

Barquilla de la Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society - Diocese of Columbus

Vol. XVI, No. 8 (revised)

December, 1991



Photo of the old St. Margaret of Cortona Church,
courtesy of Rev. George Schlegel

THE STORY OF ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA PARISH
by Michael Curtin

(Concluded, from Vol. XVI, No. 6)

First Church

Not long after the Italian immigrants began settling in the area just west of the quarries, the families began petitioning diocesan authorities for their own church. In a letter dated June, 1909, with one copy in English and another in Italian, 118 signers petitioned Bishop James J. Hartley to approve

construction of a chapel. "The undersigned, residents of Marble Cliff, beg of your Lordship the permission to have a chapel in order to satisfy their religious duties, namely: to hear Mass and have their children instructed in their holy religion. Two thousands (\$2,000) dollars are ready to start the construction of the building. We all hope that you will kindly grant our humble petition," the letter said.

By the summer of 1921, the families of the community had received permission to proceed with construction of a church, and a series of meetings was held to make plans. Land for the new church was donated at 3388 Trabue Road by Sam and Rocco Delewese. According to parish records, thirteen families each had pledged \$50 to get work started on the \$2,500 project. Those were the families of Alex DiVittorio, Tony Ciccone, Thomas Castorano, Sam Delewese, Paul Lancia, Vincent Oddi, Nick Scarpitti, Dom Moro, Ben Bellisari, Tony Valerio, Patsy Stacchiotti, George Lombardi, and Matt Stischok.

The cinder-block and wood-frame church, with a coal furnace in the basement, was completed the following year and Bishop Hartley sent Father Thomas P. Harrington to bless it and offer the first Mass on Wednesday, August 23, 1922. Father Harrington would serve St. Margaret's people from 1922 until 1926, the year he died.

[The Catholic Columbian of Friday, August 25, 1922 carried the following story: "New Italian Church to be Dedicated Sunday. Sunday morning at 10 o'clock the Right Reverend Bishop will dedicate the new Italian church in Marble Cliff. The new parish has been placed under the patronage of St. Margaret of Cortona. Following the dedication services, solemn high Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Rocco Petrarca, pastor of St. John the Baptist church. A number of priests from the Josephinum College will assist. There are nearly fifty families in the newly organized St. Margaret's parish. The building was erected at a cost of \$6,000, nearly all of which is paid. The Delawese Brothers, who have looked after the financial part of the building, deserve the thanks of the congregation." It may be that, in part, the author of this account confused St. Margaret's with Our Lady of Victory Chapel on Roxbury Road, which was opened on Sunday, September 3, 1922. No other account of the opening of St. Margaret's seems to have appeared in the Columbian. The issue of September 1, in the listing of new clergy assignments, said, "Rev. Thomas P. Harrington, D.D., will say Mass every Sunday morning at the new church of St. Margaret of Cortona, Marble Cliff, and preach to the Italians in their mother tongue. Two Sisters will also go there every Sunday to teach Catechism to the large crowd of children in that vicinity." The collection of Bishop Hartley's sermons in the Diocesan Archives contains two sermons from 1923 for the dedication of new churches, but they give no clue as to which churches were involved.

[In his report for the year ending July 1, 1924, Father Harrington reported 220 Italians and 22 Croatians but no English-speaking members of the St. Margaret congregation. There were 81 adults and 88 children attended the public school. There had been 16 baptisms, 18 first Communions, and three burials in the year. - ed.]

The families who migrated to the Columbus area from Pettorano sul Gizio wanted to place the church under the patronage of the St. Margaret they knew

as the patron saint of their home town. The present pastor, Father Borrelli, speculates that they simply knew her as St. Margaret, without further connotation. Presumably, when asked which St. Margaret she was, they could not say. Bishop Hartley or Father Petrarca, who must have been aware that there were several Saint Margarets (for instance, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, St. Margaret of Antioch, St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Margaret of Cortona), apparently concluded that the patron saint of Pettorano sul Gizio would have been St. Margaret of Cortona, since she was Italian. The patron of the parish in Pettorano sul Gizio, however, is St. Margaret of Antioch, who was martyred at the hands of the Romans about the late third century. It is her statue in the church in Pettorano sul Gizio which later was copied for St. Margaret parish, and her feast is celebrated on July 20, the traditional time of the parish celebration.

The first organ for the church was donated by the family of Sebastian DiVittorio. Other notable firsts at the new church were as follows:

- first baptism: Sept. 3, 1922, Anna Margherita Valerio
- first wedding: June 7, 1923, James Frazzini and Isabelle DeVictor
- first funeral: May 19, 1923, the infant daughter of Guy and Liberata Capuano
- first First Holy Communion: Dec. 25, 1922, Armando Bellisari and Matthew Stischok
- first confirmation: Oct. 23, 1927, fifty-two children confirmed by Bishop Hartley.

By any measure, St. Margaret of Cortona in its early years was a poor mission. Offertory and feast day collections in 1927 totaled \$435. The total budget that year was \$1,443 and less than \$2.50 was carried over into 1928. Then, as now, a festival was the major fund-raising event of the year. The "lawn fete," as it was called in the early years, produced \$600 for the mission in 1927, more than 40 percent of that year's receipts.

Through the generosity of the people, St. Margaret of Cortona was able to make ends meet. For example, the people regularly donated needed items and provided cleaning and maintenance services.

Religious Education

From the first, the community has offered religious instruction for those students unable to attend Catholic schools. The children of St. Margaret first began attending Catholic schools in 1948 when Monsignor Thomas A. Nolan, pastor of neighboring Our Lady of Victory Church on Roxbury Road, welcomed them at the parish school, where the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth taught for many years. That first year, St. Margaret sent eighteen grade school students and three high school students to Our Lady of Victory. By that time, the high school was accepting only girls. (It had been a co-educational high school from the 1920s until 1945.) The high school stayed in operation until 1963, by which year Bishop Ready High School had opened.

Children from St. Margaret would continue attending Our Lady of Victory into the 1970s. In the mid-1970s, the three parishes of St. Margaret, St. Christopher, and Our Lady of Victory combined enrollments under the name of Trinity School. Starting with the 1979/1980 school year, all grades were

located at St. Christopher's. By 1990, more than half of the approximately 225 students at Trinity came from St. Margaret.

Other Parish Developments

By 1936, the community center at Trabue Road and McKinley Avenue had been sold, so there was need for a parish hall for various activities. Under the leadership of Father Edward G. Hettinger, then assigned to care for St. Margaret's, a parish hall next to the church was completed at a cost of \$5,000.

In June of 1955 a rectory was built under the direction of Father Ambrose S. Metzger, who was named the first pastor when St. Margaret of Cortona was raised to the canonical status of "parish". Completed in January of 1956, the rectory cost \$17,675.

By the mid-1950s, it had already become apparent that there would be a need for a larger church. The church was serving about twice as many families as it was only a decade earlier, so a second Sunday Mass was added in 1955. Some of the pressure of growth was reduced in 1956 when it was announced that the new parish of St. Brendan would be forming to the north. However, the recognition that growth would continue led to the establishment of a building fund in 1958. Meanwhile, the parish hall was expanded in 1959. St. Margaret had grown beyond the service of just those immigrant families along Trabue Road, McKinley Avenue, and Hague Avenue. More and more families were moving within the parish boundaries, which were defined as the Scioto River on the east; Fisher Road on the south; Alton-Darby Creek Road on the west; and Roberts Road on the north. By the time Father James Kulp arrived as pastor in June, 1962 "the walls were bulging" in the small church, then forty years old.

Serious planning for construction of a new church soon began, culminating in the dedication of the present church on Hague Avenue. The site of over nine acres was purchased in 1966. Pietro Belluschi, a noted architect from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was hired to head the project, which was designed to incorporate the latest thinking about Catholic worship in light of the recent Vatican Council. Limestone from the nearby quarries, the bedrock for the founding of the parish, was chosen to serve its highest best use: a setting for the worship of God. The new church was dedicated on October 20, 1968 by Bishop Clarence Elwell.

For many years thereafter, the new church would be used for Sunday Mass, weddings, and funerals, while the old church continued to be used for daily Mass. However, the old structure continued to deteriorate and it was torn down in 1987, 65 years after its construction. The church bell, pews, and other memorable parts of the building were salvaged as keepsakes by parishioners. Today, the old church bell, bronzed and mounted on a stone pillar, is displayed in front of the new church. It stands as a memorial of the beginnings of the parish and of the dedication and the still-living Faith brought to America nearly a century ago by the immigrants from Italy.

+ + +

The author expresses his thanks to the Franklin County Engineer's office, the Franklin County Recorder, the Columbus Metropolitan Library, and the Grandview Heights Public Library for use of their resources in compiling this story. Catholic Columbian quotations are courtesy of the Catholic Times.

ITALIAN NATIVITIES
From Tombstones at Mt. Calvary Cemetery

Pasquale Lepero, nato in Molinara, Nel 1879, morto in Columbus, Agosto 4,
1924. Cathedral B-13

Michele Iannarino, born at Termini, Imerese, Sicily, June 25, 1833, died Aug.
29, 1919. Cathedral G-24

My beloved husband, Erney Finocchi, 1898+1922 Qui reposo in pace
Nestore Finocchi, nato Introdacqua, Italy 31 Maggio 1898 Morto 17 Marzo,
1922. Cathedral K-9

+ Qui reposa in pace Pietro Tamburrino, nato Introdacqua, Italy 1 Settembre
1882, morto 22 Gennaio, 1922. Cathedral K-9

Donato Capone, nato in Roseto Italia 4 Ottobre, 1898, morto 5 Aprile, 1923.
Cathedral K-15

Michiele Russo, born in Termini Imerese Italy Sicily, Sept. 7, 1841, died
Sept. 20, 1921. Cathedral K-39

Salvatore Caldarella, born in Isnello June 7, 1863, died in Columbus May 10,
1924. Cathedral K-52

ORIGINS OF GERMAN CATHOLICS OF COLUMBUS
FROM THE HOLY CROSS PARISH CENSUS
(Continued from Vol. XVI, Number 6)

Behler, Adolph, born 9 Aug., 1853 in Baden. Married Anna Kerscher. (one
child listed)

Bender, children of Magnus and Walburga -- see Fritz, John

Berg, Simon, born 1833, Lindenberg. Wife Elizabeth Schaefer, born July, 1835
in Lindenberg, died 29 Jan., 1901. (For the Schaefer family, see also Ims,
Anton.) (three children)

Bernhard, Friderich, born 10 April, 1851 in Steinau, Kurhessen, son of Alex
Bernhard and Francisca Trott of Margrethehun, Fulda. Wife Elizabeth Mehling,
born 26 April, 1854 in Steinfeld, Unterfranken, daughter of Valentin Mehling
and Elizabeth Eck. Married 13 June, 1875. (two children)

Bettinger, John, born 13 Aug., 1823, Oberbexbach, Rheinbaiern, son of [blank]
and Elizabeth Martin. Wife Catharina Breit, born 2 Feb., 1821, Oberbexbach,
daughter of Peter Breit and Barbara Felder; died 10 Sept., 1903. (eight
children)

Biehl, Carl, born 22 March, 1817 in Kusel, Rheinbaiern, son of Michael Biehl
and Elizabeth; died Feb., 1898. Wife Catherina Babbert, born 28 Jan., 1812 in
Rockenhausen, Kaiserslantern, Baiern, daughter of Philip Babbert and Catharine
Kremp; died 1896. (three children, the eldest born in 1842 in Zweibrücken)

Bierberg, Will, died 27 July, 1903. Wife Elisabeth Schneider, born 26 Feb., 1848, died 20 April, 1909. Speyer, Rhein.

Blosauer, Valentin, born 1 April, 1820 in Neidenfels, Neustadt/Hart. Rheinprovinz; died 24 April, 1878. Wife Elizabeth Mang, born 24 Aug., 1825 in Wachenheim, Hart., daughter of Christian Mang and Charlotte; died 20 Mar., 1904. Married in New York, March, 1851. (nine children)

Bommer, Friedolin (Fulton Street), born 1836 in Appenzell, Schweiz. Wife Maria Theresia Schmocky, born 1846 in Uznach, St. Gallen, daughter of Anton Schmocky and Catharina. Married in St. Gallen. (one son)

Borger, Peter, born 1819 in Wellingen, Lothringen, Metz, son of Nicolaus Borger; died 16 May, 1876. Wife Maria Ruh, born 21 Nov., 1822 in Seltz, Elsass, daughter of Peter Ruh and Maria Haltmeyer; died 14 June, 1902. Married at Cincinnati St. John. (five children)

Bott, John Blas., born 5 Feb., 1840 in Unterwaldberringen, Mellerichstadt, Baiern, son of Mathaeus Bott and Rosina Böhm. Wife Catharina Mathilda Heim, born 30 Aug., 1839 in Frickenhausen, Mellerichstadt, daughter of Martin Heim and Catharina Mehler. Married in Unterwaldberrungen. (one son)

Braun, Franz Ignaz, born 27 July, 1820 in Altheim, Am Waldörn, Baden; died 13 August, 1865. Wife Carolina Hofmeister, born 18 April, 1828 in Bachenu, Amt Neckarsulm, Württemberg, daughter of Joseph Michael [Hofmeister] and Catharina Fehling; died 10 March, 1891. Married 18 Aug., 1854 at Holy Cross. (three children, including one Sister of Notre Dame)

Braun, John, born 5 Jan., 1864 in Baden, son of Johann and Elizabeth. Wife Maria Etzkorn, born 3 Apr., 1873 of Rudolph (22 Aug., 1844) and Christina (30 Jan., 1846). Married 26 May, 1891. (seven children)

Breckenridge, Rob. Clar., born 29 Feb., 1852 in Winchester, Virginia, son of R. W. Breckenridge and Sarah Evans. Wife Magdalena Beck, born 27 Nov., 1862 in Columbus, daughter of Louis Beck and Magdalena Saile. Married 17 Sept., 1890 in Columbus. (three children)

Brehl, John Adam, born 20 April, 1827 in Elters, Fulda, Kurhessen, son of Joseph and Magdalena. Died 15 July, 1898. Wife Elisabetha Reith, born 30 July, 1823 in Elters, daughter of Adam Homan and Catharina Reith. Died 30 Sept., 1897. (three children) Brehl, Maria Benedicta, 21 Mar., 1817 - 12 Mar., 1904.

Breit, John, born 1801 in Unterwaldberungen bei Unsleben, Mellerichstadt, Baiern. Died 6 Aug., 1871. Wife Margaretha Guck, born 25 Nov., 1811, Unterwaldberungen, daughter of Valentin and Barbara Guck.

Brockhoven, Peter Jacob, born 17 Apr., 1839 in Beek, Maastricht, Holland, son of Johnis Andreas and Maria. Wife Anna Catharina Röhrenbeck, born 13 Feb., 1844 in Columbus, daughter of Johann Röhrenbeck and Carolina Caecilia Frank. (five children)

Büchner, Andreas, born 29 Dec., 1845 in Oberriedeberg, Brückenau; died 17 Dec., 1902. Wife Anna Mary Ludin, born 10 June, 1848 in Weil, Lerach, Baden;

daughter of Stephan Ludin and Euphrosina; died 30 Jan., 1903. Married at [Columbus] St. Mary's. (seven children)

Büchner, John (son of Michael, below), born 26 June, 1848. Wife Carolina Müller, born Kirchhofen, Baden on 13 April, 1848, daughter of Fridolin Müller and Eliz. Litzke. Married 30 Oct., 1876. (three children)

Büchner, Johann -- see Becker, Leonard

Büchner, Michael, born 6 Jan., 1809 in Riedinberg, Landz. Bruckanau, Baiern, son of Franz Büchner and Maria; died 1883. Wife Maria Jahn, born 1812, Weineck, Bamberg, daughter of Georg Jahn; died 1860. (six children)

Bühler, Bernhard, born 4 July, 1845 in Gündelhart-Hörhausen, Kanton Thurgau, son of Bernard Bühler and Anna Traber. Died 16 March, 1903. Wife Anna Maria Traber, born 7 Dec., 1848, daughter of Benedict Traber and Anna Berly. Married in Gündelhart. (four children)

Buirkle, Quirin, born 31 March, 1815. Married in Drilfingen to Helena Stehle, daughter of Dominic Stehle and Clara, born Drilfingen, died 1854. Married (2) Brigitta Buirke, born 8 October, 1818 in Drilfingen, daughter of Jacob and Juliana Buirke. (seven children)

Bürkle, Conrad, born 1816. Wife Magdalena Stehle, born 24 July, 1819, Drilfingen. (two children)

Burkly, Xaver, born 3 Dec., 1818, Sigmaringen, Drilfingen, son of Augustine Burkley and Agnes Stelzer. Wife Margaretha Paulina Betz, daughter of Friedrich Betz and Anna Reisch from Ingolstadt, Baiern, born 1 May, 1831, died Dec. 2, 1909. Married 2 Aug., 1853. (five children)

Bushman, John H., born 1 Oct., 1870, Loramis, Ohio, Shelby County, son of Hermann H. Bushman and Luise Willman, from Borgloh, Amt Dissen, Hannover. Died May, 1913. Wife Anna Romer, born 12 Sept., 1870 at St. Henry, Mercer County, Ohio, daughter of Bernard Römer from St. Henry and Eliz. Böse from Melle, Amt Grunberg, Hannover. Married 26 Oct., 1898, St. Henry, Mercer Co.

Buttler, Heinrich, from Diedorf, Kreis Mühlhausen, Erfurt, Preussen. Wife Auguste Emilie Bieber, from Coesfeld, Kr. Münster, Regl. Arnsl. Married at Coesfeld. (six children)

Christ, Nicholas, died 1868 in Jackson. Wife Kunigunda Gersinger, born 9 Feb., 1826, daughter of Joseph and Francisca (Bader). Married in Portsmouth. (Four children)

Dabo, Jacob, born 1843, Ermesheim, Rheinpfalz, son of Jacob Dabo and Catharina. Wife Louisa, daughter of Johann Lang. (One daughter)

Dehl, William, born 17 Apr., 1862, Rheinprovinz, son of Anton and Amalia; died 24 June, 1894. Wife Crescentia Schieber, born 28 July, 1862, Baiern, daughter of Joseph and Crescentia. Married at Holy Cross 8 Feb., 1885. (Five children)

Dehner, John, born 12 Nov., 1843. Wife Clara Moeller, born 22 Nov., 1844,

daughter of Joseph Möller (born 22 Nov., 1823) and Sybilla, from Kurhessen. Married 24 Apr., 1866. (Two children)

Deibel, Casper, born 6 Jan., 1827, at Feldorf Horp Württemberg; died 23 Jan., 1879. Wife Crescentia Volk, born 10 June, 1834 at Schramberg, Obendorf, Württemberg, daughter of Constantin Volk and Crescentia Has; died 8 Apr., 1899. (twelve children)

Deifel, Felix, born 20 Nov., 1821 in Württemberg, died 23 July, 1910. Wife Maria Zeller, born 26 Apr., 1839. Married in 1862. (six children)

Deinhart, John, born Oct., 1848 in Bainbeg (?), Baiern, son of Johann Deinhard and Maria. Wife Maria Anna Hofmeister, born 6 June, 1843 in Bachenau, Württemberg, daughter of Joseph Hofmeister and Elizabeth Weber (widow of Christian Henry Bartling, born Preussen, 1840 and died 15 June, 1871). (two children)

Deinlein, Michael, born 25 May, 1824 in Ludwach, Bamberg, son of Nicolaus Deinlein and Kunigunda Raab. First wife, Margaretha Muth, 1828-1862, married at Utica, N.Y. (four children) Second wife Rosina Saile, born 10 Aug., 1837, in Weidingen, Württemberg, daughter of Valerian Saile and Catharina Müller. Married at Holy Cross. (two children)

Derrick, Peter, born 11 Oct., 1817, Youniette, Pennsylvania, son of Richard Derrick and Paula Bruner. Wife Mary Smith, born 1 Sept., 1818; died 5 June, 1861. Married 5 Oct., 1840. (ten children) Second wife, married 1863, Eva Keller, born 10 Jan., 1821 in Weltersbach, Rheinpfalz, Zweibrücken, daughter of John and Elizabeth Keller and widow of Henry Henn of Pliskastel, Trier; died May 27, 1902. (one Henn daughter)

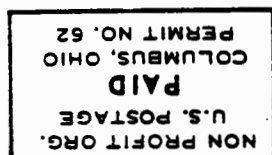
Diebold, Carl, born 17 Apr., 1854 at Rosheim, Elsass, son of Ignatz Diebold and Theresia Martz. Wife Maria Strack (or Straek?), born 23 March, 1855 at Newark, Ohio, daughter of Michael Strack and Barbara Martz. Married in Newark.

Dorn, Conrad, born 4 Jan., 1834 in Oberriedenberg, Brückennau, Unterfranken, son of Adam Dorn and Maria Herchenröther; died 28 Sept., 1900. Wife Maria Miehm, born 27 Feb., 1840 at Maumee, Ohio, daughter of Joseph Miehm from Kurhessen and Victoria Trapp from Elders, Fulda, Kurhessen; died 18 Nov., 1911. Married Feb., 1863. (five children)

Dotter, Anton, born 25 Jan., 1855, son of Paulus [below]. Wife Maria Säger, born 5 Oct., 1857 at Marion, Ohio, daughter of Christian Saeger and Catharina Kolb. Married in 1877. (one son)

(To be continued)

Catholic Record Society - Diocese of Columbus
197 E. Gay Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 Donald M. Schlegel, editor



CHANCERY OFFICE
DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS
198 EAST BROAD STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215