

Myer Kaufman

Saint Basil's Parish

1838 * 1938

THE REVEREND FRANCIS E. TOURSCHER, O.S.A.
VILLANOVA, PENNSYLVANIA



FATHER XAVIER ALOYSIUS KAIER

Rector of Saint Basil's: 1863-1921

Born 1837 + Died 1921

Saint Basil's

Dushore, Pennsylvania

DURING ONE HUNDRED YEARS

1838 - 1938

BY

REVEREND FRANCIS E. TOURSCHER, O. S. A.



REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION. FROM
THE RECORDS OF THE AMERICAN
CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PHILADELPHIA :: PENNSYLVANIA
MARCH NUMBER, 1938

SAINT BASIL'S, DUSHORE, PENNSYLVANIA, DURING
ONE HUNDRED YEARS, 1838-1938

The planting of the Faith and the beginnings of Catholic life within the present limits of the diocese of Scranton take us back to the years of the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The first two Catholic settlements in this section of Pennsylvania are, one in the vicinity of Silver Lake and Saint Joseph's in Susquehanna County, the other on Loyalsock Creek in Sullivan County, now Saint Basil's in Dushore. Both these settlements are earlier than the anthracite mining and the logging, lumbering and tanning industries, and transportation which gave origin and development to the greater number of parishes in the later history of the diocese.

The Catholics who first came to the frontiers in this section of the State came evidently prepared to live from the products of the soil. There was no other visible means to sustain human life. The land, they held, must be made to yield a living for themselves and their families. From the few facts that can be gathered now about the aims and the plans of these early settlers—they must have had plans to live—it is evident, I think, that there was a generous trust in God's Providence, of course; but there was also an element of courage, of perseverance and thrift that succeeded in the face of difficulties, and that won from the soil, not a wage, but a living for themselves and their descendents.

The sources of information for this brief sketch of Saint Basil's are: first—THE DIARY OF BISHOP FRANCIS PATRICK KENRICK - 1830-1851. Second—THE PARISH RECORDS OF BAPTISMS AND MARRIAGES - Third - A Sketch of the Rem-

iniscences of Father Kaier, I prepared for the Catholic Light of Scranton, and published in 1916. Fourth—Some facts of tradition gathered in conversations with Father Kaier in the later years of his life and with descendants of early settlers in the parish and its missions.

The first reference to the Catholic settlement on "Loyalsock Creek" made in the Diary of Bishop Kenrick is under date of the thirteenth day of September, 1836. After noting the fact that on that day he had confirmed about fifteen persons in the Church of St. Joseph, near Milton, the Bishop's record continues:—"In the afternoon, with no priest to accompany me, I started on the way by private wagon to visit some Catholics living in Lycoming County,' near a place called Loyalsock Creek. It was necessary to pass over a distance of nearly seventy miles, going in opposite direction, as it were, from Milton to Bloomsburg, then to the mountain trail, which is called the Berwick Turnpike. Near the northern boundary line of Lycoming County [now Sullivan County] live some Irish families along this same public trail, and yet more German families, away from the road about two miles in the woods, in a place which they call Germany. Some of these people have lived hidden away here for fifteen years. During that time they never saw a minister of religion. I remained there about four days, and each day I celebrated Mass in the home of Darby Deegan. About thirty came to receive Holy Communion. They have agreed now to build a church of wood [probably a log chapel], hoping that a priest may visit them four times a year. I have

¹The accuracy of Father Kaier's memory was well known and frequently the subject of remark among the priests of the diocese.

²Sullivan County was formed from Lycoming in 1847. The Townships were Cherry, Colley, Elkland, Forks, Fox, Hillsgrove, Laporte, Shrewsbury.

³This road, running from Berwick to Tioga Point, was chartered, under the title of The Susquehanna & Tioga Turnpike, in 1818. The road was opened for travel in 1820.

decided to place them under the care of the Rev. Henry Fitzimmons.⁴

This account, the same in substance, of this first visit of the Bishop to the people of the Loyalsock Valley was told to the present writer by Father Kaier, as he had received it from some of the original settlers. Father Kaier laid particular stress on the fact that it was Mr. James Dunn who brought the Bishop to Cherry Township.

After frequent inquiries as to where a priest could be found, according to Father Kaier's account of the facts, Mr. Dunn was advised by a Mr. Fairchild, a non-Catholic, that he thought there was a Catholic Bishop resident in Philadelphia. The spiritual care of this community, it was thought, would belong to Philadelphia. Accordingly, Mr. Dunn addressed a letter to "The Roman Catholic Bishop of Philadelphia." The street and number and the name of the Bishop were not known. The letter told the spiritual needs of the people of the settlement. It stated, in the words of Father Kaier, that "the parents of children thus far born in the community were praying God to send them a priest to administer the sacrament of Baptism and bring them the consolations of religion."

It was in answer to this appeal that the Bishop made the visit described in the DIARY in September, 1836. The Bishop had written in answer to Mr. Dunn's letter that on a certain day he would be in Wilkes-Barre; that, if arrangements were made to have a conveyance meet him there, he would be pleased to come to the people to attend to their spiritual needs.

The Bishop says, in the DIARY, that he left Milton in the afternoon of September 13, 1836. The way by wagon road from Milton to Wilkes-Barre would probably take the better part of two days. Then the trip over the mountain trail,

⁴Father Henry Fitzimmons was ordained priest in St. John's Church, Philadelphia, August 15, 1836, and was placed in charge of St. Rose's Church, Carbondale, by the Bishop during this visitation.

about seventy miles, in James Dunn's "buckboard" could hardly be made in less than two days. It was probably the fifteenth of September, 1836, that the Bishop reached the Loyalsock.

No record remains to show whether or not the people in Cherry Township were attended by Father Fitzimmons from Carbondale during the following two years. Our next record is in the Bishop's DIARY. This time the Bishop comes by the northern route. The way followed was from Easton into Wayne County, Mount Pleasant, then to Carbondale, from Carbondale to Montrose and Silver Lake. The Bishop then went on to Binghamton, the home of Edward White, returning by way of Friendsville and Silver Lake to Towanda. At Towanda the Bishop says "Father Fitzimmons baptized about thirty infants and heard the Confessions of the men who are engaged in digging the canal."

"July the fourth, 1938," the Bishop writes, "I dedicated the church of St. Basil the Great⁵ in a place called Cherry Township, in Lycoming County [now Sullivan]. Twenty-eight families are living in this vicinity of whom sixteen are German, twelve of Irish origin. Twenty-four persons were signed with the sacred Chrism on the fifth of July. Fifty, at least, of the people received Holy Communion."

According to the tradition, repeated to the present writer by Father Kaier, the Bishop also blessed the Cemetery on this visitation. Some of the people had been living on the "Loyalsock" since about 1820.* Probably there had been some deaths. A letter of the mother of the translator of the

⁵This evidently is the building which the Bishop had told the people to build on his former visit, in 1836. The site of this first chapel was, as described by Father Kaier, northward from the present Sisters' Convent, on a plot of ground later occupied by the family of Robert McMahon.

*The tradition, as it was told to Father Kaier, was that the first Catholic settlers were employed in building the turnpike or making the trail over the mountain. The names of the first in this tradition were Denis Thall, Joseph Litzelschwob, Hugh Kavanagh and Cornelius Harrington.

DIARY, written in 1911, states that when she was a little girl [she was born in Alsace, in 1829] she had heard it said that an old lady, Mrs. Lefevre, had walked all the way from Dushore to Pottsville to have a Mass said for her deceased husband. This *walk* was a subject of tradition in the family descendants of Mrs. Lefevre among the children of the fourth generation.

The Bishop arranged during this visitation that St. Basil's mission was to be under the charge of Father John Vincent O'Reilly at St. Joseph's and Silver Lake in Susquehanna County. The distance is about fifty miles. Father Nicholas Steinbacher, S.J., of Nippenose Valley, was to have charge of the Germans. Each priest was to visit the community four times a year, so that the people had Mass probably at intervals of about six weeks.

In the visitation of 1840, the Bishop says that he reached the church of St. Basil by stage coach from Berwick. The stage route described is from Mauch-Chunk to Tioga Point, at the confluence of the Chemung and the North Branch of the Susquehanna. There were twenty for Confirmation on this occasion, and fifty received Holy Communion. The date was October 14 and 15, 1840.

In the visitation of 1842, the Bishop evidently was unable to reach St. Basil's. The diocese still extended over the entire State of Pennsylvania, including Delaware and West Jersey. The missions and stations of Pittsburg and Erie, Harrisburg and Altoona are named in this visitation. The Bishop was on the road from the eighteenth of June to the twelfth of September. The northern Counties, including the present diocese of Scranton evidently could not be reached.

In 1845, the Bishop describes his route to "St. Basil's on the Loyalsock" by way of Milton, Danville, Bloomsburg. On this visit he says: "I confirmed ninety on the fourth day of September [1845]."

When the Bishop visited St. Basil's in 1847, he describes his route through Pottsville, Tamaqua, Summit, Hazelton, Wilkes-Barre, then on to the missions in Susquehanna County, Wayne County and the present County of Lackawanna.⁶ The Bishop refers to the excellent work of Father John Vincent O'Reilly then in charge of the scattered missions in the Counties of Susquehanna, Luzerne, Bradford and Sullivan.

"For the three days following September twenty-first, 1847," the Bishop says: "I exercised sacred functions in the Church of St. Basil, where I confirmed seventy persons. Lately," the Bishop continues, "another Church has been erected in Albany Township, in Bradford County. I was unable to visit this church [mission station]. This "new Church " was the McGovern Chapel erected on the McGovern farm, near Overton. It will be more fully described below when we speak of missions attended from St. Basil's.

On occasion of the visit in 1849, the Bishop came to St. Basil's by way of Towanda. "July the second day", the Bishop writes, "while making our way toward St. Basil's church in Cherry Township, Sullivan County, the axle of the carriage was broken. A man named Byrne, a Catholic, brought us nine miles in a heavy wagon. Then a non-Catholic named Seth Payne, whose home is in the town of Troy [Bradford County], himself an Episcopalian, invited me to ride with him in his carriage. With great consideration and kindness, he brought me a distance of eleven miles.⁷

From St. Basil's, the Bishop went "to St. Patrick's Church, Albany Township [now Overton]. "Here," the Bishop continues, "lives Edward McGovern, a man to be esteemed for his strong faith and generosity toward the Church." After leaving the McGovern Chapel the Bishop went on to Friendsville and Silver Lake in Susquehanna County.

⁶ Lackawanna County was formed in 1878.

⁷ Nine miles plus eleven—Towanda is twenty miles north of St. Basil's.

Again in 1851, the Bishop came to St. Basil's by way of Towanda. The date of this visitation is September the ninth. This is the first time in the Bishop's Diary that the place is given the name Dushore, in Sullivan County. In the earlier entries, the place is designated as "Loyalsock Creek " or "Cherry Township."

Dushore—The name, according to tradition, is derived from Du Thouars—Aristide Aubert Dupetit Thouars, formerly an officer in the navy of France under Louis XVI, was one of the refugees who established the Asylum on the west bank of the Susquehanna, near Standing Stone. The "Admiral", as he was called, settled on land where the village, Dushore, now stands. The spot where he is said to have erected a hut and tilled the soil is close to what formerly was a clear cold spring of water, at the foot of the hill near the present site of the parish school. Later the "Admiral" returned to France, recalled by Napoleon. He died in an engagement of the Meditterrenian, fighting the British, probably in 1798. This tradition was current more than fifty years ago. A probable explanation of the spelling of the name is that later comers to the ground cleared by Thouars caught the sound of the name from the remnant of the French remaining at the Asylum, and gave it its present form and spelling. The place was incorporated as the Borough of Dushore in 1859.

Just one month after the entry of Bishop Kenrick's last visit to St. Basil's, he left Philadelphia for Baltimore to take over the administration of the Metropolitan See. "October the ninth day," he writes in the DIARY, "having received the Papal Bulls by which I was raised to the Metropolitan See of Baltimore, I left [Philadelphia] after night fall by stage . . . and arrived in Baltimore early in the morning [October tenth, 1851.]

The Note-Book of Bishop Neumann⁸ is now our main

⁸ The Venerable John Nepumucene Neumann, C.S.S.R. was consecrated Bishop of Philadelphia, March 28, 1852. He died January 5, 1860.

source of information from the autumn of the year of 1851 to the coming of Father Kaier in April, 1863. Bishop Neumann's Note-Book is a rough draft only, but designed apparently to be filled in, and to continue the DIARY and VISITATION RECORDS of Bishop Kenrick. The notes under the heading Dushore, Sullivan County, St. Basil's are brief. They are given here in full: "DUSHORE, ST. BASIL'S, SULLIVAN COUNTY - First church at Dushore (Loyalsock Creek or Cherry Township built by direction of Bishop Kenrick, who visited Catholics settled there—some families more than eighteen years), in September, 1836.

This first church, built of logs, was blessed by Bishop Kenrick, July 4, 1838. The second church, a frame structure was built in 1859.

16 (20) miles from Towanda - 7 miles from St. Patrick's Overton - 12 miles from Sugar Ridge - 9 miles from Laporte.

1836-Rev. Henry Fitzsimmons (in charge)

1837—Built by Mr. McGinnis of Milton. [Perhaps this is the log chapel].

1841- J.[ohn] V.[incent] O'Reilly.

Rev. [Basil] Shorb

1849

1849-1852 (Nov. 18)—Rev. Jeremiah Ahern.

1852—Father ————— McNaughton

1852-Nov. 6 - Confirmed	18	} Franciscans [in charge]
1854-Jul. 30- "	78	
1856-Sept. 28- "	45	
1858-June 27- "	74	

In the Catholic Directories from 1839, the year following the blessing of the first chapel, to 1848, St. Basil's in Cherry Township is noted thus :-" Attended occasionally

by the Rev. John Vincent O'Reilly from Friendsville. The Directories for 1849 and 1850 place St. Basil's under the care of the Rev. Basil Shorb, who is resident rector at Towanda. In the Directory of 1852, Father Jeremiah Ahern, resident at Towanda, is named as the one in charge of the mission—" St. Basil's in Dushore "-This is the first appearance in the Directories of the place named Dushore. Earlier Directories carry the name of the place "Cherry Township," and still earlier, "Loyalsock Creek."

The Directories from 1853 to 1857 give the name of Father James McNaughton, the first resident pastor of St. Basil's. The Directories for 1856 and 1857, name also two missions attended by Father McNaughton from St. Basil's—Forks Settlement and Laporte.

UNDER THE CARE OF THE FRIARS MINOR

During the years 1858 to 1861, St. Basil's was attended by the Franciscans, Friars Minor, from the foundation at Allegany, New York. The Friars had charge also, during those years, of the church of SS. Peter and Paul in Towanda and several mission stations in the Counties, Bradford, Wyoming and Sullivan. It was under the Friars that the earliest Register of Baptisms and marriages at St. Basil's now available was begun. The earlier Sacramental Records, from 1838 to 1858, have not been found, though careful search was made for them by Father Kaier.

The title written neatly on the first page of the present oldest Record is :- REGISTRUM BAPTIZATORUM IN ECCLESIA SANCTI BASILII IN OPPIDO DUSHORE DIOCESI PHILADELPIENSI. The first entry is in 1858-The Baptism of Mary Stafford, daughter of Nicholas Stafford and Ellen Cullen, born June 11, 1858. Signed Fr. Samuel, O.S.F.

There are thirty-nine baptisms entered by Fr. Samuel during the months July to December, inclusive, 1858. From July 31, 1859 to July 22, 1860, the priest who baptizes, signs himself Fr. Felix, O.S.F. Then, from August 19, 1860 to

November 18, 1860, it is Fr. Michael, O.S.F., who signs the Record. If we follow the record in Bishop Neumann's Note Book, it appears that the new frame church authorized by the Bishop, December 11, 1858, to replace the original log chapel, was built during the time of the administration of the Friars Minor, that is during the year 1859.

FATHER WILLIAM CARROLL, RECTOR—1861-1863

The first Baptism recorded by Father Carroll is January 15, 1861. Father Carroll died in the rectory at St. Basil's, January 24, 1863. The Catholic Herald and Visitor, Philadelphia, February 7, 1863, carries the notice of his death from which the following points are taken—Father Carroll had been out on a sick call the day before his death. His sister, who was keeping house for him at the time, had the body brought to Philadelphia for burial. The body was brought by way of Towanda, where Mass was celebrated, by Fr. Leo, O.S.F.; thence, from Towanda, to the nearest Railway (probably Williamsport). Father Carroll was born at Clonmel, County Tipperary, Ireland, and had been ordained about thirteen years at the time of his death. The priests present at the burial in the Old Cathedral Cemetery were Fr. Leo of Towanda, Father Nicholas Cantwell of St. Philip's, Philadelphia, Father Hugh Lane of St. Teresa's, Father Richard Kinahan and Father Michael McEvoy.

FATHER XAVIER ALOYSIUS KAIER, RECTOR—1863-1921

Father Kaier, according to his own account, was born in Germany in 1837. His parents with their children came from Germany, and settled first at Norristown, then later removed to St. Clair, Pennsylvania. His studies for the priesthood were made in the old Seminary formerly at Eighteenth and Race streets, Philadelphia. He was ordained priest in the Cathedral Chapel, Philadelphia, May 5, 1862 by Bishop Wood. His first assignment was to the church of the Immaculate Conception in Allentown. He remained

in Allentown, assistant to Father Charles McEnroe until Holy Week, of the following year, 1863. Father Kaier has frequently described the particulars of his appointment to St. Basil's and the incidents of his first coming to Dushore. He inquired, he says, from the postmaster where the place was and how to reach St. Basil's. He was informed that Dushore was in Sullivan County, that a train to Muncy in Lycoming County would bring him to a stage route that passed through Laporte, the County-Seat of Sullivan.

Father Kaier probably had been instructed by the Bishop to be at St. Basil's for Easter Sunday. The people had had no opportunity to hear Mass since the death of Father Carroll in January. At any rate, he set off at once; reached Muncy by train, then, by way of Hughesville, he reached Laporte late on the evening of Good Friday by stage coach. Patrick Bowles, Father Kaier used to tell, was the first Catholic whom he met in Sullivan County, a member of St. Basil's, then employed at the Tannery in Laporte.

There was a mail route from Laporte to Dushore, ten miles distant, but the mail was carried in a "buckboard," not strong enough to carry an extra passenger and his luggage. Arrangements were made with the proprietor of the hotel, who drove Father Kaier to Dushore the following morning, Holy Saturday, April 4, 1863.

Father Kaier has recounted this story of his first arrival to the present writer frequently and with much minuteness of detail. On the way to Dushore, they met two staunch heads of Catholic families, Martin and Patrick Jordan, and later on James Deegan, son of Darby Deegan, in whose home Bishop Kenrick had said Mass in 1836. These men were delighted to see a priest. They were instructed to send the word to neighbors over the country side that there would be Mass in St. Basil's tomorrow, Easter Sunday Morning. The little old chapel, the structure authorized by Bishop Neumann in 1858, and built in 1859, Father Kaier said,

"could not hold one half the people who came to hear Mass on that first Easter morning," the first day of the fifty-eight years that were to follow in his continuous charge at St. Basil's.

Speaking of those early years, Father Kaier says that while many of the families lived four, six or eight miles from the church in log cabins generally, and labored hard to get a living from their small clearings, yet no Sunday passed, no Holyday on which there were not one hundred and fifty to two hundred teams of oxen and horses in the village, bringing the people to Mass. The ox teams predominated, he says, in ratio of about four to one.

The missions attended during those early years and named by Father Kaier are Overton, Sugar Ridge, Paine Road, now Wilmot, Laporte, Muncy Valley, Hills Grove, Brown-town, Bernice and Little Mehoopany. In some of these places, there were small frame chapels for the services of religion as on the McGovern farm,¹¹ and later at Sugar Ridge and Paine Road, but generally, in the early years, Mass was celebrated and the Sacraments administered in the humble homes of the people.

⁹ This station is distinct from the present church of St. Francis in the village Overton. This chapel, St. Patrick's was built on the Edward McGovern farm, about one mile from the village.

¹⁰ On the margin of the Register of Baptisms, Father Kaier has written the following note on the first Mass at Bernice—"December 10, 1871. The first Mass at the Bernice Coal Mines was said this Sunday morning at ten o'clock, A.M., in the presence of about fifty Catholics. The day was extremely cold and the Mass was celebrated in one of the Company's houses.—Xav. Al. Kaier."

¹¹ In the Cemetery plot where the Chapel stood on the McGovern farm, is a granite block monument. On this block is the following inscription: Edward McGovern born in County Cavan, Ireland 1799. Emigrated to the United States in 1833. Was among the first Catholic pioneers of this region in 1842. Died in the Lord April 7, 1876. A loving husband, a fond father, a kind neighbor, a devout Catholic. Requiescat in Pace. On this same block are also the names Mary Conmey Wife of Edward McGovern, died April 5, 1888, and Patrick McGovern, son of Edward died May 8, 1893.

Some of these missions were attended regularly once a month in the early years, some at irregular intervals, twice or four times during the year. In the seventies and the eighties, after Father Kaier had an assistant, Overton, Sugar Ridge, Paine Road, and Little Mehoopany usually had Mass alternately every second Sunday. On the off Sunday, the people from these Missions quite regularly drove or walked to St. Basil's for Mass. A walk of eight or nine miles for Sunday Mass was not uncommon for some of the older men and women known to the present writer. The return after Mass, of course, doubles the distance of the jaunt for the day.

THE NEW STONE CHURCH - 1868 - 1872

The dimensions of the frame chapel of 1859 are not known, but evidently it was too small for the growing congregation even from the first coming of Father Kaier who says that the chapel could not hold one half the people on that first Easter morning in 1863. Plans were made for a new building in 1866. First a frame structure was designed, then a building of brick made of native clay. Both plans were rejected as unsatisfactory or impracticable. Finally, plans were matured and approved for the present stone building.

The story of the building is one of loyal and laborious cooperation on the part of the people. "The people," says Father Kaier, "played no unimportant part in the construction. We were two winters hauling the materials." The stone a light gray granite, was quarried on what is still known as "Ringer Hill" on the old Michael Shevlin clearing about four miles away. The sand was brought from the flats near the confluence of Birch Creek and the South Branch of the Loyalsock. This is on the Laporte Road, now U. S. Interstate Route 220, about six miles from St. Basil's. The lime was brought from the kilns near Montoursville, probably forty miles away. The farmers (practically all the

community at this time lived from the products of the soil) took turns by assignment for the hauling of materials. Those who owned horses were chosen for the long haul from Montoursville. The shorter distances were covered in many instances by ox teams.

The corner stone of the new church was laid by Bishop William O'Hara of Scranton, October 28, 1868.* The church was nearly three years in building. At the main entrance of the church in a niche just over the Holy Water Font on either side are two marble slabs set in the masonry. One is inscribed :-" The corner stone of this church was laid by the Rt. Rev. Bishop O'Hara, D.D., October 28, 1868, and the first Mass was celebrated by its pastor, Xav. Al. Kaier, March 12, A. D. 1871." On the other side, the right as you enter, the inscription reads: " May you who in after years come to worship here remember those who were instrumental in building this church. The painting and frescoing were finished in April, 1875, and the pews were put in in the fall of 1876." ¹²

Another tablet set in the wall to the right of the main altar describes main points in the history of the place down to May 18, 1872.¹³

THE PARISH SCHOOL

The first parish school for St. Basil's was built in 1877, a frame building which combined the Sisters' Convent with school rooms on two floors in the south wing: From the beginning the plan was to have day school for the grades, and a select boarding school or academy. These select " Boarding Academies " were much in vogue in the seventies

* Scranton was made a distinct diocese March 3, 1868. Previously St. Basil's had been under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Philadelphia

¹² The body of the pews is native white ash—the moulding is walnut.

¹³ Written on the margin of the Register in 1873 is this note in Father Kaier's hand: 1873—On the 7th day of September our new Church was solemnly dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Wm. O'Hara, Bishop of the Diocese [Scranton].

and eighties, and were opened generally in the convents of the Sisters who taught in the schools of the parishes. The Sisters of Christian Charity—The Mallinckrodt foundation, were in charge of the school during the first three years. The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Scranton have been in charge of the school since 1883. The school includes the eight grades primary with a four years' High School course approved and accredited by the State. During the year, 1923 plans were made and approved for a new parish school to be built of stone similar to the stone used in the construction of the church. The corner stone of the new school was laid by Bishop Hoban of Scranton, May 21, 1924 and the rooms were occupied for school purpose at the beginning of the term in 1925.

ASSISTANT PRIESTS AT ST. BASIL'S

The assistant priest appointed to aid in the spiritual care of St. Basil's and the missions were first, Father John T. Costello, who came in 1872 and remained about three years,¹⁴ when he was appointed rector at Athens. In the Catholic Directory for 1876, Father John Mullen is named as assistant at St. Basil's; in the Directory of 1878, Father Thomas Kiernan is the assistant; in 1879, Father Patrick Hurst.¹⁵ Father Michael O'Reilly, one of four brothers, priests, sons of Terence O'Reilly of St. Joseph's Susquehanna County, and nephews of Father John V. O'Reilly, was assistant in 1880 and 1881. ¹⁶The Directories, 1882-1888 carry the name of Father Richard Walsh, assistant at St. Basil's."

¹⁴ Father Costello was Rector of the church of the Annunciation in Williamsport from the year 1899 to the time of his death. He died March 19, 1931.

¹⁵ Father Hurst died at Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre, where he had been chaplain for some years, December 2, 1929.

¹⁶ Father Michael O'Reilly died Rector of St. Joseph's in Danville, Pennsylvania, March 10, 1909.

¹⁷ Father Richard H. Walsh died at Pittston (retired), April 15, 1925.

The name of Father John Enright appears in the Directories of 1889 and 1890 as assistant at St. Basil's. Father Francis Mack, 1891 to 1896. In 1896, the missions at Overton, St. Francis, and Sugar Ridge, Saints Philip and James, were formed into a new parish with a resident priest in charge. A little later Wilmot, Paine Road, Little Mehoo-pany or Stowell, also Bernice (now Mildred), Laporte and Lopez were organized as distinct parish centers. With the cutting off of the out missions, the need for an assistant at St. Basil's passed. Father Kaier was in charge alone according to the Catholic Directories from 1897 to 1906. Then we find again assistants named in the following order: 1907, Father B. E. O'Byrne, then William J. Flynn, 1908 to 1913 —Joseph Gaigon, 1914 to 1916-1917, John J. King—1918, James Boland—Father Thomas Needham, 1919 to 1921.

Father Thomas Needham was in charge during the last months of Father Kaier's long career as rector, builder and spiritual guide at St. Basil's. Father Kaier died on the twenty-fourth day of March, 1921. The fourth day of April of the same year would have rounded out his fifty-eighth year of continuous residence and work among the people of St. Basil's and the missions, extending over a radius of more than forty miles. The early days, it must be remembered, more than two thirds of the fifty-eight years, were the times of dirt roads, horses and oxen. There was no means of conveyance over these roads to the mission stations or to the farmers on sick calls but the saddle horse, the wagon, or walking. A lasting memorial of Father Kaier's work and his influence may be seen in the solid structure of the stone church. It seems to symbolize the spiritual building of Faith and religion in the hearts and the homes of the people—the work of Father Kaier during more than two generations—1863 to 1921.

Father Kaier passed to his reward in the Rectory at St. Basil's, March 24, 1921, at the age of eighty-four. His

grave is marked near the front entrance of the church. His work, the result of fifty-eight years of devotion and service, remains a reality of religion and life, sacred and revered in the memories and traditions of the place and the people.

FATHER MICHAEL F. SWEENEY, RECTOR—1921-1933

Father Michael F. Sweeney was appointed Rector of St. Basil's in August, 1921. It was under the administration of Father Sweeney that the new stone parish school building was planned and completed. Father Sweeney remained until October, 1933, when the present rector, Father John J. King was appointed to be the spiritual guide of the people.

A LIST OF THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND TO RELIGIOUS LIFE, WHOSE PARENTS LIVED WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE PARISH OF ST. BASIL AND ITS MISSIONS.

Thomas McGovern—Bishop of Harrisburg—1888-1898		
	Ordained priest in	1861
Edward Martin	} brothers	1865
John P. Martin		ordained
John Bergen		1873
Timothy J. Donahue		1873
Daniel Cusick		1882
Henry C. Jordan		1892
Francis E. Tourscher	¹⁶	1898
Peter P. O'Neill		1903
John E. O'Connor		1910
James McGee		1915
Eugene Carroll		1917
John Brennan, a Jesuit of the St. Louis Province.		
Joseph Miner	ordained	1920
John Walsh	¹⁷	1922
John F. Boll	¹⁸	1933

Brothers Bede and Innocent, of the family of Thomas J. Rouse have been many years teaching members in the Congregation of Brothers of St. Francis Xavier.

The first vocation to the Sisterhoods from the parish is Miss Mary Thall. She is the first postulant received by the Sisters of the Holy Child in America." In religion, her name was Sister Mary Joseph. She made her vows in 1864—Died in 1893. Sister Mary Joseph's sister, Anna Thall, became a Franciscan, Sister Mary Anacleta. She entered the Convent at St. Mary's Hospital, Philadelphia, in 1877—was professed August 12, 1879. She died in Tacoma, Washington, February 3, 1928.

The parish has given eight religious to the Congregation of the Good Shepherd—Miss Nora Harrington, now Sister Mary Paula, and four daughters of Mr. Francis Coyle—Margaret, Sister Mary Francis Xavier—Elizabeth, Sister Mary Lucy—Julia, Sister Mary of St. Rose Virginie (died in Denver, Colorado in 1909)—Ellen, Sister Mary Rose-Teresa Kinsley, Sister Mary Teresita—Helen Grace, Sister Mary of Blessed Imelda—Mary Sando, Sister Mary St. Edward.

The Sisters of Charity, Emmitsburg, claim three religious from St. Basil's—Sister Catharine McAneany—Sister Winifred Kinsley—Sister Josephine Waples.

Two daughters of Edward McAneany, Mary and Catharine belong to the Congregation of The Little Sisters of the Poor. In religion they are: Sister Monica of St. Colette and Sister Colette of St. Teresa.

Ellen Brennan, sister of Father John Brennan, S.J., was Sister M. Stephen with the Sisters of St. Joseph in Rochester. She died some years ago. Mary McDonald, daughter of John McDonald is Sister Cele Joseph with the Sisters of St. Joseph, Troy, N. Y. Anna Scanlin and Sarah

*The first house of the Sisters of the Holy Child in America was opened in Towanda in 1862.

Scanlin, daughters of Daniel Scanlin, also belong to the Sisters of St. Joseph, in religion they are Sister M. Thomas and Sister M. Joseph. Katharine Jordan, Sister of Father Henry Jordan was Sister M. Simplician with the Sisters of St. Joseph, Mt. St. Joseph's, Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania. She died some years ago.

Three religious of the Sisters of Mercy, Wilkes-Barre are children of parents whose homes are or formerly were within the limits of St. Basil's and its missions. They are Elizabeth Coyle, daughter of James Coyle and Elizabeth Somers, now Sister M. Martina. Loretta O'Mara, now Sister M. Benigna and Sister M. Crescentia, daughter of James F. O'Connor of Mildred, and sister of Father John E. O'Connor of the diocese of Altoona.

Sister Mary Francis Joseph of the Sisters of the Holy Child, Philomena Martin, is the daughter of James Martin and Mary Ladden, resident formerly in the parish. James Martin is the brother of Fathers Edward and John Martin named above.

Miss Esther Dunn, whose grandfather brought Bishop Kenrick to "Loyalsock " in 1836, is a Sister, Servants of the Immaculate Heart, Mother House at Immaculata College, Sister Mary Paul.

Anna and Helen North, twins, of the family of Dennis North and Blanch O'Neill, entered the Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph in Buffalo. They are in religion Sister Rose Anita and Sister Rose Alice.

Sister Mary Gerard, a nun in the Carmelite Monastery in Roxbury, Massachusetts, is the daughter of Andrew Tourscher and Magdalene Sollinger, formerly residents Bernice Mission.

Father Edward F. Rouse, C.M., was ordained to the priesthood, May 26, 1938.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE NAMES, WITH PARENTS' NAMES, OF SISTERS, SERVANTS
OR THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, WHO HAVE ENTERED RELIGION AT THE
MOTHER HOUSE IN THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON, MARYWOOD COLLEGE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Parents</i>	<i>Death</i>
Sister M. Ambrose (Ann Cusick)	Overton, Pennsylvania	Patrick Cusick Catherine Flynn	Oct. 7, 1920.
Sister M. de Chantal (Bridget Kane)	Dushore, Pennsylvania	Philip Kane Margaret Smith	May 10, 1896.
Sister M. Joachim (Bridget Dorsey)	Sugar Ridge, Pennsylvania	Patrick Dorsey Margaret Kane	Jan 2, 1896.
Sister M. Barbara (Ann Farrell)	Dushore, Pennsylvania	John H. Farrell Elizabeth Harrington	Oct. 25, 1901
Sister M. Leon (Mary Wall)	Dushore, Pennsylvania	Michael Wall Mary A. Donahue	Oct. 25, 1936.
Sister M. Luigi (Leonora Saxe)	Wilmot, Pennsylvania	Martin Saxe Elizabeth Dunkleberg	
Sister M. Kostka (Jennie Sick)	Overton, Pennsylvania	Wendell Sick Sarah McDonald	
Sister M. Lucinda (Alice Harrington)	Dushore, Pennsylvania	Cornelius Harrington Elizabeth Gahan	
Sister M. Pieta (Susanna Rouse)	Dushore, Pennsylvania	Joseph Rouse Mary A. Kane	
Sister M. Innocenta (Mary Rouse)	Dushore, Pennsylvania	Thomas Rouse Mary Carroll	
Sister M. Joachim (Margaret Lane)	Lopez, Pennsylvania	John Lane Margaret Dorsey	
Sister M. Anna (Geraldine Murphy)	Ladensburg, Pennsylvania	Stephen Murphy Mary McMahan	
Sister M. Roselle (Mary Sullivan)	Overton, Pennsylvania	Michael Sullivan Louise Thall	
Sister M. Rosalita (Mary Magdalen Smith)	Saratoga Springs, New York	Peter J. Smith Elizabeth Burns	
Sister M. Emily (Lydia Litzelman)	Dushore, Pennsylvania	Matthias Litzelman Josephine Marshall	
Sister M. Elizaretta (Marguerite McGee)	Murray Town, Pennsylvania	William McGee Elizabeth O'Neill	
Sister Maria Vincent (Mary Hilbert)	Dushore, Pennsylvania	Leonard Hilbert Eugenie Tourscher	

Three sisters (out of a family of ten) of the writer of this sketch were Sisters in religion—Sister M. Huberta, a Franciscan, died in Oklahoma in **1927**. Sister Maria Vincent of the Congregation of St. Joseph, died in Indiana in **1925**. Sister M. Francis Borgia, also of the Congregation of St. Joseph, died in Arizona, **1929**.

A LIST OF FAMILY NAMES IN THE SACRAMENTAL REGISTERS AT SAINT
BASIL'S—1858 TO 1877 - ARRANGED ALPHABETIC ORDER *

Albertson	Braune	Connell
Ambs	Brody	Conomy
Arned	Brogan	Connerty
Arnold	Broklic	Conor
Bagott	Brown	Connors
Bahl	Broschart	Cooke
Bahm	Burns	Corcoran
Barnon - Barron (??)	Burr	Corson
Barnwell	Byrne	Cotter
Barr	Byron	Cowley
Barry	Cadden	Coyle
Baumgartner	Cahill	Craighton
Bayle	Callachan-Callahan	Crawley
Becher-Becker	Caine	Crilly
Bennett	Cannon	Crimmins
Bergen	Cantwell	Cronin
Beson	Carge	Crossen
Bill	Carmody	Crowley
Billian	Carroll	Cullen
Bing	Caton	Cummiskey
Boisel	Chrisman	Cunningham
Boland	Clark	Cusick
Bolen	Clifford	Deal
Boles-Bowles	Cline-Mine	Darcey
Bomille	Coggins	Deegan
Bordy - Bordie	Coleman	Deise-Deyse
Boyle	Collier	Dempsey
Brady	Colley	Devany
Branon-Brennan	Collins	Devine
Breslin	Conaty	Devlin
Brine	Conley	Dibling

*Some of these names will stand for groups of families, bearing the same name, but not kindred and not known to be related by ties of blood.

Diffenbach	Freeley	Kane
Dillon	Funk	Kangley
Doherty	Gaffe	Kavanagh
Dohm	Gage	Kean
Donnegan	Gahan-Geahan	Keating
Donahoe-Donahue	Gallagher-Gollacher	Keefe
Donovan	Ganer - Gaynor	Kelly
Dorsey	Geany	Keichner
Downs	Geary	Kenny
Doyle	Gilfoy	Kiernan
Drach	Gilligan	Kilcullen
Driscoll	Gilmore	Kilduff
Drugan	Gorney	Kinsley
Duffy	Gregory	Koch
Duggan	Graham	Koffman
Dunkelberg	Grymes	Konoble
Dunn	Haen	Konig
Dunny	Hagan	Kone
Ellis	Haggerty	Kornan
Ennis	Hallanos	Ladden
Evans	Hand	Lahein
Eveling	Hamon	Lambert
Everley	Harmon	Lammer
Evetts	Harrington	Lane
Falsey	Harrison	Larkin
Farr	Harney	Leahy
Farney	Hastings	Leavy
Farrell	Hatfield	Lecher
Farrelly - Farley	Hauck	Litzleman
Faust	Hennesey	Litzleswob
Fay	Henry	Lugarane
Fell	Herkimer-Heichemer	Lusch
Fernan	Hertzog	Lynch
Finan	Heyse	Madden
Finnan	Higgins	Malley
Finnegan	Hobart	Malone
Flannigan - Flannagan	Hogan	Maloney
Fitzgerald	Hogland	McAnaney
Fitzsimmons	Holland	McAneany
Fleming	Hope	McAndrews
Fogarty	Horms	McCall
Foley	Hunad	McCane
Folls	Jordan	McCann
Foran	Junkens	McCoody
Franke	Kahmey	McCorck
Frawley - Froley	Kaier	McCormick

McCraig	O'Brien	Seiple
McDonald - McDonnell	O'Carroll	Shear
McDonough	O'Connor	Sheedy
McElroy	O'Donnell	Sheehan
McGeary	O'Neil	Shelling
McGee	O'Hara	Sheridan
McGuire	Ortleib	Sherman
McHale	Parr	Shevlin-Shovlin
McHernan	Pender	Smith
McKenna	Perry	Spelman
McKernan	Philbin	Stafford
McLaury	Poisel	Stanford
McMahon	Pomeroy	Steifatter
Malvey	Powderly	Sweeney
Martin	Powell	Taylor
May	Prendergast	Thompson
Mellon	Pyne	Timmins
Middendorf	Quinn	Toland
Miner	Rahm-Raum	Tourscher
Miller	Redding	Tubach
Mooney	Regan	Turner
Molyneaux	Rennayne	Utz
Morrison	Richlin	Vose
More	Rochefert	Waldron
Moser	Roe-Rohe-Roy	Walker
Mullaney	Roth-Road	Wakeman
Mullen	Ryan	Walls
Muller	Sacks-Saxe	Walsh
Mundy	Sartland	Waples
Munster	Saxer	Ward
Murphy	Sauna	Welsh
Murray	Scanlon	Whelan-Whalen
Mushbacher	Scandit	Wheeling
Nargang	Schultes	White
Nolan	Schean-Sheehan	Wick
North	Schmidt	Zimmer
Obert		