



## REDEDICATION OF RESTORED ST. LOUIS BESANCON MARCH 23, 2014



*From the program pamphlet:*

Ever mindful of God's gracious care and concern for all of His people, we, the parish family at St. Louis Besancon Catholic Church, welcome our Chief Shepherd, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, to rededicate our restored parish church to the greater honor and glory of God.

This church restoration project has united our parish family to a deeper understanding and ownership not only of this sacred space, but more importantly to what faith in God required throughout our pilgrimage in life.

We are thankful to Almighty God and those He provided to bring this endeavor to completion, a beautiful edifice, our sacred worship space.

*Father Stephen E. Colchin, Pastor*

**Article of the event on page 3. . . .**

## *President's Message ... Barbara Gorney*

When queries are posted on e-mail, I never know what to expect of the person asking the question on a particular family. The person might be taking a chance on the family name being at Besancon or possible the person has delved into the family history and needs confirmation. The query I will discuss was posted in December 2005! Janet Jewell was interested in the Vinot family and was searching for documentation. After several e-mails I did not hear from Janet until now! I was able to go back to the original correspondence and was surprised at how much time had elapsed. She not only collected a lot of stories, she wrote a book. It is called *Returned From Oblivion: The Story of Jacob Schueler*.

This is some of the information I was able to send to Janet concerning the Vinots'. Claude Joseph Vinot and family immigrated to New Haven, IN in 1851, and he was naturalized in 1852. Since the naturalization was in Fort Wayne, papers were readily available. Also the 1860 census had Joseph Vinot listed and William J. Erickson had given Besancon Historical information on this family. Joseph Vinot's vill was recorded for Jefferson Twp.. I took a picture of Joseph Vinot's tombstone (yes, the stone is inscribed as Joseph) which is in the old cemetery with the church in the background. The date is 1862 on the tombstone. There were several other items in the Besancon records. Also I contacted Gene Yoquelet and he also was able to give Janet information.

What all the above boils down to is that in 2014 I had an e-mail from Janet Jewell that she had written a book based on Jacob Schueler. Jacob married Philomene who was Joseph's daughter. Jacob and Philomene moved to Colorado where Janet lives now. So Janet included the Vinots in her story. What genealogist doesn't love to have all the family information that can be found? Two children of Joseph moved to Kansas before they joined Jacob and Philomene in Colorado. They were Steven and Augustine Vinot.

Janet's book will be added to the archives. She not only has family history, but she included the history for that time. This is like reading a first-hand account of that time with documentation.

I have a copy of the book in which Janet names all the people who helped her in her research. Gene and I have our names in the book. Trading information often pays off with big rewards!

I have been reading this informative and interesting story. It is well written and very descriptive. Even though it is not my family, I have not been able to put the book down. I have learned about Colorado and its beginnings,-- a truly wonderful story.

The old and new cemeteries at Besancon have had the tombstones photographed and can be seen on line. The Mary Penrose Wayne Chapter of The Daughters of the American Revolution has completed this project for Allen County cemeteries. This can be seen on the Allen County Genealogy site: [www.ACGSI.ORG](http://www.ACGSI.ORG) at search, put in Jefferson Twp, and then cemeteries. St. Louis Besancon is listed.

**BARBARA**

## **“Love God, do justice and serve the poor”**

**By Michelle Castleman**

The responsorial Psalm 84 proclaims, “How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, mighty God!” And lovely indeed is the beautifully restored church at St. Louis Besancon.

During the restoration process, this long-awaited day seemed like a distant dream, but on Sunday afternoon, March 23, an overflowing congregation gathered to create another page of history of the parish founded by French immigrants. “For many of us, the privilege of experiencing a historical event like this may only happen once in a lifetime,” explained pastor, Father Stephen Colchin.

In the solemn liturgy, celebrant Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was joined by Father Colchin, father Lourdino Fernandes of St. Rose of Lima, Monroeville, father William Sullivan of St. John the Baptist, New Haven, and Father Kenneth Sarrazine, retired, second parish son who now resides at Saint Anne Home and Retirement Community in Fort Wayne.

In the dimly lit setting, the bishop reminded the faithful that the Catholic Church is built upon the foundation of the Twelve apostles. He continued, “St. Paul wrote in our second reading, that ‘we are members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Himself as the cornerstone.’ This is something we must always remember. We are the living stones of Christ’s Church. The apostles are the foundation stones. The Lord Jesus Christ is the cornerstone! In blessing the renovations of this church building dedicated to the worship of God, we are reminded of the divine constitution of Christ’s Church and that His Church is apostolic. We profess the faith handed down to us by the apostles and their successors, the same faith that was professed by the parishioners of St. Louis Besancon these past 167 years.”

The bishop also prayed that the heavenly patron of the parish, St. Louis, King of France, would intercede for the people of Besancon as they work to extend God’s kingdom in this portion of the vineyard of the Lord. Bishop Rhodes summed up St. Louis’ character by quoting the final words that St. Louis gave his son before he died, “Love God, do justice and serve the poor,” and encouraged the parish to follow their patron’s example.

After the homily, the entire ceremony that followed was full of rich tradition beginning with the Prayer of Dedication and sung litanies.

During the Anointing of the Altar, Bishop Rhoades removed his chasuble and donning a linen gremial, the bishop poured chrism oil on the middle of the table of sacrifice and each of its four corners. He also anointed the walls at appointed locations of the freshly painted interior of the church. This was followed by the incensation of the altar and the church.

After the incensation, the altar was wiped clean by specially chosen ministers, with special sacred cloths that were to be buried or burned, the altar was covered with fine linen, decorated with flowers and candles were arranged. As the candles were lit, the lights of the church were brightened. The Liturgy of the Eucharist followed when the bishop kissed the altar for the first time.

*Continued on page 4. . .*



In his closing remarks, Bishop Rhoades extended his sincere and heartfelt gratitude to Father Colchin for his vision and passion to see the project through. In turn, Father Clochin humbly thanked the bishop for his presence and then his congregation for their generous support of this huge and lengthy undertaking. Father Colchin continued, "This church restoration project has united our parish family to a deeper understanding and ownership, not only of this sacred space, but more importantly to what faith in God requires throughout our pilgrimage in life."

The St. Louis choir closed with "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" resounding from the newly blessed parish walls.

Parishioner John Rorick said the song brought back memories of his youth. "All I could think about was walking out of Mass or Holy Hour as a young boy to the same tune," he fondly recalled

Organist of nearly 50 years, Jane Lomont, could not have been more pleased with the choir at the celebration "The newly turned organ and acoustics are just heavenly," she beamed.

As Father Colchin and Bishop Rhodes greeted parishioners after Mass, the emotional comments of the breathtaking beauty of the building and moving celebration seemed to be unanimously positive from young and old alike. "I cried through the whole Mass," admitted LuAnn Kennerk. Second-grader Ella Beery simply stated, "It was awesome!"

Countless others echoed the same sentiments as they filed over to the parish hall for a potluck dinner. Hundreds gathered for food and fellowship in the same space that had served as their place of worship for the past nine months.

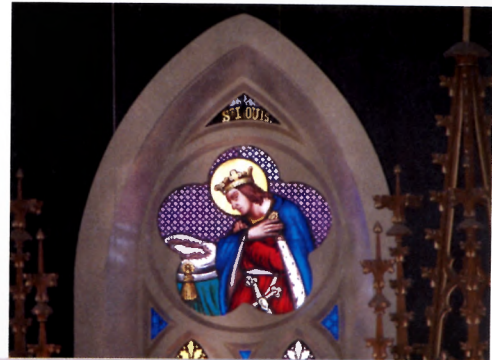
When asked if he ever thought this day would come, Denny Miesle smiled and the mass of faith said, "Of course, I did." Among his many duties during the project, Miesle was the chief engineer for the new altar, trim master and cabinet builder. He spent 10-12 hour days in the church for months during the process. Not willing to take due credit, Miesle summarized, "We are each given gifts and talents, I was just happy to be able to share mine for His greater honor and glory."

Like many in attendance, 11 year old Maggie Castleman's ancestors came to this country from Besancon, France. When asked about her favorite parts of the dedication Mass, she detailed, "I thought it was so cool when the bishop put on the apron and anointed the new altar and I loved how Mrs. Rita (Brueggerman) sang the whole Litany of the Saints."

All in all, it was a fitting finish for all to celebrate the completion of the historical project for the grand, little country church first built in 1871.

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More pictures of restored St. Louis church on page 5.



**Top Left: Front of Alter    Top Right St. Louis IX(above&behind Alter)**  
**Center: Exterior of Church**  
**Lower Left: Fr. Colchin & Bishop Rhoades    Lower Right: Sacred Heart statue**

***Friends of Besancon.....***

**THANKS TO FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

**Donations to the Cemetery Restoration Fund:**

John & Denise Stump, Alma Gevers, Judith Schroff, Ron & Rita Girardot, Rita Scheel, Clara Sarrazine

**Donations to BHS:**

Michael Biesiada, Fr. James Lothamer

**Donations to Archive Library Fund:**

John & Denise Stump (in honor of Rita Mae Stump, nee Sordelet)

John & Roseann Schreiber, Michael & Jane Lomont, Clara Sarrazine

**More Letters of thanks to Julie Nolan and Gene Yoquelet** for giving 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students tour of BHS Archives, cemetery, and church-Oct 11, 2013.

Dear Mr. Yoquelet and Mrs. Nolan, October 17, 2013

Thank you very much for teaching us about some of the history of St. Louis. I really enjoyed learning about my ancestors. The tour of the Old Cemetery was really interesting. I thought it was great to learn that there are archives really close to us. Now I know where to go when I want to learn about my family's history. I loved the rooms upstairs! Thanks again for the wonderful tour. Sincerely, **Emily Oberley**

Dear Mr. Yoquelet and Mrs. Nolan,

Thank you for showing my class and I the archives and the cemetery! The scavenger hunt was very fun and I realized there are a lot of Lomonts. My Mom was a Lomont before she was married. The last time I got to see the upstairs at the convent was about 3-4 years ago for a family reunion. Now that I am older, I thought it was really interesting. Also getting to see my great-grandma's room was really neat and got me more curious to learn more about my family history. Thanks again for the great experience and helping me learn more about St. Louis Church history. Sincerely, **Grace Castleman**

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

**All Officers are on the Internet**

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**LOOK FOR BHS ON INTERNET**

[www.Besanconhistory.org](http://www.Besanconhistory.org)



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

## OBITUARIES

### Roy

Ft. Wayne News, April 25, 1914

Mrs. Frances G. Roy, aged eighty-six years, died at 1:18 this morning at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Henry Dierstein, of 1118 Jones street, with whom she had been making her home for the past seventeen years. The deceased was born in France and was married to Francis A. Roy in the old country, who preceded her in death thirty-nine years ago. Shortly after marriage they came to this country and resided on a farm until the husband's death. . . . Surviving she leaves the following three daughters: Mrs. Henry Dierstein, at whose home she died: Mrs. Albert Gessler and Mrs. Frank Manuel, all of whom live in this city; three sons--- C.A., of this city; Louis, of Baldwin, Ind., and J.J. Roy, of Bluffton, Ind.; three sisters---Mrs. J. B. Beugnot and Mrs. A.B. Beugnot, both of Monroeville, Ind., and Mrs. August Lanternier, of this city; two brothers---Jule Girardot, of Jefferson township, and Frank Girardot, of Denver, Colo. Thirty-two grandchildren and twenty-six great-grandchildren also survive. Funeral services will be held Monday from the residence at 8:30 o'clock and at 9 o'clock from the Cathedral. Interment will be made in the Catholic cemetery at New Haven.

### KLINKE

Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette June 28, 1905

Mrs. Catherine Kline, the wife of John Kline, died at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at her home, 1123 Kinnaird avenue, of paralysis. She was stricken several days ago. Mrs.

Kline, who was fifty-four years of age, was a native of Allen county. She was the daughter of the late Joseph Miller and was born at Sheldon, February 4, 1851. She was a member of St. Paul's Catholic church, and of the Rosary society of that congregation and she was a most estimable woman. She leaves her husband and these children: Edward H. Kline, a machinist at the Pennsylvania shops, John and Charles Kline, Mrs. J.W. Lane, Mrs. P.G. Monok and Mrs. J. Wiegand, all of Fort Wayne. Other relatives include the following brothers and sisters: Joseph Miller, of Fort Wayne: Mrs. H. Sack, Hessen Cassel; Mrs. F. Fretburger, Fort Wayne: Mrs. George Munch, Monroeville; Jacob Miller, Hoagland; Mrs. Charles Munch, Arcola, and Mrs. H. Shives, Fort Wayne.

The funeral services will be held Friday at 8:30 a.m. at the house and at 9 o'clock at the St. Paul Catholic church.

### SARRAZIN

Ft Wayne Sentinel, July 31, 1899

Mrs. Catherine E. Sarrazin, wife of Julius Sarrazin, died shortly after noon Sunday at her home, 27 Grand street, from a complication of diseases. Mar. Sarrazin was fifty years of age and a prominent member of Degree of Honor No 2 AOUW Surviving her are the husband, who is employed at the electric works, and one daughter, Mrs. Laura B. Ham. The funeral services will be held on Wednesday afternoon from the residence, and at 2 o'clock from the Baptist church, under the auspices of the lodge.

***FOR THOSE FEW WHO HAVE NOT YET PAID. . . . .***

**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*

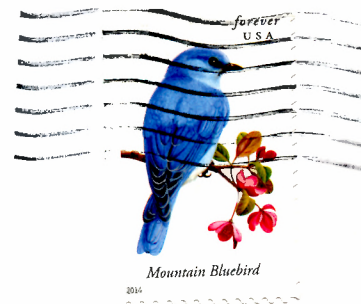
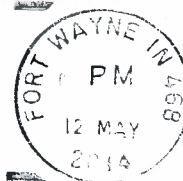
*Please Call*

Barb Gorney (260)490-6725

Or

Gene Yoquelet (260)622-4067

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