



Barquilla de la Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society -
Diocese of Columbus

Vol. XXXV, No. 6

June 21: St. Aloysius Gonzaga

June, 2010

St. Aloysius Parish, Strasburg, Tuscarawas County 1910-1995

After Sunday services had been discontinued at old St. Peter's mission in the late 1860s, many Catholics of that area had fallen away.¹ The parish of St. Aloysius in Strasburg in Franklin Township, only a short distance west of St. Peter's, was organized

through the efforts of Rev. Celestine Oswald, O.M.Cap., the pastor at Bolivar, with the encouragement of Bishop Hartley and Rev. Emmeram, superior of the Capuchin Fathers at Canal Dover.² Plans for the new church were announced in the Catholic *Columbian* of Apr. 1, 1910:

A new Catholic church is being projected for Strasburg, near Canal Dover, which has been attended from time to time by priests from Maximo, in the Cleveland diocese. The *Strasburg Record* says:

"Those of our citizens of the Catholic faith are growing in numbers and there has been talk for several years of building a church at this place. Lately the question has again come up and we are informed that they are now looking for a suitable site for such an edifice."



St. Aloysius Church as it appeared when new.

The site of the church was the southeast corner of South Bodmer and Fifth Street SW, lots 382-385, and was purchased in June of 1910 for \$825.³ Construction of the "handsome frame structure... conveniently located on a very pleasant site," proceeded rapidly. It cost between \$2,000 and \$2,500 and non-Catholics in the village assisted the thirty or so Catholic families in the vicinity to bringing it to a completion. It was ready for dedication that October. The *Strasburg Recorder* of October 19 noted, "A

cordial invitation is extended to everybody, regardless of church affiliation, to attend these dedication exercises. All are welcome. The committee on arrangements urge our people to decorate their homes in honor of the occasion.”

Bishop James J. Hartley came to carry out the ceremony, held on Sunday, October 23. The day began with a parade in which a number of Catholic societies from neighboring towns, including Massillon, Canton, Alliance, Navarre and Canal Dover participated. The dedication service began at 9:30. A solemn high Mass followed at 10 o’clock, offered by Father Maurice, O.M.C., with Father Bonaventure as deacon and Father Celestine subdeacon. The Bishop was attended by Rev. John H. Kleekamp and Rev. Clement H. Treiber of Canton.

After the dedication exercises were concluded Bishop Hartley addressed the gathering. He first congratulated the people of this neighborhood in the good work they had performed in building this church and in the name of the church thanked all those who had contributed toward its erection. In an address of more than an hour he spoke of the mission of the church and the good work it is doing all over the world.

A choir from Canal Dover, with Adolph Kugler of Strasburg as a member, sang several beautiful numbers. At one o’clock a procession was formed on East Cross street and to thie inspiring strains of music by the bands marched up Main street and counter marched to the south end.⁴ After the dedication, Mass was offered on the first and third Sunday of each month by one of the Capuchin Fathers.

On January 16, 1911, Bishop Hartley sent his approval to Father Celestine for George Morehardt, Adolph Kugler, Edward Berlyung, and Leonard Rieger to serve as a committee for the church.⁵ Several of the Catholic families had farms north of town, along Sugar Creek.

Pastors, who were the same as Bolivar’s and lived at Dover:

- Rev. Celestine Oswald, O.M.Cap., 1910-1911
- Rev. Mark Haas, O.M.Cap., 1911-1912

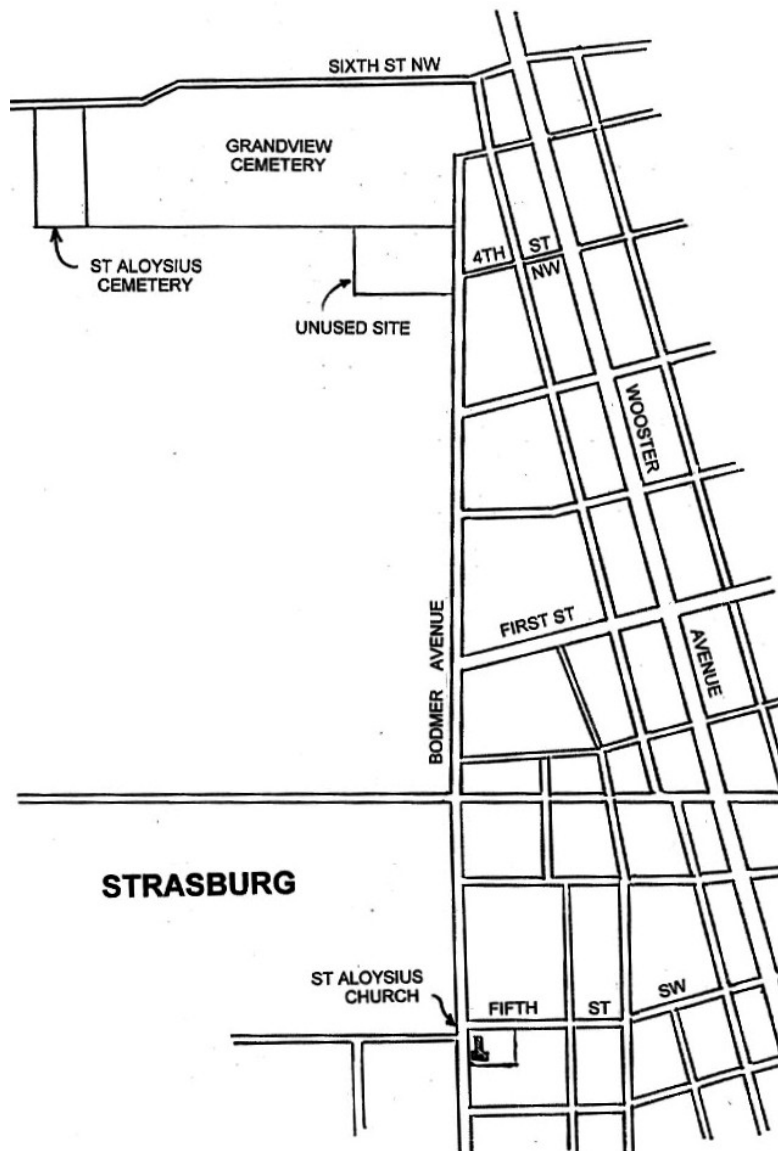
- Rev. Wendelin Green, O.M.Cap., 1912-1913
- Rev. Maurice Ackerman, O.M.Cap., 1913-15
- Rev. Lewis Zentner, O.M.Cap., 1915-1916
- Rev. Stephen Bienemann, O.M.Cap., 1916-17
- Rev. Theodsius Mullen, O.M.Cap., 1917-1919
- Rev. Severin Scharl, O.M.Cap., 1919-1920
- Rev. Theodore Schillo, O.M.Cap., 1920-1921
- Rev. Leonard Dorn, O.M.Cap., 1921-1922
- Rev. Paulus Werr, O.M.Cap., 1922-1924
- Rev. Celestine Oswald, O.M.Cap., 1924-1928
- Rev. Joseph Mayerhofer, O.M.Cap., 1928-30
- Rev. Hilary Liehr, O.M.Cap., 1930-1931
- Rev. Marion Pagendarm, O.M.Cap., 1931-1935, 1941-1942, and 1944-1956
- Rev. Pius Kaelin, O.M.Cap., 1935-1941
- Rev. Alphonse Schreiber, O.M.Cap., 1942-44

A parish house was built in 1924.

St. Aloysius Cemetery was laid out on 2 acres on the south side of Sixth St. NW or the Dundee-Strasburg Road, west of Grandview Cemetery. The land was purchased for \$900 in July of 1929.⁶ A huge cross for the cemetery was constructed in the churchyard. Upon its completion, parishioners loaded it onto a wagon and hauled it to the cemetery where it was erected and still stands today.⁷

By 1943 Mass was being offered every Sunday. There then were about fifty families with sixteen children in the catechism class, which was taught by the Sisters of Providence.⁸ In the late 1940s, families donated eight stained glass windows for the church in memory of loved ones.⁹ The parish continued to grow slowly and by 1956 there were about eighty families. The sisters of Divine Providence, from St. Joseph School, Dover, were conducting catechism lessons for the children of the parish.

Father Marion Pagendarm, as noted above, cared for St. Aloysius for a total of seventeen years in three assignments beginning in 1931. His illness precipated the withdrawal of the Capuchin friars in 1956. That June the provincial and council of the Province of St. Augustine, Capuchin Fathers, announced their retirement from St. Aloysius. The provincial “said the decision to leave St. Aloysius



Bishop Ready sent Father Bernard Jones, who was officially installed as pastor at Strasburg on August 16, 1956.¹¹ Father Jones found the people very happy to have a resident pastor. He also found much work to be done, both apostolic and temporal. The church was not large enough for all to attend one Mass, so he added a second service to the Sunday schedule.¹² His work soon increased, as the Capuchin Fathers applied to Rome to be released of the *beneplicium* that had been granted to them for the care of the Bolivar mission many decades earlier. Father Jones had to take care of Bolivar.¹³

Father Jones found that his first major project, with the help of the men of the parish, was to finish the interior of the rectory so that he could live there. The Capuchin pastors had always resided in the friary at Dover, so the rectory interior, except for the one room that served as sacristy, office, and bedroom, was only open studs and subflooring. This project was finished in 1962.¹⁴ He also obtained diocesan seminarians to teach catechism in and around the

was made in conformity with the Constitution of the Order since the administration of parishes, except under unusual conditions, is not in line with the purpose of Religious Orders, nor is it according to the manner of the life of a religious.”

Bishop Ready in accepting the decision, said: “We are nevertheless genuinely sorry that the good Capuchin Fathers will no longer administer the spiritual needs and temporal needs of the traditionally God-fearing parish in Strasburg.

“The Capuchin Fathers have served it well with their accustomed humility and zeal. They have been true sons of St. Francis in their simplicity of life and in their dedication to the salvation of souls.”¹⁰

town in the summer (Ed Fairchild and Bill DeVille provided the lessons in 1958). Over the next years many loans were made to the parish, of \$1,000 to \$2,000 each, as well as contributions from the Diocesan Development Fund.

In April of 1962, a 2.3 acre site on the west side of Bodmer Avenue immediately south of Grandview Cemetery was purchased¹⁵ and Father Jones proposed that the church be replaced with a new edifice there. However, some of the most influential people were so used to the old church they did not see any reason for a change. Most wanted a new church but there were only 67 who could be counted on as contributors. Nothing further



*St. Aloysius Church during 1982 remodeling.
(Courtesy of Chancery, Diocese of Columbus)*

was done with this idea.

Rev. Charles Haluska was officially installed as pastor on July 11, 1963. In 1964 the diocese wrote off the remaining \$1,500 of parish debt. Father Haluska found that almost \$3,000 was still owed on the property near the cemetery. He did not see any need to retain this site for future use, since the parish population was declining. The October count had dropped from 177 in 1958 to 154 in 1964. He obtained Bishop Issenmann's permission to sell the property. However, no action was taken and the property was retained until the year the parish was closed.

On June 16, 1966 Rev. Raymond F. Totten became pastor. Various improvements were made to the property. A two-car garage was built in 1970, attached to the rectory. A new organ was purchased in 1971. In 1973 the parish had about 200 Catholics, about 80 active families, and 60 children of school age.¹⁶

Rev. Kenneth Wise became pastor in 1980. Under his leadership, in the fall of 1981 the interior of the church was remodeled and pads for the pews and carpeting were added. In the summer of 1982 two rooms were added in the rear to be used as a cry room, cloak room, and catechism classroom.

The vestibule also was extended over ten feet. The exterior was veneered with red brick and storm windows, wrought iron railings, and new sidewalks were installed. Parishioner Paul Margo handled the carpentry work and a firm from Berlin did the brickwork. The parish building committee at this time consisted of W. Stockert, Paul Margo, Ed Davis, Eddie Paul Haswell, and Father Wise. Another member of the parish noted at this time was Irene Weinman, who had been organist since 1942. (Father Wise, meanwhile, had suffered a heart attack, in September of 1982 and had not yet returned to duty when the project was completed. Father Arvids Bernans took his place for the interim.)¹⁷

In 1992 Strasburg became a mission of Bolivar, when Rev. Robert Schneider became pastor. During his pastorate the rectory was in a newly purchased building next to the church in Bolivar but the St. Aloysius Parish offices remained in Strasburg.

In October, 1993, the priests of the Tuscarawas-Holmes-Coshocton Vicariate, in consultation with Bishop Griffin, recommended that the three parishes of St. Stephen at Bolivar, St. Patrick at Mineral City, and St. Aloysius at Strasburg be merged. A new parish would be established between Bolivar and Zoar to serve the old parishes as well as



*St. Aloysius Church after remodeling.
(Courtesy of Msgr. George Schlegel)*

the increasing number of Catholics in the Wilkshire Hills area, which in essence was a suburb of Canton. The recommendation was presented to the parishioners at a meeting of the vicariate Pastoral Council on September 14 and was to be presented at all masses the next weekend. On May 18, 1995, Bishop Griffin issued a decree suppressing the three existing parishes and erecting the new Holy Trinity Parish, effective July 11. A new site just northeast of the village of Zoar, containing about 17 acres, became the site of the combined parish.

St. Aloysius church was sold to the village in February, 1996, and is used as village offices. The property on North Bodmer was also sold in 1995, to the Trustees of Grandview Cemetery.¹⁸ The parish cemetery remains, the last representative of St. Aloysius. It is administered by Holy Trinity Parish.

NOTES

- 1) Hartley, Most Rev. James J. *A History of Fifty Years*. Columbus: 1918 p 454
- 2) Sacred Heart Parish, New Philadelphia, *Sacred Heart Beat*, Aug/Sept 2000
- 3) Tuscarawas County Deed Records 166/488 and 489
- 4) *Catholic Columbian*, Oct. 20, 1910; *Strasburg Recorder*, Oct. 19 and 26, 1910; *Tuscarawas Advocate*, Oct. 27, 1910
- 5) Diocesan Archives
- 6) Tuscarawas County Deed Record 213/100
- 7) Holy Trinity Parish, zoar, website
- 8) Hartley, Most Rev. James J. *The History of the Diocese of Columbus, Volume II, 1918-1943*. Columbus: 1943. p 121
- 9) Cf note 7
- 10) *The Catholic Times*, June 15, 1956
- 11) form in Strasburg file, Diocesan Chancery Archives
- 12) Jones to Ready, July 11, 1956
- 13) Ready to Jones, July 16, 1956
- 14) Cf note 2
- 15) Tuscarawas County Deed Record 415/604
- 16) various letters and notes in the Diocesan Chancery Archives
- 17) The Dover-New Philadelphia *Times-Reporter*, Oct. 9, 1982; courtesy of the *Catholic Times*. Diocesan Chancery Archive files; and cf note 2
- 18) Tuscarawas County Deed Records 702/280 and 700/281

Strasburg St. Aloysius Records

Parents of Children Baptized, 1911 to 1915

Leonard Rieger and Magdalene Hornung
 Conrad Aul and Emma Margo
 Walter Clapper and Florence Rieger
 Edward Swank and Matilda Girard
 Jacob Krantz and Ellen Berlyung
 Robert Bowen and Christina Kramer
 Leonard Heim and Anna Aul
 Benjamin Amos and Helen Hoover
 Nick Riesterer and Mary Colley
 Frank Rieger and Elizabeth Weller
 Michael Cozy and Emma Haas
 John H. Rieger and Nettie Sleummer
 Walter Heim and Hattie Lenhart

Feb. 23, 1916 Joseph Rieger of Strasburg, son of Leonard Rieger and Margaret Hornung, and Mary Haswell, of Strasburg (non-Catholic). Rev. F. Ludovicus, O.M.Cap.

Aug. 22, 1916 Delbert Van Fossen of Strasburg (non-Catholic) to Mary Jane Merhat of Strasburg. Rev. Fr. Stephen, O.M.Cap. (Mr. Van Fossen was baptized a month later.)

Nov. 16, 1916 Stephen Yosick of New Philadelphia to Caroline Aul of Strasburg, daughter of Jacob Aul and Catherine Margo. Rev. Fr. Stephen, O.M.Cap.

Marriages, 1911 to 1916

Apr. 25, 1911 Walter Clapper of Strasburg, son of Joseph Clapper and Maatilda Berlyunger, and Florence Reiger of Strasburg, daughter of Leonard Rieger and Helen Hornung. Rev. Celesting Oswald, O.M.Cap.

Nov. 27, 1912 Benjamin Amos (non-Catholic) and Helen Hoover of Strasburg, daughter of Lemon A. Hoover and Rose Huber. Rev. Wendelin Green, O.M.Cap.

Sept. 24, 1913 Michael A. Cozy (Cozza) of Beach City, son of Anthony and Theresa, and Emma V. Haas of Strasburg, daughter of Upton Haas and Sophia Aul. Rev. Maurice Ackermann, O.M.Cap.

July 26, 1914 Christ Wiegand of Strasburg, son of Christ Wiegand and Catherine Margo, and Sadie Brand of Strasburg (non-Catholic), daughter of Robert Brand. Rev. Maurice Ackermann, O.M.Cap.

July 26, 1914 Charles Wiegand of Strasburg, son of Christ Wiegand and Catherine Margo, and Altie Yutzky of Strasburg (non-Catholic). Rev. Maurice Ackermann, O.M.Cap.

Deaths, 1912 to 1949

Date of death, name, age, residence, place of burial.

1912

July 3 Christian Aul, 81, buried at Canal Dover
 July 7 Johanna Morhart, 88, buried at Canal Dover

1913

Feb. 14 John Heim of Strasburg; St. Peter's
 Mar. 27 helen, daughter of Walter Clapper, 18 mos., Strasburg, Canal Dover
 Oct. — Edward Berljung, Strasburg, Canal Dover

1919

Mar. 19 Catherine Elziabeth daighter of George Margo, 7 mos., Stasburg, Dover
 Nov 9 Earl H., son of Jacob Krantz, 18 y 3 m., Strasburg, St. Peter

1920

Sept. 21 Rita, daughter of Jacob Rieger, 1 day, Barral, Dover

1921

Feb. 23 Mary (Weaver) Berlyung, 83, Strasburg, Dover
 Apr. 21 Elizabeth (Weigand) Renner, 62, Strasburg, Dover
 Nov. 25 Louis G. Krantz, 66, Strasburg, St. Peter

1931
May 15 twins of Floyd McBeth, at birth,
Strasburg, St. Aloysius
Aug. 20 Mary (Renner) Lab, 19, Strasburg, St.
Aloysius
Aug. 15 Doris Marie Lab, at birth, Strasburg, St.
Aloysius

1932
June 29 Conrad C. Rieger, 76, Strasburg, St.
Aloysius

1933
May 18 Mary Schilling, daughter of Conrad, 82,
Lawrence Twp., St. Peter
Oct. 16 Peter Renner, 80 (non-Catholic)
Strasburg, St. Aloysius

1934
Aug. 1 George Krantz, (adult), Strasburg, St.
Peter
Oct. 1 Florence (Rieger) Clapper, 41, Strasburg,
St. Aloysius
Nov. 25 George Morhardt, 69, Strasburg, St.
Aloysius
Dec. 20 Charles Agnes, 76, Strasburg, Navarre

1935
May 6 Joseph Feucht, 72, Strasburg, St.
Aloysius

1936
Jan 21 Fern Marie Kranz, daughter of Jacob, 17,
Strasburg, St. Aloysius
Apr. 21 Maria Spiker, 74, Strasburg, Ravenna

1937
Oct. 27 Henry Renner, 56, Strasburg, St.
Aloysius

1938
Apr. 8 Henrietta (Collett) Renner, 58, Strasburg,
St. Aloysius

1939
Feb. 24 Leonard Rieger, 74, Strasburg, St.
Aloysius

1940
Mar. 6 Conrad Aul, 73, Strasburg, St. Aloysius

1941
Feb. 25 Louisa Margo, 56, Strasburg, St.
Aloysius
Oct. 27 Frederick George Weinmann, 77,

Strasburg, St. Aloysius
Nov. 2 Dudley Clapper, 74, Strasburg, St.
Aloysius

1942
Dec. 11 Christina (Kreemer) Bowen, 65,
Strasburg, St. Aloysius

1944
Mar. 5 Mary Magdalen Rieger, wife of Leonard,
72, Strasburg, St. Aloysius
July 9 Alfred Fearon, son of John, 15, Strasburg,
St. Aloysius (Train accident in Massillon)
Aug. 8 Anna Mary Weinmann, Strasburg, St.
Aloysius

1945
July 15 Jacob Aul, 76, Strasburg, St. Aloysius

1946
Feb. 10 Emma (Sprich) Schilling, 85, Canton, St.
Aloysius
Mar. 31 Matilda (Berlyoung) Clapper, 79,
Strasburg, St. Aloysius
Apr. 20 Adam Schilling, 81, Canton, St. Aloysius
June 19 Lillian Renner, 54, Strasburg, St.
Aloysius
Nov. 18 Robert Bowen, 73, Strasburg, St.
Aloysius

1947
June 9 Elizabeth (Weller) Rieger, 74, Strasburg,
St. Aloysius
Oct. 18 Donald W. Kyle, 39, Dover, St. Aloysius
Dec. 23 John Krantz, son of Joseph, 7 months,
Strasburg, St. Aloysius

1948
Feb. 7 Ervin Feicht, 60, Strasburg, St. Aloysius
Mar. 26 Herbert L. Renner, Strasburg, St.
Aloysius
June 5 Robert Bowen, 32, Massillon, St. Aloysius
Willis Van Fossen, 26, of Strasburg, buried in
Grandview Cemetery on Sept. 9, 1948, killed in
action on July 9, 1944 in Normandy
Oct. 3 Mary (Sabo) Myers, 37, Strasburg, St.
Aloysius
Dec. 19 Frank Rieger, 77, Strasburg, St. Aloysius

1949
Apr. 29 Caroline (Harvey) Meininger, 77,
Strasburg, St. Aloysius

Abstracts from the *Catholic Telegraph*

(Continued, from Vol. XXXV, No. 4)

October 10, 1857

Statement of Monies Received for the
Propagation of the Faith, Feb. 26, 1855-Sept. 28,
1857

Lancaster	\$ 22.00
St. Joseph's, Somerset	56.50
Zanesville	184.85
(Archdiocesan total	\$1,389.90)

October 17, 1857

There were forty-eight persons, chiefly adults, confirmed on last Sunday in the church of the Holy Angels, Springfield.... [This, the mother parish, may be the source of the name "Holy Angels," given in the account of the blessing of the first St. Patrick Church, London, in the *Telegraph* of November 1, 1856.]

Death has lately summoned to, we hope, a happier world than this three estimable converts to the Catholic faith. The first, Mrs. EDMUND GALLAGHER, of Beaver, Guernsey county, at a very advanced age, leaving a still more aged husband and numerous descendants the memory of her good deeds and virtues for their consolation. Her home had been also that of all the Catholic missionaries of the olden time, and of many of their successors.

The second, Mrs. J. MCCARTHY, of Newark, of whom honorable mention was made in this paper last August was a year.

[The third, Dr. Levenson Dorsey Anderson of Flemingsburgh, Ky....]

October 31, 1857

(Communicated.)

On Sunday, the 25th inst., the new church of St. John the Baptist, in Logan, Hocking county, was dedicated by the attendant Pastor, Rev. H. Lange, assisted by Rev. C. Borgess and Rev. W. Barrett. Rev. Mr. Barrett preached in English, and Rev. Mr.

Borgess in German. A large concourse of people, notwithstanding the unfavorable state of the weather, assembled to witness the ceremonies.

The town of Logan is a place of considerable importance, having nearly 2,000 inhabitants. The railroad from Newark to Portsmouth, sixty miles of which are already completed, will pass through it. The surrounding country is well cultivated.

The church is a tasteful frame building, 60 feet by 30 [or 36?] and reflects great credit on the energy and zeal of Rev. Mr. Lange, through whose efforts it has been erected.

November 28, 1857

A CARD.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 18, 1857.

No-thing short of extreme necessity could induce the undersigned to permit an appeal to be made to the generous Catholics of the city and diocese, *at this time*. But such a case—of extreme necessity—exists in Marietta, where the church is in danger of being sold for debt, and at this crisis, in particular, a few hundred dollars are required to save it. Rev. Mr. Walker, who has managed the affairs of the congregation prudently, zealously and successfully since he has been in charge thereof, has my reluctant, but still cordial approbation of his appeal to our brethren for needful relief.

✠ J. B. PURCELL,
Archbishop of Cincinnati.

Subscriptions, Fourth Quarter (name, post office, date of issue)

Jno. Ballesty, Kenton, Dec. 26

Mr. Berkle, Gallipolis, Oct. 10

H. Brennan, Marietta, Dec. 19

Rev. J. Brent, Mt. Vernon, Oct. 17

Dan. Coakley, Zanesville, Dec. 26

Peter Dittoe, Somerset, Dec. 19

(To be continued)

Copyright 2010,
Catholic Record Society - Diocese of Columbus
197 E. Gay St., Columbus, Ohio 43215
Donald M. Schlegel, Editor