



Besançon Historical Society
The Chronicles

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Archbishop John Francis Noll
Founder, Visionary, Defender of the Faith
Ann Carey, Our Sunday Visitor



John Francis Noll was born Jan. 25, 1875, in Fort Wayne, one of 19 children. He was baptized at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, next to which he also attended grade school. When he was 13, he entered the preparatory seminary at St. Lawrence College, Mount Calvary, Wis., and went on to Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati for his theology and philosophy studies.

Though priests generally weren't ordained before the age of 24, the diocese had a great need for priests, and his mentor, cathedral rector Father Joseph Brammer, was gravely ill and worried that he would not live to see the first boy from his parish ordained. Consequently, John Noll was ordained at the cathedral at the age of 23 on June 4, 1898. Fr. Brammer died two weeks later.

Within a year, Fr. Noll was named pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Ligonier at the age of 24. His parish was 30 square miles, which he covered on foot or horseback. In 1900, Fr. Noll became interested in mission work among non-Catholics and began to offer popular public lecture courses on Catholicism. When traveling speakers who posed as ex-priests or ex-nuns conducted revival-style tent meetings to spread false stories about Catholicism, Fr. Noll attended the programs to defend the faith. He reportedly engaged the speakers in debate, prompting the crowds to ask him for more information about Catholicism.

As he would write later: "Evidently, as possessors of the truth, and moreover, as commissioned teachers in Christ's worldwide school, we are bound to bring the Catholic faith to the attention of the non-Catholic. Our commission is to preach the Gospel to every creature. The command must be more imperative now than in the past because every agency of publicity is being used to misinform people concerning Catholic teaching and practice. The harder the enemy works, the harder we must try to nullify his efforts." Continued on page 3

President's Message ... Barbara Gorney

SUMMER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Album in the Attic has proven quite useful for many people. The collection of people, farms and towns has attracted several persons who e-mailed a query. This winter Mike Meyers contacted me about photos. He gave me 7 last names and two were the Gerardot and Girardot. I have an index at home and looked for the last names. I next asked him for first names since I had 75 Gerardot-Girardot! We made a connection with some names and arranged to meet at Besancon. Since technology is improving constantly, I told Mike he could take pictures or scan them into his computer. Mike had his really advanced cell phone (with mine I just make phone calls) and took pictures of family and towns. Not only did we have pictures which he didn't have, we had names and dates.

Mike is writing a book which not only has the genealogy lines but he has many stories told by his grandparents which he is incorporating into the book. I am looking forward to reading these stories.

During the Christmas season, Mike and his two small sons made green wreaths to lay on the tombstones of his ancestors at Besancon. If you checked the back of the old cemetery you would see many of these wreaths. What a great way to introduce children to family history.

The archives now have a large 1888 wall map of Allen County. It is about five feet by five feet and was donated by Ken Frecker an auctioneer in New Haven. It has rivers, creeks, ditches, land owners, county commissioners and township trustees. The problem is the size. Does anyone know who can make a smaller scale of each township? It would be more accessible and easier to read.

Loretta Brady of Kendallville sent four pictures for the album collection. Two of the pictures are of school children. One is the 1919-1920 class of Jefferson Twp # 9. The other picture is the 1926 class of Jackson Twp #4. The children and teacher are named.

Wishing all a great summer.

BARBARA

MISSION OF THE BESANCON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ARTICLE 11 - SECTION 2

The mission of the Besancon Historical Society of East Allen County, IN is to preserve, interpret and foster a deeper understanding of the history, heritage, and other culture of the rural community known as Besancon, Indiana, generally located in Jefferson Township, Allen County, Indiana, and which has as its central focus Saint Louis Catholic Church.

Established 1994

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LOOK FOR BHS ON INTERNET

www.Besanconhistory.org

In 1902, Fr. Noll was assigned to a new parish in Besancon, where he became more aware that many of his parishioners knew very little about their faith and had no opportunity for religious instruction outside the Sunday sermon. He also realized more information about Catholicism needed to be readily available to non-Catholics who might be attracted to the faith and to those who were misinformed about Catholicism.

So, with this spirit of evangelization, in 1903, he embarked on his literary career with no idea that he was launching an enterprise that would become one of the largest Catholic publishing houses in the world.

Father Noll's first publication was a series of little pamphlets about various aspects of the faith titled *Kind Words From Your Pastor*. The pamphlets were so well received by his parishioners that Fr. Noll sent copies to priests in other parts of the country, thinking they might be helpful to other pastors. He subsequently received many requests for his pamphlets and had to hire a local printer to handle the orders.

As pastor of St. John Parish in Hartford City (1906-1910), Fr. Noll remained concerned about catechesis and, with an instinctive anticipation of the future importance of the printed word, he became more convinced that Catholic periodicals were the best way to spread knowledge of the faith. By 1908, Fr. Noll was writing an original, 32-page periodical called *The Parish Monthly*. (It continues to this day as *The Family Digest*). Other pastors asked for copies, so he sent samples around the country, and subscription requests came rolling in. After Fr. Noll was assigned as pastor of St. Mary's Church in Huntington in 1910, a local printer offered to sell a nearby state-of-the-art print shop he no longer needed. Fr. Noll bought the shop and hired a team to print *The Parish Monthly*.

Around 1911, a socialist organization began to publish *The Menace*, a periodical devoted to propaganda against the Catholic Church. Other publications of the same ilk sprang up in an effort to profit from the prevailing anti-Catholic sentiment, publications with patriotic-sounding titles such as *The Guardian*, *The Liberator*, and *The Sentinel of Liberty*.

Since the Catholic press at that time was operating mainly on the diocesan level and the Catholic hierarchy did not yet have a national organization, the Church had little organized defense against these attacks. Fr. Noll consequently decided that a national weekly publication was needed to defend the Church and to serve as a clearinghouse for information on anti-Catholic activities.

On May 5, 1912, Fr. Noll's printing plant turned out 35,000 copies of the first issue of the national weekly, *Our Sunday Visitor*. The newspaper sold for 1 cent. By the end of 1912, circulation was 200,000, a growth rate that confirmed Fr. Noll's keen business instincts. The next year, circulation climbed to 400,000. At its peak, *Our Sunday Visitor* would go on to have a circulation of more than one million, and Our Sunday Visitor Inc. would become one of the world's largest Catholic publishers.

Always a man ahead of his time, in 1916 Fr. Noll experimented with a Protestant plan to give parishioners a box of weekly contribution envelopes instead of charging pew rent and taking up a monthly collection. He discovered that his parish received more than twice as much money with this method, so he spread the news, and soon Catholic churches across the country adopted the envelopes, most of which were printed by Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.

As the success of Fr. Noll's publications became known, more Catholic publications sprang up, and Fr. Noll helped found the Catholic Press Association, established in 1923.

In addition to periodicals, he also published several books, generally devoted to teaching the faith. Among the best-known is Fr. Smith Instructs Jackson, which originally appeared in serial form in *Our Sunday Visitor*. The book presents doctrinal instructions in dialogue style, following the order of The Baltimore Catechism. Still published in a revised edition today, the book has sold more than a million copies and been translated into several languages.

Continued on page 4.

Through his various publications and generous financial assistance to Church projects, Fr. Noll became well known for his astute understanding of Church issues and his deep knowledge of current events. Consequently, he was asked to join the boards of many national organizations.

The title of monsignor was conferred on Fr. Noll in 1921, when he was only 46, so few people were surprised when he was named fifth bishop of Fort Wayne in 1925, after the death of Bishop Herman Joseph Alerding. On Jan. 3, 1926, just six months after his installation, Bishop Noll launched his diocesan newspaper as the local edition of *Our Sunday Visitor*. Our Sunday Visitor Inc. also took on the job of printing newspapers for several other dioceses.

Because of his experience with national and international issues, Bishop Noll immediately became an influential leader among U.S. prelates. He was named secretary of the fledgling National Catholic Welfare Conference (now the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops), and was a longtime member of that body's administrative committee. In his role with the bishop's conference, Bishop Noll again demonstrated his foresight about the coming information age, helping to launch Catholic News Service and the "Catholic Hour" on NBC radio.

Bishop Noll was named to a team of four bishops responsible for the starting the Legion of Decency in 1933 and began his own diocesan drive against lewd magazines in 1937, convinced that the magazines were part of a communist plan to destroy the morals of youths. Thereafter, the bishops took up the drive nationally, and named Bishop Noll chairman.

Bishop Noll likewise headed a fund-raising campaign to finish the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., and promoted this and other worthy causes through *Our Sunday Visitor*. Similar efforts brought in funds to erect a 50-foot-tall statue of Christ, the Light of the World, in Washington, D.C.

In spite of all these outside activities, Bishop Noll never neglected his own growing diocese. In 1946, ~~Catholic Central High School of Lake County erected a two-story building to its 1923 building. In 1947, it~~ was renamed Bishop Noll High School in honor of its chief benefactor.

Bishop Noll began Catholic Charities to aid families and children who were devastated by the Depression, and he oversaw a massive building program--often aided by money from Our Sunday Visitor Institute--of churches, schools, hospitals, a seminary and an orphanage. While in office, Bishop Noll confirmed 133,000 people, and ordained 500 priests. He also maintained his lifelong dedication to evangelization, often conducting Sunday evening information sessions in the cathedral to teach the Catholic faith.

As a sign of Vatican esteem, Bishop Noll was given the honorary title of archbishop in 1953, even though his see was not an archdiocese. Archbishop John Francis Noll died on July 31, 1956

Archbishop Noll was a man of his time, a builder bishop who helped transform the face of Catholic America. He was a visionary who saw the need for a national presence by the Church, and he was a defender of the faith who never failed to answer attacks made on his beloved Church.

USED WITH PERMISSION by Our Sunday Visitor

See also an article from the Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette from 1905 on the "Yesteryear" page.

Editor's note: In the future, I would also like to do an article on each of the other Fort Wayne area bishops-- Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger---high schools being named in their honor also.

PHILLIP GLADIEU/GLADIEUX GENEALOGY

Researched and compiled by Gene Yoquelet

PHILLIP GLADIEUX born, 1 May 1787, pl Vellescot, FR. Dept. Territorie de Belfort D., 10 May 1865, 78y 9d pl Allen Co., IN Jefferson twp. Son of NICOLAS and AGATHE nee COLON-GLADIEUX, natives of Vellescot.

Phillip Gladieu's birthdate is actually his Baptismal date. Phillip is found listed in the 1850 census of Stark Co., OH. Marlboro twp. Along with son, Jean Pierre and family. Also, in the 1860 census of Allen Co., IN Jefferson twp. Age 80 living with son Jean Pierre and family.

Phillip's "Passport" to America was issued, 20 Feb. 1845, from Colmar, France with destination for New York. He was 58 yrs. Old.

ELISABETH FUESIE Marriage date, 27 Nov. 1805, pl Chavannes-Les-Grands, FR.

Children:

JEAN PIERRE born, 8 Oct. 1811, pl Vellescot, FR. D., 18 Jan. 1890, pl Allen co., IN Jefferson twp. Married ROSALIE ROSSAT, 26 April 1835, pl Grosne, FR. At St. Paul Catholic Church.

Burial, St. Louis Cemetery, Besancon, Allen Co.



New tombstone to replace the original by descendants:

Joan Gladieux Johnson

Michael Gladieux

Marshall Gladieux

See last issue of Chronicles on Friends of Besancon page.

JEAN PIERRE GLADIEUX/ROSSAT GENEALOGY

Researched and compiled by Gene Yoquelet

JEAN PIERRE GLADIEUX born 8 Oct. 1811, pl Vellescot, FR. Dept. Territorie de Belfort d., 18 Jan. 1890, 78yrs 5m 8d pl Allen Co., IN son of PHILLIP and ELISABETH (FEUSIE) GLADIEUX.

Arrived in Port of New York on 17 Sept. 1844, sailing on the ship, Emerald

Found first listed in the 1850 census of Stark Co., OH in Marlboro twp He and family are in the 1860 census of Allen Co., IN Jefferson twp. Pg. 620 #1273 line 16. (Gladio)

Listed in the 1868 "Register" of St. Louis Catholic Church, Besancon Allen Co.

ROSALIE ROSSAT born, 14 June 1814, pl Grosne, FR. Dept. Territorie de Belfort d., 19 March 1905, 90yr 9m 5d pl Allen Co., Jefferson twp. Daughter of _____ and _____ ROSSAT, natives of Grosne.

Marriage date, 26 April 1835, pl St. Paul Church, Grosen, FR.

Burial, St. Louis Cemetery, Besancon, IN

Children:

FRANCOIS/FRANCIS born, 8 Oct. 1837, pl Vellescot d., 19 Oct. 1916, pl Allen Co., Jefferson twp. Married MARIE FRANCOISE LOMONT, 21 Aug. 1860 (B4-P493), pl Allen Co.

Burial, St. Louis Cemetery, Besancon. (See: FRANCIS GLADIEUX/LOMONT Genealogy)

JOSEPHINE CECILIA born, 2 April 1841, pl Vellescot d., 12 Oct. 1919, pl Jefferson twp. Married GEORGE W. TOWNSEND, 23 Aug. 1859 (B4-P500), pl Allen Co. Burial, IOOF Cemetery, New Haven, IN (See: GEORGE W. TOWNSEND/GLADIEUX Genealogy)

CELESTINE born, 27 Jan. 1845, pl Stark Co., OH d., 25 March 1914, pl Jefferson twp. Married MARIE JOSEPHINE LAMBOLEY, 9 Nov. 1862 (B5-P214), pl Allen Co. Burial, IOOF Cemetery, New Haven, IN

2nd Marriage to MARIE VIRGINIA HAVERT, 19 Jan. 1869 (B7-P401), pl St. Louis Besancon.

(See: CELESTINE GLADIEUX Genealogy)

JEAN PIERRE GLADIEUX/ROSSAT GNEEALOGY

Continue with children:

VICTORIA born, 24 Oct. 1848, pl Stark Co., OH d., 21 May 1901, pl Allen co., Jefferson twp. Married ALPHONSE LOMONT, 10 Sept. 1866 (B6-P295), pl St. Louis Besancon. Burial St. Louis Cemetery, Besancon.

(See: ALPHONSE LOMONT AND GLADIEUX Genealogy)



FOUR GENERATIONS; Mary Gladieux (Marie Francoise Gladieux nee Lomont) (b. 1842 d. 1922) holds little Manford Gerardot b. 1913 in this family photo. Pictured in back left is Lillian (nee Ternet) Gerardot (b. 1888 d. 1980) and Amelia Rose Ternet (b. 1864 d. 1939). Monroeville, Indiana 1914. See: Amelia rose Gladieux

Allen County Public Library

Ternet Collection TIF

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<p><i>Friends of Besancon.....</i></p>

A Big Thank-you

Donations to BHS: **Judith Schroff** and **Mike Meyers** for Archive pictures

Library Fund: **Charles Keys** and **John & Roseann Schreiber**

Cemetery Project: **Mary Minning**, **Alyce Jane Morow**, and **Rita Stump**

Welcome new Lifetime Members: **Joyce Martin** and **Alma Gevers**

GENEALOGY HUMOR

Submitted by Barb Gorney

Any family tree produces some lemons, some nuts, and a few bad apples.

After 30 days, unclaimed ancestors will be adopted.

Ever find an ancestor HANGING from the family tree?

~~FLOOR: the place for storing your priceless genealogy records.~~

Gene-Allergy: It's a contagious disease but I love it.

Genealogists are time unravelers.

Genealogy is like playing hide and seek: They hide...I seek!

Genealogy: Tracing yourself back to better people.

"Crazy" is a relative term in my family.

A pack rat is hard to live with but makes a fine ancestor.

I want to find ALL of them! So far I only have a few thousand.

I should have asked them BEFORE they died!

I think my ancestors had several "bad heir" days.

I'm always late. My ancestors arrived on the JUNE flower.

Only a genealogist regards a step backwards as progress.

Share your knowledge---it is a way to achieve immortality.

Heredity: Everyone believes in it until their children act like fools!

It's an unusual family that hath neither a lady of the evening nor a thief.

Many a family tree needs pruning.

Shh! Be very, very quiet. . . I'm hunting forebears.

Snobs talk as if they had begotten their own ancestors!

That's strange: half my ancestors are WOMEN!

I'm not sick, I've just got fading genes.

Yester-Year.. . . .copied and submitted by Jane Morow

FATHER J.F. NOLL IN A NEW FIELD Besancon's Pastor enters Missionary Field.

Brilliant Young Priest Assigned to Work of Spreading Catholicity Among the Uninstructed---His Work and Success.

May 22, 1905 Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette

The admirers of the Rev. John F. Noll, of Besancon, will not be surprised to learn that he has been assigned to special missionary work by Bishop Alerding, and will retire from active pastoral duties in the near future. Father Noll's lectures to non-Catholics, delivered at the Cathedral during Lent, attracted wide attention here, and those who listened to his scholarly sermons on doctrinal points and recognized his oratorical powers, looked upon him as a likely priest for the missionary field. His superiors evidently took the same view, and the announcement of his assignment to new duties will not come unexpectedly.

Although one of the youngest priests in the diocese. Father Noll has established a position as one of the most eloquent speakers and thorough students of polemical questions. While he was stationed at Kendallville, his first charge, his first book, "Kind Words From Your Pastor" was published and had a wide sale, while "A Missionary in the family" has gone into many editions and is read all over the United States. The books are of an instructive character, deeply

religious in tone, and like his sermons full of logic and lucid in statement of points of Catholic doctrine and practices. Father Noll will continue to reside at Besancon, but Bishop Alerding will appoint an assistant to take charge of the parish. The bishop was desirous of having Father Noll live in the city, but the young missionary prefers the quiet of the beautiful country parsonage which is more conducive to opportunities for study.

Father Noll is a native of Fort Wayne, being a son of John G. Noll, formerly deputy city comptroller. He was educated at the Cathedral schools and St. Lawrence seminary, Calvary, Wis. And made the theological course at Mt. St. Mary's seminary, Cincinnati.

A Summer Party

August 27, 1912 Fort Wayne News

Miss Isabelle Banet entertained a number of her friends at a picnic supper and dance at Robison park in honor of the Misses Isabell and Maxine Bercot, of Cleveland, O., who are visiting friends in the city. The other guests were the Miss Marguerite Urbine, of this city, and Messrs. Glen Dund Ross, Donald Beswick, Dana Emmons Hall and Franklyn McCrea, all of Cleveland, who motored from that city for a few days visit.

FOR THOSE FEW WHO HAVE NOT YET PAIDED.....

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Payable, first of February

Individual---\$15.00

Family-\$20.00 Lifetime-\$200.00

Send a check Attn:

Treasurer, Besancon Historical Society

15535 Lincoln Hwy East

New Haven, IN 46774

The archives will be open by appointment only

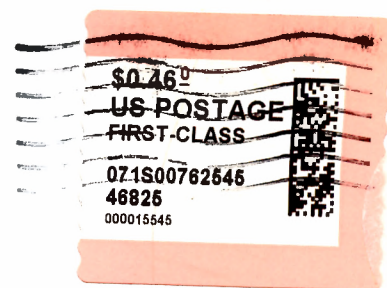
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