatrik; spons. James and Sarah Collins AO

same day, Catharine Frances, daughter of Nicholas and Mary Sowrs; spons. Patrick and Frances Mcdearman AO

Apr. 9 [SC], Thomas, son of Hugh and Helen Donnaly; spons. John Cunningham and Elizabeth Hosy AO

same day Philip son of Henry and Margaret Hofer; spons. Francis and Frances Geiger AO

Apr. 15 [D], William son of John and Temperance Geiger; spons. Ml. Olivettia nd Frances Geiger AO

Apr. 16, Catharine daughter of Catherine and Alice Flower [“ego baptizavi filiam Catharinam filiam Catharinae et Aloysiae Flower”]; spons. Joseph and Mary Ann Pearl AO

same day, Philip Justine Klipstine, age 24,
spons. Hugh Donnaly and Helen Donnaly AO
May 2 [SC], John, son of Michael and Julia Wil; spons. John Mallan and Mary Brufy AO

same day, James, son of Patrick and Sarah Hines; spons. Patrick Killin and Ann Mcdonnal AO
same day, William, son of Edward and Ann Kennan; spons. Patrick and Ann Masterson AO
May 4, Elizabeth, daughter of John and Elizabeth Oagener?; spons. Jesse and Mary Carpenter AO
May 6 [A], John, son of Policarp and Justine Fhsees?; spons. Michael Smith and Margaret Wise? AO [apparently Burigard and Christina Sees; see Feb. 13, 1848]
same day, Joseph, son of John and Mary Ann Smith; spons. James Ulrik and Margaret Ulrik [sic] AO
same day, Michael, son of John and Ann Mary Smith; spons. James and Margaret Ulrik AO [SC], Rev. Mccaffrey baptized John son of Nicholas and Mary Kily; spons. John Skennan and Mary Ann Skennan AO
Aug. 5 [SC], Elise Jane Mills, 18 years old, spons. John Mallan and Mary Mckearnan AO
same day, Marc Antony, son of Stephan and n. Word; spons. Edward Kennan and Emiline Klipstine AO
Aug. 24, Urs Victor, son of James and Mary Ann Borer; spons. John and Ann Wise AO
Sept. 3, John, son of John and Catharine Power; spons. Laurence Duffy and Isaac Gallagher AO
same day, John, son of James and Mary Collins; spons. James O'harra and Mary O'harra AO
Sept. 4, Margaret, daughter of Timothy and Catharine Mcgravy; spons. John Linch and Alex Mccullar AO
Sept. 24, Simon, son of John and Catharine Mccabe; spons. Bernard Mccabe and Helen Mourtah AO
same day, Catharine, daughter of John and Mary George; spons. John Skennan and Miss Tool AO
same day, conditionally, Juliana, daughter of Philip and Ann Longstreth; spons. John Geiger and Margaret Cunningham AO

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Sept. 26, Catharine, daughter of Patrick and Mary Feagon; spons. Ferdinand and Helen Mallan AO
Oct. 1, Hilary, son of Charles and Catharine Mcgravi; spons. John and Sarah Kelly AO
same day Mary Jane, daughter of James and Mary Mcgravi; spons. Timothy and Catharine Mcgravi AO
Oct. 8 [SC], William, son of John and Helen Mitchel; spons. Timothy Rean and Ann Curren AO
Oct. 11 [SC], Mary, daughter of George and Catharine Thompson; spons. Patrick Skennan and Elizabeth Goulding AO
Oct. 18 [SC], Francis, son of Michael and Bridget Mallan; spons. Brian and Ann Mourtah AO
Oct. 22 [SC], Andrew, son of Andrew and Mary Du; spons. Bartholomew and Mary Mcdonnal AO
Nov. 12 [D], Margaret, daughter of John and Mary Ann Longstreth; spons. Ml. Olivetti and Ann Geiger AO
Dec. 10 [D], David, son of James and Elizabeth Burgoun; spons. Mary Gosman and Philip Longstreth AO
same day, Ann, daughter of Thomas and Elisa Ferrel; spons. John and Mary Geiger AO
Dec. 24 [SC], Frances, daughter of Michael and Elizabeth Mulligan; spons. Thomas and Mary Walpol AO
Dec. 25 [D], John James, son of Frederick and Sarah Ann Gasman; spons. Solomon and Mary Ann Gosman AO

To Be Continued...
Thienpont or Mollinger? – A Correction

In 1983 while Monsignor Mattingly was writing a biographical sketch of Father Emmanuel Thienpont (1803-1873), he was delighted when an associate in Dayton pointed out to him a photograph of Thienpont. It had been published in a 1956 history of St. Peter Parish in Steubenville, where Thienpont had been pastor when the first St. Peter Church was built. A copy of the photo ran with the article “Rev. Emmanuel Thienpont, Pastor and Missionary” in the Bulletin of February, 1983. Unfortunately, the 1956 history was incorrect.

Record Society Chairman Patrick Mooney found and recently donated to the Society an original of the photo. On the reverse is inscribed “Fr. Mollinger”. Pat was able to find information about this priest, including similar photographs, on the internet.

Father Suitbert Goedfriend Mollinger, son of a wealthy Belgian family, was the first pastor of Most Holy Name of Jesus Church in Pittsburgh. More notably, in 1880 he founded as his personal property St. Anthony Chapel in Troy Hill, Pittsburgh, which housed his collection of over five thousand relics of saints. He attracted young and old alike. He drew thousands of sick and desperate people to the chapel and it was said he had the power of healing, especially on the feast of St. Anthony and with his relic of this popular saint.

After Father Mollinger’s death in 1892, his family took the most valuable items from the chapel before selling it to the bishop. It gradually fell into a state of disrepair, but it was restored in 1977 and remains open today.