

**“PIONEER” IRISH PRIESTS
OF THE EARLY CLEVELAND CATHOLIC DIOCESE**

- Early Irish-born priests and founding pastors ordained by Bishop Rappe and Bishop Gilmour, many of whom are buried in St. John Cemetery. Several priests of other nationalities who are buried in St. John Cemetery are appended.
- Compiled by Margaret Lynch, PhD., Executive Director of the Irish American Archives Society.
- Drawn from contemporary newspaper accounts and profiles contained in *A history of Catholicity in northern Ohio and the diocese of Cleveland from 1749 to December 31, 1900*, Vol. 2. Edited by Michael W. Carr. Cleveland: Press of J. B. Savage, 1903.
- Special thanks to Phil Haas, Director of Archives, Diocese of Cleveland, for researching and providing photographs.

Pioneer Irish and Irish American Priests Profiled:

Rev. John P. Carroll	Rev. Thomas F. Halley	Rev. Eugene O’Callaghan
Rev. James Conlan	Rev. Edward Hannin	Rev. Francis J. O’Neill
Rev. James Vincent Conlan	Rev John Hannon	Rev. James O’Reilly
Rev. Thomas. J. Conlan	Rev. Timothy M. Mahony	Rev. Mathew A. Scanlon
Rev. John Dillon	Rev. James P. Maloney	Rev. Alexander R. Sidley
Rev. Joseph F. Gallagher	Rev. James Monahan	Rt. Rev. Mgr. Thomas P. Thorpe
Rev. Walter J. Gibbons	Rev. William McMahan	

Addendum: Pioneer Priests of other nationalities buried in St. John Cemetery

Rev. Joseph Brunkala	Rev. Augustus Gerardin	Rev. Francis Westerholt
Rev. Alexis Caron	Rev John Malecha	
Rev. John Daudet	Rev. Andrew Sauvadet	

Background: The Formation of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland

Although the settlement of Cleveland was surveyed in 1796, Catholics first came to the area in significant numbers when Irish workers arrived in 1825 to begin construction on the Ohio and Erie Canal. Itinerant missionary priests served this transitory population at first, sent by Bishop John Purcell from the earlier-established diocese of Cincinnati. Since some of the Irish canal workers chose to put down roots in Cleveland and German Catholic immigrants were also beginning to arrive in the city, Cleveland was assigned its first resident priest, Rev. John Dillon, in 1835. In 1847, the diocese of Cleveland was formed, stretching along the northern edge of Ohio, from Toledo in the west to Youngstown in the east. The French-born Louis Amadeus Rappe was appointed to serve as the first Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland. Bishop Rappe recruited several French missionary priests to the new diocese. But, not surprisingly, many Irish-born priests were also among the ranks of the earliest diocesan priests.

Some had already been ordained in Cincinnati by Bishop Purcell; others were drawn to the fast-growing diocese to study in the seminary founded by Bishop Rappe and were ordained in Cleveland. Sharing ethnic origins with their parishioners, many of the early Irish-born priests were in sympathy with the immigrant propensity to want to form “nationality” parishes. Some of the stronger-minded among them were often in tension with Bishop Rappe (1847-1870) and his successor, the Scottish-born Bishop Richard Gilmour (1872-1891), over such topics as parish assignments and the purview of pastors. Led chiefly by the Rev. Eugene O’Callaghan, a group of Irish-born priests formed a study group in the 1860s and 1870s to engage in continuing education on topics of theology and canon law.

Many of the founding pastors of the earliest parishes in the Cleveland diocese were Irish-born or Irish-American priests.

Note: The spelling of names was not standardized until the early 20th century; in the following document there may be variations in the way names are spelled when information derives from different sources. For the entry name for each profile, I chose the most common spelling of the name.

A photograph that most likely represents the study group of Irish priests, as assembled in 1871, has been reproduced by Nelson J. Callahan and William F. Hickey in their volume, *Irish Americans and Their Communities of Cleveland* (Cleveland State University, Cleveland Ethnic Heritage Studies, 1978), p. 157. (Photo courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.)



Irish-born priests in the Diocese of Cleveland, 1871

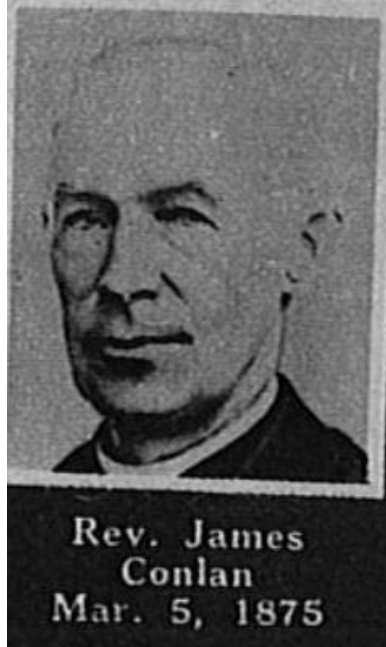
Top row: Thos M. Smyth, Ed. J. Mears, Henry Brown, Walter Gibbons. John P. Carrol, Thos. F. Hally, [James] O'Reilly

Bottom row: John Hannon, Robt. A. Sidley [or A.R. Sidley], Eugene M. O'Callahan, James Monahan, James P. Maloney



Rev. John P. Carroll

He was born in New York state in 1839. He studied at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, then came to Cleveland to finish his studies for the priesthood and was ordained by Bishop Rappe in 1862. Although he served initially as an assistant in the Cathedral Parish in Cleveland, he served primarily in parishes in other areas of the diocese—Defiance, Fremont, Ravenna, Canton, and East Liverpool. He died in Cleveland in St. Vincent Charity Hospital in 1894, but he was buried in East Liverpool. He was included in an 1871 photograph of Irish-born priests in the Cleveland diocese. *Detail from Study Group portrait.*




Rev. James
Conlan
Mar. 5, 1875


Rev. James Conlan

Fr Conlan was born in 1801 in County Leitrim, Ireland. He began his studies for the priesthood in Ireland but was ordained in Cincinnati in 1834 by Bishop Purcell. Stationed at first in Mahoning Valley, he was sent to Cleveland in 1850, where Bishop Rappe appointed him a Vicar General. In 1853, he was assigned to serve as the first resident pastor of St. Patrick’s Parish, during the first year of its founding. As pastor, he improved the original parish church, built two school buildings, and started construction on a new church. He could often be found officiating at mass of St. Patrick’s Day or speaking at St. Patrick’s Day banquets. According to his obituary in the Plain Dealer in 1875, he was one of the oldest priests in the diocese at the time of his death. He was, the obituary claimed, a “warm hearted, genial, kindly disposed gentleman, an earnest, zealous priest and his memory will be deeply cherished by all who ever knew him.” His funeral procession from the Cathedral to St. John Cemetery was so long that the front of the line arrived at the cemetery, three miles away, before the end of the line had left the church. He requested that the remains of Fr. John Dillon, Cleveland’s first resident priest, be reinterred with his own remains at St. John. A monument, carved by Mr. J.K. O’Reilly, marks his burial, along with that of Fr. Dillon and of Fr. Alexis Caron, another early diocesan priest. *Photo courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.*

Rev. James Vincent Conlan

He was usually called “Fr. Vincent” to distinguish him from his older relative, Fr. James Conlan. Fr. Vincent was variously described as the nephew or, more frequently, a cousin of Fr.

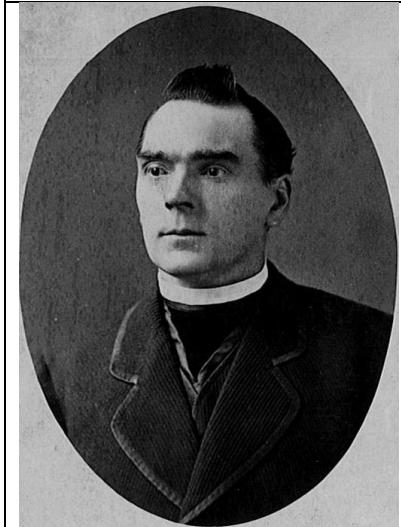
	<p>James Conlan. He was born in 1820 in County Leitrim, Ireland. He immigrated to the United States in 1849 and was ordained in 1847 in Cincinnati. Early assignments brought him to Canton and Sandusky. In 1855, he was brought to Cleveland to assist Fr. James Conlan in the administration of St. Patrick Parish. Fr. Vincent became pastor of St. Patrick in 1875, after the death of Fr. James. He traveled to Ireland in 1876, in the company of two other priests from the Cleveland diocese, Fr. Walter Gibbons and Fr. Thomas Hally. But in 1877, he asked for a lighter assignment due to ill health and was reassigned to Fremont, Ohio. He died in Cleveland, in St. Vincent Charity Hospital, in 1883. According to his obituary in the Plain Dealer in 1883, he “excelled as a pulpit orator, having a full, clear and rich voice.” He was said to have been a “genial” favorite with children. He is buried in St. John Cemetery with two sisters, Miss Bridget A. Conlan, who died in 1914, and Mrs. Katherine A. Dempsey, who died in 1922.</p>
	<p>Rev. Thomas. J. Conlan A nephew of Fr. James Conlan, Fr. T.J. Conlan was born in 1846 Columbiana County in Ohio. He was ordained by Bishop Rappe in Cleveland in 1869. After ordination, he taught philosophy at St. Mary’s Seminary and served as an assistant at the Cathedral Parish. In 1873, he became secretary to Bishop Richard Gilmour, shortly after the new bishop’s arrival in Cleveland in 1872. However, he was forced to resign in 1874 due to ill health and suffered from consumption for five years until his death, at his father’s house in St. Patrick Parish, in 1879. His obituary in the Plain Dealer in 1879, credited him with being “a kind confessor and an excellent spiritual advisor.” He is buried in St. John Cemetery. <i>Photo courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.</i></p>
	<p>Rev. John Dillon Fr. Dillon was born in 1807 in County Leitrim, Ireland. He was ordained by Bishop Purcell in Cincinnati in 1834, on the same day as his classmate and friend, Fr. James Conlan, who was also born in County Leitrim. After serving briefly in the Cincinnati area, he was sent to Cleveland in 1835 to serve as the first resident priest in the growing town. Before Fr. Dillon arrived in Cleveland, Catholics in the area had only occasional contact with traveling missionary priests. Fr. Dillon had to say mass at first in borrowed or rented space in commercial buildings. He set about raising funds for constructing the church, traveling to New York to plead for donations from more well-established congregations. He did not live to see</p>

	<p>the groundbreaking for the church, which would be dedicated in 1840 and would become known as St. Mary's of the Flats. He died in 1836 at the age of 29. He was buried in the Erie Street Cemetery because there was no Catholic cemetery in the city at that time. He was reinterred in the Cathedral when it was dedicated in 1852 and was finally laid to rest in St. John Cemetery in 1875, with, and at the request of, his friend and fellow priest, Fr. James Conlan. According to Harvey Rice, a prominent pioneering Cleveland citizen who helped to organize the public school system, Fr. Dillon "was a scholarly gentleman, polished in manner and an eloquent preacher."</p>
	<p>Rev. Joseph F. Gallagher Fr. Gallagher was born in County Mayo, Ireland, in 1836 and came to Cleveland with his older brothers at an early age in 1847. He studied for the priesthood in both Cleveland and Loretto, Pennsylvania, and was ordained in Cleveland in 1861. His early assignments included stints in Mansfield, Wooster, and Toledo, as well as a brief assignment of a few months in 1870 at the Cathedral Parish in Cleveland. In 1870, he was made pastor of Holy Rosary Church in Newburgh, which would later change its name, with a building of a new church, to Holy Name in 1881. Fr. Gallagher remained pastor in Newburgh until his death in 1886. He was active in Irish societies and also in Father Mathew's Temperance Society. According to his obituary in the Plain Dealer in 1886, he was "zealous in the cause of temperance and education." Catholic total abstinence societies from around the city and the Hibernian Rifles chartered a special train from Cleveland to Newburgh for Fr. Gallagher's funeral. He is buried in St. John Cemetery with his mother and nearby other members of his extended family. <i>Photo courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.</i></p>



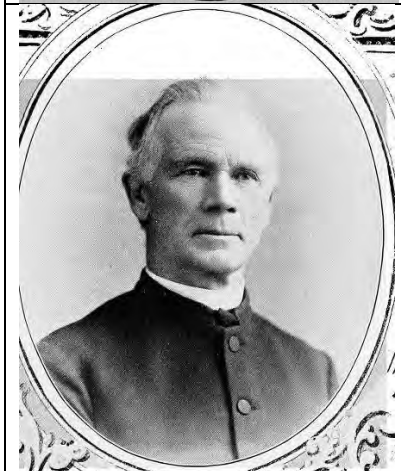
Rev. Walter J. Gibbons

Fr. Gibbons was born to Irish parents in Cleveland in 1844. He studied for the priesthood in Cleveland and was ordained by Bishop Rappe in 1867. At various times he taught at St. Mary's Seminary in Cleveland and served at St. Augustine Parish in Cleveland from 1874-75 and 1877-78. He traveled to Ireland in 1876 with Fr. James Vincent Conlan and Fr. Thomas F. Hally. Most of his assignments were outside the Cleveland area, in Maumee Valley, Youngstown, Ravenna, Kent, Toledo, and Bellevue, where he was responsible for building a parish church. He had a special interest in defending Catholic schools and came to Cleveland to preach funeral orations for Fr. James Conlan of St. Patrick Parish and Fr. James Monahan of St. Bridget Parish. He is included in an 1871 photograph of "Irish-born" priests in the diocese of Cleveland. He is buried in St. John Cemetery, in a plot with his parents and several siblings. *Photo courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.*



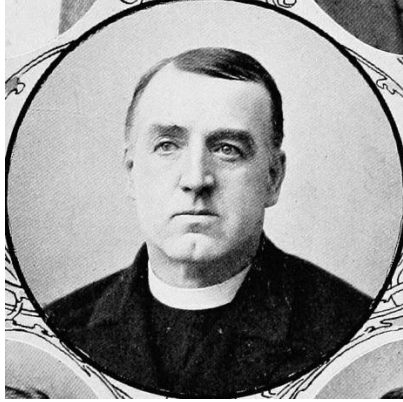
Rev. Thomas F. Halley

He was born in County Wexford, Ireland, in 1833. He began his studies for the priesthood in Ireland, but continued his studies in Cincinnati and Cleveland. He was ordained by Bishop Rappe in 1860 and briefly taught at the seminary in Cleveland. Other assignments took him to Toledo, Grafton, and Norwalk. He is included in an 1871 photograph of "Irish-born" priests in the diocese of Cleveland. *Photo courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.*



Rev. Edward Hannin

He was born in 1826 in County Sligo, Ireland. One of 8 children, he received his early education from his parents, and one of his brothers became a priest in Ireland. He took the temperance pledge in Ireland in 1839. He immigrated to the United States in 1849, beginning his studies for the priesthood in Buffalo. He didn't have the finances to complete his studies on his own, but come to Cleveland with a letter of introduction to Bishop Rappe, who was able to help him to complete his studies in Cleveland. Fr. Hannin was ordained in either 1855 or 1856 and assisted Bishop Rappe at the Cathedral and as the bishop's secretary until 1862 when

	<p>he was sent to Toledo to organize St. Patrick Parish there. Fr. Hannin returned to Cleveland temporarily, from 1870-72, to take charge of the Cleveland diocese between Bishop Rappe's resignation in 1870 and Bishop Gilmour's appointment in 1872. Otherwise, he spent the bulk of his career at St. Patrick parish in Toledo, where he was responsible for building two churches. He came to Cleveland from time to time throughout the years, to participate in St. Patrick's Day activities or to attend funerals and other occasions relating to fellow priests, such as Fr. T.P. Thorpe's elevation to the rank of monsignor. At time of Fr. Hannin's death, in 1902, in Toledo, he was one of few remaining pioneer priests of Bishop Rappe's time. He was known particularly for his devotion to and activism on behalf of the temperance movement. <i>Photo from A history of Catholicity.</i></p>
	<p>Rev John Hannon Fr. Hannon was born in County Limerick in 1842. His father was a postmaster and school teacher; after his father's death in 1852, Fr. Hannon's mother immigrated to the United States with her seven surviving children, settling in Cleveland. The children grew up to include a school teacher, a doctor, civil war veterans, an Ursuline nun, and a priest—Fr. John Hannon. Fr. Hannon was ordained by Bishop Rappe in 1865; he had various assignments throughout the diocese, in Defiance and elsewhere. His last assignment in 1896 was as an assistant at St. Colman Parish in Cleveland. He died at St. John's Hospital in Cleveland in 1896 and is buried in his family plot in Calvary Cemetery. He is included in an 1871 photograph of "Irish-born" priests in the diocese of Cleveland. <i>Photo from A history of Catholicity.</i></p>



Bill & Overton
386 FRANK ST. Mahony, T. M. CLEVELAND, O.

Rev. Timothy M. Mahony

Fr. Mahony was born in Tipperary in Ireland in 1836. He came to the United States with his family at a very young age. He was ordained by Bishop Rappe in Cleveland in 1863 and was assigned to the Cathedral Parish until 1866, when he was sent to Niles and then Akron. He was called back to Cleveland in 1880 to succeed Fr. Eugene O’Callaghan as pastor of St. Patrick Parish on Bridge Avenue, when O’Callaghan was charged with organizing the new parish of St. Colman out of the western portion of St. Patrick’s. Known as a prudent administrator, Fr. Mahony finished the construction of the “new” parish church on Bridge Avenue and worked to eliminate the parish’s debt. He was active in Irish and temperance societies. He died suddenly in 1889 and is buried in St. John Cemetery. *Photo courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.*



REV. JAMES P. MALONEY.

Rev. James P. Maloney

Fr. Maloney was born in about 1829 in County Tipperary in Ireland. He studied for the priesthood in Cleveland, where his classmates included Fathers Edward Hannin, Eugene O’Callaghan, and Mathew Scanlan. He was ordained by Bishop Rappe in 1859. He served in Defiance and Alliance before being asked to come back to Cleveland to organize St. Malachi Parish in 1865. While he was raising funds to build the church, in 1866, thieves robbed him of receipts from a fair. He nonetheless persisted and built the parish “from the ground up,” as his obituary in the Plain Dealer claimed in 1903. He oversaw construction of the church, which was completed in 1868, a school building on Pearl Street in 1871, a parish house in 1878, and a second school building in 1885. He kept the parish free of debt, and it had grown to encompass 3000 families by the early 1900s. At the time of his death, in 1903, he was the oldest serving priest in the Cleveland diocese and one of the last to have been ordained by Bishop Rappe. He was active in Irish societies and was known for his emphasis on education, proud that 50 parish students had become teachers. He is included in an 1871 photograph of “Irish-born” priests in the diocese of Cleveland and is buried in St. John Cemetery. *Photo in the Plain Dealer.*



Rev. James Monahan

Fr. Monahan was born in County Sligo, in Ireland, in 1822. He immigrated to Cleveland in 1847 and was the first priest to be ordained by Bishop Rappe. Fr. Monahan's unstinting devotion during a cholera epidemic in Sandusky in 1849 endeared him to his parishioners there. He served in many places throughout the diocese over the years, including Norwalk, Bellevue, and Niles. In Cleveland he was pastor of St. Bridget Parish for five years and also served briefly at Holy Rosary (later Holy Name) in Newburgh. He is included in an 1871 photograph of "Irish-born" priests in the diocese of Cleveland. He died in 1884 in Niles, as reported in the Plain Dealer, "a man of kindly, genial and generous disposition, full of genuine Irish wit." He is said to be buried in St. John Cemetery. *Detail from Study Group portrait.*



Rev. William McMahan

Fr. McMahan was born in County Wicklow, in Ireland in 1847 and came with his parents to Cleveland in 1850. He was ordained a priest in Cleveland in 1872, and his early assignments were in Ottawa, Wood, and Sandusky counties. In 1874, he came back to Cleveland to serve at the Cathedral and was appointed pastor of St. Bridget Parish later that year. He was a vigorous defender of the Catholic Church and particularly of the value of Catholic education. His sermons on a wide variety of topics were reported on in the secular press of the day, and he was appointed editor of the Catholic Universe in 1899. He joined the Bishop's Council in 1903, during Bishop Horstmann's tenure. He was involved in a number of Irish and temperance societies. Called upon to be a builder and a man of business, as many early pastors were, he unfortunately attracted unwanted attention when a construction company he had dealings with was implicated in a fraudulent loan scheme. He had to step down as pastor of St. Bridget Parish in 1909 and was reassigned to St. Patrick West Park. Fr. McMahan died in 1915 and is buried in Calvary Cemetery. *Photo courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.*

**Rev. Eugene O'Callaghan**

Fr. O'Callaghan was born in County Cork, in Ireland, in 1831. He began his studies for the priesthood in Ireland and, after immigrating, attended the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. He was ordained by Bishop Rappe in Cleveland in 1859 or 1860. He organized parishes and built churches in several locations in the Mahoning Valley, in Youngstown, Niles, and Warren. As the diocese of Cleveland transitioned from the missionary phase of its early formation in 1847, Fr. O'Callaghan clashed with Bishop Rappe about the formation of nationality parishes, the transfer of priests, and the autonomy of pastors. In the 1860s and 1870s, Fr. O'Callaghan frequently convened a group of like-minded Irish-born priests to engage in continuing education on topics of theology and canon law, and he began to submit articles about canon law under a pseudonym to the New York Freeman's Journal. In 1877, Bishop Gilmour brought Fr. O'Callaghan to Cleveland to take over the administration of the large and densely populated St. Patrick Parish and negotiated with the pastor to organize a new parish, St. Colman, out of the western portion of St. Patrick Parish. Fr. O'Callaghan oversaw the completion of St. Patrick Church, which had been begun by Fr. James Conlan and Fr. J. Vincent Conlan, then in 1880 he set about to plan and raise funds for the imposing St. Colman Church. Fr. O'Callaghan died in 1901. A champion of Catholic education, and active in Irish and temperance societies, he was honored by the participation of 100 priests at his funeral mass. The Plain Dealer noted at the time that he was "one of the oldest and one of the most prominent Catholic clergymen in the Cleveland diocese." He is included in an 1871 photograph of "Irish-born" priests in the diocese of Cleveland (which very likely represents a gathering of his study group) and is buried in St. John Cemetery. *Detail from Study Group portrait.*



E. Decker Cleveland, O.
O'Neill, Francis J.

Rev. Francis J. O'Neill

Fr. Francis J. O'Neill was born in County Derry, in Ireland, in 1852. He studied for the priesthood in Cleveland and was ordained by Bishop Gilmour in 1878. Assignments included Kent and Van Wert, Ohio. In Cleveland, he served at Holy Name in Newburgh from 1879-81. He was appointed pastor of St. Mary's in Berea in 1886 and served there until his death in 1903. He is buried in St. John Cemetery. *Photo courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.*



H. J. Hughes Toledo, O.
O'Reilly, James

Rev. James O'Reilly

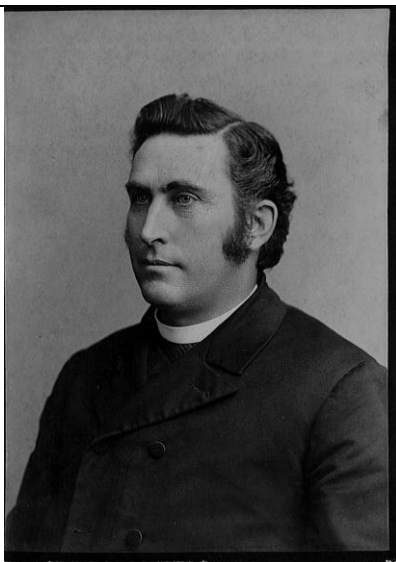
Fr. O'Reilly was born in County Longford, in Ireland, in 1841. He was ordained by Bishop Rappe in 1866. After serving for several years at the Cathedral Parish in Cleveland, and briefly in Lima, he was appointed the first pastor of St. Columbkille Parish in Cleveland in 1871. But the parish was disbanded a year later. Fr. O'Reilly was reassigned to Toledo in 1872, where he served until his death in 1885 after a long illness. He is included in an 1871 photograph of "Irish-born" priests in the diocese of Cleveland. *Photo courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.*



G. DECKER, Scanlon, M. A. Cleveland, O.

Rev. Mathew A. Scanlon

Fr. Scanlon was born to Irish parents in 1830 in Huntington, Pennsylvania. He began his studies for the priesthood in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, but was ordained by Bishop Rappe in Cleveland in 1859. Fr. Eugene O'Callaghan, Fr. James P. Maloney, and Fr. Edward Hannin were among his classmates in the seminary. After ordination, he served first in the Cathedral Parish in Cleveland. Subsequent assignments took him to Niles and to Akron, where he built St. Vincent De Paul Church. In 1880, he was appointed pastor of St. Edward Parish in Cleveland to take charge of building a new church. Although he is occasionally mentioned in newspaper accounts of the day as being involved in Irish and other community activities, his Plain Dealer obituary notes that he was very focused on the care of his own parish. He died in 1899 after being ill for a year. He is buried at Calvary Cemetery. *Photo courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.*



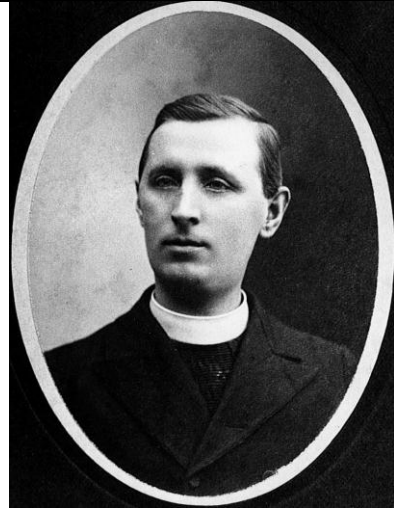
Rev. Alexander R. Sidley

Fr. Sidley was born in Geauga County in 1842. He was ordained by Bishop Rappe in Cleveland in 1865. He took assignments in Niles, Grafton, and Lima. In 1876, he was called back to Cleveland to complete the building of the church and parish house for Immaculate Conception parish in Cleveland, where he served as pastor until his death in 1893. Of Irish ancestry, he was active in Irish and temperance societies. His obituary in the Plain Dealer praised him as "a splendid business manager, an able preacher, a kindly gentleman, an earnest priest." He is buried in St. John Cemetery. *Photo courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.*

**Rt. Rev. Mgr. Thomas P. Thorpe**

Monsignor Thorpe was born near Dublin, Ireland, in 1838. He began his studies in Ireland but finished them in Cleveland, where he was ordained by Bishop Rappe in 1861. He was dispatched in his early years to Toledo, the Cathedral Parish in Cleveland, and Norwalk before his appointment as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Cleveland in 1870. He initiated the building of a new church in his six years as pastor, but was then transferred to the Cathedral Parish where he served as pastor from 1876 to 1893. After the death of Fr. Sidley in 1893, Monsignor Thorpe returned to Immaculate Conception, where he remained pastor until his death in 1907. Thorpe served as a member of the Bishop's Council for 27 years, under three bishops—Louis Amadeus Rappe, Richard Gilmour, and Ignatius Frederick Horstmann. He was elevated to the rank of Monsignor in 1891 and was named a Prelate of the Papal Household in 1895. He promoted the launching of a Catholic newspaper, the *Catholic Universe*, in the Cleveland diocese and served as its editor for three years. He was prominent in Irish societies and causes across the city and in temperance activities. The *Plain Dealer* paid tribute to him at the time of his death in 1907 after a lingering illness as “one of the giants of the constructive period of the community's growth as a city, having been concerned not only with its moral welfare and spiritual progress, but with its commercial advancement and the furtherance of its material greatness.” He shepherded major building projects at both the Cathedral and Immaculate Conception Parishes and was well known as a “magnetic orator” in the pulpit and at such civic and community events as the city of Cleveland's centennial celebration. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery. *Photo from A history of Catholicity.*

“Pioneer” Priests of nationalities other than Irish who are buried in St. John Cemetery



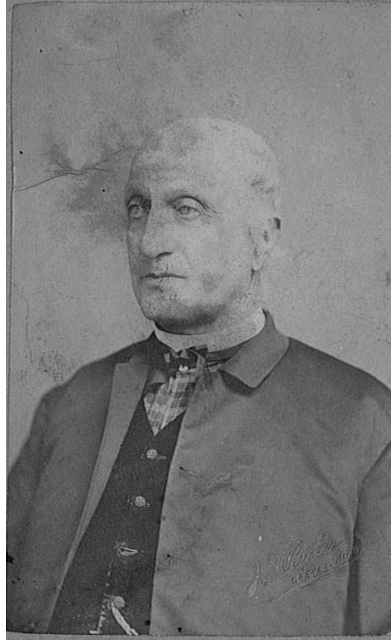
Rev. Joseph Brunkala

Fr. Joseph Brunkala was born in 1868 in Hungary. He was ordained in 1892 in Hungary and came to the United States in 1898. He was assigned to St. Elizabeth, a Hungarian nationality parish in Cleveland, but also helped to organize Hungarian congregations in Fairport Harbor and Lorain. He died in 1901 and is buried in St. John Cemetery. *Photo courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.*



Rev. Alexis Caron

Fr. Caron was born in 1802 in the district of Arras, France, and was ordained in France in 1827. A friend and colleague of Bishop Rappe’s in France, he came to Cleveland in 1848, at the invitation of Bishop Rappe, to establish a seminary in Cleveland. He served as the superior of the seminary in Cleveland until 1856 and became one of Bishop Rappe’s Vicar Generals, taking charge of the diocese whenever the bishop, his fellow countryman, had to be absent from the diocese. Fr. Caron also served in Sandusky, Painesville, and Ashtabula. He was a spiritual advisor to Ursuline Sisters, who arrived in Cleveland in 1850, and he also helped the Ursulines to establish convents in Toledo and Tiffin. For the last two years of his life, illness confined him to Charity Hospital, where he also served as chaplain when he was physically able. When he died in 1873, the Plain Dealer claimed, “Rev. Father Caron, was intimately known by all the old Catholics of Cleveland and by his kindly disposition as a man and active zeal as a priest had warmly endeared himself to all who ever knew him.” In St. John Cemetery, he shares a grave monument with Fr. John Dillon, the first resident priest of the Cleveland diocese, and Fr. James Conlan, the first resident pastor of St. Patrick Parish. *Photo from A history of Catholicity.*



Rev. John Daudet

Fr. John Daudet was born in 1810 in France. He was ordained in France in 1835 and came to the Cleveland diocese in about 1869. He was briefly pastor of the precursor to Holy Name Parish. Then he served as pastor in Grafton, Ohio, from 1870 until the time of his death in 1892. The Plain Dealer identified him as the “oldest priest in the United States” at the time of his death. *Photo courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.*



Rev. Augustus Gerardin

Fr. Gerardin was born in 1844 in Alsace Lorraine. He began his studies for the priesthood in France. His parents died, and he joined a mission group of seven French priests immigrating to the United States in 1864. He completed his studies in Cleveland and was ordained in 1867. He served first as chaplain at Charity Hospital. Assignments took him to Sandusky and Galion. But he returned to Cleveland in 1878 to be pastor of St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish. He could preach in French, English, and German. He was known as an excellent singer, with a particular knowledge of Gregorian chant. He had special permission to wear a full beard because of bronchial troubles. He was very active in temperance societies and could often be found attending events at parishes across the diocese. He died in 1903.

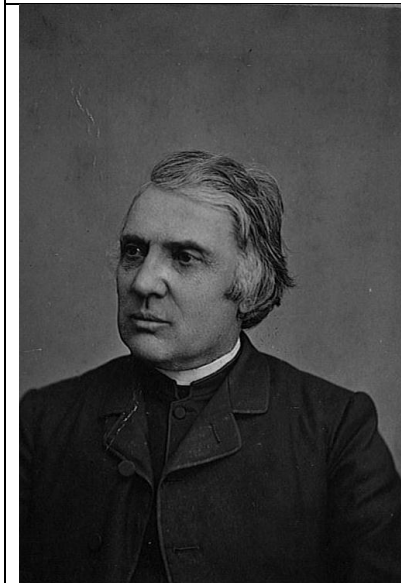
Photo courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.

Rev. Gerardin, Augustine
Krumm...
Cleveland, O



Rev John Malecha

Fr. John Malecha was born in Bohemia in about 1861. He attended college in Bohemia but came to Cleveland to study for the priesthood. In 1881 he was ordained by Bishop Gilmour. He was sent first to Elmore Ohio, but in 1888 was assigned to St. Wenceslas in Cleveland. In 1901, he was asked to organize St. Adalbert, which, at the time of his death in 1904, had become the largest Bohemian church in the city. His Plain Dealer obituary declared him to be “widely known” and “a particularly kind-hearted man” who was “greatly loved” by his parishioners. *Photo courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.*



Rev. Andrew Sauvadet

Fr. Andrew Sauvadet was born in 1833 in France. He was ordained in Montreal in 1859 and came to Cleveland in 1865. He was first appointed to Immaculate Conception Parish, where he built a school. From 1870 to 1878, he served as the first resident pastor at Annunciation Parish. He also served in Toledo for a number of years. He had been ill for several years, when he died at St. Alexis Hospital in 1903. *Photo courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.*



Rev. Francis Westerholt

Fr. Francis Westerholt was born in Westphalia in Germany in 1827. He came to the United States at an early age and studied for the priesthood in Cleveland. He was ordained by Bishop Rappe in 1855. He was sent to Defiance, Ohio, and had missionary duties in an area covering three counties. In 1868, he was appointed pastor of St. Peter Parish in Cleveland. He served as one of Bishop Rappe’s Vicar Generals and also as a member of the bishop’s council under both Bishop Gilmour and Bishop Horstmann. He was known to his contemporaries as a powerful speaker. When he died in 1896, the Plain Dealer praised him as “a man of great human sympathy.” *Photo from A history of Catholicity.*

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