Physical Improvements

About 1900, during the pastorate of Father Wagner, some “notable improvements with church and property” were made, according to Hartley’s history. This perhaps refers to the purchase of new windows, a chalice, an organ, and statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Anthony, as well as a cross for the cemetery, reported by Father John F. Lang in 1903. Some time before 1955 the structure was re-plastered. At a later date the original church was covered by insul-brick, so in many photographs it appears to be a brick structure.

In 1975 members of the mission instigated construction of the second St. Ann Church. Ground was broken for the brick structure on April 6. Architects for the new fane were Harden and Reid of Newark. Contractors were Charles Shilling and Clarence Bauerbach, and plumbing contractor was Joe LeRoy. The cost was $60,000 and the church was dedicated by Bishop Herrmann on November 30, 1975. The original church stood on the corner of the lot at the intersection and the new church was built next to it on the south. After the dedication of the new church, the original, 139 year old wooden church was dismantled.

A small education and activities building, standing southwest of the church, was completed in 1984 and was dedicated that December 2. The one-story, 36 by 24 foot, brick-veneered structure cost $30,000 and was mainly used for religious education for some forty students. (The architect was Richard E. Ditter and the contractor was Cecil Yonley, both of Zanesville.) Father Stephen Jurasko, O.P., the pastor, remarked, “Everyone knows each other in a good way and supports one another.” There then were about seventy families in the mission, mostly young. In 1986 the mission celebrated its sesquicentennial with a Mass of thanksgiving offered by Bishop Griffin, an open house, strawberry festival, and picnic.
School
Various methods were used through the life of the mission to educate its children in the Faith. To accommodate the children living in Wayne Township, in 1873 a school was conducted during the winter months, supported largely out of the revenues of St. Nicholas Church. For want of attendance it was discontinued in the Spring of 1893. Later the pastor and one or two lay members would teach bible history and catechism to the children. In 1943 there were some 10 children in the catechism class. When the Dominican priests of St. Thomas Parish took over the mission in the spring of 1944, they had the Dominican Sisters of Zanesville begin handling the religious education of the children.24

Cemeteries
The mission has two cemeteries. In the summer of 1836 Bishop Purcell reported in the Telegraph that a lot had been given, a mile away from the church, for a burial ground.25 The statement could be read to mean that the site had been given by “the proprietor,” James Taylor. However, no deed for such a lot from Mr. Taylor was recorded. The first cemetery used by the mission was sold to Bishop Purcell by Michael and Barbara Till in 1843 and is located on the north side of Fattler Ridge Road, 0.9 mile west of the Philo corporation limit, or 1.3 miles west from Main and Fifth streets. A second cemetery was sold to Bishop Rosecrans in 1871. It is located at the south end of Philo, on the south side of Duncan Falls Road, just west of Market Street. These sites will be described in detail with the tombstone readings that follow.

Priests and Services
The intention of Bishop Purcell when the church was dedicated was that it would be attended every two weeks alternately by “American” and German priests. (Telegraph, at dedication) In 1841 and 1842 it was attended successively by Rev. George A. J. Wilson, O.P. and Rev. Joseph S. Alemany, O.P., from Zanesville St. John.26 At some point, it is not clear when, the responsibility passed primarily to the German priests at St. Nicholas Parish, Zanesville. Notable pastors at Zanesville St. Nicholas were:

Joseph Gallinger Dec. 1842-1847
Otto A. Borgess, 1847-1849
Michael Deselaers, 1849-1855
William Deiters, 1850-1855
From 1855 until 1862, none of the pastors remained for over two years.
Joseph Rauch, 1862-1869
Magnus Eppink, 1869-1884
Father Eppink reported in the early 1870s that he attended Taylorsville once a month, on the first Monday and Tuesday.

About 1882 Bishop Watterson attached St. Ann Mission to the parish at McConnellville. Rev. Samuel S. Mattingly, pastor of McConnellville, then attended Taylorsville in addition to missions at Hackney and Windsor. Father Mattingly resigned, due to ill health, about 1886. Because of a shortage of priests it was not until some nine months later, in 1887, that Father Mattingly was succeeded by Rev. John Meade. Father Meade would come to St. Ann’s on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. On the fifth Sunday he would attend the other missions. He came to Philo by railroad on Saturday evening and returned to McConnellville on Monday after early Mass. He heard confessions, of course, and on Sunday afternoon he had vespers and benediction.27

In the spring of 1896 Rev. F. Edward Clark was appointed and stayed for about six months. About July of 1897 Rev. John H. Wagner replaced him. About 1902 came Rev. John F. Lang and about January of 1906 Rev. M. D. Fagan, who stayed only about eleven months. He was succeeded, around January of 1908, by Rev. John W. Byrne, and in June, 1912 by Rev. William M. Sullivan.28 All of these priests followed the pattern of services that had been set by Father Meade.
The next priest was Father Francis J. Mueller. Father Mueller purchased a car about 1925, which allowed him to offer Mass at St. Ann’s on every Sunday and Holy Day. He or one of his predecessors began holding Lenten services at St. Ann’s. His successors at McConnelsville were Revs. William Maloney, 1928-1929 and Louis B. Preston, 1929-1938. In 1936, under the pastorate of Father Preston, the centennial of St. Ann’s was celebrated with a Solemn High Mass. His successor was Rev. William L. Thomas, who served the mission from 1938 until his death on May 23, 1943. These priests continued to attend Philo every Sunday. Father James McMahon was the last priest from McConnellsville to serve St. Ann’s. The boundary of the new Diocese of Steubenville placed McConnellsville in the new diocese while St. Ann’s remained in the Diocese of Columbus. Father McMahon’s last Mass there
was on Easter Sunday, 1944. Beginning the next week, the mission was under the care of the Dominican priests of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Zanesville.

The Dominican Pastors, stationed at St. Thomas, were:
Rev. Lorenn P. Johannsen, O.P., 1944-1945
Rev. Charles M. Mulvey, O.P. 1948-1957

From about 1972 through the period of church and hall construction (1984), the priest who took charge of St. Ann was not the pastor at St. Thomas but one of the assistants, Rev. Stephen Jurasko, O.P.

Although the priests at St. Thomas reported a sharp decline in the Catholic population at the mission, there is some thought in the area that a younger, more active priest could have had an impact towards keeping the mission alive. In the 1970s Father Jurasko offered Mass on Sundays and on the eve of holy days. In the 1980s, Mass was offered only on Sunday mornings, but Confession was available beforehand. The Rosary Altar Society was a constant through all of these years. By the year 2000, only the Sunday Mass remained. All other services, including confessions, were provided only in Zanesville.

By agreement between the pastor and Bishop James Griffin, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was no longer offered at St. Ann’s after some time in 2001. Any decision to suppress the mission was left in the hands of the vicariate council, which by the end of 2005 had taken no action. For now, the church and hall remain, still obviously Catholic and indicating the former presence of the Church and Her faithful children in southern Muskingum County.

Decline and Closure
As noted above, after 1988 the October Count indicates a steadily declining congregation at St. Ann Mission. From 105 in 1988, the count dropped to 96 in 1990, 86 in 1992, 68 in 1993, 52 in 1995, 50 in 1999, and 43 in 2000. In 1997 Rev. Thomas J. Ertle, O.P. foresaw a decline in the mission “because of young couples moving.” “The majority of parishioners are senior citizens.” The next year Father DeTemple noted, “It seems this mission community is really dying. They are very loyal to their church, but it is an aging population.” And in 1999 he told the Bishop, “This Mission Church declines by about 10 people every year. Serious questions are facing them.” But he noted that the economic status of individuals was steady. By 2001 there remained only fifteen registered and contributing adults and ten children.

NOTES
20) Kussmaul & Kussmaul
21) Catholic Times, Apr. 18, 1975
22) Catholic Times, Dec. 14, 1984
23) Catholic Times, July 18, 1986
25) Catholic Telegraph, Aug. 18, 1836
26) Annual Catholic Directory
27) Kussmaul & Kussmaul
29) Kussmaul & Kussmaul; See the Bulletin of July, 2002 for some remarks on Father Preston.
30) Kussmaul & Kussmaul
Taylorsville Baptisms, 1843-1882
Recorded at St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville
(Concluded, from Vol. XXXI, No. 7)

1851, continued
Nov. 15 in Taylorsville, Barbara Caroline, born Nov. 4, daughter of Gregory Herli [Stehli?] and Barbara Böschers; spons. Matthew Hurm and Mary Borer. W. Deiters

1852
Mar. 22 in Taylorsville, John Jacob, born March 6, son of Matthias Hurm and Mary Ann Borer; spons. John Müller and Catherine Till. W. Deiters
April 17, Catherine Louise, born Apr. 4, daughter of Mary Stehle; spons. Francis Roll and Catherine Roll. W. Deiters
May 1, Taylorsville, Anna Maria, born Apr. 24, daughter of John Kehrer and Eve Mildner; spons. Caspar Kels and Anna Maria Mildner. W. Deiters
July 11 in Taylorsville, Catherine Josephine, born June 29, daughter of Michael Fräsch and Elizabeth Hemler; spons. John Bösherz and Catherine Kimmel. W. Deiters
Sept. 6 in Taylorsville, Francis, born Aug. 25, son of John Fattler and Caroline Schmidt; spons. Francis Kessler and Catherine Schmidt. W. Deiters
Oct. 3 in Taylorsville, Antonetta Wilhelmina, born Sept. 22, daughter of Anthony Eberst and Catherine Kräder; spons. William Fettler and Margaret Roll. W. Deiters
Nov. 28 in Taylorsville, John Nicholas, born the 17th, son of Peter Krier and Elizabeth Plätscher; spons. Nicholas Krier and Margaret Krier. W. Deiters

1853
Jan. 22, Taylorsville, Frederick Robert and Theresa, twins, born Jan. 6, of Christian Kusmaul and Catherine Keck; spons. of “Christian,” Frederic Keck and Margaret Krier; spons. of Theresa, Melchior Stehle and Barbara Keck. W. Deiters
April 2, Taylorsville, Henry, born March 26, son of Anthony Stehle and Sophronia Schwarz; spons. Henry Stehle and Eve Kimmel. W. Deiters
Apr. 30, Taylorsville, Sara Helen, born July 29, 1851, daughter of John Crikbaum and Deb. Makroi; spons. John Bösherz and Elizabeth Eberts. W. Deiters
July 9, Taylorsville, Nicholas Martin and John, twins, born July 5, of Nicholas Till and Catherine Loos; spons. for Nicholas, Matthias and Ann Krätzer, spouses; spons. for John, John Till and Mary Till. W. Deiters
July 9, Taylorsville, Joseph, born June 27, son of John Keck and Crescentia Spengeler; spons. Melchior and Barbara Stehle, spouses. W. Deiters
July 24, Taylorsville, Frances Magdalene, born July 21, daughter of Melchior Stehle and Barbara Keck; spons. John Keck and Catherine Keck. W. Deiters
Aug. 6, Taylorsville, Nicholas, born July 1, son of Joseph Mühlfeld and Catherine Krier; spons. Nicholas Krier and Elizabeth Krier. W. Deiters
Sept. 13 in Taylorsville, Helen Louise, born Sept. 11, daughter of John Bösherz and Elizabeth Rauphake?; spons. Kilian Kümmel and Mary Stehle. W. Deiters

1854
May 14 in Taylorsville, Linus Pius, born March 14, son of Francis Kessler and Catherine Fetler; spons. Michael Tresch and Caroline Schmidt. W. Deiters
July 29 in Taylorsville, William, born July 17, son of John Färtler and Caroline Schmidg; spons. William Färtler and Anna Maria Teupel. W. Deiters
Dec. 3, Taylorsville, Barbara Caroline, born Nov. 13, daughter of Michael Caroline and Elizabeth

69
1855
Jan. 6, Taylorsville, Barbara Helen, born Dec. 2, 1854, daughter of Melchior Stehle and Barbara Keck; spons. John Keck and Catherine Kusmaul. W. Deiters
June 30, Taylorsville, Nicholas, born June 30, son of Henry Döbbele and Barbara Till; spons. Nicholas Till and Mary Till. W. Deiters
Same, Henry Michael, born June 13, son of Nicholas Till and Catherine Lotz; spons. Henry Döbbele and Margaret Till. W. Deiters
July 14, Taylorsville, John Henry, born July 7, son of George Teipel and Anna Maria Laubersheim; spons. John Fätler and Margaret Teipel. W. Deiters
Same, William Kilian Herman, born Aug. 18, son of John Gustav Andreas Xavier Ulrich and Maria Anna Stehle; spons. Kilian Kimmel and Catherine Stehle. W. Deiters

The next two pastors, Revs. J. C. Krämer and J. W. Brümmer, did not enter locations in the baptismal register. Beyond their pastorates a few references to Taylorsville have been found, but it is not clear how many other records were made without the place being listed.

1857
Aug. 10, Taylorsville, Peter, born July 2, son of John Devil and Anna Maria Laubersheim; spons. Peter Schmit and Catherine Kosmann. Aug. Berger
Same, Mary, born July 2, daughter of John Devil and Anna Maria Laubersheim; spons. Maathias and Mary Kreuger. Aug. Berger

1860
William David, son of George Deibel and Anna Maria Laubersheimer, born June 3, baptized July 28 at Taylorsville; spons. John Fettler and Caroline Fettler. A. Hechinger

1861

1862
June 29 at St. Ann, Taylorsville, Ann Catherine, born May 31, daughter of Nicholas Kreier and Mary Weiss; spons. F--- and Catherine Muhlfeld.

1863
Sept. 5 in Taylorsville, Laura [Luria] Elizabeth, daughter of Cornelius Klage and Agatha Young, born May 4 in Deaverstown; spons. Joseph Kussmaul and Mary Stehle.
Nov. 1 in Taylorsville, Rosina Theresa, daughter of Melchior Stehle and Barbara Keck, born Oct. 15; spons. John Boesherz and Catherine Kussmaul, widow.

1866
May 8 in Taylorsville, Florence Caroline, daughter of Charles Klaeger and wife Ann Catherine Young, born in Eaglesport on Jan. 20; spons. Joseph Fischer and Wilhelmina Schneider.

1867
1868
Feb. 3, Francis, son of John Kussmaul and wife
Johanna Bardmann, born Nov. 25, 1867;
spons. Gustav Eberst and Theresa Kussmaul;
Taylorsville.
Feb. 4, Louis Henry, son of Jonathan ---- [in
binding edge] and his wife Mary Kimmel,
born Jan. 12; spons. Kilian Kimmel and his
wife Sarah; Taylorsville.
Oct. 6, Frances Mary, daughter of Nicholas Krier
and his wife Mary Weiss, born Sept. 15 in
Taylorsville; spons. Francis ---- & Barbara
Kussmaul.

Note on page 196 of the register: Baptisms from
October, 1862 to January 17, 1869 were by
Father John Joseph Rauck.

1869
Sept. 14 in Taylorsville, Estella Cecilia, daughter
of Johh Peter Krier and Josepghine Eberst;
spons. Nicholas Krier and Josepghine Fresch;
born 24 Aug. Magnus Eppink
Oct. 17 (or 19?) in Taylorsville, Benjamin Henry,
son of Benjamin Sutton and A-- Krigbaum;
spons. Peter Krier and Elizabeth Krier; born
Sept. 29. Magnus Eppink

1870
August 1 in Taylorsville, Thomas Francis, son of
John Hall (non-Catholic) and Mary Kimmel;
spons. John Fatler and Susan Schmidt; born
June 14. Magnus Eppink
Same, Louis Albert, son of Jonathan A. Krigbaum
and Mary A. Ginnor; spons. John P. Krier and
Mary Stehle; born June 7. Magnus Eppink

1871
March 6 [no place listed], Petronella, daughter of
John Kussmaul and Joanna Baughman; spons.
John Hamer and Barbara Kussmaul; born Feb.
6. Magnus Eppink
Oct. 16 in Taylorsville, Daniel Francis, son of
Benedict Kunkel and Susan Deibel; spons.
Daniel Smith and Sara Boesherz; born Aug.
27. Magnus Eppink

1872
July 16 in Taylorsville, Eve Catherine of Jonathan
Hall (non-Catholic) and Mary Kimmel; spons.
John Hamer and Barbara Kussmaul; born June
13. Magnus Eppink

1873
June 2 in Taylorsville, Catherine Elizabeth,
daughter of Elizabeth Boesherz; spons.
John and Elizabeth Boesherz; born May 30.
Magnus Eppink
Oct. 6, Clarence August, son of John Krier and
Josephine Eberst; spons. Joseph and Catherine
Muehlfeld; born Aug. 31. Magnus Eppink

1874
Aug. 3 in Taylorsville, Charles Augustine, son of
John Henry Basehart and Barbara Koosmaul;
spons. John ---- and Josephine Doebler; born
Aug. 3. Magnus Eppink
Same, Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Peter Krier
and Elizabeth Fletscher; spons. Joseph Walz
and Ann Muehlfeld; born July 20. Magnus
Eppink

1875
Dec. 24 in Taylorsville, Ann Louise, daughter
of John Krier and Josephine Eberst; spons.
Joseph and Ann Muehlfeld; born Dec. 9.
Magnus Eppink

1876
Aug. 19 in Taylorsville, Joseph, son of Noa
Fauber? and Mary Stehle; spons. John and
Catherine Krier; born May 14. Magnus
Eppink
Same, Henry Laurence, son of Nicholas Krier
and Mary Weiss; spons. Laurence Krier and
Clara Kimmel; born July 14. Magnus Eppink

1879
Feb. 4 in Taylorsville, Raphael Henry, son
of Catherine Boesherz; spons. Elizabeth
Boesherz; born Aug. 6. Magnus Eppink
May 27 in Taylorsville, William Leo, son of
John Henderson (non-Catholic) and Caroline
Fresch; spons. William and Sara Kriegbaum;
born Mar. 3. Magnus Eppink
Same, Elizabeth, daughter of Andrew Hill (non-
Catholic) of Morgan County and Nancy Duffy;
spons. Thomas Romine and Mary Pugh; born
Feb. 28. Magnus Eppink  
June 30 in Taylorsville, Charles William, son of Charles basehart and (non-Catholic) Helen Tomkins; spons. Nicholas Basehart and Constantia Krigbaum; born Mar. 23. Magnus Eppink  
Aug. 18 in Taylorsville, Clara, daughter of John Kussmaul and Joann Bootman?; spons. Albert Krier and Clara Kimmel; born Apr. 24. Magnus Eppink  
Same, Sylvester, son of Louis Basehart and Frances Krigbaum; spons. Demetrius and Mary Krigbaum; born Aug. 11. Magnus Eppink  
Oct. 20 in Taylorsville, Mary, daughter of Henry Romine and Nanch McCloskey; spons. Lawrence Krier and Jennie Retcliff; born Sept. 27. Magnus Eppink

1880  
Sept. 7 in Taylorsville, Cecilia Margaret, daughter of John Basehart and Barbara Kussmaul; spons. Albert Krier and Margaret Fattler; born Sept. 2. Magnus Eppink  
Same, George, son of Bernard Kennedy and Catherine McGovern; spons. William and Clara Kimmel; born July 20. Magnus Eppink  
Nov. 21 in Taylorsville, Gertrude Ethel, daughter of Christian Kussmaul and Emily Fresch; spons. John Kilian and Sara Kimmel; born Nov. 6. Magnus Eppink

1881  
June 6 in Taylorsville, Mary Cecilia, daughter of John Henderson and Caroline Fresch; spons. Demetrius and Mary Ann Krigbaum; born May 15. Magnus Eppink  
Sept. 4 [no place listed], William Henry, son of William Fattler and Elizabeth Paul; spons. Peter and Margaret Paul; born Aug. 6. Magnus Eppink  
Oct. 2 [no place listed], Albert, son of John Fattler and Marg. Roll, born Sept. 18; spons. William & Susan Fattler. Magnus Eppink  
Nov. 13, Agnes Liddie, daughter of Louis Baeshart and Frances Kreigbaum; spons. William and Ellen Kreigbaum; born in Taylorsville on Oct. 22. S. S. Mattingly

1882  
Same, Elizabeth Gertrude, born Jan. 4, daughter of Charles Basehart and Ellen Tomkin (non-Catholic); spons. John H. and Barbara Basehart. S. S. Mattingly  

In 1882 Father S. S. Mattingly was sent to McConnellsville as pastor and was given charge of St. Ann Mission, Taylorsville. McConnellsville St. James Parish is now in the Diocese of Steubenville and its records are not available to us.