

Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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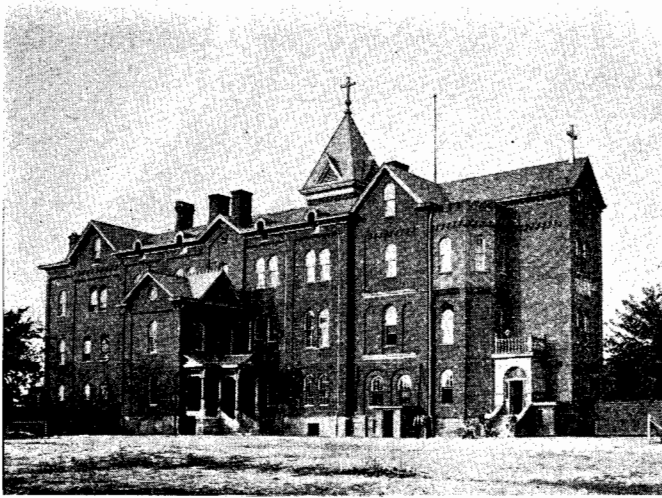
REV. JOHN B. EIS
THE INTRACTABLE RECTOR OF COLUMBUS SACRED HEART

(Concluded, from Vol. XII, Number 4)

The reconciliation between Bishop Moeller and Father Eis was complete. In addition to their official agreement, as evidence we have Father Eis' appointment to the irremovable rectorate of Sacred Heart Church. On June 15, 1893 Bishop Watterson had named ten irremovable rectorates for the Diocese. The only record found of this action was made by Rev. Philip Steyle, pastor of Delaware St. Mary's, who tells that St. Mary's was so named but does not list the other nine, so we do not know with absolute certainty whether Sacred Heart was included at that time. (11) It probably was, however, for the Synod of the Diocese held on July 16, 1902 under Bishop Moeller stated that there were ten irremovable rectorates at that time, including Sacred Heart. The settlement agreement between Bishop Moeller and Father Eis had not yet been signed, however, and the synod declared that Bishop Moeller's predecessor, i.e. Bishop Watterson, had reserved to himself and Bishop Moeller likewise reserved the right to appoint a removable rector to this parish. (12) By the year 1903, when for the first time the "irremovable rectors" were given in the annual Catholic Directory, Father Eis was included in the list.

Although the reconciliation was complete, the disagreements between Father Eis and Bishop Watterson had ruined the priest's reputation. What had started as a promising career as active secretary to Bishop Rosecrans had turned to strictly pastoral work. In 1899, the same year in which Bishop Watterson died, Father Eis' cousin was being consecrated bishop for the See of Sault Ste. Marie and Marquette, a path Father Eis could conceivably have taken in Columbus had he gotten along with Bishop Watterson. But a pall of mistrust had hung over Father Eis and still did so, as is demonstrated by the discussion of the foundation of Holy Name Parish which started this story.

Bishop Hartley, successor of Bishop Moeller in Columbus, had great respect for Father Eis, as will be noted in his remarks below, but this was not unmixed with other feelings. In 1914 Rev. Thomas Sherman, S.J., son of General William T. Sherman, was wandering around the country while apparently suffering with a serious mental illness. That November he engaged Father Eis to act as his canon lawyer and intermediary with the Jesuit Order. Father Sherman was vilifying the Society of Jesus to the secular priests and general public and Bishop Hartley was soon begging that the Provincial send a priest to take him away from Newark, where he was staying with the Ewing family. He spent at least a week at the end of January, 1915 in Columbus. Whether Father



Old Sacred Heart, from the west.

the people. (14) He also took an active interest in the local scene and in national questions and world affairs. In October and November of 1917 two letters he wrote in opposition to a \$3.5 million bond issue for the public schools appeared in the Ohio State Journal. (15) His opposition was based on the conditions at Sacred Heart School:

I have seen a number of communications from the supporters of the bond issue, objecting to the [existing] school buildings because they are not fireproof. This hits me personally. I also built a school, which is not fireproof. There are whole lumber yards in it, and that would make a big fire if it burnt. Hence, I concluded that if the advocates of the school bonds pull up the public schools, because they are not fireproof, they might as well continue their job and condemn also Sacred Heart School and make us poor folks lose our investment, which amounts to \$80,000. This is what made a shiver go through my bones, and I wrote my letter in self-defense. But, when I acknowledge that the school is not fireproof, it does not mean to say that our children are exposed to be burnt to death at any time. We heat the building by water, light it by electricity and provided 14 doors to get out. That is the nearest to fireproofing that we could afford to do.

Of the 1000 children who attended Sacred Heart School in 43 years, not one was ever hurt by fire or trampled under foot in a stampede.

He was originally an opponent of women's suffrage, but by August of 1917 he had changed his mind and spoke to that effect at the Elks' Home. He said he was "expiating for his sin of writing an article against suffrage by appearing at a converts' luncheon. Still he was not quite sure that all suffrage arguments were sound." (16) In November, 1918 at the end of the World War he wrote some comments for the "Peace Edition" of the Ohio State Journal. He foresaw the next war, though it was perhaps farther in the future than he imagined.

Revolutions and wars will drench Europe with blood for many years before the league of nations can become entirely effective. The

Eis soon recognized the condition of the man with whom he was dealing or whether Father Sherman ended the relationship we do not know; by March first Father Sherman was in Chicago. On March 9 he wrote, "My case is at the Curia," but nothing more is known of it. The point to be brought out here is Bishop Hartley's attitude, shown in his wry comment on the two priests, "How is it that one rebel naturally falls in with another rebel?" (13)

Father Eis devoted his time to the parish and its school and was much loved by

league is a step in the right direction, but the world must adapt itself to it, and world peace cannot be made in a day.

The peace of Europe will be broken by class and inter-racial conflicts.

The gospel of Christianity must show us how to deal generously with each other, and the kinder and more Christian in spirit the nations are in making peace terms the longer will it be before Europe is again torn with war.

Here his foresight was based on principles rather than on any particular experience or judgement of particular persons; likewise, his forecast regarding Communist Russia was fairly accurate, it also being based on principles of justice:

Father Eis sees the darkest blots on the Russian revolution in the destruction of marriage laws, and the confiscation of church property which he believes inevitable.

"When a girl is over 18 years old any man can come along and carry her off for a month. And the same is true with women, under the Russian revolution. They can form trial marriages with any man they choose. This destruction of moral law and legalization of trial marriages," asserts Father Eis, "is an act against all law and decency and the Catholic Church can never sanction it."

An army to police Russia will be necessary for some time, in his opinion.

The tremendous menace of Bolshevism to all the European countries can hardly be estimated, he warns, and he thinks it may cause many wars in the future.

With regard to Germany, his judgement was probably clouded by his affinity for the land of his birth when he stated, "German socialism is more moderate than Bolshevism, and there is hardly the danger from it that exists in the Russian socialism." (17)

It apparently was not until 1918, when he was 73 years old, that Father Eis' health began to fail seriously, though he had suffered some heart problems since 1912. That summer he suffered a stroke. The same November, the influenza epidemic carried off his assistant, Rev. John Curran, and also struck Father Eis to such an extent that he never fully recovered. In July 1919 an administrator was appointed to run the parish and in June 1920 Father Eis celebrated the golden jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood in his sick room. In the early morning hours of October 11, 1922 a fire of unknown origin did some \$2,500 damage to the sanctuary of the church and at that point Father Eis was moved to St. Francis Hospital. There he died on December 9, 1922 under the watchful eyes of the Sisters. (18)

Bishop Hartley summed up Father Eis' life in these words, spoken at his funeral Mass (19):

In all the years that Father Eis has lived with you in this parish these three things may be said of him:

First, every morning found him at the altar, offering up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for his flock. He broke to you the bread of eternal life. Every Sunday he preached God's blessed word in his

own lucid and instructive manner, and I am sure that these are services never forgotten by the young and old who came to this house of God as the days and years came and went.

Second, in the next place when sickness and trouble came he was always at hand to do everything that a priest is bound to do under these conditions. He helped you in your difficulties, always guided you as he thought best under the circumstances, and made you feel that he wished to be your pastor and friend.

Third, his greatest and best work was the deep interest he took in the parish school, training and educating the children of the parish; every day he went there to teach catechism, to direct the school work, to guide the older pupils in the way that would help them to make something of themselves in life.

Now that it is all over he has gone to his eternal home to give an account of his stewardship to his Divine Master.

Oh, it is not learning, or distinction, or human success, praise or esteem that will speak for us priests in that supreme moment; no, but rather our love and unselfish devotion to our Lord, our fidelity to duty and the important trust that He has confided to our care; these alone will avail us and stand by us in rendering an account of our priestly stewardship.

Four final notes:

- When he first came to this country, Father Eis was stationed at St. Mary's Parish in Utica, New York.

- Several baptisms were recorded by Father Eis at Danville St. Luke in March and April, 1876.

- By his will, Father Eis left his worldly possessions to Mary Helen Woelfel, in consideration of her services as his housekeeper since 1908.

- Father Eis' remains now lie side-by-side with those of Father Goldschmidt at St. Joseph Cemetery.

NOTES

11) Steyle, Rev. Philip, Memorial Record of St. Mary's Parish; Delaware: 1911.

12) Synodus Diocesana Columbensis Quarta, die 16a Julii, 1902...; p. 59 (section 218)

13) Durkin, Joseph T., S.J., General Sherman's Son; New York: Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, 1959; pp. 215-221 and 263. Thanks to Tony Lisska for this reference.

14) History of the Diocese of Columbus, 1943; page 14

15) Ohio State Journal, Oct. 31 and Nov. 3, 1917

16) same, Aug. 11, 1917

17) same, Nov. 28, 1918 page 10

18) Ohio Dept. of Health, death certificate. Ohio State Journal Oct. 11 and 12, 1922. Catholic Columbian, Dec. 15, 1922. "History of Sacred Heart Parish" contained in the Souvenir Program for the 1947 homecoming of the parish.

19) Archives, Diocese of Columbus.

SACRED HEART CHURCH
GENEVA, RUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP, FAIRFIELD COUNTY
CORRECTED BAPTISMAL RECORDS, 1863-1894

(Continued from Vol. XII, Number 4)

The reader is again referred to the Bulletin of August and September, 1982 (Vol. VIII, Nos. 8 and 9), where the baptismal register of the three churches of Geneva Sacred Heart, Our Lady of Good Hope, and St. Joseph near Sugar Grove, which together formed one pastorate, was published. Corrections to that listing based on the 1915 transcription by Rev. James Nevin continue here. Only those records needing correction or insertion will be listed.

1868

May 3 Anthony, born 21 Apr. 1868, of Peter STAEMMES [probably THOEMMES] & Mary Wolscheid; spon. Wendel Schonk and Elizabeth Bonner. J. W. Brummer

1869

June 13 Barbara, born May 24, 1869, of Winnebald SCHMELZER and Rosalia Weneiger; spon. John and Gertrude Schmelzer. J. W. Brummer

1871

June 5 Theresa Anna, born May 28, 1871, of Daniel SPIRES and Regina Boch; spon. Adam and Teresa Boch. J. W. Brummer

1872

Feb. 4 Mary Cecilia, born Jan. 24, 1872, of Nichloas KEPLER [KESSLER] and Catherine Fox; spon. Catherine Kepler and Joseph Fox. J. C. Goldschmidt

1873

Nov. 9 Catherine Christina, born Oct. 31, 1873, of Matthew WOLLSCHIED and Susanna Schonk; spon. Catherine Wollscheid and John Schonk. N. Gällweiler

1874

Aug. 9 Francis Raymond, born July 1, 1874, of Nicholas and Rose KEPLER [Kessler]; spon. Joseph Kepler and Catherine Kepler. B. Hillebraun
Sept. 20 Joseph, born Aug. 31, 1874, of Peter and Christina EMERICH; spon. Joseph and Frances Edelmann. L. Grimmer
Sept. 20 Anthony, born Aug. 26, 1874, of John and Mary BRAUN; spon. Gottlieb Eberst and Lucy Beiter. L. Grimmer
Sept. 20 Edward, born Aug. 20, 1874, of Aaron and Catherine SCHONK; spon. John Shonk and Mary Spieles. L. Grimmer
Dec. 8 George, of William and Mary MIRGON; spon. Michael McQuade and Helen McQuade. L. Grimmer

1875

May 2 Mary Anna BOHRER, conditionally, age about 22 years; spon. William Meyers and Barbara Bohrer. L. Grimmer
May 16 Edward, born July, 1874, of Joseph SCHULZ and wife; spon. Mathias and Rose Kost. L. Grimmer
May 23 conditionally, Mary Ann, age about 14 years, in care of Joseph and Mary ROSENKRANZ; sponsors the same. L. Grimmer
Nov. 9 Abraham, born Oct. 25, 1875, of Leonard BOCH and Teresia Boch; spon. Adam Boch and Salome Boch. G. Volkert

[July 14, 1877, baptisms of George and Mary Margaret were not transcribed.]

1878

Feb. 24 Francis Edward, born Feb. 8, 1878, of Joseph SCHÖNEBERGAR and Helen Walscheide; spons. John F. Kost and Susanna Walscheide. H. H. Mayrose
May 5 Clement Sylvester, born Apr. 17, 1878, of Nicholas N. KESSLER and Rosanna Boley; spons. Michael Kilberger and Martha Kessler. H. H. Mayrose
June 5 Jacob, born Apr. 22, 1878, of Thomas HENESTOFLE and Christina Aid; spons. Augustine Winter and Emma Kessler. H. H. Mayrose
June 9 John Alphonse, born Apr. 23, 1878, of Christian KUNKLER and Catherine Noll; spons. Joseph Kunkler and Cunagunda Henly. H. H. Mayrose
July 6 Rosetta, born Jan. 5, 1878, of Samuel TIBLE and Mary Spielman; spons. Theobald and Mary Sahn. H. H. Mayrose
Aug. 11 Jacob H., born July 12, 1878, of John SCHNEIDER and Magdalene Beiter; spons. John Beiter and Catherine Schneider. H. H. Mayrose
Oct. 6 John, born Sept. 28, 1878, of Leonard and Teresa BOCH; spons. Adam and Sophia Boch. H. H. Mayrose
Oct. 11 George Leonard, born Oct. 7, 1878, of Matthew YOUNK and Catherine Spieles; spons. Joseph Spieles and Joanna Runtzer. H. H. Mayrose

1880

Nov. 7 George Albert, born Oct. 19, 1880, of John SCHNEIDER and Magdalene Beiter; spons., John Thimmes and Josephine Beiter. H. H. Mayrose
Nov. 7 Francis Edward, born June 11, 1879, of Samuel COX and Lucy Linsey, adopted; spons. Matthew and Sara Kost. H. H. Mayrose

1881

Feb. 6 Agnes, born Jan. 30, 1881, of William MEIER and Mariann Phillinger; spons. John Messberger and Anna Borach. H. H. Mayrose
Feb. 20 Francis Edward, born Jan. 29, 1881, of Joseph H. SHUH and Mary Magdalene Schonk; spons. Francis Shuh and Teresa Shonk. H. H. Mayrose
July 21 Elizabeth, born Oct. 25, 1832, of Jacob CARPENTER and Nancy Coal; spons. John Schmelzer and Catherine Weier. H. H. Mayrose

1883

Aug. 26 C. Elizabeth, born Aug. 6, 1883, of John COONEY and Catherine Yonk; spons. George Schorr and Barbara Weiland. H. H. Mayrose
Oct. 21 Blanche Cecilia, born Oct. 8, 1883, of Nicholas KESSLER and Rosanna Boley; spons. Jacob and Cecilia Sauhm. H. H. Mayrose
Oct. 28 Oliver, born Sept. 15, 1883, of Oliver NOLL and Elizabeth Kunkler; spons. Oliver Kunkler and Teresa Runtzer. H. H. Mayrose

1884

Jan. 13 Agnes, born Dec. 6, 1883, of Joseph MESSBERGER and Anastasia Hammond; spons. John Rosenkranz and Elizabeth Winter. H. H. Mayrose
Sept. 7 Elizabeth, of Noah STIEMER and Marianna Keller; spons. Alphonse Schmelzer and Salome Boch. H. H. Mayrose

1885

Jan. 1 Mary C., born Dec. 20, 1884, of Louis BASH and Rosalie Schmelzer; spons. William Bash and Mary Schmelzer. H. H. Mayrose
Feb. 1 Sarah Agnes, born Jan. 31, 1885, of Peter Alphonse SCHMELZER and Mary M. Bash; spons. William and Susan Bash. H. H. Mayrose

Feb. 3 Joseph, born Jan. 21, 1885, of Adam BOCH and Josephine Schmelzer; spons. Jacob Bash and Barbara Schmelzer. H. H. Mayrose
 Mar. 1 Andrew N., born Feb. 9, 1885, of John SCHNEIDER and Magdalene Beiter; spons. Nicholas Schneider and Josephine Beiter. H. H. Mayrose
 Mar. 6 Margaret, born Sept. 22, 1871, of John FUNK and Lydia Stieman; spons. George Schorr and wife. H. H. Mayrose
 Mar. 6 Sarah, born Mar. 23, 1873, of same, same sponsors. H. H. Mayrose
 Apr. 12 Louis Joseph, about 26 years old, of John EATON and Jane Emsons; spons. Henry Wolscheide and Susanna Shonk. H. H. Mayrose
 Apr. 23 George SNOKE, 26 years old. H. H. Mayrose
 May 10 Antonela Magdalene, born Mar. 28, 1885, of Joseph MESSBERGER and Anastasia M. Hammond; spons. Henry and Sidonia Catherine Killberger. H. H. Mayrose
 May 17 Mary Magdalene, born May 15, 1885, of Jacob MEIER and Susanna Schmelzer; spons. Charles and Mary Magdalene Schmelzer. H. H. Mayrose
 June 21 Mary Ellen, born June 12, 1885, of John COONEY and Catherine Yonk; spons. William and Anna Shonk. H. H. Mayrose
 July 24 Martina, born July 23, 1885, of George KELLENBERGER and Elizabeth L. Funk; spons. Philip Schmelzer and Elizabeth A. Schorr. H. H. Mayrose
 Sept. 27 Cecilia, born Aug. 6, 1885, of Paul HUBER and Elizabeth C. Youtes; spons. Christian Kunkler and Rosanna Huber. H. H. Mayrose
 Nov. 2 Cecilia, born Sept. 27, 1885, of Oliver NOLL and Elizabeth Kunkler; spons. Philip Schmelzer and Mary M. Kunkler. H. H. Mayrose
 Nov. 15 Mary A., born Aug. 25, 1885, of Thomas HENESTOFLE and Christina Aide; spons. William Mirgon and Helen McQuaide. H. H. Mayrose

1886

Mar. 14 Teresia, born Jan. 31, 1886, of Levi EATON and Susanna Wolscheide; spons. Joseph Shonk and Helen Wolscheide. H. H. Mayrose
 Apr. 25 Lucy Cecilia, born Mar. 11, 1886, of George SNOKE and Susan Shonk; spons. John Wolscheide and Teresia Shonk. H. H. Mayrose
 May 8 Joseph, born Mar. 4, 1886, of John KESSLER and Mary Kelly; [spons. not given]. H. H. Mayrose
 June 25 Elizabeth, born June 10, 1886, of John MESSBERGER and Sarah Helen Meier; spons. Jacob and Cecilia Meier. H. H. Mayrose
 Aug. 2 Anna Angelica, born July 15, 1886, of Joseph BOCH and Susanna Kessler; spons. Adam Boch and Angeline Kessler. H. H. Mayrose
 Aug. 16 Mary Elizabeth, born July 2, of John BEITER and Mary Schmelzer; spons. Albert Beiter and Philomena Schmelzer. H. H. Mayrose
 Aug. 22 Jane Frances, born Aug. 21, 1886, of Anton SCHMELZER and Margaret Bash; spons. Morant Bash and wife. H. H. Mayrose
 Oct. 16 Lawrence, born Oct. 8, 1886, of Louis BASH and Rosalie Schmelzer; spons. Morant Bash and wife. H. H. Mayrose
 Oct. 17 Olive G., born Apr. 14, 1882, of Francis HEAT and Alice Potts; spons. Francis Fisher and Sophia Schmelzer. H. H. Mayrose
 Nov. 28 Rebecca, born Oct. 28, 1886, of Jacob MESSBERGER and Elizabeth Philip; spons. John Messberger and Mary E. Messberger. H. H. Mayrose
 Dec. 5 Joseph Augustine, born Nov. 30, 1886, of Joseph SCHORR and Mary Schmelzer; spons. John Schmelzer and Elizabeth Schorr. H. H. Mayrose
 Dec. 12 Helen, born Dec. 5, 1886, of Joseph H. SHUE and Mary M. Shonk; spons. John Wolscheide and Rose E. Shue. H. H. Mayrose
 Dec. 22 Peter, born Dec. 21, 1886, of George J. KELLENBERGER and Elizabeth Lydia Funk; spons. Joseph Kellenberger and Catherine Weier. H. H. Mayrose

1887

Apr. 16 Cora Agnes, born Apr. 4, 1887, of John COONEY and Catherine Yonk;
spons. John Schorr and Marianne Leahy. H. H. Mayrose
May 28 Rosalie, born May 27, 1887, of Peter Alph. SCHMELZER and Mary M.
Bash; spons. Morant and Maria M. Bash. H. H. Mayrose
June 26 Frances E., born May 18, 1887, of Jerome POTTS and Elizabeth Owens;
spons. William Rosenkranz and Alicia Henestofle. H. H. Mayrose
July 3 Susanna, born June 29, 1887, of Adam BOCH and Josephine Schmelzer;
[sponsors not given]. H. H. Mayrose

1888

Aug. 15 Henry Adam, born Aug. 4, 1888, of Joseph BOCH and Susanna Kessler;
spons. Frederick Schorr and Mary Boch. H. H. Mayrose
Dec. 11 Morant Leo, born Dec. 8, 1888, of Louis BASH and Rosa Schmelzer;
spons. Morant Schmelzer and Helen Schmelzer. Thos. J. Cady

1889

Mar. 12 Cecilia Teresa, born Jan. 12, 1889, of Joseph SCHORR and Mary
Schmelzer; spons. George Schorr and wife Mary. T. J. Cady
same Barbara Gertrude, born Feb. 19, 1889, of John COONEY and Catherine
Yonk; spons. Joseph Schorr and Susanna Bash. T. J. Cady
same Mary Helen, born Feb. 27, 1889, of Abraham BOCH and Catherine Boch;
spons. Thomas Leahy and Mary Boch. T. J. Cady
same Malachy, born Mar. 2, 1889, of George KELLENBERGER and Lydia Stimens;
spons. Anton Schmelzer and Margaret Schmelzer. T. J. Cady
May 2 Emmertina, born Mar. 19, 1889, of Peter SCHMELZER and Mary M. Bash;
spons. Louis Bash and Rosa Schmelzer. T. J. Cady
Sept. 5 Philip, born Aug. 19, 1889, of Nicholas KUNKLER and Mary Magdalene
Kost; spons. John and Caroline Schmelzer. J. Ritter
Sept. 19 Elizabeth, born Sept. 18, 1889, of Joseph KELLENBERGER and Margaret
Funk; spons. William Funk and Magdalene Schmelzer. J. Ritter

(To be concluded)

RECENT ADDITIONS TO OUR LIBRARY

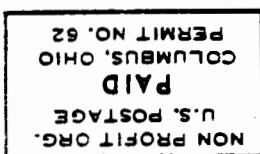
The Josephinum Review, Vol. XV No. 7 (May 10, 1961), historical issue.
- from the estate of Elizabeth M. Schlegel

Photo of the sanctuary of St. Catherine of Sienna Chapel, Ohio Penitentiary.
- gift of Rev. George J. Schlegel

Celebrating 150 Years of Our History, 1836-1986, photo-directory of Immaculate
Conception Parish, Kenton, with a 13-page history of the parish (written in
1981 by Rev. John Wolf and updated to 1986 by a parish committee).
- gift of Rev. John Wolf, S.T.D.

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197 E. Gay Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 Donald M. Schlegel, editor

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