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St. Joseph's Catholic  
CHURCH

MISHAWAKA, INDIANA.

Very Rev. A. B. Oechtering,  
RECTOR AND DEAN.

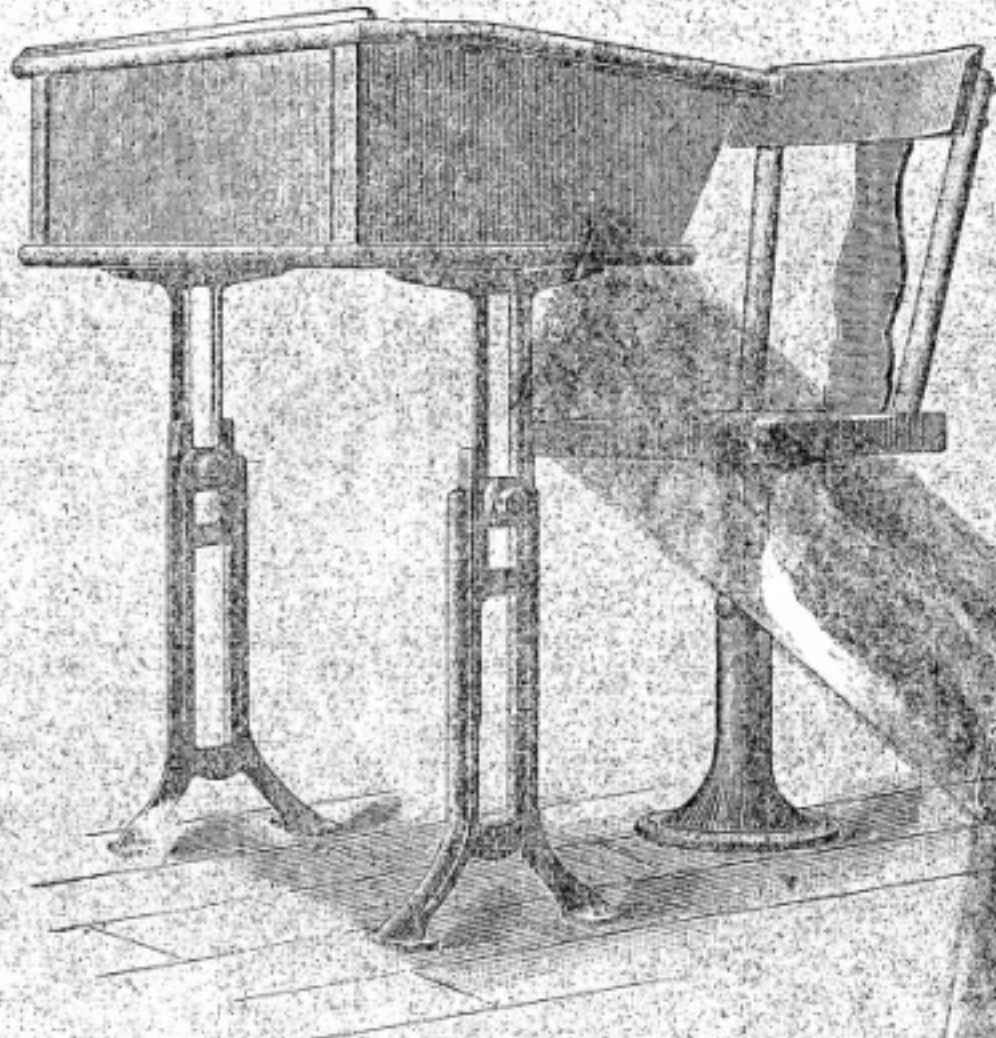
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# SOUVENIR OF THE DEDICATION OF ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH.

PUBLISHED FOR THE CONGREGATION BY WILLIAM P. O'NEILL.

MISHAWAKA, INDIANA, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1893.



VERY REV. A. B. OECHTERING,  
RECTOR AND DEAN OF ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH.



## BIOGRAPHICAL.

VERY REVEREND A. B. OECHTERING.

THERE could be no more appropriate introduction to a book designed to illustrate the growth and prosperity of St. Joseph's congregation, than a sketch of the life of the pastor, who, for more than a quarter of a century, has shared the struggles and triumphs of his congregation, and to whose unceasing and unselfish labors the present flourishing condition of the congregation is attributable. Honor to whom honor is due, is a good maxim, and in contemplating the splendid results achieved by this humble priest in the vineyard of the Lord we say, without hesitancy, that he, indeed, is a steward who will be able to render a good account to the Master.

Very Reverend August Bernard Oechtering, the youngest son of Gerhard H. and Theresa (Benningmeier) Oechtering, was born in the province of Westphalia, Prussia, September 8, 1837. In early life he showed a special inclination for the priesthood, and his early education, which was obtained in the place of his birth, was a matter of deep concern to his parents. His collegiate studies were completed in the College of Rhein in 1858. A few months after his graduation he came to this country and immediately sought out the late Rt. Rev. Bishop Luers.

Having applied to the bishop for admission to his diocese, he was sent by the right reverend gentleman to the Seminary of Mt. St. Mary's of the West, to complete his theological studies, which he did in May, 1861. On the 17th day of the same month he was ordained priest by Bishop Luers, in the cathedral at Ft. Wayne. Two days later he celebrated his first mass, and on May 26th, he was sent to Delphi, this state, to take charge of St. Joseph's congregation and attend several missions in the out-lying districts. The presence of just such a man as Father Oechtering was all that was needed at Delphi, to give St. Joseph's a prominent place among the prosperous congregations of the diocese. When he began his labors at Delphi that mission was in a very much neglected condition. When he left, a substantial church and school house bore evidence of the zeal that characterized his labors. It was while he was attending the country missions, near Delphi, that there sprung up the close bond of friendship which unites Father Oechtering to the Rt. Rev. Bishop Rademacher. They had been friends before this time, but the fact that Father Rademacher's mission adjoined that of Father Oechtering led to their meeting frequently and exchanging views as to the best means

to adopt to spread the Truth. In May, 1864, Father Oechtering accompanied Bishop Luers to Europe. He remained in the Old World six months, and the following year was appointed to St. Mary's church at Avilla. He began his labors in his new field two days before Christmas, 1865. He remained at Avilla but eighteen months, but during that time he greatly improved the condition of St. Mary's congregation, erected a new church at Waterloo and rebuilt the one at Kendallville, besides finding time to deliver a number of lectures on religious subjects. In June, 1867, he took charge of St. Joseph's parish, of this city. The condition of the congregation at the time of his coming here is explained in the article which follows. To what extent the subject of this sketch is responsible for the remarkable prosperity of St. Joseph's congregation, may be judged from the results of his labors elsewhere. To one not familiar with the affairs of the congregation, the fact that he was appointed to his present charge, after having labored successfully in two important congregations, would indicate that his ability and progressive spirit were appreciated by his superior, the bishop; to the members of his congregation his work is too well known to need eulogy here, and that he enjoys the confidence and hearty cooperation of his parishioners in the great work he is accomplishing, is evidenced by the beautiful temple dedicated to God, today. In 1875, while in Rome, he had an audience with the Pope of the Immaculate Conception—the saintly Pius IX. A few years after he returned from this second trip to Europe, Bishop Dwenger tendered him the pastorate of the church at Huntington, but he preferred to remain in Mishawaka. May 19th, 1886—the same year that preparations were begun for the building of the new church—Father Oechtering celebrated what, next to his ordination, was the happiest event in all the years of his priesthood. It was the occasion of his Silver Jubilee, and two bishops, fifty-seven priests and a large number of friends from abroad joined the congregation in making the occasion a memorable one. Up till the Summer of 1885 he enjoyed good health, but he was not to escape the inevitable consequences of overwork, and in May, 1890, his condition became so serious that a trip to Europe was advised by his physician. He sailed May 5th, and after spending five months in recuperating, he returned in perfect health. For the past nine years he has been president of the school board of the diocese. He is one of the consulters of the bishop, and as dean of the fifth district it is his duty to preside at the semi-annual meetings of the conference, and visit the schools of the diocese.

The writer of the above has endeavored to give a brief sketch of the life of one who may be termed appropriately, "a model parish priest." No further eulogy is necessary.



RT. REV. JOSEPH RADEMACHER,  
THE THIRD BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF FT. WAYNE.

RIGHT Reverend Bishop Joseph Rademacher, who officiates at the dedication, today, is well known to the members of St. Joseph's congregation, having officiated here on various occasions. He participated in the celebration of Father Oechtering's silver jubilee, May 19, 1886. It was he who blessed the corner stone of the new church, Bishop Dwenger being too ill to officiate. Again, on account of the continued illness of Bishop Dwenger, he was called upon to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to a class of about one hundred, May 7th, of the present year. He has been a very close friend of Father Oechtering for



a number of years. A brief sketch of his busy life follows.

Rt. Rev. Joseph Rademacher was born in Westphalia, Clinton county, Michigan. His parents resided on a farm and they sent Joseph and the other children of the family to the Catholic schools of Westphalia. He studied for the priesthood at St. Vincent's College and St. Michael's Seminary, Pennsylvania. He was ordained priest August 3, 1863, and said his first mass on the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15, 1863. His first missions were in this state. They were at Attica, Covington, State Line and Marshalfield. His next station was at Columbia City, where he had charge of a congregation and also looked after the spiritual welfare of the Catholic residents of several neighboring settlements. He then took charge of St. Mary's parish, Ft. Wayne, where he labored industriously until July, 1880, when he was sent to Lafayette, by the late Bishop Dwenger. Here he officiated at St. Mary's church for three years, at the end of which time he was called upon to preside over the Diocese of Nashville, Tennessee. He was consecrated bishop by the Most Rev. Archbishop Feehan of Chicago, who was Bishop Rademacher's predecessor in the see of Nashville. The solemn ceremony took place in the cathedral of Nashville, June 24, 1882, and he remained in charge of that diocese, constantly, until transferred to Ft.

Wayne. To the fact that he was so well and favorably known to the clergy and laity of this diocese, may be attributed the royal reception which was accorded him at Ft. Wayne, several weeks ago, on the occasion of his installation as bishop of this diocese.

Bishop Rademacher is a man of deep learning and wide practical experience. He is an orator of considerable ability, speaking the English and German languages equally well. Like his predecessor, the late Bishop Dwenger, he is a devoted champion of the cause of christian education, and takes a deep interest in the practical workings of the parochial schools. Taking the result of his labors in the see of Nashville as a criterion by which to form an opinion of the future of the church in this diocese, we feel no hesitancy in saying that the high place the Diocese of Ft. Wayne holds in the church, in America, will not be lost under his able direction.

On his arrival in this city, yesterday, the bishop received an enthusiastic welcome from the members of St. Joseph's congregation. It is the first time since being placed in charge of this diocese, that the reverend gentleman has honored us with his presence, and the occasion long will be remembered by Bishop Rademacher and the congregation as a mutually happy one. The two hundred and twenty-five scholars of the St. Joseph schools will pay their respects to the bishop, tomorrow.

## HISTORICAL.

BY VERY REVEREND A. B. OECHTERING.

FOR the benefit of those who will receive this souvenir and who are unacquainted with the location of Mishawaka, it may be stated that the beautiful town is situate in Northern Indiana, on both banks of the St. Joseph river near the most southern portion of that river. It is five miles distant from that world-famed Catholic educational institution, Notre Dame University. The name "Mishawaka" comes from the Indian dialect and signifies "Swift Water," or as it is sometimes rendered, "Thickwoods Rapids." As the river is very swift at this point, and both banks are covered with a heavy growth of timber, either name would be very appropriate to the locality. The population of the town, proper, numbers about 4,000 souls.

Catholicity in Mishawaka dates as far back as 1833. At that time the Catholic families residing here were those of John McErlain and Edward Mulligan and, a little later, Patrick Moan. The spiritual wants of these patriarchs of the Church in Mishawaka, were looked after by the celebrated Father Baden. Father Baden was the first priest ordained in America, and though nominally a resident of Bardstown, Kentucky, he spent most of his life traveling through

the forests of Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky, saying mass in every small hamlet where Catholics resided, and administering the Sacraments to the pioneers of the Church. It was in 1844, a year after the arrival of Very Reverend Sorin, at Notre Dame, that a regular service was established for the few Catholics of this town. We find that Father Sorin said mass in the houses of the several members of the congregation, generally at the home of Edward Mulligan. Reverend Father Cointet, who was one of Father Sorin's companions, also officiated here a number of times, and generally offered up the Holy Sacrifice at the home of George Smith, who resided near the Poppendick property, or at Jeremiah Luce's home. It was between the years 1846-'48 that a permanent place of worship was established, in a room of what now is the residence of James McMichael, on the north side. This little chapel received the title of "Holy Angels' Church." The first baptism recorded by Father Cointet was that of Mr. Samuel Black, on December 10, 1848. Mr. Black was the father of Mrs. John Feiten and Mrs. Mary Haubert. In 1855, a small frame building was erected on the lot where Mr. Thomas Bless' house now stands, and this served the con-

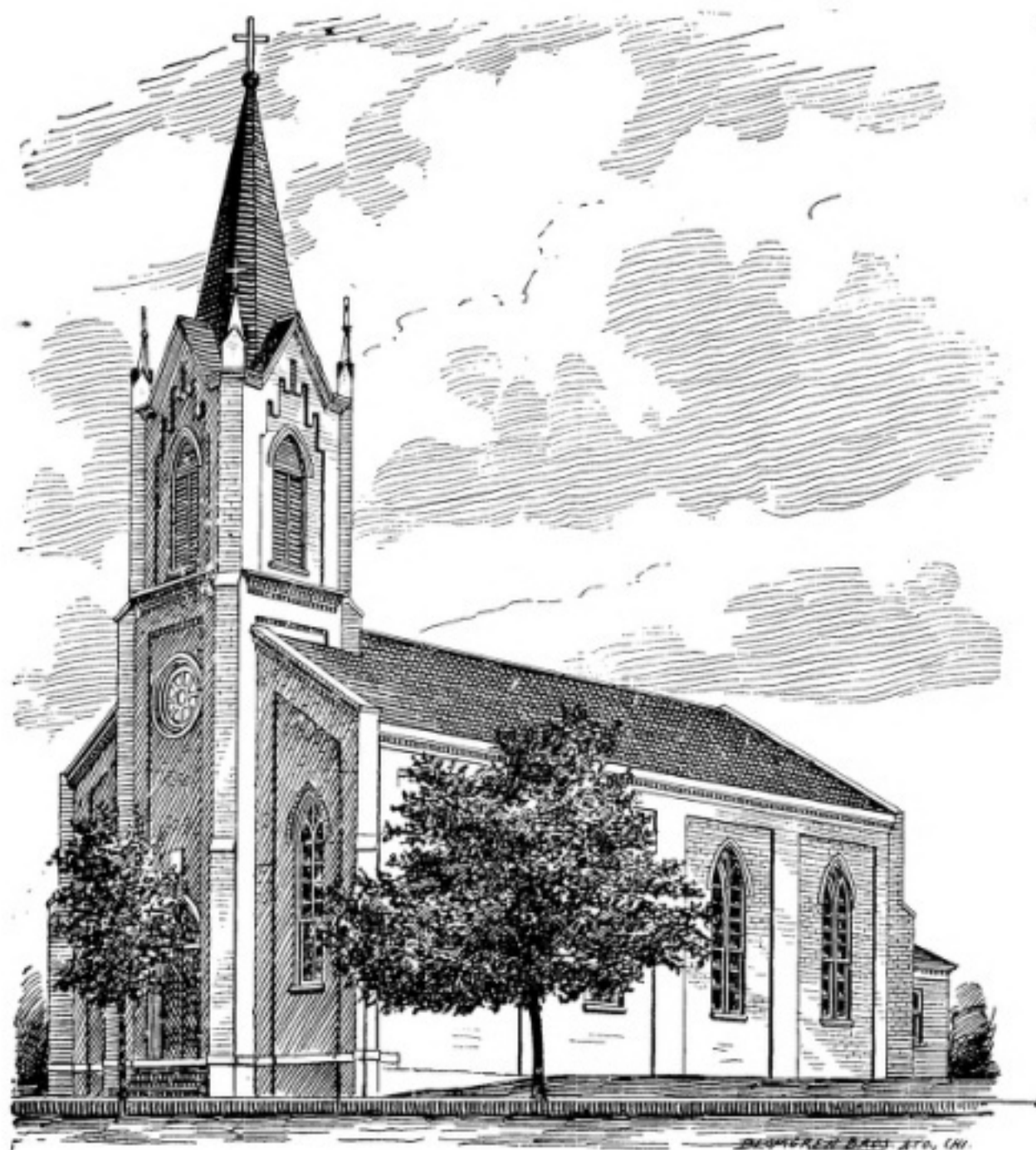


gregation as a church, until March, 1860, when it was destroyed by fire. The priests who had officiated here previous to 1857, were all members of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, and none of them had taken up a residence here. Their names follow: Very Rev. Father Sorin, Reverend Fathers F. Cointet, J. Guasse, R. A. Shortis, W. Master-son, C. Schelling, A. Fourmont, M. P. Rooney, B. J. Force, Alexis Granger, E. B. Kilroy, Thomas Flynn and M. Prendergast. The Rev. B. Mager came here as permanent pastor of the congregation, in 1857, and after spending eighteen months here, he went to Chicago, where he erected the beautiful St. Peter's, on Clark and Polk streets. He died in Chicago, ten years later. In 1859 Reverend Father Henry Koenig was appointed pastor of the congregation, and upon assuming charge, he at once began the work of soliciting funds for a new church. The difficulties that had to be surmounted by Father Koenig before he could procure the means necessary to begin the erection of a new church, will be understood better when it is recalled that a short time after he came here the civil war broke out and the congregation, already very poor, was further impoverished by the prevailing high prices for the necessaries of life and the scarcity of work, and therefore was unable to contribute much toward the support of the church. Nothing daunted,

Father Koenig proceeded to collect a portion of the eight thousand dollars necessary to build the church, from Catholics in Ohio. The congregation at this time was made up of the following families, whose names appear on the church record up till 1857:

John McErlain, Patrick Moan, Edward Mulligan, John Armstrong, Jacob Becher, Philip Mulligan, Michael Klein, Patrick Mulligan, Philip Blake, Mathias Hauprichs, John Doyle, Patrick Cooney, John Donahue, Jacob Zahm, (whose son is now the honored president of Conisius College, —Jesuit — Buffalo, New York,) Jacob Klaer, Samuel Black, John Hauprichs, Jeremiah Becher, Thomas Hughes, John Kurtz, Joseph Kurtz, B. Beesinger, Edward Dowling, Peter Klein, Henry Casey, Bernard Reyniers, George M. Schmidt, Nicholas Klein, Peter Klein, Joseph Zeiger, F. X. Krantz, Martin Myers, John Klein and George Klotz.

The location of the brick church erected by Father Koenig, and an illustration of which is given herewith, was determined by the large number of Catholic farmers residing south of town. These families threatened to build a church out in the country in case they were obliged to drive to the north side of the river to attend services. The church was built, therefore, on the property purchased by Father Koenig, at the corner of Third and Spring streets. The corner stone was blessed by Rt. Rev. Bishop Luers, the first bishop of this diocese, in June, 1861, and the dedication took place December 8, of the same year. The name of the congregation having been changed to



THE OLD ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH.

"St. Joseph's."

During the years referred to, above, the education of the children had not been neglected. Although the remuneration for her labor was very small, a French lady, from Notre Dame la Falley, taught the few Catholic children, in a building on the south east corner of Main and

First streets, for about six months. This was in 1854, and some time later the Sisters of the Holy Cross located in Mishawaka and would have established here St. Mary's Academy—now an institution that is known throughout the country—but for the persistent persecution which they suffered from unprincipled fanatics



who made a practice of breaking the windows of their house and otherwise injuring their property. Classes were taught in the vestry room of St. Joseph's church, by different gentlemen, until 1864, when the little brick school building was erected in the rear of the church. The ground for the Catholic cemetery was purchased in 1865. When I arrived here May 17, 1867, there were forty-five pupils attending the school, which was taught by Mr. Jacob Zahn. Among the teachers who have held positions in the schools, since I came here, we find the names of Messrs. H. Pöhlman, C. Weiman, August Volkenrath, H. Winkler, H. Theisen, August Hœrstmann—the present organist—and Miss Marie Oechtering—now Mrs. William Schindler. It may be mentioned that at the time I came here there was a debt of more than three thousand dollars on the church and its scanty furnishings. A large portion of the debt was paid off during the first two years of my pastorate in Mishawaka, and in 1869 we purchased the property at the corner of Fourth and Mill streets, paying therefor the exorbitant sum of thirty-two hundred dollars. This property—adding the sum of the interest that accrued, to the purchase price—cost the congregation a little less than six thousand dollars. The school house fronting on Fourth street was built in 1870. The following year the church was frescoed, a pulpit and two large bells purchased. In March, 1873, the building of the pastor's residence was begun, on a portion of the ground purchased by Father Kœnig, and was completed in September, 1873. The debt owed by the congregation was very large, and no further improvements were made until 1878, when the erection of another school room was necessary to accommodate the constantly increasing number of children. In November, 1878, the Sisters of the Poor Handmaids established a hospital in this city, and their services as nurses have been in demand nearly as much by protestants as by members of the Church. They took charge of the parochial schools in August, 1880. In November, 1885, the first steps were taken towards the erection of a new church, and the next year the "building fund" was started.

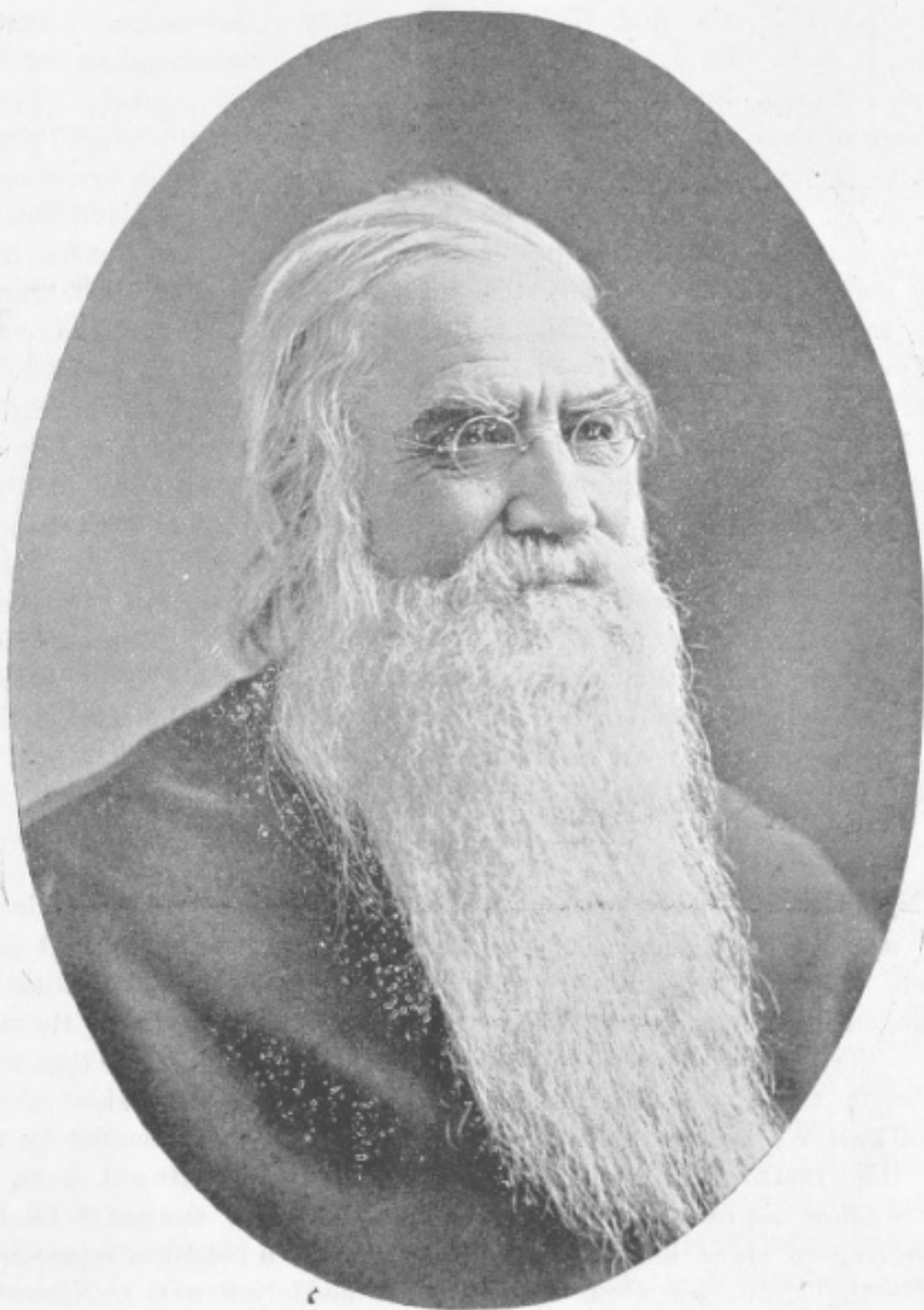
In the old St. Joseph's church there were eighteen hundred and twenty-six baptisms—this number includes many converts to the Faith. Two hundred and eighty-four couples were united in the holy bonds of matrimony and the funerals numbered five hundred and eighty. A number of missions were given in this church. The first was by Rt. Rev. Bishop Lueers, assisted by Rev. Father Smarius, S. J. The next was in 1866, by Rev. Father Weniger, S. J. In October, 1873, the Rev. P. P. Cooney, C. S. C., Miss. Ap., gave a mission for the English speaking portion of the congregation. This was followed a few months later, by a German

mission given by the Rev. Fathers Pottgiser and Bœhmer. The Rev. Fathers Korst, of Coldwater, De-Greyse, of Detroit, and Buysse, of Jackson, Michigan, gave missions at various times for the Belgian members of the congregation. The last mission in the old church was given by the Rev. Godfried Schlachter, C. P. P. S., in 1887. The number of children who received their first Holy Communion during the years intervening between 1862 and 1871, was about nine hundred. They were confirmed by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Luers. (Bishop Luers died while walking along a street in Cleveland, Ohio, June 29, 1871.) The late Bishop Dwenger, who was consecrated bishop April 14, 1872, confirmed seven hundred and fifty five First Communicants during the time he presided over the diocese. The present bishop confirmed one hundred and fourteen persons, this Spring. Among the many joyous festivals celebrated in the old church, the following may be mentioned as having been celebrated with particular solemnity: June 17, 1870, was the silver jubilee, as Pope, of Pius the Ninth, of blessed memory. On this day the Catholics of Mishawaka showed their love and veneration for the Holy Father in a celebration, the grandeur and solemnity of which is unsurpassed in the history of the congregation. Solemn high mass was celebrated by the pastor, assisted by the Rev. Father Peter Lauth, now of Austin, Texas, and Father Demerse, chaplain at St. Joseph's hospital, South Bend. A procession through the principle streets of the town and an entertainment in the evening closed the exercises of the day. The golden jubilee of the same Pontiff was celebrated with much solemnity, and on the occasion of the golden jubilee of the reigning Pontiff, His Holiness, Leo XIII, another grand demonstration was made by his spiritual children in Mishawaka. The silver jubilee of the pastor, Very Rev. A. B. Oechtering, was celebrated in a fitting manner, May 19, 1886. The late Rt. Rev. Bishop Dwenger was present on that occasion as also was the Rt. Rev. Bishop Rademacher, then bishop of Nashville, fifty-seven priests and a large number of laymen from Laporte, Elkhart and South Bend. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the beginning of Father Oechtering's labors in Mishawaka also was celebrated in a worthy manner, by every member of the congregation offering up his prayers and Communions of the month of May, for the welfare of the pastor. The following priests said their first mass in St. Joseph's church: Christmas, 1872, the Rev. Father Metzger, a relative of Jacob Buchheit, sr., (deceased). He now is pastor of a church at Pittsfield, diocese of Alton. July, 1878, the Rev. C. M. Romer, who had spent several vacations here with the rector. He has charge of the church at Delphi, this diocese.



In October, 1878, the Rev. Nicholas Stoffel, C. S. C. He is pastor of St. Joseph's church, South Bend, and professor of Greek at the University of Notre Dame. In April, 1882, the Rev. C. A. Ganser, son of Joseph Ganser, sr., of this city. Now pastor of the church at Kentland, this diocese. In July, 1889, the Rev. Simon M. Yenn, son of County Treasurer Yenn, of this city, having returned from Rome, where he was ordained priest, celebrated solemn high mass. He now is pastor of the church at Goshen, this diocese. On the 23rd day of July, of the present year, the Rev. Father John DeGroot, C. S. C., celebrated his first mass in St. Joseph's church—the church wherein he had received the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, and, for the first time, Holy Communion. Father DeGroot is vice-president of St. Edward's College, Austin, Texas, diocese of Galveston. Several young men of the congregation are preparing for the Sacrament of Holy Orders, while a number of young women have entered the order of the Poor Handmaids of the Lord, and are doing active work, either as teachers in parochial schools or as nursing Sisters at the bedside of the sick and dying. The above is, we believe, a faithful history of the progress of Catholicity in this city, during the past sixty years. The dates given were compiled from the best information obtainable from those who were members of the congregation at the time of the occurrence of the events recorded.

AMONG those who have been special benefactors of the church, and whose gifts are not mentioned elsewhere, are the following: Very Rev. Father Sorin, who, with the Rev. J. H. Oechtering, of Fort Wayne, gave the window near the Blessed Virgin's altar. This window represents the Angel announcing to Mary that she is to become the Mother of God. The large window, next to the above, was donated by the children who were prepared for their First Holy Communion by Father Oechtering, from 1868 to the present time. This window is on exhibition at the World's Fair and will be placed in position at the close of the Exposition. It is a representation of Christ instituting the Blessed Sacrament at the last supper. Directly opposite this window, and in the west side of the transept, is the one donated by the children of the late Mrs. C. Auer, in memory of their mother. In the foreground is a beautiful representation of the Holy Family at Nazareth. The window near St. Joseph's altar was donated by St. Joseph's Society. It represents Joseph with the Child, Jesus, instructing. The pews were donated by the Children of Mary Sodality of the congregation.



VERY REV. EDWARD SORIN.

*Founder of Notre Dame, and Superior-General of the Congregation of the Holy Cross.*

**THE PIONEER-PRIEST OF NORTHERN INDIANA.**

## DESCRIPTIVE.

ONE year from the day of the first collection for the building of the new church, there was \$1,600 in the church treasury for that purpose. This fact had the effect of inspiring the members of the congregation with confidence in the ultimate success of the project and their contributions became larger and more regular, with the result that at the end of the year 1890, \$22,000 had been collected and loaned out on interest. At this juncture it was deemed proper to appoint a "Building Committee," and the following members of the congregation were selected to serve in that capacity: Andrew Hintzberger, Joseph Gerstbauer, Simou Yenn, Jacob Eckstein, Adolph Kamm, Peter VanHuffle and William N. Schindler. The latter acted as secretary of the committee, and the rector, Father Oechtering, was elected president. When Mr. VanHuffle removed to South Bend, Mr. George X. Philion was appointed to his place on the committee, but the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Jacob Eckstein was not filled. Messrs. Donaldson & Meier, architects, of Detroit, were selected to draw the plans, and the beauty of the edifice and the convenience of the arrangements show the wisdom of the committee's selection in this matter. On May 5th, 1891, the contract for building the church was awarded to Mr. John Suelzer, of Ft. Wayne, his being the lowest of four bids that were submitted. The amount involved in the contract was \$35,520. This did not include payment for the windows, furnace, frescoing nor any of the furnishings. Several slight deviations from the plan increased the amount of Mr. Suelzer's contract several hundred dollars, but it must be said that he did everything in his power to accommodate the committee and make his connection with them an agreeable one, and he succeeded admirably. After a high mass had been offered to Almighty God to obtain His blessing on the undertaking, the excavation for the basement of the church was begun April 20th, when the pastor turned the first shovelful of earth, and each member of the Building Committee followed, according to their respective ages. Work on the foundation was begun June 16th. The stone work on the church was done by Keller & Braun, of Ft. Wayne, and Evans Brothers of the same city did the brick work. They had the foundation sufficiently far advanced for the laying of the corner stone, which solemn ceremony took place on August 30th, 1891, in



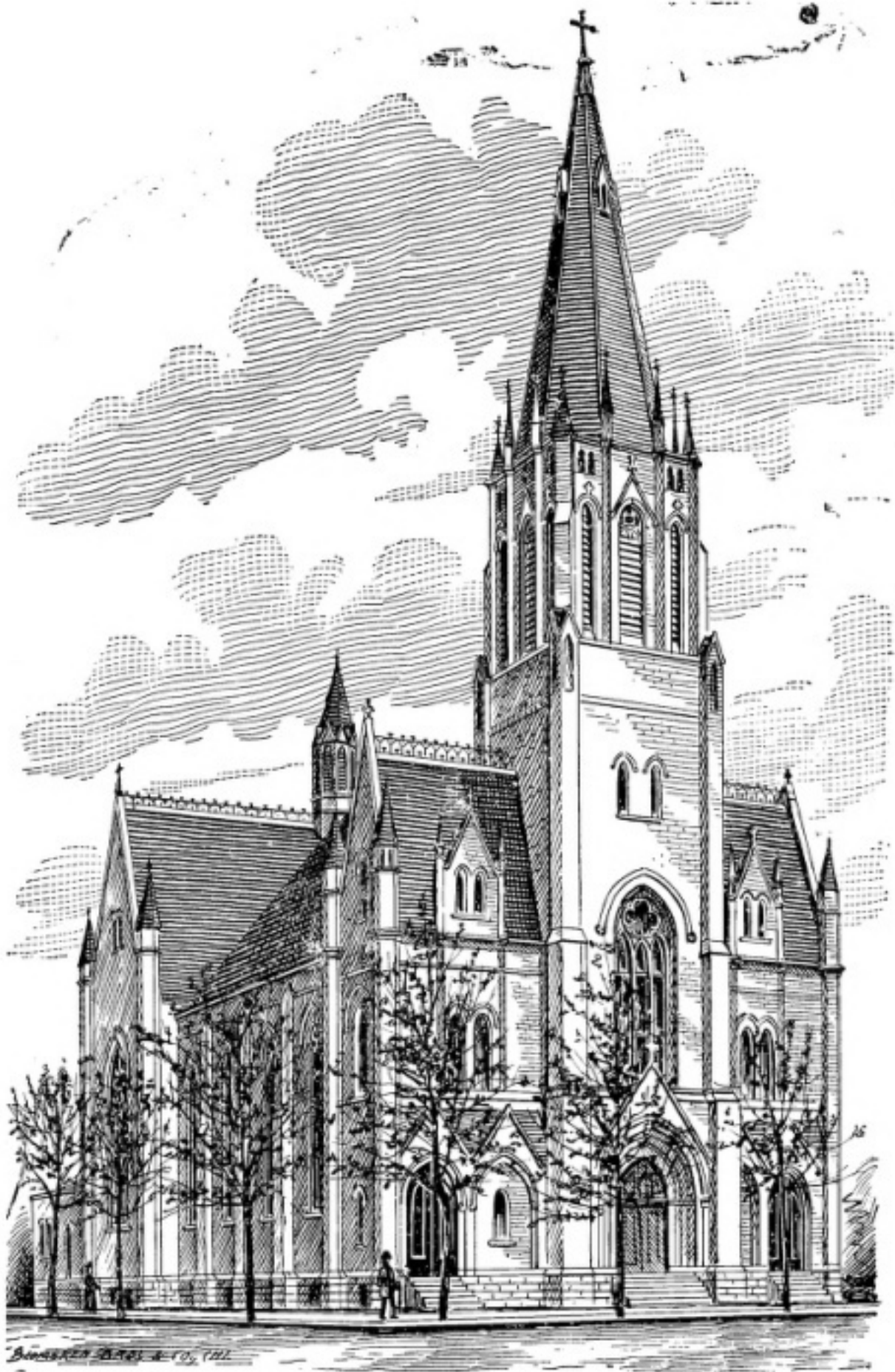
the presence of ten thousand people. Rt. Rev. Bishop Rademacher (then of Nashville) who honors us with his presence, today, was the officiating bishop. After celebrating pontifical high mass, the bishop delivered a short address of congratulation to the congregation. In the afternoon, the ceremony of blessing the corner stone was preceded by a procession of all the local and visiting Catholic societies. The English sermon was delivered by the late president of Notre Dame University, Very Rev. Thomas E. Walsh, whose theme was "Faith." Commenting on Father Walsh's sermon, *The Mishawaka Democrat*, of September 4, 1891, said: "It was a gem of eloquence, sparkling with wholesome truths and noble sentiments, and it has endeared Father Walsh to many who never before had the pleasure of hearing him." After the English sermon, the corner stone was placed in position, and the Rev. B. Wermers, of Detroit, then addressed the congregation in German. The church has a seating capacity of eight hundred. It is pure Gothic in style, built of white brick, with limestone trimmings. The dimensions are: Length, 151 feet; width, 60½ feet; height of main ceiling, 50 feet, side ceilings, 40 feet. The spire rises 163 feet from the ground and is surmounted by a beautiful cross, donated by Brother Frederick of Notre Dame. There are three entrances to the church. From the main entrance the interior, with its delicately frescoed walls and high, vaulted ceilings, the rich altars and Communion railing, the beautiful windows and statues and the still more beautiful inscriptions above the altars, have an awe-inspiring effect upon the visitor. The slate roofing was furnished by Thomas Welsh, of Ft. Wayne. The Isaac D. Smead system of heating will be used in the church. The stone steps were furnished by Messrs. Johnson & May, of South Bend, (the firm that donated the corner stone) at a cost of about \$800, and are a donation to the congregation from Mr. Adolph Kamm and wife. The frescoing was done by A. Liebig & Co., of Milwaukee. The frescoing of the sanctuary walls and ceiling receives particular praise from visitors to the church. The pews were furnished by the Auburn Church Furniture company, of Auburn, Indiana. The windows were furnished by the Wells Glass company, of Chicago. All of the windows were donated. The names of the donors are as follows: Very Rev. E. Sorin, Notre Dame, Rev. J. H. Oechtering, Ft. Wayne, St. Joseph's Society, children of Mrs. C. Auer, Gustav Schellinger and wife, William Schindler and wife, August Herzog, sr., John Schindler and wife, Michael Thallemer, Jacob Becher, the First Communicants in the old church, from the year 1868, to date, John Feiten and family, George Kaupert, wife and son, Theobald Yenn, (now

deceased) Simon Yenn, Andrew Schindler of Chicago, V. Brunner, Caspar Brunner, Lorenz and Josephine Eberhardt, Mrs. Mary Eckstein, George Philion, I. V. Roy, Peter Klein, John Landgraff, Nicholas Schellinger and wife, Adam Krillenberger and Andrew Hintzberger and family. The three pictures which are being painted for the sanctuary will be illustrations of events in the life of the Patron of the church, and his crowning in heaven at death. The picture on the east wall represents the espousal of Joseph to Mary. Above is the inscription: "Blessed the Man that Feareth the Lord." The donor is Mrs. Appolonia Becher. The picture above the main altar was donated by M. Rumely, of Laporte, and represents the death of Joseph, in the arms of Jesus. Above is inscribed: "Sweet in the Sight of the Lord is the Death of a Good Man." The crowning, in heaven, of Joseph as Protector of the Church Universal, is depicted on the wall, to the right of the main altar. Above, the inscription reads: "With Honor and Glory Thou hast Crowned Him, O Lord!" It was donated by John Adam Klein. The altars and pulpit are of the Gothic style of architecture and are painted white and gold. Busts of the four Evangelists—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John—stand in relief against the pulpit, and full-sized statues of Saints Peter and Paul stand in niches in the high altar, on either side of the tabernacle.

There are three inscriptions above each of the side altars. Above the Blessed Virgin Mary's altar they are: "Heart of Mary Conceived without Sin, Hail!" "Mary, Mother of the Holy Rosary, Pray for us!" "Mary, Mother of Mercy, Pray for us!" Above St. Joseph's altar, the inscriptions read: "Hail, Father of the Saviour! Hail!" "Hail Joseph, Thrice Amiable! Hail!" "Hail Joseph, Protector of the Redeemer! Hail!" Various appropriate inscriptions have been placed above the entrances to the church, above the organ and the entrance to the baptistry. A number of incandescent electric lamps, placed in the vaulted ceiling, above the altar, add much to the beautiful appearance of the sanctuary on the occasion of solemn services. The baptistry is at the entrance to the church. The church is lighted throughout by electricity.

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REVEREND J. H. Oechtering, of Ft. Wayne, is deserving of the thanks of the congregation for the valuable assistance he has rendered the rector and the Building Committee in the work they have accomplished. The experience gained by Father Oechtering in building the beautiful St. Mary's church, Ft. Wayne, was imparted freely to the Committee and helped to solve many of the knotty problems that came up while our church was in process of construction. Father Oechtering will deliver a sermon in the German language, this afternoon.



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, MISHAWAKA, IND.

DONALDSON & MEIER, ARCHITECTS,  
DETROIT.

JOHN SUELZER, BUILDER,  
FORT WAYNE.



It was intended, originally, to purchase a new pipe organ for the church, but, upon investigating the matter, it was found that by making some alterations and additions to the excellent instrument used in the old church, Mr. Van Dinter could furnish the congregation with an instrument that would be just as satisfactory and far less costly than a new organ would be. The organ was built by Mr. Louis Van Dinter — now a member of the congregation—eleven years ago, before he removed his factory from Detroit to Mishawaka.

Following are the specifications of the instrument:

It has two Manuals and Pedals.  
Compass of manuals CC to A3...58 notes  
" of pedals CCC to D.....27 notes  
GREAT ORGAN.

No.	MATERIAL	PIPES
1—16-ft Bourdon	wood	46
2—8-ft. Open Diapason, [largest pipes in front.]	metal	58
3—8-ft. Gamba,	metal	58
4—8-ft. Dolce,	metal	58
5—8-ft. Melodia,	wood	58
6—4-ft. Flute Harmonic,	metal	58
7—4-ft. Principal,	metal	58
8—2 $\frac{2}{3}$ -ft. Twelfth,	metal	58
9—2-ft. Fifth,	metal	58

SWELL ORGAN.

10—8-ft. Geigen Principal,	wood & metal	58
11—8-ft. Stopped Diapason,	wood	58
12—8-ft. Dulciana,	metal	58
13—4-ft. Flute a Chimence,	wood & metal	58
14—4-ft. Fugara,	metal	58
15—8-ft. Oboe,	metal	58

PEDAL ORGAN.

16—16-ft. Bourdon,	wood	27
17—8-ft. Violon,	metal	27

MECHANICAL STOPS.

18	Coupler Great to Swell,	
19	" Pedal to Great,	
20	" Pedal to Swell,	

21	Bellows Signal,
22	Tremulo,
23	Motor.

PEDAL MOVEMENTS.

1	Foro Combination, Gr. Organ.
2	Piano " Gr. Organ.
3	Balanced Swell Pedal.

The case of the old organ was ten feet wide. It was of ash, trimmed with walnut, and in the Gothic style of architecture. The pedal part of the organ stood behind two pillars. In order that the full power of the instrument might be utilized it was necessary to bring the pedal part forward. This was done by dividing it and making an addition six feet in width on each side of the great organ. This makes the present width of the case twenty-two feet. The material used and the style of architecture being in perfect harmony with the old. The usual height of a pipe organ, of the capacity of this one, is twenty-two feet, and the builder has made this one but fourteen feet high, in order not to obstruct the view of the beautiful window which is placed above the front entrance to the church. It may be mentioned here that one great point in favor of building an organ on this plan is the fact that it effectually does away with the dark organ loft, that we find so often marring the beauty of the interior of Catholic churches. Another improvement applied to the organ is one that is especially desirable where the organist also officiates as director of the choir. Where the key-board is immediately in front of the organ, the operator is constantly

at a disadvantage in directing the choir, owing to the fact that the singers are behind him. Mr. Van Dinter has overcome this difficulty by extending the key-board six feet in front of the organ, thus enabling the organist to have the choir constantly before him.

The principal addition made was one stop to the pedal organ. Viz: An eight-foot Violon, metal, twenty-seven pipes. These pipes are richly decorated in gold and colors and form the decorated front of the organ, thus taking the place of the metal "dummy pipes," very often employed for the latter purpose. Another addition is two pedal movements, operating on the great organ stops. One for Piano and the other for Forto. These enable the organist to change the volume of the organ, without removing his fingers from the key-board. The power for operating the bellows is supplied by a Tuerk hydraulic wheel motor, with automatic attachments. A patent wind-gauge, near the key-board, enables the organist to know continually whether the bellows is supplied with sufficient wind, so that, in case an emergency should arise and the supply of wind be cut off from the bellows, he can govern his playing accordingly.

The rebuilding of the organ was

paid for by the St. Aloysius Society, of the congregation. Mr. August Hoerstmann will continue as organist and director of the choir.

Mr. VanDinter has attained an enviable reputation as an organ builder. Among the many Catholic churches which he has furnished with large pipe organs, the following may be mentioned:

St. Mary's	church,	Fort Wayne.
" John, Baptist,	"	New Haven, Indiana.
" Vincent's	"	Elkhart, Ind.
" Peter's	"	Laporte, Ind.
" Albert's	"	Detroit, Mich
Sacred Heart	"	" "
Our Lady of Help	"	" "
St. John's	"	Jackson "
Sacred Heart	"	Hudson, "
St. Peter's Cathedral,		Marquette, "
" Mary's	church,	Sault Ste [Marie, Mich.
Immaculate Conception church,		[Niles, "
Holy Cross church,		Marine City, "
Church of the Immaculate Conception,		Louisville, Ky.
St. Catherine's church,		New Haven "
" Francis'	"	Hollandtown, [Wis.
" John Baptist	"	Joliet, Ill.
Sacred Heart	"	Peru, Ind.
St. Hedwidge's	"	South Bend, "
" Mary's	"	Chicago, Ill.



THE Communion railing was built by Mr. August Erb and his sons of this city. The material used is butternut wood and the style is pure Gothic. At each end of the railing is the figure of an Angel holding a candlestick. There are twenty six niches in the front of the railing and these are occupied by the following statues and inscriptions: Statue of Melchisedech; inscription, "I am the Bread That Came Down From Heaven;" a wood carving, representing the Loaves and Fishes; an inscription, "Whosoever Eats My Flesh and Drinks My Blood, Abides in Me and I in Him;" a statue of Moses with the tables; a statue of Solomon; tablet with water cruets—encircled with grapes—carved thereon, representing the miracle by which water was changed into wine; the temple of the old law, surmounted by a chalice. The next two niches are filled with a panel, the carving of which is very beautiful. In the background are tasseled grain, and grape vines, while in the foreground is a scroll on which is the inscription "The Bread of Angels Becomes the Bread of Man." (One-half of this inscription is on this panel and the other on a corresponding panel on the other side of the sanctuary gates.) In the niches of the sanctuary gates there is an image of the Saviour, and also the Lamb. Below, the inscription reads: "Behold the Lamb of God Who Takest Away the Sins of the World." The center piece of the railing is a small wooden image of an Angel, in whose hands is a scroll on which are the words "Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus." The other niches in the railing are filled with the following inscriptions and carvings in the order given: Statue of St. John, as he is relating the promises of Christ; tablet on which is carved a pelican, feeding its young, representing the love of God for man—feeding him as He does with His Own Precious Blood; carving of the brazen serpent in the desert; statue of David with the harp; statue of Elias as he is being fed miraculously by a raven in the desert; an inscription, "If any Man Eat of this Bread, he Shall Live Forever, and the Bread which I will Give is My Flesh for the Life of the World;" statue of Malachi prophesying the Sacrifice of the new law; an inscription, "But let a Man Prove Himself, and so let him Eat of that Bread and Drink of that Cup." The carving on the railing required several months constant labor on the part of Mr. Erb and his sons, and it is one of the most beautiful furnishings in the church.







Archbishop Feehan,  
of Chicago.



Archbishop Ireland,  
of St. Paul.



Archbishop Corrigan,  
of New York.



Cardinal Gibbons,  
of Baltimore.



Archbishop Ryan,  
of Philadelphia.



Archbishop Elder,  
of Cincinnati.



Archbishop Riordan, of San Francisco.



Archbishop Janssens,  
of New Orleans.



Archbishop Hennessy,  
of Dubuque.



Bishop Phelan,  
of Pittsburg.

HE is, indeed, a narrow-minded man who does not feel a just pride in contemplating the success of Very Reverend Father Oechtering and his congregation in their laudable efforts to erect to God a temple that is unsurpassed, both in the beauty of its exterior and the richness of its furnishings, by any parish church in this section of the state. And, while it is true that outside show counts but little in a matter of this kind, it also is true that the pastor and his flock necessarily must have the love of God in their hearts, to persevere in their worthy endeavor, under circumstances that at times were most discouraging.—*Mishawaka Democrat, Friday.*

\* \* \*

AN INTERESTING chapter in the history of St. Joseph's congregation would be omitted, did we fail to mention the circumstances connected with the procuring of funds for the purchase of the third bell. Christmas eve, 1872, an entertainment was given by the Presbyterian congregation of this city. While a child was declaiming

the Catholic church bells began to ring out joyous Christmas notes. The effect on the assembled Presbyterians was wonderful. They loudly applauded the Christmas chimes, but the effect was quite the reverse on their pastor, one McChord. He could see no cause for a jubilation, and the next day he drew up a remonstrance against the ringing of the Catholic church bells, inasmuch as they had disturbed his meeting, and cited the fact that the constitution of the United States guarantees "civil and religious liberty to all men." The other ministers of the town signed the remonstrance and when it was presented to Father Oechtering he replied that inasmuch as the constitution grants religious liberty to every citizen, he therefore would cause the church bells to be rung whenever such action would redound to the greater honor and glory of God. When St. Joseph's congregation learned of the Presbyterian minister's action, they raised money to purchase the third bell, within one hour.



Bishop Scannell,  
of Omaha.

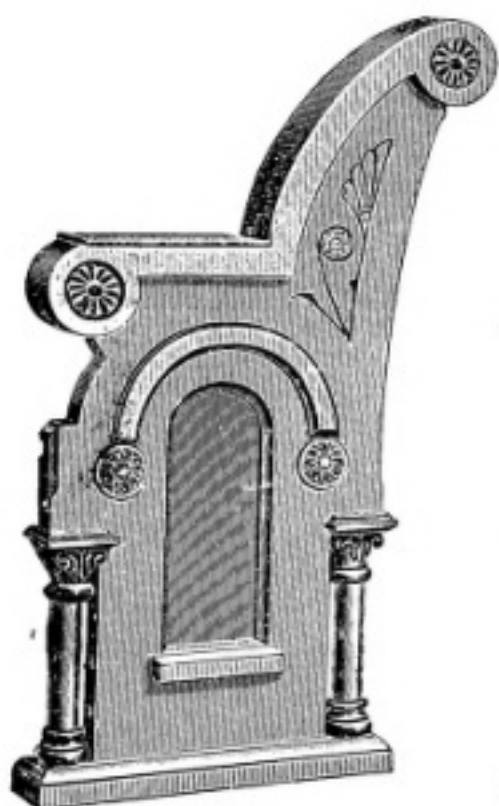


Bishop Keane,  
of Washington.



Bishop Watterson,  
of Columbus.

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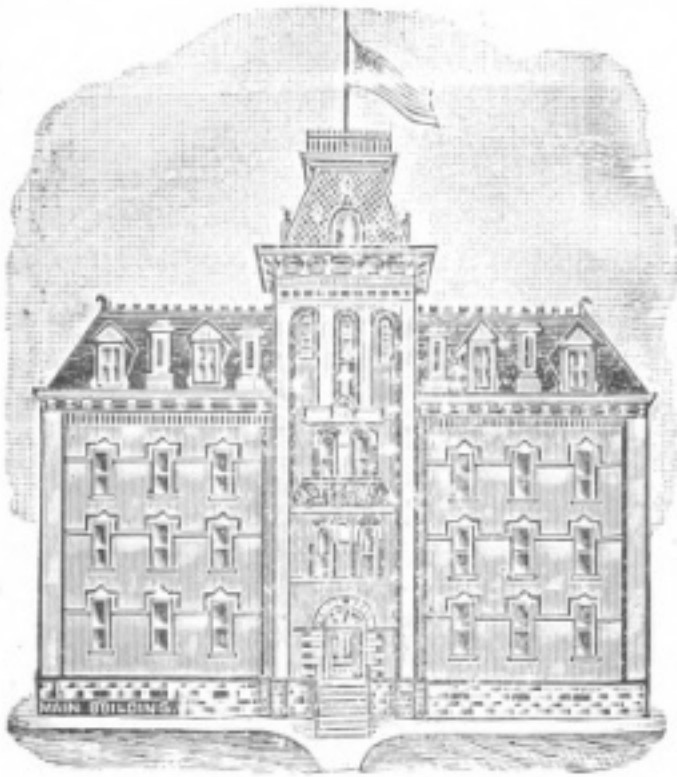
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—*New York Musical Courier.*

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# SOUVENIR OF THE DEDICATION OF ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH.

PUBLISHED FOR THE CONGREGATION BY WILLIAM P. O'NEILL.

MISHAWAKA, INDIANA, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1893.



VERY REV. A. B. OECHTERING,  
RECTOR AND DEAN OF ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH.

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