

# Barquilla de la Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society-  
Diocese of Columbus

Volume XXXI, No. 2

February 11: Benedict Flaget

February, A.D. 2006

## First Visit of a Bishop to Ohio: 1811

by Donald M. Schlegel

### Forlorn Sheep

At the turn of the nineteenth century, the Fink and Dittoe families were members of the Catholic community centered at Conewago Chapel, in southeastern Adams County, Pennsylvania. The sisters Mary and Catherine Sneeringer had married, respectively, John Fink and Jacob Dittoe and all three families had other kin in the congregation.<sup>1</sup> Our interest lies in their migration to and early years in Ohio, so we will note here only their last records in the keystone state:

- on April 28, 1803 Sarah Fink, daughter of John and Mary, was baptized at Conewago Chapel;
- on August 7, 1803 Sally Dittoe, daughter of Jacob and Catherine, was baptized at Conewago Chapel;
- on April 9, 1804 John Fink and Anna Maria Schniringer were sponsors at the baptism of a daughter of Peter Gauker at Conewago Chapel.

The Finks must have left Conewago shortly after that 1804 baptism, for according to family traditions John Fink worked on the widening of Zane's Trace, the post road from Wheeling, Virginia to Limestone or Maysville, Kentucky, in 1804.<sup>2</sup> The Finks settled in the Somerset vicinity in 1805. There was no Catholic church or priest stationed in Ohio at that time.

The next April 5 (1806) John obtained a patent for the northwest quarter of Section 10, Reading Township, where he built his humble log cabin.<sup>3</sup> The homestead was the present school site, on the north side of Main Street, at the east end of town. There John opened an inn to cater to the wagoners and other travelers on the trace. In the winter of 1809/1810 John Fink and Jacob Miller had a surveyor lay out

the town of Middletown, so named because it was midway between Zanesville and Lancaster on the trace. It later was renamed Somerset. The initial plat of lots 1 through 64, along Main Street, was signed by them on February 22, 1810. The first of Fink's lots was sold that July 4. The town took hold, began to grow, and in December Fink platted an additional series of lots.<sup>4</sup>

Jacob Dittoe, who was a farmer, wood worker, carpenter, and wagon maker, brought his family to Ohio in late 1803 or early 1804, for on June 4 of the latter year he "entered" the land on which St. Joseph Church would be built, along with the northwest quarter of Section 20, on the trace west of what would become the town of Somerset, and many other tracts. He was somewhat of a speculator, placing some money down on each property and hoping to pay the government for the land over the allowed term of years.

The family settled in Lancaster for a number of years. On January 5, 1805 Dittoe wrote from that town to Bishop John Carroll in Baltimore regarding the establishment of a church. He encouraged the bishop to obtain land near the present Rushville.<sup>5</sup>

Early in 1806 Dittoe bought lot 15 (in the 7th square) of Lancaster.<sup>6</sup> However, finding the town unhealthy, Jacob decided to move east, up the trace. It was on November 15, 1807 that he bought the northern portion of the east half of Section 19 in Reading Township from Jeremiah Conway and Jacob Kufman.<sup>7</sup> This tract, on the north side of the trace (now Stagecoach Road), at that time was covered in white oak, beech, sugar, hickory, and dogwood. A short time later it would become

their home. According to Robert J. J. Harkins of Zanesville (husband of a granddaughter of Jacob Dittoe), Jacob and his sons began building a cabin of about sixteen by twenty feet on the homestead in the northeast quarter of Section 19 this year.<sup>8</sup>

By February 1, 1808 the Dittoes had moved east along the trace. On that date Jacob wrote a letter to Bishop Carroll from Lancaster regarding payment for the church land and requesting a priest. He said that they then were living fourteen miles from Lancaster, which would place them somewhere just east of Rushville. Dittoe owned some land in that area and there were other Catholics, notably William Wiseman, in the vicinity. Later that year the Dittoe family moved to their new homestead, the cabin they had completed on Section 19, where they operated a tavern.<sup>9</sup>

Dittoe's letters, as well as his activities in obtaining property for a church, make clear that he and his kinsfolk were extremely anxious for the establishment of a church and the residence there of a priest to bring them the Mass and the Sacraments.

#### **Visit of Fenwick in 1808**

It was in July of 1806 that Father Edward Fenwick went to Kentucky for the first time and took up residence, establishing the Dominican Fathers there. The date of his first visit to the Somerset Catholics was carefully researched by V. Rev. Victor F. O'Daniel, O.P., for his full-length biography of Fenwick.<sup>10</sup> The best evidence is provided by a circular letter written to Italy (and similar ones to Spain and England) by Fenwick in 1823, according to which he went to Ohio for the first time in 1808. On this occasion he discovered three German Catholic families, 20 persons.<sup>11</sup>

Fenwick in fact made two trips from Kentucky to the East in 1808. Just prior to June 23 he was in Baltimore.<sup>12</sup> By July 10 he was in Lexington, Ky. when he wrote to Doctor Concanen. Then, on October 7, Father Badin wrote a letter from Kentucky to Bishop Carroll, in which he mentioned that Fenwick then was in Maryland or on his way there.<sup>13</sup>

As mentioned above, on the first of February Jacob Dittoe had written to Bishop Carroll. The bishop, it is thought, mentioned Dittoe's requests for the visit of a priest to Fenwick in June and Fenwick sought out the forlorn sheep on his second journey of the year to the East, about the end of September. After writing to Bishop Carroll, the Dittoe family had moved farther east to the new cabin, and so it

was that Fenwick got lost in trying to find them in the woods near the trace, finally locating their cabin by the sound of an axe.

With the encouraging prospects of visits by a priest, on August 19, 1809 Jacob Dittoe, with the help of kinsmen and former neighbors in Pennsylvania, completed paying for the farm that was to become the site of St. Joseph church and priory. But there is no evidence that Fenwick visited that year.

During the first half of 1810, Fenwick was instructed to go to New York to welcome his friend Father Richard Concanon to America as first Bishop of New York. He went in the summer and, while ministering in Albany about October, fell sick and almost died. He was in New York City on November 16.<sup>14</sup> He visited Maryland and then returned to Kentucky in 1811, as will be related below.<sup>15</sup>

It seems clear that after 1808 Dittoe corresponded primarily with Father Fenwick instead of with Bishop Carroll, but all such correspondence has been lost. Then on August 19, 1810 Jacob Dittoe wrote to Bishop Carroll from Lancaster, "We have understood from Mr. Finnic that there was a bishop going on to Kentucky... There are some young Catholics in this place that do wish to join in marriage, that are waiting upon the head of his coming, as it is a point of some importance. And should he not come, we will thank you to write to us, whether they will be allowed to be joined together by an Esquire who is also a Roman Catholic, or not." From this one can infer that Fenwick had not visited Ohio since 1808, and probably was not expected to be there this year.

#### **The Bishop of Bardstown Journeys West, 1811**

Benedict Joseph Flaget, who was born, educated, and ordained a Sulpician priest in France, came to America in 1792. Bishop Carroll sent him at once to tend the Catholic settlers and Miami Indians at Vincennes, Indiana. In recommending him to the people there, Carroll noted his zeal, piety, and manners full of sweetness and charity. Father Flaget remained there until called back to Baltimore in 1795 to teach at the seminary. In April, 1808 Pope Pius VII appointed him first Bishop of Bardstown, a new diocese including all of Kentucky and Tennessee and having attached to it the territory northwest of the Ohio River. After a journey to France, where he found that his religious superior insisted he accept the episcopal duties, he returned to Baltimore, to be consecrated on November 4, 1810. However, he had not a cent to his name. He could not undertake

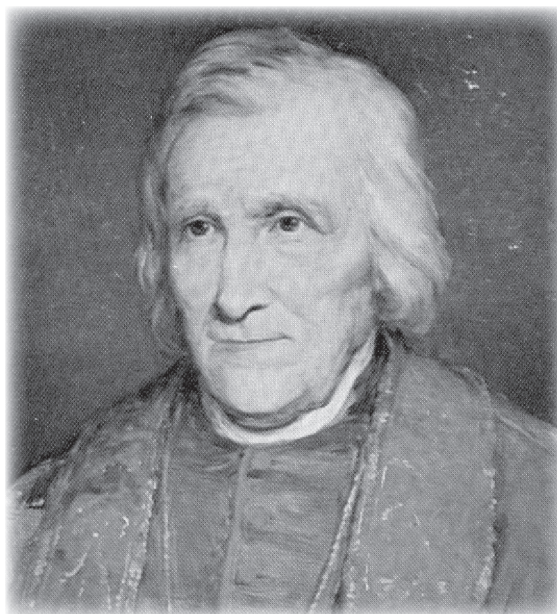
the journey to his new diocese until his friends in Baltimore collected some funds for him.

The Bishop and his party finally left Baltimore for the West in May, 1811. They traveled over the mountains to Pittsburgh, whence they embarked on May 22 in a flat-boat chartered especially for the purpose. They were thirteen days in descending the Ohio river to Louisville, where they arrived on the 4th of June.

On Saturday, May 11, 1811, Bishop Flaget and his companions left Baltimore, going north towards Gettysburg via a turnpike, loaded down with books for a seminary for the new diocese. In the party were the Bishop, Father John B. David, a priest of Flaget's new diocese having long experience in the missions in Maryland and Kentucky, three seminarians (Chabrat, des Rigauds, and Maraty), and three servants. Along the way they were joined by a Canadian priest, Father Savine (or Savigne). Travelling most of the way by stage coach, they met the usual trials of those days: "rain, horrible roads, a fight between some soldiers at the inn at Gettysburg, abandonment of part of their baggage to satisfy the driver, riding in the coach like 'sardines in a can,' broken axels on the coach, and...the overturning of the coach in a particularly bad spot." Father Savine and Guy Chabrat, following behind, were lost for a day. On another day, to keep the driver satisfied, they went only twenty-four miles. On Sunday May 19 they arrived at the top of the Allegheny Mountains, and after confessions Flaget offered Mass.<sup>16</sup>

At Pittsburgh the Bishop met Father Edward Fenwick, who was returning to Kentucky from Maryland with his nephews, Robert and Nicholas Young. Father Fenwick, with considerable experience in traveling and knowledge of the West, offered his services to accompany the Bishop in the boat. His young companions conducted Flaget's one horse and those of the Dominicans by land through Ohio. In the descent of the river, Father Fenwick would act as purveyor and general superintendent.<sup>17</sup> The older of the two nephews, Robert Young, was also an experienced traveler. He was born in Maryland; professed at St. Rose's in Kentucky in May, 1810; journeyed to the east; and made this return journey with his uncle and brother. He died at St. Rose's "apparently in 1812 before ordination."<sup>18</sup>

The party chartered a flatboat for the journey down the Ohio River and departed from Pittsburgh on May 22 or perhaps on the 23rd. The next source we have directly from the party is a letter from Father David to Father Bruté in Maryland, dated June 2-4, begun



Rt. Rev. Benedict J. Flaget (1763-1811)

when the boat was near Big Bone Lick, Kentucky, 583 1/2 miles, as they thought, from Pittsburgh. By the next day they were just fifty miles above Louisville, Kentucky and on Tuesday June 4 they arrived, to the great joy of the local Catholics.

But prior to this the Bishop had already brought great joy to a very small part of his flock.

#### **John Fink's Relation**

John Fink's relation concerning the visit of Bishop Flaget and Father Fenwick to his inn was first published in *A Glimpse of the Ohio Valley or Letters about the Struggle and Revival of the Catholic Church in the Far West of the United States of North America* by Rev. John Martin Henni. This booklet was originally published in German by Franz Seraph Hübschmann in Munich, in 1836. It was translated for the Society by the late Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Hakel and appeared in our *Bulletin* in the years 2000 through 2002. Letter No. 8 (*Bulletin*, of October, 2001) contains this paragraph:

You may ask, O best of benefactors, how many Catholic families there were among the settlers at that time. Father Fenwick found only three on his first journey through the deep forests of Ohio. They were scattered in the hill country where Somerset now flourishes. On the slope of one of these hills still full of virgin forest and plenty of bears, stood a poor little log cabin near the new road that carried the traveler only from east to south. Two fine looking gentlemen,

who looked like real estate speculators from the east, dismounted from their horses and asked for refreshment at the cabin, saying that they were going to Kentucky. "Kentucky has been on my mind and on my wife's mind for a long time now. There you have churches and priests. Wife, that is where we are going: (Tears rolled down his cheeks.) It is thirteen years since we saw a chapel and a priest and my children...." Flaget could no longer conceal his identity. He showed them his pectoral cross which had hung concealed around his neck and said, "No No my children, just stay here and I will send you this man. He (Fenwick) is a priest and he will bring you consolation at least once a year." The bishop asked the man, "Are there any other Catholic families around here that you know of or have heard about?" Astonished, he [Fink] pressed his hands to his face and said, "Two more families named Dittoe live about three miles from here."

Father Henni wrote that he heard this story from the lips of John Fink himself. A version of this story was published in Shea's 1890 *History of the Catholic Church in the United States*, but having no primary attribution, and with details excised or modified, it was not possible to give it much credence.<sup>19</sup> With its origin and details now clear, the story cannot be ignored.

It is clear that Henni misunderstood or incorrectly remembered or wrote the period since the families had seen a priest. There never was a such a stretch of thirteen years. Henni must have mistaken three (*drei*) as thirteen (*dreizehn*) years. It had been seven years since the Finks left Conewago with its chapel, and almost three years since the visit of Father Fenwick in 1808.

It can only be that, while on the first days of the flatboat journey down the Ohio, Fenwick, discussing with Flaget his responsibility for any Catholics north of the Ohio River, mentioned his visit to the Dittoe family in 1808. And Flaget decided that they must disembark from the flatboat at Wheeling or Bridgeport, obtain horses, and travel down Zane's Trace to visit these forlorn sheep of the bishop's new flock. Fenwick and Fink, having seen each other only for a day or two, three years previously, did not even recognize each other at this second meeting in 1811.

The distances and travel times just allow for the river and land journeys to coincide. The flatboat made the 604 mile trip down the Ohio from Pittsburgh to

Louisville beginning on May 22 and arriving on June 4, an average of about 48 miles per day. Assuming that for safety the boat was put in to shore at night, its arrival at Wheeling would have been on the evening of May 23 and at Limestone on the evening of May 30. The journey by Zane's Trace was just as long. We know from Bishop Flaget's journal of 1812 that the portion of his trip from Limestone to Somerset, about 125 miles, took four days, but on that trip he made a long stop in Chillicothe, so that he covered something over 30 miles in a day. In 1811 he and Father Fenwick could have covered the 95 miles from Wheeling to Somerset in three days and from Somerset to Limestone in four days or less, arriving simultaneously with the boat on the evening of May 30. Their stop at Fink's tavern would have been on May 27 or 28.<sup>20</sup>

### Other Hints in the Sources

This land journey through Ohio would explain a few anomalies that appear in the sources.

According to a letter from Father David to a friend in France, dated November 20, 1817, and published in the *Journal de Marseilles* of October 17, 1818, while on the flatboat all the exercises were conducted as in a regularly organized seminary. "Though 'M. David's health was in as bad a condition as the Bishop's funds,' it having been greatly shattered on the missions of Maryland,--yet he presided over all the spiritual exercises, the order of which had been previously fixed by the Bishop." This delegation of previously fixed duties would have been necessary had the Bishop left the boat at Wheeling.<sup>21</sup>

David's letter to Father Bruté of June 2-4, 1811, notes that, "Monsieur [Flaget] is in charge of the party on land; I am going to proceed by giving the circumstances of our navigation." At first reading one might assume that being "in charge of the party on land" means "in charge of reporting the portion of the journey that was by land," but it could mean much more. Again, even if the former be the meaning, the reason for this arrangement is obvious if Flaget left the boat at Wheeling.

In 1812 when Bishop Flaget and Rev. Stephen T. Badin journeyed up the trace from Limestone on their way to the East, they stopped at Dittoe's tavern. Finding Dittoe was an unremarkable event. Flaget apparently knew exactly where to find him, having visited there in the prior year.

### A Promise Kept

"No No my children, just stay here and I will

send you this man. He is a priest and he will bring you consolation at least once a year.” So John Fink remembered the promise of kindly Bishop Flaget regarding Father Fenwick. Obstacles prevented the bishop from carrying out his good intentions for a time, but ultimately it would be as he had promised.

It does not appear that Fenwick visited Ohio in 1812, but Bishop Flaget and Father Badin did. By 1813 the War of 1812 was disrupting society and, until its close early in 1814, may have prevented any regular missionary journeys by the priests from Kentucky. Documentation is lacking for these war years. After the war Fenwick began making the regular visits that earned him the title “Apostle of Ohio.” On August 6, 1815 he wrote a letter to the Dittoes, saying that he intended to set out for Cincinnati in September and would visit them also. He asked about the Catholics of Newark and Danville, of whom he had heard from their relatives in Kentucky. According to Bishop Flaget’s diary<sup>22</sup>, Fenwick visited Cincinnati, Chillicothe, and many other parts of Ohio this year.<sup>23</sup> Fenwick did not visit in the spring of 1816, but expected his confrere Father Angier to stop at Somerset on his way to the East. Fenwick did visit Ohio later in 1816.<sup>24</sup>

In 1817 and 1818 Fenwick baptized 162 persons in different parts of Ohio. He visited Gallipolis in 1817.<sup>25</sup> On Wednesday morning, June 11, 1817, at Lancaster, having produced satisfactory evidence of being “a regular ordained Priest in the Roman Catholic Church,” the common pleas court ordered that he be licensed to solemnize marriages in Ohio.<sup>26</sup>

On June 12, 1818, Father Fenwick solemnized the marriage of Jacob Brockhart and Ann or Nancy, daughter of Jacob Dittoe.<sup>27</sup> On October 24 he probably was at Danville when he baptized Fanny Sapp. Finally, on December 6, 1818 he blessed the log church of St. Joseph near Somerset, the first Catholic church in Ohio. Taking up his residence there, with his nephew Rev. Nicholas D. Young, saved them the long journeys from Kentucky, but the two priests only increased their efforts to reach the forlorn and the lost sheep in Ohio. In May and June of 1819 Fenwick visited Mt. Vernon, Wooster, Canton, and New Lisbon, baptizing 35, marrying five couples, burying two, and receiving six adults into the Church.<sup>28</sup>

When the time came for Bishop Flaget to be relieved of some of his vast responsibilities, he proposed to the Archbishop of Baltimore that

either Rev. Demetrius Gallitzin or Father Fenwick be named Bishop of Cincinnati. The proposal was modified and sent to Rome and on June 19, 1821 Pope Pius VII erected the see of Cincinnati and appointed Fenwick its first bishop. The man sent by Flaget to be the Apostle of Ohio he now consecrated as its first resident bishop, at St. Rose in Kentucky, on January 13, 1822. His promise had been kept, in a more permanent way than anyone probably had imagined at that meeting in Fink’s cabin just eleven years earlier.

## SOURCES

Father Jean David (on the Ohio River near Big-bone Lick) to Father Simon Gabriel Bruté, Baltimore, June 2-4, 1811: UNDA, II-3-n A.L.S. Translation courtesy of Sister Loretta Petit, O.P.

Spaulding, Martin J. (Rt. Rev.), *Sketches of the Life, Times, and Character of the Rt. Rev Benedict Joseph Flaget, First Bishop of Louisville*; Louisville: Webb & Levering, 1852

O’Daniel, Victor F., O.P. (V. Rev.), *The Right Rev. Edward Dominic Fenwick, O.P.*; Washington: the Dominicans, 1920

Fox, Sister M. Columba, *The Life of the Rt. Rev. John Baptist Mary David (1761-1841)*; NY: U. S. Catholic Historical Society, 1925

Schauinger, J. Herman, *Cathedrals in the Wilderness*; Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing Co., 1952

## NOTES

- 1) *Bulletin*, March, 1976, Schlegel, “The Pennsylvania Homes of the Fink and Dittoe Families”
- 2) *Bulletin*, November, 1985, “Notes on the Pre-Foundation History of St. Joseph Parish Near Somerset,” by Donald M. Schlegel; *Bulletin*, May, 1988, “John Fink (1757-1833), Benefactor of Holy Trinity Church, Somerset”
- 3) “[W]hich said northwest quarter was granted to the said John Fink by letters made patent by the president of the United States bearing the great seal thereof and dated at Washington City the day of April in the year of our Lord one Thousand Eight hundred and six.” from Fairfield Co. Deed H/246 (old pagination) Verified by Chuck Fink at the U.S. General Land Office.
- 4) Fairfield Co. Deed Record G/381 (old pagination); Fairfield Co. Deed Record H/91; Fairfield Co. Deed Record H/124 (old)
- 5) Dittoe’s letters are quoted extensively by O’Daniel on pp 194-197, 202, and 203

- 6) Fairfield Co. Deed Record E/120
- 7) Fairfield Co. Deed Record F/396. The triangular tract across the road was not purchased from the Conways until 1811. Deed Record H/125.
- 8) Letter of Robert J. J. Harkins to Samuel Ditto, May 20, 1893; copy from the Dominican Archives, Providence College.
- 9) Harkins letter. Jacob Dittoe's Fairfield County permit for his store or tavern on the [Lancaster-] Wheeling Road was continued on April 22, 1809.
- 10) Though this author at first believed O'Daniel had pushed his sources to the limit, to make the visit as early as possible, he later concluded that O'Daniel's conclusion must be correct.
- 11) "who had not seen a priest for ten or twelve years." The date can be accepted, but the ten or twelve years cannot be explained, since the Fink and Dittoe daughters were baptized at Conewago in 1803, only five years earlier. Why this exaggeration kept being reasserted is difficult to understand.
- 12) Lamott, John H. (Rev.), *History of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati*; New York and Cincinnati: Frederick Pustet Co., 1921; p. 24, n 40
- 13) O'Daniel, pp 199-200
- 14) O'Daniel, 173
- 15) Citing no evidence at all, on pages 174 and 203 O'Daniel places Fenwick in Kentucky in the winter, then in Maryland in the spring before the May/June return to the West. Lacking any other evidence, it seems more likely that from New York he went to visit his family in Maryland while recovering from his illness and then came west in the spring.
- 16) Schauinger, 54-55; paraphrasing an undated letter of Flaget to Bruté. At one time the letter was in the collections of the University of Notre Dame Archives, but it currently is not listed in the archives' on-line calendar. Fox gives more details, taken from Philpin de la Revière, *Vies de Quelques Membres de la compagnie de Saint Sulpice (1813-1882)*, p. 152. This information may ultimately derive from the same letter of Flaget, or perhaps from David's letter of Nov. 20, 1817, for which see note 21 below. She also cites "David to Duclaux: Archives of St. Sulpice, Paris, France," which perhaps could be the same letter of November 20, 1817. We attempted without success to investigate this source.
- 17) This information was obtained from the Rev. Nicholas D. Young, O.P., per Spaulding, page 69. Letter from Father John B. David to Father Simon Bruté, which picks up the description of the trip on the Ohio River, but not until June 2 when they had almost reached Louisville. UNDA, II-3-n A.L.S.
- 18) Coffey, James R., O.P., *Pictorial History of the Dominican Province of Saint Joseph U.S.A.*, 1946, p. 5
- 19) John G. Shea; *History of the Catholic Church in the United States*; New York: John G. Shea, 1890; III/334-335. Shea cites a "Sketch by Rev. Stephen Byrne, O.P.," and Bonaventura Hammer, *Der Apostel von Ohio. Ein Lebensbild des hochw. Eduard Dominik Fenwick, aus dem Dominikanerorden, ersten Bischofs von Cincinnati, Ohio*; Freiburg in Breisgau: Herdersche Verlagshandlung, 1890. The latter's version of Flaget's visit with Fink agrees with Shea's version, almost word for word; either Shea used Hammer as his source or they had a common source. Hammer does not give a source for his version, but it is clear that the story was modified somewhere along the line. This modification would not be noticed by those unfamiliar with the geography of Somerset. The story makes the visit with Fink occur on Flaget's journey of 1812 from Kentucky towards the East. However, it leaves in place Fink's reply to the question of other Catholics in the area, "dass drei Meilen weiter noch zwei katholische Familien wohnten," that is, three miles farther on two Catholic families resided. Clearly in the original source, in agreement with the account related by Fink to Father Henni, the bishop and his priest companion were traveling from east to west along the trace, for going forward from Fink's in that direction would be going towards Dittoe's. (Shea modified this to "within three miles.")
- 20) Flaget's diary, *Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia*, 1918, 234-235 and 245-247. "Distances on the Ohio River and principal tributaries", from Ethel C. Leahy, *Who's Who on the Ohio River and its Tributaries*; Cincinnati: E. C. Leahy Publications, 1931; 825-827
- 21) Letter of Father David to a friend in France, dated November 20, 1817, published in the *Journal de Marseilles*, October 17, 1818. This is mentioned in a note in Spaulding's 1852 *Life of Flaget*, pp 68-70. This letter could not be found, despite efforts by Father Luke Tancrell, O.P., and his brother Dominicans in France.
- 22) This portion of Flaget's diary is now lost, but was used by Spaulding.
- 23) O'Daniel 208, from Spaulding, 203
- 24) O'Daniel, 209-210
- 25) St. Joseph's baptismal register, for which see the *Bulletin*, January, 1975. Flaget's diary, per O'Daniel, p 212
- 26) Fairfield County Common Pleas Court, transcription of Minute Books 1-3, page 526
- 27) Fairfield Co. Marriage Record, I/168; a duplicate of sorts appears on I/175, apparently brought in to the clerk by the couple, for it records Fenwick's name phonetically as Finnic.
- 28) St. Joseph's baptismal register.

# Chronicle of Events in the Diocese of Columbus for 2005

## Compiled by the Editor

### Universal Church

April 2 Pope John Paul II died.  
April 19 Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger was elected Supreme Pontiff and chose the name of Benedict XVI.

### Diocese of Columbus

Jan. 13 Most Rev. Frederick Francis Campbell was installed as eleventh Bishop of Columbus.  
Nov. 20, Feast of Christ the King In a ceremony sponsored by Holy Family and St. Joseph parishes, K. of C. Council 13428, the St. Joseph Guild, and Una Voce Columbus, a Eucharistic procession walked from Holy Family to the Cathedral. It stopped at City Hall, where the city was consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

### Institutions and Agencies

June 6 Ground was broken at St. Charles Preparatory School for the Robert C. Walter Student Commons and St. Charles Student Services and Fine Arts Center.  
June 22 Mother Angeline McCrory Manor (home for the aged), at 5199 E. Broad St., Columbus, was dedicated. It is operated by the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm.  
July 31 Catholic radio station WUCO (not affiliated with the diocese) began broadcasting in Marysville.  
Sept. 10 Sacred Heart Church in Milford Center was rededicated as the Life and Mercy Center, a chapel for private prayer

### Parishes

April 9 Bishop Campbell blessed the new parish hall at Our Lady of Victory Parish, Columbus.  
April A new school building for Blessed Sacrament Parish in Newark was opened.  
May 21. Ground was broken for the new Sts. Simon and Jude Church, northeast of West Jefferson.

### Vocations and Personnel

Jan. 23 Sister Susan Olson, native of Newark, professed final vows as a Dominican Sister of St. Mary of the Springs.

Jan. 29 The following were ordained permanent deacons: Thomas Berg Junior, Christopher Campbell, Steven DeMers, Roger Minner, James Morris, Donald Poirier, Donald Robers, Craig Smith, Christopher Varacalli, and Patrick Wilson.  
Feb. 1 Rev. Carmen Arcuri, Associate Pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Columbus, retired.  
Feb. The Vatican approved laicization of Fathers Michael Ellifritz (retired) and Martin Weithman.  
April 24. Diocesan seminarian William Joseph Ferguson was ordained a deacon at the Josephinum by Most Rev. Leonard Blair of Toledo.  
June. The Vatican approved laicization of Msgr. Joseph Fête.  
June 25 Bishop Campbell ordained Revs. Anthony P. Lonzo and Steven D. Seever to the priesthood, at St. Joseph Cathedral.  
July 9 Sister Catherine Arnold professed final vows as a Dominican Sister of St. Mary of the Springs. She had discerned her vocation in the Diocesan Vocations Monthly Support Group.  
Dec. 31 Deacon Richard Krick of St. Peter Parish, Chillicothe, retired.

### Necrology

Jan. 22 Sister Esther (born Jennie) DeVault, O.S.F., age 89, at Stella Niagara  
Feb. 13 Sr. Lucia Dos Santos, Carmelite, age 97  
Feb. 13 Rev. William B. Tarrier, O.P., at Mohun Hall, age 84, native of Zanesville  
Mar. 16 Rev. John M. Fulcher, age 84, native of Columbus, retired priest of the diocese  
Mar. 16 Sister of Mercy Mary Leah Myers, in Cincinnati, age 93, graduate of St. Joseph Academy in Columbus  
May 18 Sr. Rosemary (Norbert) Hartings, O.S.F., at Stella Niagara, age 91, a native of Columbus  
May 28 Sr. Maura (born Ruth) Litzinger, O.P., at St. Mary of the Springs, age 102, a native of Somerset  
June 15 at St. Mary of the Springs, Sr. Mary Andrew Matesich, O.P., age 66, a native of Zanesville  
July 21 Sister Mary Helen Gehrlich (formerly Sr. Mary of Divine Providence), Sister of the Good

Shepherd, died at Fort Thomas, Ky., aged 91. She was a native of Marion, O.  
 Aug. 12 Rev. Msgr. Clement F. Faistl, in Columbus, retired priest of the diocese, age 92.  
 Aug. 19 Sister Mary Leo Brown, O.P., at St. Mary of the Springs, age 91, a native of Lancaster  
 Aug. 21 in Columbus, Sister Mary Jordan Smock, O.P., age 74, a native of Somerset  
 Aug. 28 Sister Margaret Grace Blain, O.S.F., age 86, at Oldenburg, Ind. She had entered the Oldenburg congregation from Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Buckeye Lake, in 1948.

Sept. 25 Sister Elizabeth Ryan, O.P., in Columbus, age 89, a native of Columbus  
 Oct. 21 Rev. Msgr. James P. Hanley, in Columbus, age 79, retired priest of the diocese  
 Nov. 22 in Columbus, Rev. Raymond M. McCabe, O.P., age 91, a native of Zanesville  
 Nov. 30 at Stella Niagara, Sister Lucille (formerly Sr. Eloise) Sorohan, O.S.F. age 90, a native of New Lexington

## Distant Birthplaces Recorded at Marion, 1890-1897

**by Father James A. J. Burns**

(Concluded from Vol. XXXI, No. 1)

*These are the names of parents of children being baptized and the date is that of the child's baptism, unless otherwise noted.*

Wall, Mary (daughter of James and Mary) (Mrs. O'Ragan), born 1874, Lebanon, Boone Co., Ind., July 11, 1897

Ward, Helen (wife of John J. Darmody), Dayton, O., Feb. 7, 1897

Watson, ---- [blank] (non-Catholic) (husband of Mary Murray), Toledo, O., July 16, 1895

Welsh, Helen Caroline (not baptized) (wife of Francis Edgar Baer), Antrim Twp., Wyandotte Co., O., Aug. 27, 1894; July 12, 1896

Werley, Francis Joseph (husband of Rosa Neu), New Riegel, Seneca Co., O., Mar. 13, 1892

Werley, Stephen James (husband of Margaret Amelia Goss), Thompson, Seneca Co., O., Jan. 26, 1891

Willis, Mary (wife of Augustine Gelhaus), Chillicothe, O., May 11, 1890

Willoughby, Mary Helen (wife of Michael J. Murphy), Kirby, Wyandotte Co., O., Oct. 2, 1892

Wixtead, Catharine (wife of Thomas English), Newport, Co. Tipperary, Ireland, Sept. 25, 1890

Woodcock -- see Shea, Ann J.

**Chancery Office**  
**Diocese of Columbus**  
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