

1857

1957

# "The First Hundred"



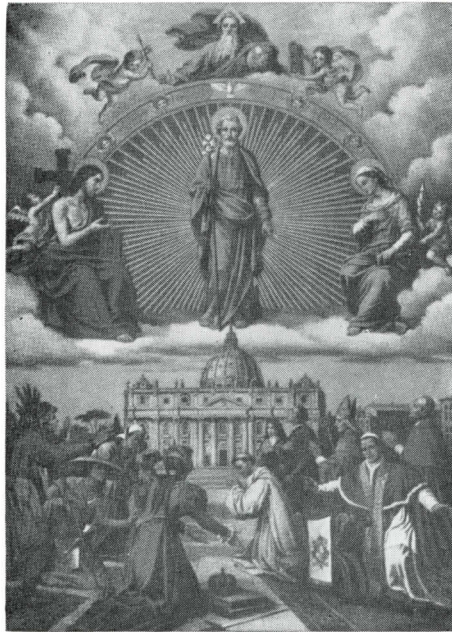
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

HESSEN CASSEL

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

1857

1957



#### AN ACT OF CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH

*O dearest St. Joseph, I consecrate myself to thy honor and give myself to thee, that thou mayest always be my father, my protector, and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me a great purity of heart, and a fervent love of the interior life. After thy example, may I do all my actions for the greater glory of God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus, and with the Immaculate Heart of Mary. And do thou, O blessed St. Joseph, pray for me, that I may share in the peace and joy of thy holy death. Amen.*

CENTENARY CELEBRATION  
of  
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 29, 1957

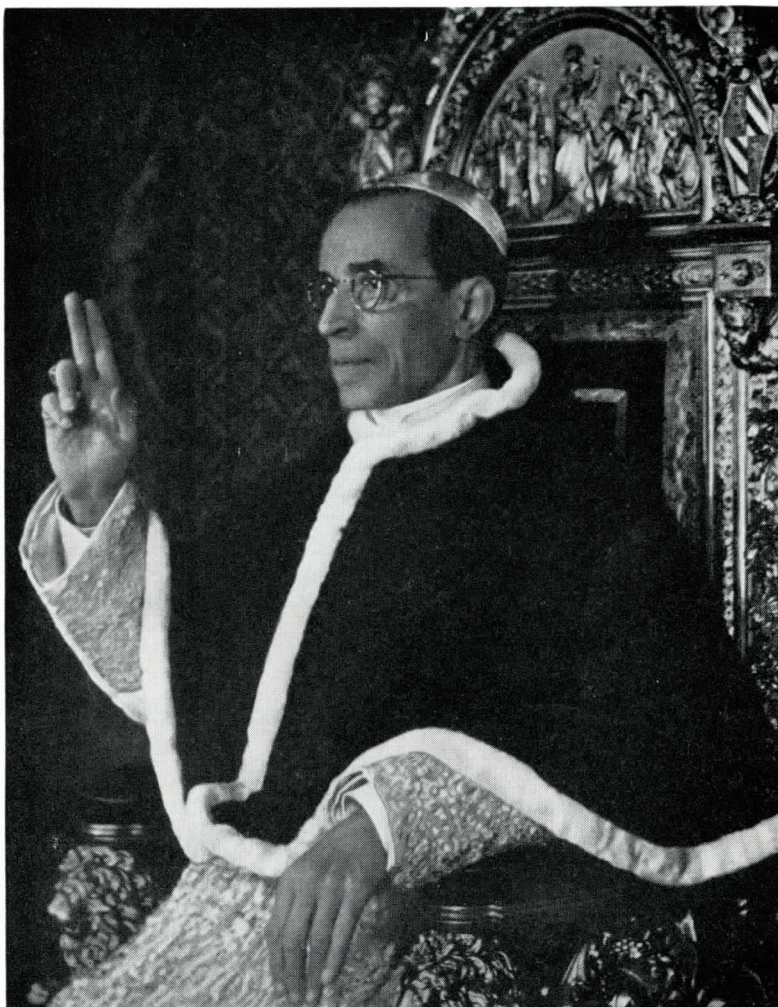


MASS "CORAM EPISCOPO" AT 10:00 A.M.

Centennial Sermon by His Excellency  
THE MOST REVEREND LEO A. PURSLEY, D.D.  
Bishop of Fort Wayne

CENTENARY HOME COMING 12:00 NOON

THANKSGIVING SERVICE  
BENEDICTION WITH THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT  
3:00 P.M.



OUR GLORIOUSLY REIGNING PONTIFF  
PIUS XII





OUR BELOVED BISHOP  
MOST REV. LEO A. PURSLEY, D.D.

*The councilmen of the parish are*

ERNEST MEYER

JEROME PACKER

CHESTER MINNICH

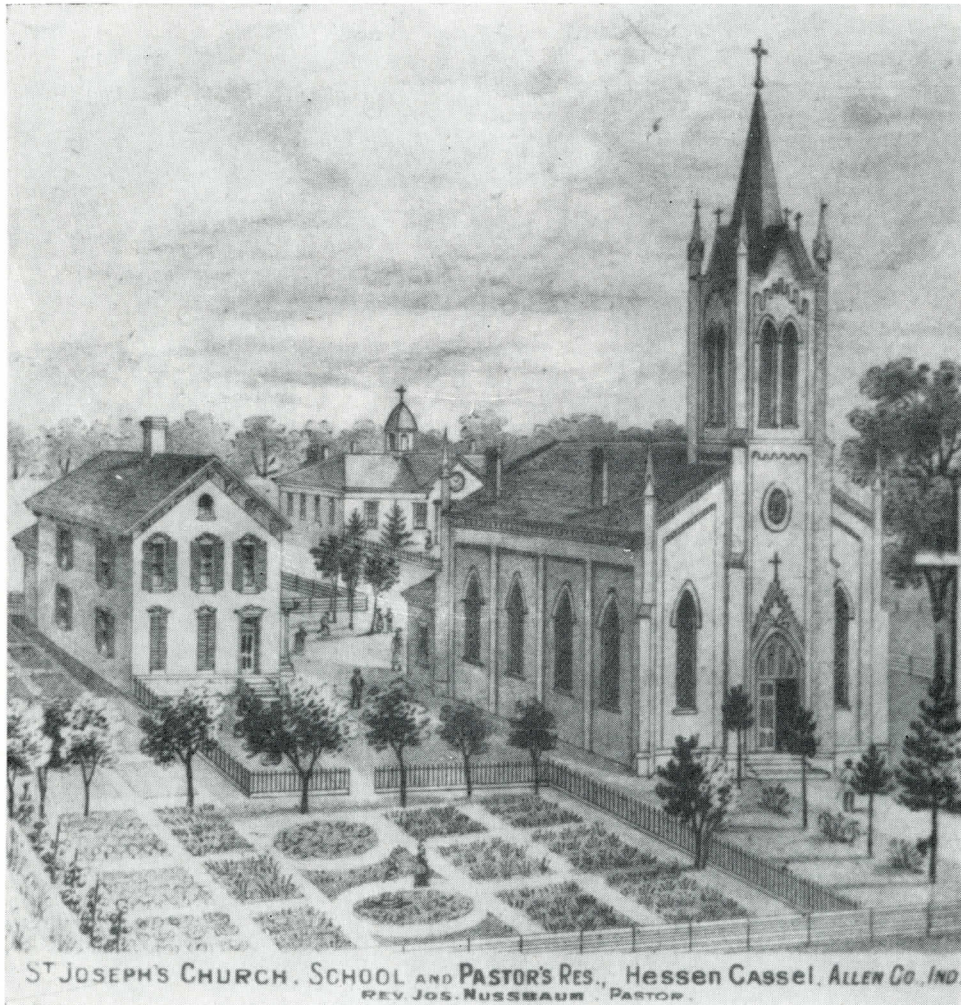
HAROLD RAUNER

HERMAN SORG

## PIONEER DAYS

About the year 1814, a small group of Germans, left Hessen Cassel—of the Diocese of Fulda—to seek their fortune in the New World. After a brief stay in Detroit, Michigan these intrepid emigrants turned West, where fertile farmlands awaited their homesteading. Led by Indian guides, they made their way in covered wagons to Fort Wayne—then merely a stockade and known as Fort Miami, and located in the midst of an unbroken wilderness. From here these hardy settlers spread southward, following the old Indian trails, or hacking their way through dense forests and wading through swamps that honeycombed the area, laboriously carving their homesteads out of the former home of the Indians and the future site of their parish.

As early as 1833, Peter and John Schmidt, Joseph Auth, John Sorg, John and Henry Herber, J. Ziegler and Martin Klug purchased land from the government and settled in Marion Township, eight miles South of Fort Wayne, near the St. Mary's River on the old Piqua Trail. These were the first Catholics in the settle-



*Church — 1857*



ment. Weisheits were among them, but were not Catholic. Martha Weisheit married John Schmidt and later became a convert to the Faith.

Most of their homes were log cabins. Frugal living was the order of the day. Wild turkey, duck and venison were probably their chief sources of food. Wolves were prevalent also and no doubt terrified the people at times.

John Hake, Anthony Fox and perhaps many others worked on the Wabash Erie Canal. John Herber was only thirteen, when he worked on the Canal. Mrs. Hake, Mrs. Wyss and Mrs. Sorg narrate how they did their washing in the St. Mary's river. All their drinking water had to be carried from some remote springs, since wells as we know them today were unknown.

In 1850, a stock company graded and planked the Piqua Road (now U.S. 27) from Piqua, Ohio to Fort Wayne. Also of some interest, the Decatur Interurban secured the right of way in 1904 and followed the Piqua Road. H. Morey built a log house and opened a store as early as 1832, just South of Hessen Cassel, at what was later called The Nine Mile House. This same residence was later purchased by Anthony Bubb, who arrived from Pennsylvania and operated a tavern and rooming house for early travelers on the Piqua Road.



*Church 1892 — Rev. John Mark, Pastor*





*Interior Church 1892 — Rev. John Mark, Pastor*

## BEGINNINGS OF CATHOLICITY

From the meager historical data available, we gather that Father S. Theodore Badin (who was also the first priest to be ordained in the United States) visited Fort Miami (later Fort Wayne) as early as 1830, and there offered Mass, administered the Sacraments to the few scattered Catholics and performed the first Baptism on record. Thanks to the efforts of the early Jesuit missionaries, he also found a large percentage of the Indians deeply attached to the Catholic Faith.

According to the memory of the older living members of the parish, the first Mass offered in Hessen Cassel, was said on the stump of a tree as early as 1835. Mass was sometimes celebrated in the homes of John Sorg, Sebastian Kleber and John Schmidt, no doubt, by Rev. Mueller, first resident priest of Fort Wayne.

When enough Catholics had settled here to command the attention of the visiting clergy, Hessen Cassel was officially designated a mission parish. Among the pioneer priests who served this mission before 1857 were, Rev. L. Mueller, Rev. J. de Mutzig Hamion, Rev. J. Benoit, Rev. Rudolf, Rev. A. Munchine, Rev. E. Faller, Rev. B. Schultes and Rev. J. Weutz. The first mission preached here was conducted by the Rev. F. X. Weninger, S. J. To commemorate this event, a huge mission cross was erected. Hewn out of heavy timbers, it measured fifteen feet high and stood a short distance south of the present church edifice.

Catherine Schmidt, who witnessed these happenings, tells an interesting anecdote in connection with the erection of this memorial. It seems that the only stone-mason available for the construction of the cross's foundation was so completely crippled with arthritis that he could not walk. Accordingly, he was carried to the spot to supervise the work. Upon its completion, the missionary bade him get up and touch the cross. This man of deep faith, who had been unable to take a step for a long time arose, piously kissed the cross, and to the amazement of all, walked away, apparently cured of his ailment.

Another incident eloquently testifying to the deep faith of these early settlers, concerns a time when the weather was unseasonably hot and the crops sorely in need of rain. Perchance, a visiting priest arrived here one afternoon. Being a Rogation Day, he summoned them to church to pray. Hearing the bell the parishioners immediately responded in goodly numbers. Their prayers were answered shortly. After services such a downpour occurred, that they all arrived home drenched to the skin.

The priest most responsible for the promotion of Catholicity in and around Fort Wayne, was the Rev. Julian Benoit. It was through his encouragement that the cherished work of erecting the first church had begun. Unfortunately, there is no specific data as to when and where this chapel, of log construction, was built. Tradition tells us it stood a little South and East of our present church, on ground donated by Peter Schmidt around the year 1841. In this year, the mission was organized into a full fledged parish with twenty-nine families as charter members. Rev. Joseph de Mutzig Hamion was the first pastor. This log chapel served the parish until 1857 when the present edifice was erected. Thereafter it became the pastoral residence.

## A CENTURY IN REVIEW

Our present beautiful church was erected in 1857 by the Rev. Jacob Meyer at a cost of five thousand dollars. It is a plain structure without any pronounced architectural style, though the altars, procured in 1892, are Gothic. The building measures 80 by 40 feet; its capacity is 250 persons. The church was dedicated in 1863 by Bishop Luers, and officially placed under the patronage of St. Joseph.

In 1864, a fire of unknown origin caused extensive damage to the interior. The High Altar, the Blessed Virgin's Altar and part of the Communion Railing were destroyed. By means of the parishioners' generosity in immediately subscribing the necessary funds, the church was soon restored to its former usefulness and beauty. This church was originally surmounted only by a low bell tower. Fr. Nussbaum replaced it with the present lofty one.

The first organ was donated by Joseph Langut during Fr. Nussbaum's pastorate. After three quarters of a century of faithful service, it was retired by another more modern instrument. This electric organ was donated in August 1949, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Wyss and Leo Gibson. The last Mass played on the old organ was on the first anniversary of Leo Gibson's death and the first Mass played on the new one was for the wedding of Phyllis Herber and Wm. Forbing.

The year 1892 saw many changes made in and around the church. The interior was completely renovated. The walls and ceiling were redecorated. Three beautiful Gothic altars were installed. The Main Altar was surmounted by a statue of the Sacred Heart; the two Side Altars with statues of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, respectively.

The next major change occurred in 1916. Since the four ancient stoves were no longer practical for heating purposes, the congregation installed a new steam heating system. To house this unit, a basement was dug at the rear of the church. Over this came a large room that was used successively as a class room, temporary chapel and meeting place.

All these years the teaching Sisters unselfishly occupied modest living quarters in the rear of the school. To provide them with more suitable housing a convent was built for them in 1923. Made of face brick veneer, it consisted of a basement and eight rooms, with sizeable attic. The parishioners completely furnished their new home, and they moved into it in the winter of that year.

Since more than a half century had elapsed since the church was last frescoed, this necessary task was undertaken in 1927 by Rev. Fridolin Hasler, the incumbent pastor. Besides repairing and painting the interior of the church







*Interior Church 1927 — Rev. Maximillian Benzinger, Pastor*



*Interior Church 1955 — After Redecoration*



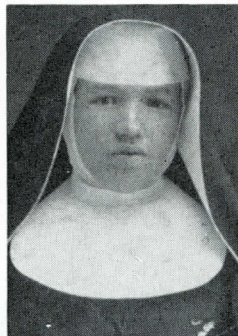


*Church 1957 — Rev. Mathias Bodinger, Pastor*

## THE POOR HANDMAIDS AT HESSEN CASSEL

This Community of Sisters, the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, owes its beginnings in the country in a large measure to the people of Hessen Cassel. Here these good Sisters received their first taste of American hospitality and the kindness for which our people have ever been noted in accepting the many immigrants who came to our shores in the middle of the last century.

In the 1860's, Rt. Rev. Bishop John Henry Luers, Bishop of Fort Wayne, earnestly searched for some community of Nuns to locate in his diocese to take care of schools and a hospital which he planned to establish in Fort Wayne. After many appeals to the motherhouse of these Sisters in Dernbach, Germany, his request was finally fulfilled in the Summer of 1868. That same year, eight Sisters, after eleven calm days at sea, arrived on August 28. On the 29th, they paid their respects to his Lordship. The following day, the Feast of St. Rose of Lima, saw them on their way to Hessen Cassel. They were accompanied by Rev.



Sister Irmina

### NURSE AND COOK OF MANY YEARS AGO

E. Koenig, pastor of St. Paul's Church, Fort Wayne, and Rev. Wm. Woeste who serviced Hessen Cassel from his home in Roanoke, Indiana.

It was Sunday afternoon and they rode eight miles in a large farm wagon, the Sisters sitting on their trunks. It was the first mission house of the community in America. The Community Chronicle relates that the beautiful region, the rich fields, the thick woods and the smiling meadows all covered by the azure sky, charmed them and filled their hearts with joy and the desire to praise the benign Creator.

Having arrived in Hessen Cassel late in the afternoon, they were conducted to the little one-story convent building. While the luggage was being unloaded, an evening meal was being prepared at a farmer's house in the vicinity. Pleasant conversation lent charm to their first distinctly American meal.

One thing especially, interested the group of new arrivals, as was revealed in a letter to the Motherhouse in Germany, namely their first religious service. Here is their account. "After dinner, the sexton rang the bell to call the faithful to Vespers. The parishioners, great and small, old and young, had ranged themselves before the church door and we were closely scrutinized from head to foot. The church was beautifully decorated. A large number of candles shed their radiance over the little sanctuary. The congregation began to sing and the singing was pious, inspiring and beautiful. The theme of the sermon was about the Sisters and their work."





*School 50 Years Ago — 1907*

The little convent had previously been occupied by the Gray Sisters, a cloistered community, but had been vacant now for more than two years. Here the Sisters once settled, eagerly plunged into their work. This in the beginning consisted largely of caring for the church and its altar linens and playing the organ for divine service. Later, in September, they took charge of the elementary school. The nursing Sisters among them immediately commenced their work as private duty nurses in the homes of the community.

The following, comprised this group of pioneers:

- Sister M. Rosa, Provincial Superior.
- Sister M. Eudoxia, Vicaress.
- Sister M. Hyacintha, Novice Mistress.
- Sister M. Facunda, Housekeeper.
- Sister M. Matrona, Fourth Assistant.
- Sister M. Bella, Nurse.
- Sister M. Henrica, Nurse.
- Sister M. Corona, Nurse.

In 1869, the fond hopes of the community were fulfilled when the Rt. Rev. Bishop Luers was able to purchase the old Rockhill House in Fort Wayne. On May the 4th, Mother Rose, Sister M. Matrona and Sister M. Henrica bade farewell to the group and took possession of the house which was later to grow into St. Joseph's Hospital. The Sisters remained in Hessen Cassel until August 20th, 1877 when they were called by Mother Prudentia to Fort Wayne. The Convent and School were then turned over to the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, who had lately arrived from Germany and were seeking shelter and a new field of labor.

## FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART

Our school teachers, The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, with motherhouse in Joliet, Illinois, began teaching at Hessen Cassel on August 16, 1877. The first Sisters sent here were, Sisters Kunigunde, Luitgard and Philomena. Sister M. Hermina nursed the sick of the parish.

Our present school had its beginning in 1879. It's a two-story brick building, 32 by 60, with accommodations for about one hundred pupils. While it cost approximately \$4,000.00—a small sum in today's language—it nevertheless then represented a heroic outlay in those days of scarce money. Looking back to those days of hard work and great sacrifices, we cannot regard it as anything else but a splendid tribute to the ardent faith and lively spirit of charity that imbued our forefathers with the courage to assume such a heavy burden for the Christian education of their children. Their sacrifices were not in vain. Judging from the many vocations to the religious life that have emanated from this small congregation—22 nuns, 5 priests, 3 seminarians and 4 candidates—plus the solid piety evidenced in the congregation, their early sacrifices were richly rewarded. God bless the Sisters and the people for their splendid work in the past and give them the grace to continue in this same glorious vein so that the future may bring even more promising results and even more honor and glory to God and country.



*Class of 1907 — 50 Years Ago*





*Class of 1908*

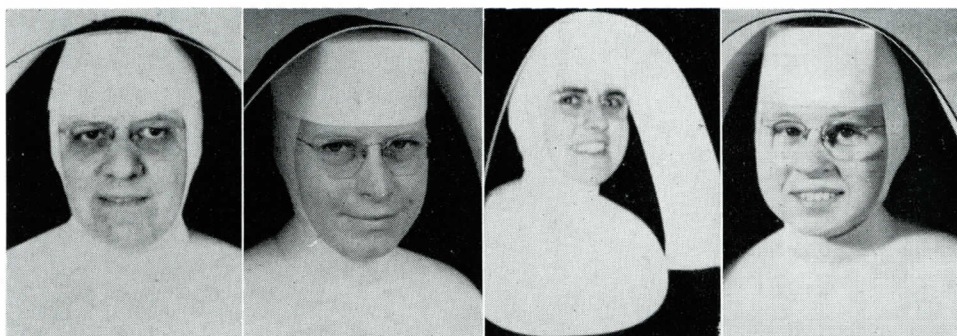


*Class of 1914*



*Class of 1930*





Ven. Sister  
M. Augusta  
Superior

Ven. Sister  
Frances Irene

Ven. Sister  
M. Angeline

Ven. Sister  
M. Delores

At present, our teaching staff consists of four nuns:

Sister M. Augusta, Superior—7th and 8th grades.

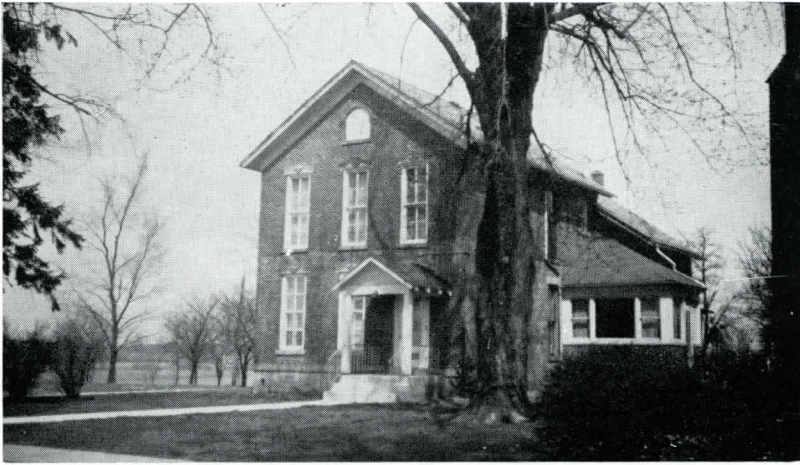
Sister M. Frances Irene, Organist—1st and 2nd grades.

Sister M. Angelina, Sacristan—5th and 6th grades.

Sister M. Delores, Assistant—3rd and 4th grades.



*Present School*



*Rectory — 1957*



*Convent — 1957*





*Philip Herber Family  
"The Largest Family of St. Joseph's Church"*

### THE PRESENT OLDEST PARISHIONERS

OLDEST MALE MEMBER  
OF THE PARISH



Louie Sorg

OLDEST FEMALE MEMBER  
OF THE PARISH



Mary Boyle

Mrs. Mary Boyle and Mr. Louis Sorg are the oldest woman and man in the parish. They both have seen much of the growth of the parish and community. She is 87; he is 81. They both are descendents of the small group of families who started St. Joseph's parish and have been members here all their lives.



# FORMER PASTORS

Fourteen pastors carried the burdens of St. Joseph's parish during the course of its hundred years' existence. While time has dimmed their memory, the fruits of their early labors linger on. Were it not for their untiring zeal and zealous efforts, St. Joseph's would not be the well established parish we find it today. The very hardships they endured as pioneers makes the work of their successors easier now. In fact, had it not been for their persevering toil we could not look down the vista of a hundred years, as we do on our centenary observance, with justifiable pride, at the splendid spiritual record of which our parish can boast.

While neither all their pictures nor their complete records are available we append the following data—fragmentary as it is—in the hope that the nostalgic memories it evokes, will prompt all of us to breath a silent prayer for those who have gone to their eternal reward, as also to beg God's continual blessings on those who still labor in His Vineyard.

## REV. JACOB MAYER, S.J.

Although not much can be found on the life of Father Mayer, the people of Hessen Cassel will always remember him as a quiet, steady-going, zealous priest, who built the present church. He was regarded as a church-builder in his own right. He built the first big churches without the pillars we see in all other churches today. Rev. Mayer served Hessen Cassel from 1857 to 1863. He also built the first convent in 1859. It was located at the south entrance of our present cemetery.



## REV. MARTIN KINK

Father Kink's stay with us was brief. He was pastor at SS. Peter and Paul's Church before coming here. He was a native of Bavaria, to which country he returned and where he also died.

## REV. W. WOESTE

Was born at Loeiningen, Oldenburg, diocese of Munster, Germany, in 1836. He came to America in October 1863 and was ordained July 22, 1864. Hessen Cassel and Sheldon shared his ministrations from 1866 to 1870.

## REV. JOHN WEMHOFF

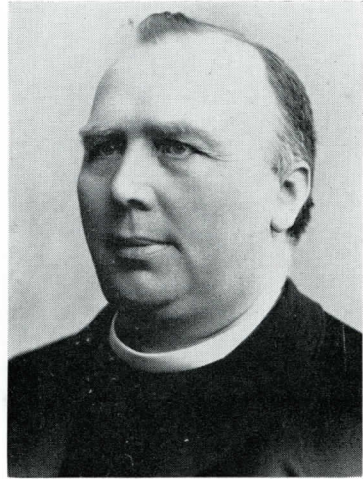
Father Wemhoff was born in Munster, Germany, October 11, 1837. Came to America in 1858 and made his home with his uncle, Bernard Wemhoff. Ordained by Bishop Luers, March 23, 1862. Celebrated his first Mass in St. Boniface Church, Lafayette, Ind. On Dec. 1, 1865 he became pastor of St. Mary's Church, Decatur, having charge also of Hessen Cassel in 1868.

## REV. JOSEPH NUSSBAUM

Rev. Joseph Nussbaum was a straightforward and very outspoken man. Born at Rimbach Saxony, Diocese of Paderborn, Sept. 30, 1832. Ordained at Paderborn April 5, 1859. Came to America, January 23, 1869 and was pastor of Hessen Cassel from 1870 to 1877, caring also for Sheldon, as a mission. Father Nussbaum erected the present priest's residence in 1875. Our church originally had merely a low bell tower. Father Nussbaum rebuilt it with its present high steeple.

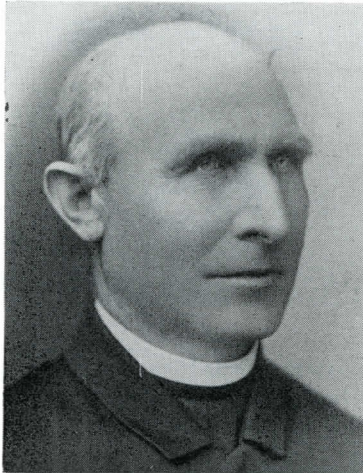
REV. JOHN HERMAN HUESER, D.D.

Father Hueser first saw the light of day in Steinhausen, Westphalia, Nov. 8, 1839. Was ordained Sept. 21, 1863 in Brixen, Tyrol. In 1876, he came to the diocese of Fort Wayne, and from August, 1877, until January, 1880, he was pastor of Hessen Cassel. Thereafter he was appointed pastor and later, irremovable rector of St. Peter and Paul's Church, Huntington, Indiana. His health necessitated a change of climate, and on August 24, 1906 Fr. Hueser tendered his resignation, and in September of the same year left for Carlsbad, New Mexico. Much of his time was spent in literary work. Besides his contributions to current journals, he wrote four volumes of sermon sketches, the Catechism of the Pulpit, First Instructions in the Catholic Catechism, for the use of teachers and pupils, and a prayer and meditation book for the use of the sick, and for priests attending the sick, bearing the title, "Lord, Behold, Whom Thou Lovest, Is Sick."



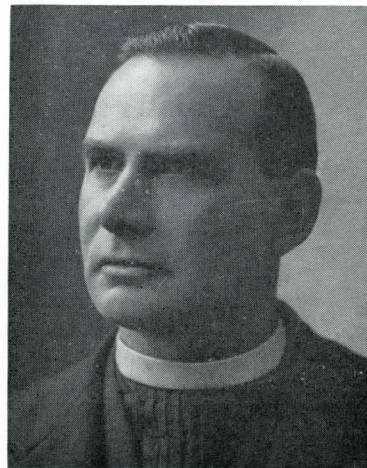
REV. JOHN MARK  
1880 — 1897

Was born at Acholshausen, near Wuerzburg, Bavaria, Germany, on April 1, 1820. He studied the classics in his native place, philosophy at the University of Wuerzburg, theology in the same University and also in All Hallows' College, Archdiocese of Dublin, and in the Diocesan Seminary of Halifax. He was ordained on August 6, 1852 by Archbishop Walsh, of Halifax, where he labored until the year 1860, when Bishop Yuncker received him into the diocese of Alton. Bishop Dwenger accepted him for the diocese of Fort Wayne in 1876. He was pastor of Hessen Cassel from 1880 until 1897 when he resigned on account of his advanced age and accepted the position of chaplain in St. Joseph's Hospital, at Logansport. Here he died November 20, 1904.

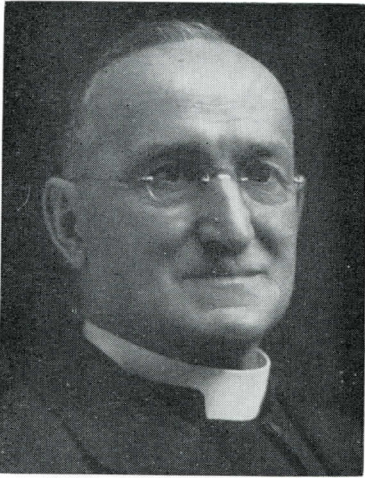


REV. MAXIMILIAN BENZINGER  
1897 — 1926

Our beloved Father Benzinger was born in Wuerttemberg, Germany, October 7, 1848, son of Michael and Elizabeth (Mueller) Benzinger. He studied at St. John's Minnesota, and Calvary College, Wisconsin, and finished his theology at St. Francis' Seminary, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was ordained by Bishop Dwenger, in the Cathedral at Fort Wayne, on June 11, 1884. He was with us for a long time and during his stay here our present sisters' convent was erected.







## REV. FRIDOLIN J. HASLER

1927 — 1934

Father Hasler was born at Tobel, Ct. Thurgan, Switzerland, on February 5, 1868. He pursued his classics at St. Bernard's College, Mehreron, Switzerland, and his major seminary course at Subiaco, Arkansas. He was ordained by Bishop Morris of Little Rock on June 8, 1916.

He served as chaplain at St. Vincent's Orphanage, Fort Wayne from 1916 until 1922 when he was appointed pastor of Sheldon. He was then transferred to Hessen Cassel, where he remained until June, 1934. Father Hasler did a great deal of work on the parish properties at both Sheldon and Hessen Cassel. Because of injuries sustained in an automobile accident, he asked for a chaplaincy and was placed at Sacred Heart Hospital, Garrett, for one year.

He then was re-appointed to Sheldon where he remained from July, 1935 until February, 1936, when he was again assigned as chaplain at Holy Family Hospital, LaPorte. It was while he was at LaPorte he asked permission to return to his native country, Switzerland.

## REV. JOACHIM BAKER

The sixth of a family of nine children, was born on March 7, 1863 to Jacob and Agatha (Meyer) Baker, at Fort Wayne. His parents were natives of Hesse Darmstadt and Baden, Germany, but were married at Fort Wayne. Father Baker attended St. Mary's parochial school and also the Cathedral school. In 1879 he entered St. Lawrence's College at Mount Calvary, Wisconsin. Having completed his classical studies, he was received into St. Francis' Seminary, where he studied philosophy and theology. Archbishop Heiss ordained him deacon on March 19, 1888, and he was ordained priest by Bishop Dwenger on June 29, of the same year. His first appointment was that of pastor at Portland, in Jay County.



## REV. CHARLES SEEBERGER

Born in Elkhart, Indiana, on September 13, 1897, he studied at St. Lawrence College, Mount Calvary, Wisconsin and Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Cincinnati. He was ordained by Bishop Howard on June 6, 1925. After serving as assistant in Sacred Heart parish, Whiting, All Saints' Hammond, and St. Joseph's, Mishawaka, he was appointed pastor of St. Ann's Parish, Kewanna, in July, 1931. On July 8, 1939, he was appointed pastor of St. Joseph's, Hessen Cassel where he remained until November, 1946.

### REV. FREDERICK J. WESTENDORF

Was born in Terre Haute, Indiana on May 9, 1907. He pursued his studies for the priesthood at St. Joseph's, Collegeville, and at St. Gregory's, Cincinnati. Ordained June 10, 1933 by Bishop Noll.

In January, 1941, Father Westendorf, who had, for several years, been chaplain of the National Guard, was mustered into service and sent to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, where more than 50,000 young men were stationed. After service in the army he was sent to Hessen Cassel in Nov., 1946. He stayed until July, 1947.



### REV. LAWRENCE GOLLNER

Father Gollner was born at Kokomo, Indiana, on February 26, 1913. He prepared for the priesthood at St. Joseph's College, Collegeville, and at St. Meinrad's Seminary, and was ordained on June 11, 1938 by Bishop Noll.

He served as assistant for one year at Sacred Heart, South Bend, while attending school at Notre Dame in preparation for teaching. In September, 1939, he was given residence at Cathedral, Fort Wayne, while serving as professor at Central Catholic High School. He was assistant at St. John the Baptist Church, Fort Wayne, from 1944 to 1946, then served as assistant at St. John's Church, New Haven for one year. He was appointed pastor of Hessen Cassel on July 7, 1947 and remained until June 8, 1956.



### REV. MATHIAS J. BODINGER

Our present pastor was ushered into the world in Radzesdorf, Hungary, Aug. 27, 1901. He pursued his primary education in the parochial schools of Gary, Indiana; attended the preparatory Seminary at St. Lawrence College, Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin; completed his studies for the priesthood in Mt. St. Mary's Seminary, Norwood Heights, Cincinnati, Ohio. Bishop John F. Noll ordained him on June 11, 1927. After serving three years in his first assignment in Holy Trinity Church, East Chicago, he spent the next five years as assistant and acting pastor at St. Paul's in Fort Wayne. The next tour of duty as assistant at St. Mary's Church, Michigan City, Indiana lasted only seven months. From here he went to St. Bavo's





Church, Mishawaka, Indiana where he served as assistant from September, 1935 until the Summer of 1940. From a brief stay in Plymouth, out of which he served the Catholics at Culver, he went for two years in Portland, Indiana from which he also served the parish at Winchester, Indiana. Next in turn came a four years' chaplaincy at Mercy Hospital, Gary, Indiana and a two year stretch of the same work in Mt. Mercy Sanatorium, Dyer, Indiana. Back in parochial work again, he spent six years shepherding the scattered flock of St. Joseph Church, Roanoke, Indiana and St. Catherine's Church, Nix Settlement, Indiana. On June 6, 1956, he assumed his duties as pastor of Hessen Cassel, where he has learned to love the good people and God willing he hopes to remain a long while.

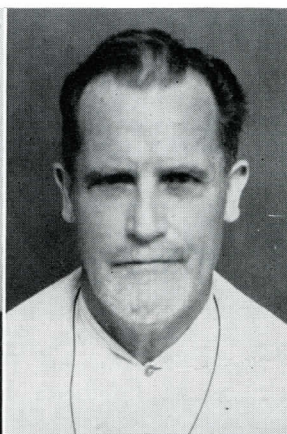
## VOCACTIONS — PRIESTS



Fr. Carl Herber, C.P.P.S.  
Son of  
Fred Herber and  
Mary Wyss  
Born—Dec. 11, 1898  
Ordained—Feb. 19, 1929  
Stationed  
St. Joseph's Rectory  
Fort Recovery, Ohio



Fr. Joseph C. Herber  
C.P.P.S.  
Son of  
Philip Herber and  
Genevieve Schiffl  
Born—Feb. 27, 1928  
Stationed  
St. Mary's Church  
Nebraska City, Nebraska



Fr. Frank Wyss  
Son of  
Frank Wyss and  
Agnes Gibson  
Catholic Missions  
Our Lady of Fatima School  
Tippera District  
E. Pakistan



Fr. Max I. Herber, C.P.P.S.  
Son of  
Fred Herber and  
Mary Wyss  
Born—Aug. 7, 1902  
Ordained—May 5, 1932  
Stationed  
St. Mary's Novitiate  
Burkettessville, Ohio



Fr. Alvin Herber, C.P.P.S.  
Born—Dec. 10, 1924  
Ordained—May 11, 1950  
Son of  
Leo Herber and  
Edna Minnich

# VOCATIONS

## PRIESTS

Rev. Frank Wyss, C.S.C., son of Frank Wyss and Agnes Gibson.  
Rev. Max Herber, C.P.P.S., son of Fred Herber and Mary Wyss.  
Rev. Carl Herber, C.P.P.S., son of Fred Herber and Mary Wyss.  
Rev. Joseph Herber, C.P.P.S., son of Phillip Herber and Genevieve Schiffl.  
Rev. Alvin Herber, C.P.P.S., Son of Leo Herber and Edna Minnich.

## SEMINARIANS

Paul Bobay, son of Lawrence Bobay and Armella Herber.  
John Herber—St. Joseph College, Rennsalear, son of Phillip Herber and Genevieve Schiffl.  
Arthur Renninger—Our Lady Of The Lake Seminary, son of Henry Renninger and Cecilia Hoffman.

## NUNS

Ven. Sister Aurelia, Notre Dame Community, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Rauner.  
Ven. Sister M. Modesta, Notre Dame Community, daughter of John Sorg and Barbara Lauer.  
Ven. Sister M. Arnoldine, P.H.J.C., daughter of Anthony Sorg and Elizabeth Schmidt.  
Ven. Sister M. Frances, P.H.J.C., daughter of Paul Bobay and Clara White.  
Ven. Sister M. Adeline, P.H.J.C., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Eisen.  
Ven. Sister M. Adelphis, P.H.J.C., daughter of Anthony Berg and Loretta Wyss.  
Ven. Sister M. Edelberta, P.H.J.C., daughter of Jacob Minnich.  
Ven. Sister M. Julienna, P.H.J.C., daughter of Romer Smith and Monica Sorg.  
Ven. Sister M. Evangelista, Providence Community, daughter of Anton Herber and Martha Schmidt.  
Ven. Sister M. Rose, O.S.F., daughter of Louis Maldeney and Josephine Bard.  
Ven. Sister M. Irmina, O.S.F.,  
Ven. Sister M. Alma Joseph, O.S.F., daughter of Fred Herber and Mary Wyss.  
Ven. Sister M. Rosaline, O.S.F., daughter of John Wyss and Margaret Beckman.  
Ven. Sister M. Agnetis, O.S.F., daughter of John Wyss and Margaret Beckman.  
Ven. Sister M. Frances, O.S.F., daughter of Frank Hoffman and Gertrude Wyss.  
Ven. Sister M. Gertrude, O.S.F., daughter of Henry Renninger and Cecilia Hoffman.  
Ven. Sister M. Henry, O.S.F., daughter of Henry Renninger and Cecilia Hoffman.  
Ven. Sister M. Harriet, O.S.F., daughter of Harry Davies and Mildred Weller.  
Ven. Sister M. Viola, P.H.J.C., daughter of Henry Gibson and Alice Schmidt.  
Ven. Sister M. Cecilia, O.S.F., daughter of Joseph Minnich and Kate Berg.  
Ven. Sister M. Rose, O.S.F., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Freistroffer.  
Ven. Sister M. Evelyn, O.S.F., daughter of William Wyss and Veronica Hoffman.

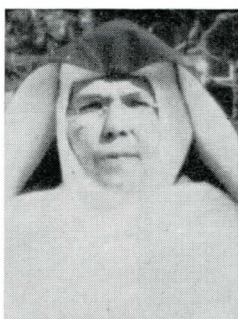
## POSTULANT

Dorothy Sorg, O.S.F., daughter of Raymond Sorg and Wilma Smith.

## ASPIRANTS

Dianne Wyss, O.S.F., daughter of Arthur Wyss and Gertrude Sorg.  
Bertha Sorg, O.S.F., daughter of Arthur Sorg and Sylvia Converset.  
Cynthia Sorg, O.S.F., daughter of Earl Sorg and Ruth Schweigel.





Ven. Sister  
M. Modesta  
Notre Dame Community



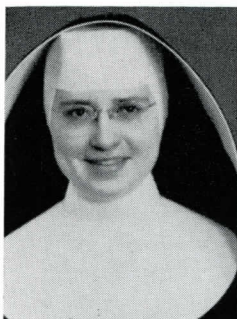
Ven. Sister  
M. Adelphis, P.H.J.C.



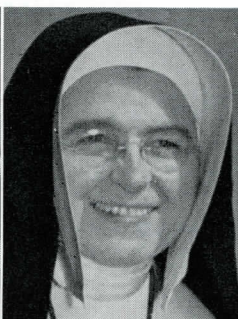
Ven. Sister  
Aurelia  
Notre Dame Community



Ven. Sister  
M. Harriet, O.S.F.



Ven. Sister  
M. Henry, O.S.F.



Ven. Sister  
M. Evangelista  
Providence Community



Ven. Sister  
M. Agnetis, O.S.F.



Ven. Sister  
M. Adeline, P.H.J.C.



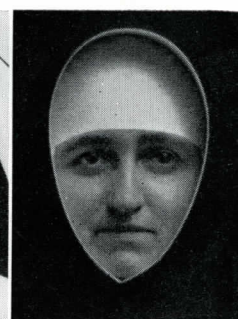
Ven. Sister  
M. Gertrude, O.S.F.



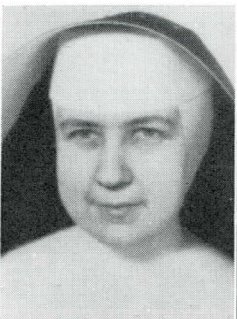
Ven. Sister  
M. Rose, O.S.F.



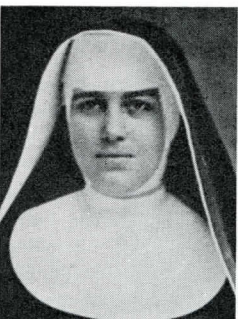
Ven. Sister  
M. Frances, O.S.F.



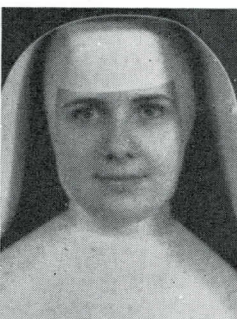
Ven. Sister  
M. Edelberta, P.H.J.C.



Ven. Sister  
M. Cecilia, O.S.F.



Ven. Sister  
M. Rosaline, O.S.F.

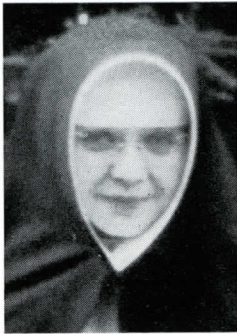


Ven. Sister  
M. Alma Joseph, O.S.F.



Ven. Sister  
M. Arnoldine, P.H.J.C.

# NUNS



Ven. Sister  
M. Julienna, P.H.J.C.



Ven. Sister  
M. Frances, P.H.J.C.

# POSTULANT



Dorothy Sorg  
O.S.F.

# ASPIRANTS



Dianne Wyss  
O.S.F.



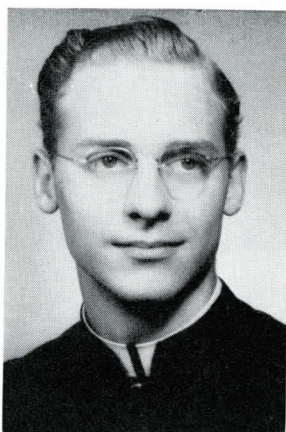
Bertha Sorg  
O.S.F.



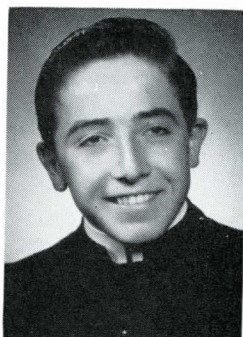
Cynthia Sorg  
O.S.F.



# SEMINARIANS



Paul Frederick Bobay  
C.P.P.S.  
Son of Lawrence and  
of the late  
Armella (Herber) Bobay  
Third Theologian at  
St. Charles Seminary  
Carthegna, Ohio



Arthur Renninger  
Son of  
Henry Renninger and  
Cecilia Hoffman  
Our Lady of the Lake  
Seminary  
Syracuse, Indiana



John F. Herber  
Son of  
Phillip Herber and  
Genevieve Schiffl  
Seminarian  
St. Joseph's College  
Collegeville, Indiana

## SOCIETIES and SODALITIES

The assistance of an active laity in parish administration is a constant boon to the pastor and a neverending source of blessing for the congregation. Banded together for a common purpose—spiritual advancement, financial assistance, social intercourse—Societies and Sodalitys are a powerful instrument in producing much good for the spiritual and material well-being of the parish. The need of the times or the exigencies of the parish usually determines the number and character of these church organizations. So from almost the very beginnings of St. Joseph's we find Sodalitys and Societies established to carry out the specific spiritual and material needs of this congregation. Thus we have, St. Joseph's School Society; St. Mary's Altar Society; St. Aloysius Sodality; St. Agnes Sodality and the Catholic Youth Organization Program.

## THE ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL SOCIETY

This Society is primarily for the men. It combines the spiritual aims of the Holy Name Society—frequent Holy Communion and reverence for the Holy Name of Jesus—and the purposes of the St. Vincent De Paul Society, with our school as the main beneficiary. Its spiritual aims are arrived at largely by their monthly corporate Holy communions, serving as ushers in church and providing guards of honor for state occasions. The purely secular side of their organization is accomplished by annual dues, social fund-raising projects, labor details for the physical upkeep of the school building and its premises. Though never large in numbers, they make up in spirit for what they lack in quantity, and have always lived up to their obligation as "God-father of the school". Their diligent zeal in the past has meant much to each pastor. It is hoped that the up and coming generation of adults will catch some of this fire and carry on as splendidly in the future as the old-timers did in years gone by.

Present officers are: Al Roussel, President; Robert Bubb, Secretary; Donald Bubb, Treasurer.

## ST. MARY'S ALTAR SODALITY

Women have always been jokingly referred to as the "work-horses" of the congregation. There is more truth than poetry to that allegation, at least as it applies here, to the fair-sex of St. Joseph's, Hessen Cassel. Besides their corporate Communion every month their field of activity ranges practically to everything in and around the parish.

They can always be counted on to do what the men cannot, or will not do. Consequently we find them annually stuffing the Sisters larder with their Fall "Grocery-Shower." Turning their culinary art to good advantage, they annually raise a tidy sum of money by "putting on" chicken dinners, fish-frys, buffet luncheons, catering at weddings and serving at parties. The distaff-minded members, not to be outdone by their sisters in the kitchen, garner goodly sums every year by means of their "quilting-bees" and "linen-raffles". So whether it's providing for the convent, maintenance of church wares, procuring altar linens, supplying flowers for Summer services, cleaning the church or scrubbing the hall, the ladies can always be depended on to be "Johnny-on-the-spot". Even if at times their efforts apparently go unrewarded and much that they do might suffer from thoughtless criticism, may God give them the constant good will to ever carry on. Your pastor is not only exceedingly proud of you but is likewise deeply grateful to each and every one of you "Marthas" for all you have done and still are doing for the parish.

The present officers are: Mrs. Mildred Steenman, President; Mrs. Betty Landin, Secretary; Mrs. Esther Bobay, Treasurer.

My very special thanks to these three tireless workers for the yoeman's service they rendered in preparation for this book and the centennial arrangements in general.

## THE C.Y.O.

In response to Bishop Noll's edict, in 1930, to organize supervised activities for the youth of the parish, especially the high school and pre-marital age, St. Joseph's inaugurated and adapted to its needs, the National Catholic Youth Organization program. This program is dedicated to foster the spiritual, cultural and social betterment of adolescent youth.

The first beginnings were made during the pastorate of Fr. Joachim Baker. It received a tremendous boost forward under the genial guidance of Fr. McCartin, O.M.I., during his short stay with us. They have gone forward since then, annually carrying out a successful round of activities. This comprised: soft-ball competition, skating parties, lake outings, square dancing, host to neighboring C.Y.O. and many other seasonal social functions.





*Top—CYO Communion Breakfast April 30, 1939*

*Center—CYO July 13, 1952*

*Bottom—Trophy Winning Team of 1957—Recreation Center*

Are they good? You bet they are. They are regularly seen at the Communion Table. The girls sing in the choir. The boys assist with the ushering chores in church. Are they active? Watch them work, dance or play. They have all the enthusiasm of youth, and put it into everything they do. This year, the girls won the second place trophy in the Allen County Girl's Soft Ball Tournament. There need be no fear of juvenile delinquency as long as we have as splendid a group of young men and young ladies as is our C.Y.O.

The officers are: Pres. R. Muldeney, V. Pres. B. Sorg, Treas. J. Minnich, Sec. M. Minnich.



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<p>In Memory</p> <p>NIKOLAS &amp; ELIZABETH WYSS FRANCIS &amp; ANNA MARY ZUBER WYSS NIKOLAS &amp; ADELAIDE MUENCH WYSS</p>	<p>In Memory</p> <p>CHRISTIAN AND MARY A. TRABEL</p>
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