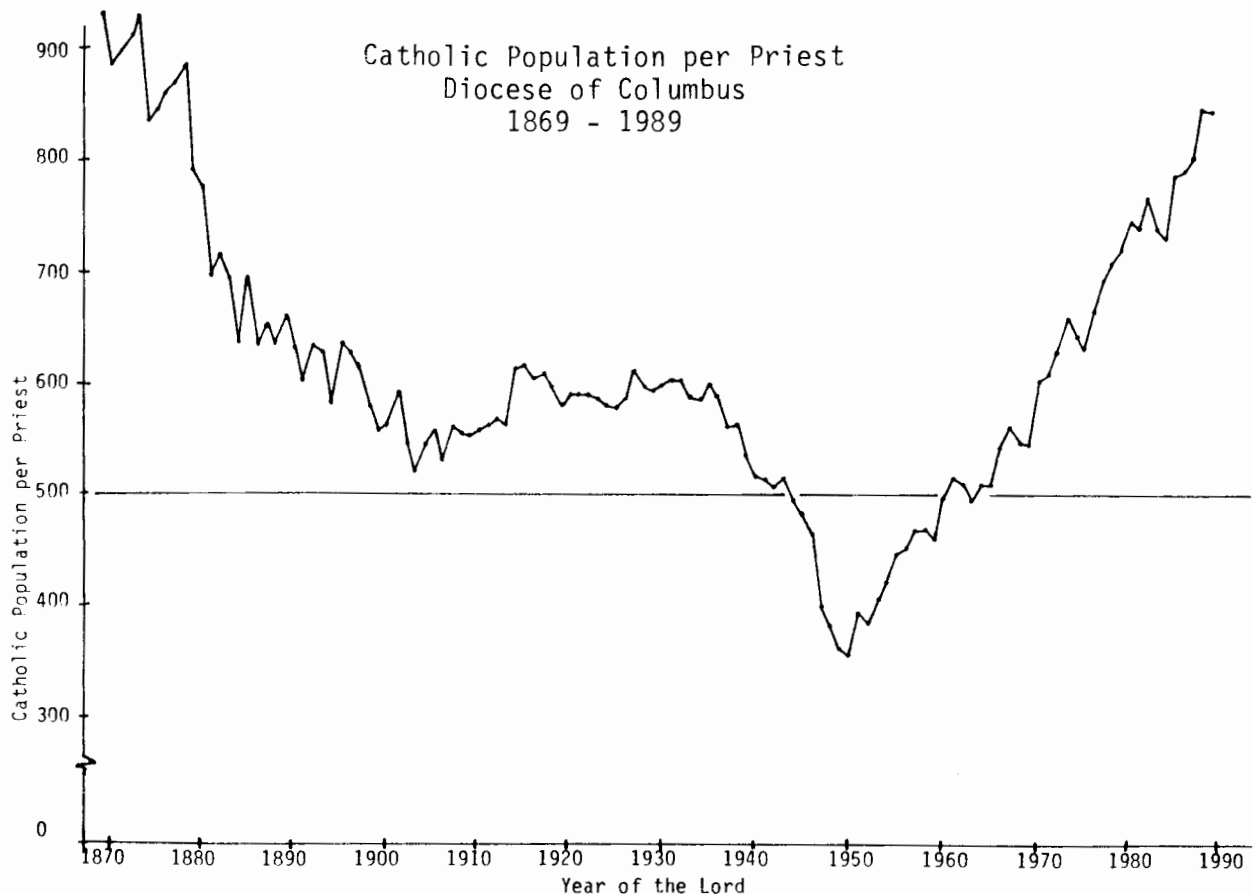


Barquilla de la Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society -
Diocese of Columbus

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POPULATION AND PRIESTLY STATISTICS OF THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS FOR 121 YEARS

In light of the growing concern within the diocese, and indeed within most of the dioceses in this country, over the lack of vocations to the priesthood, and because 1990 is a census year for the federal government, this seems an appropriate time to present the statistics of population and priests of the diocese since its erection by Pope Pius IX in 1868.

The basic data presented in Table 1 were taken from the annual Catholic Directory beginning with that of 1869, the first in which this diocese appeared. This data used here consist of the Catholic population and the

numbers of priests, the latter of which have been given in various categories throughout the history of the publication.

Catholic Population

There are, of course, some problems with the data, especially the Catholic population figures. Bishop Rosecrans reported 40,000 Catholics in his new diocese in 1869 but then, for the remainder of his life, reported exactly 60,000, which obviously was not a precise count. Similar problems occur with Bishop Watterson's figures for 1887 through 1898 and Bishop Hartley's for 1914 through 1917 and again after 1927. The figure given for 1927 was 140,184, a jump of nearly 30,000 from 1926. The directory for 1927 specified that all baptized Catholics, including those not active, were included in the population figure for each diocese. That might explain the jump in the figure for that year, but would not explain the continued use of the same number, almost unchanged, through 1944. Such situations occur repeatedly with the data, so an adjusted population column is given on the table, in which, by looking at the entire series of numbers, an attempt was made to come up with a reasonable figure for each year. The overall picture is one of gradual growth from about 40,000 in 1869 to somewhere in the vicinity of 140,000 by 1944, but with a spurt of more rapid growth in the 1910s, possibly caused by heavy immigration. The re-formed diocese, after the erection of the Diocese of Steubenville, reported a population of about 105,000. The figures show extremely heavy growth in the 1950s and growth at about the same rate as the general population since the end of that decade.

The diocesan census in its present form was begun in 1969 and has been the basis of the figures in the annual directory since about that time. It likewise includes all baptized but inactive Catholics. The census work was completed by the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women about 1973 and entry of the data into the computerized data base appears to be reflected in the figure for 1974, which increased by 17,000 over the previous year. Since that time, the data have been kept up to date with information supplied by each parish. The numbers for 1975 through 1984 appear to rise and fall too rapidly to be accurate, but no data seem to exist now which would allow them to be adjusted. The figures since 1974 include from 18,000 to 28,000 persons each year who had left one parish and had not yet registered at another. (Those who do not re-register are periodically purged from the file.) Remarkably, these now make up about 10% of the total Catholic population figure. The population now is about 200,000.

The adjusted Catholic population figures for each census year have been compared with the federal census data for the territory included in the diocese. Catholics formed 5% of the population in 1870 and 1880, 6% in 1890 and 1900, 8% in 1910 and 1920, and 9% in 1930 and 1940. Since the erection of the Diocese of Steubenville, the figures have been: 8% in 1950, 10% in 1960 and 1970, 11% in 1980, and in 1986, based on official population estimates, 10%. (The federal census data will be presented in the Bulletin when space permits.

Priests in the Diocese

From 1869 through 1881 only the total number of priests in the diocese is given in the annual directory. Beginning in 1882 the figure is broken down

<u>Year</u>	<u>Catholic Population</u>	<u>Adjusted Population</u>	<u>Regulars</u>	<u>Seculars</u>	<u>Josephinum and Others</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent Diocesan</u>	<u>Catholics per Priest</u>
1869	40,000	40,000				43		930
1870	60,000	40,650				46		884
1871	60,000	41,300				46		898
1872	60,000	41,950				46		912
1873	60,000	42,600				46		926
1874	60,000	43,250				52		832
1875	60,000	43,900				52		844
1876	60,000	44,550				52		857
1877	60,000	45,200				52		869
1878	60,000	45,850				52		882
1879	60,000	46,500				59		788
1880	45,000	47,150				61		773
1881	50,000	47,800				69		693
1882	50,000	48,450	10	58		68	85	713
1883	49,100	49,100	12	59		71	83	692
1884	48,000	48,000	13	63		76	83	632
1885	50,500	50,500	13	60		73	82	692
1886	51,000	51,000	19	62		81	77	630
1887	52,000	52,000	17	63		80	79	650
1888	52,000	52,000	18	64		82	78	634
1889	54,000	54,000	18	64		82	78	659
1890	54,000	54,000	19	67		86	78	628
1891	54,000	54,000	18	72		90	80	600
1892	55,000	55,000	16	71		87	82	632
1893	55,000	55,625	16	73		89	82	625
1894	55,000	56,250	23	74		97	76	580
1895	55,000	56,875	16	73		89	82	639
1896	55,000	57,500	17	75		92	82	625
1897	55,000	58,125	15	80		95	84	612
1898	55,000	58,750	18	84		102	82	576
1899	60,000	59,375	24	83		107	78	555
1900	60,000	60,000	24	83		107	78	561
1901	60,000	63,075	24	83		107	78	589
1902	56,000	66,149	29	82	10	121	68	547
1903	56,500	69,224	37	83	12	132	63	524
1904	56,000	72,298	37	83	12	132	63	548
1905	75,373	75,373	37	85	14	136	63	554
1906	75,373	79,925	37	100	14	151	66	529
1907	75,353	84,477	37	100	14	151	66	559
1908	89,029	89,029	32	113	16	161	70	553
1909	89,136	89,836	30	115	18	163	71	551
1910	89,265	90,643	30	115	18	163	71	556
1911	89,271	91,451	30	115	18	163	71	561
1912	89,271	92,258	30	114	18	162	70	569
1913	93,065	93,065	30	112	22	164	68	567
1914	101,179	101,179	32	111	22	165	67	613
1915	101,179	101,877	32	111	22	165	67	617
1916	101,179	102,575	35	115	20	170	68	603
1917	101,179	103,272	35	115	20	170	68	607
1918	103,970	103,970	36	118	20	174	68	598
1919	103,970	103,970	39	119	22	180	66	578
1920	104,760	104,760	37	120	21	178	67	589
1921	105,067	105,067	37	120	21	178	67	590
1922	105,067	105,067	37	120	21	178	67	590
1923	107,961	107,961	40	123	21	184	67	587
1924	109,235	109,235	40	126	21	187	67	584
1925	110,812	110,812	40	131	21	192	68	577
1926	111,224	111,224	40	128	21	189	68	588
1927	140,184	113,034	31	134	20	185	72	611
1928	140,184	114,845	31	141	20	192	73	598
1929	140,186	116,655	34	142	20	196	72	595

<u>Year</u>	<u>Catholic Population</u>	<u>Adjusted Population</u>	<u>Regulars</u>	<u>Seculars</u>	<u>Josephinum and Others</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent Diocesan</u>	<u>Catholics per Priest</u>
1929	140,186	116,655	34	142	20	196	72	595
1930	140,186	118,465	34	142	22	198	72	598
1931	140,186	120,276	34	144	22	200	72	601
1932	140,186	122,086	36	145	22	203	71	601
1933	140,186	123,896	43	152	17	212	72	584
1934	140,186	125,707	45	152	19	216	70	582
1935	140,186	127,517	45	152	16	213	71	599
1936	140,186	129,328	45	159	16	220	72	588
1937	140,186	131,138	49	167	18	234	71	560
1938	140,186	132,948	49	170	18	237	72	561
1939	142,409	134,759	62	174	16	252	69	535
1940	142,409	136,569	71	176	18	265	66	515
1941	142,409	138,379	76	175	19	270	65	513
1942	142,400	140,190	79	179	19	277	65	506
1943	142,000	142,000	78	179	19	276	65	514
1944	142,000	143,810	78	192	20	290	66	496
1945	104,000	104,000	73	124	19	216	57	481
1946	105,386	104,125	73	126	25	224	56	465
1947	104,250	104,250	93	140	28	261	54	399
1948	105,100	105,100	93	155	28	276	56	381
1949	105,000	105,000	99	165	27	291	57	361
1950	105,500	105,500	99	167	30	296	56	356
1951	108,500	108,500	99	146	31	276	53	393
1952	109,749	109,749	104	150	33	287	52	382
1953	113,967	113,967	97	151	34	282	54	404
1954	121,360	121,360	99	157	31	287	55	423
1955	128,948	128,948	96	165	27	288	57	448
1956	134,393	134,393	95	173	30	298	58	451
1957	140,861	140,861	97	179	25	301	59	468
1958	149,545	149,545	104	185	29	318	58	470
1959	148,620	148,620	102	190	31	323	59	460
1960	161,358	161,358	96	192	36	324	59	498
1961	165,775	165,775	99	193	29	321	60	516
1962	166,822	166,822	99	199	29	327	61	510
1963	167,105	167,105	99	202	36	337	60	496
1964	170,376	170,376	87	211	36	334	63	510
1965	170,376	170,376	87	211	36	334	63	510
1966	175,028	175,028	74	211	38	323	65	542
1967	182,000	175,581	71	209	35	315	66	557
1968	182,000	176,133	70	218	34	322	68	547
1969	182,000	176,686	84	212	28	324	65	545
1970	177,238	177,238	72	204	19	295	69	601
1971	178,000	181,339	79	196	23	298	66	609
1972	178,000	185,439		193		296	65	626
1973	176,118	189,540	76	191	20	287	67	660
1974	193,640	193,640	75	203	25	303	67	639
1975	210,163	194,533	69			309		630
1976	195,426	195,426	61			293		667
1977	195,426	197,774	61	193	32	286	67	692
1978	202,503	200,121	64	189	31	284	67	705
1979	209,300	202,469	65	189	27	281	67	721
1980	204,816	204,816	61	187	27	275	68	745
1981	204,816	202,897	61	187	27	275	68	738
1982	195,333	200,977	59	175	29	263	67	764
1983	199,058	199,058	62	177	31	270	66	737
1984	190,815	196,684	58	181	31	270	67	728
1985	194,310	194,310	52	165	31	248	67	784
1986	194,392	194,392	59	160	28	247	65	787
1987	195,109	195,109		165		244	68	800
1988	198,607	198,607		155		235	66	845
1989	199,594	199,594	59	155	23	237	65	842

between secular priests and members of religious orders (regulars) and beginning in 1902 the number of priests at the Josephinum is broken out. In the 1940s the latter category is replaced by that of priests from other dioceses. At the same time, retired secular priests are listed separately; these are excluded from the figures presented here, but retired regulars, if any, are not broken out. The intention throughout has been to come as close as possible to the total number of priests available to work in the diocese. The priests at the Josephinum and elsewhere, such as those who taught at Aquinas High School or St. Charles, are included because they generally have been available to help in the parishes on weekends.

The number of priests, with a few setbacks, grew steadily from the original 43 to 290 in 1944. One can recognize in the figures the heavy recruiting of Bishop Hartley's first years and another period of rapid increase from the mid-1930s to the mid-1940s. The latter may have been due in part to the depression, but the rapid increase in Catholic population from 1905 to 1915 cannot be excluded as a factor. The reconfigured Diocese of 1945 started with a force of 216 priests which grew rapidly to a peak of 337 in 1963. Five years later, in 1968, the number of active diocesan priests peaked at 218. The number of regulars dropped sooner than seculars because of the beginning of the withdrawal of Dominican priests from Aquinas High School during 1963. The number of active priests has continued to drop since the 1960s and stood at 237 when the most recently published data were submitted.

Catholic Population per Priest

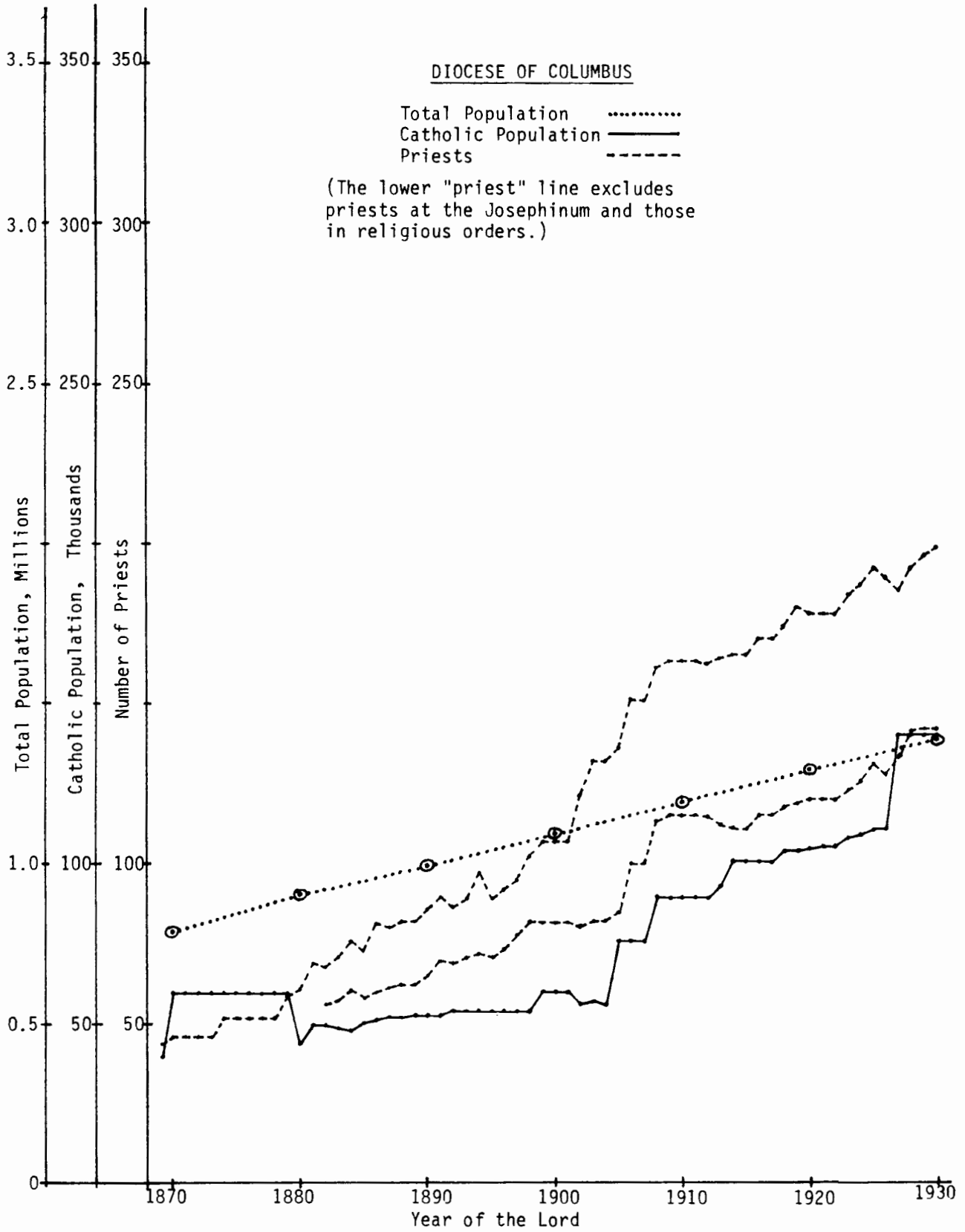
The Diocese was "born" with a ratio of about 930 Catholics per priest in 1869, but ordinations and recruitment of priests by Bishops Rosecrans and Watterson gradually decreased the ratio. Bishop Hartley's 1918 history mentions a priest shortage in the 1880s when the ratio stood between 600 and 700. The increasing number of priests brought the ratio below 650 by 1890 and it stayed there, at what must have been seen as a "normal" level of between 650 and 500, from that year until the reconfiguration of the diocese at the beginning of 1945. Bishop Hartley's heavy recruiting in the early 1900s kept the ratio down despite the rapid population growth of those years.

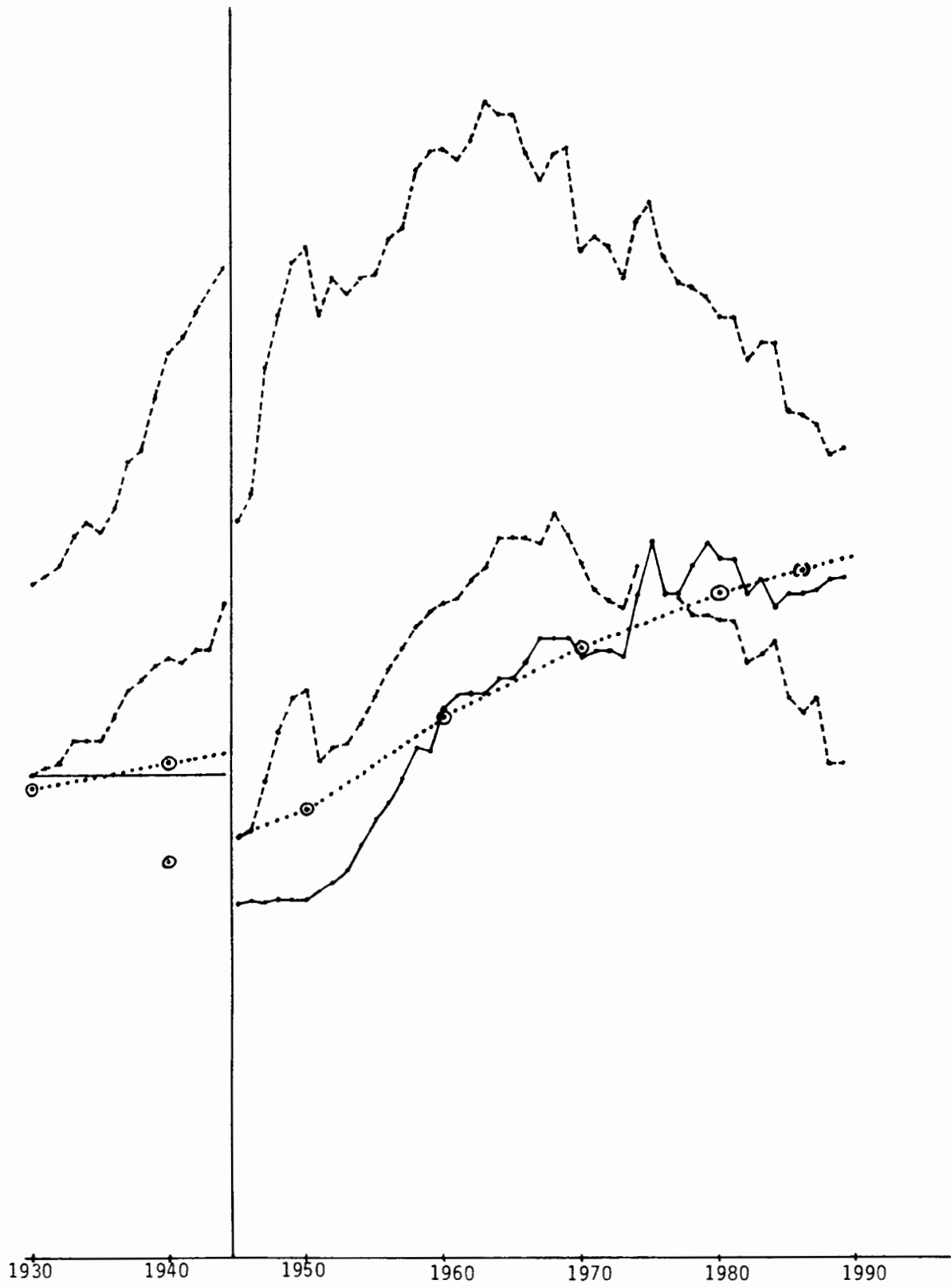
The reconfigured diocese began with a Catholic-population-to-priest ratio of 481, below the historical "normal" level, and it declined from there to a low of 356 in 1950. Since that year it has steadily increased, representing the increasing responsibility of each priest. It passed through the historical "normal" level between 1961 and 1972 and has now reached the vicinity of 840, a level not seen for over a century. The increase in the ratio which began in 1950 was quite normal, as the Catholic population increased with many births. What has been troublesome is that this "baby boom" generation did not produce enough vocations to reverse the trend, nor even enough to slow it. Without an extraordinary upsurge in vocations in the next few years, the ratio can be expected to surpass that of the early, lean years of the diocese.

Conclusion

This brief exposition and summary of data suggest several other studies which could prove profitable to our understanding of the projected priest shortage of the diocese. Underlying data could be assembled for more and more

DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS





detailed analyses concerning the development of priestly vocations via their formation and education,

- in the two local seminaries, St. Aloysius and St. Charles;
- in the various other seminaries they have attended, considering the philosophies prevailing in the various seminaries at various times;
- as youths in the parishes and in the home.

Underlying the latter could be a study of the history of the preparation of young married couples to live in Catholic truth and generosity.

Taking another tack, one might consider the question: can vocations to the priesthood develop outside of a distinctly Catholic milieu? If not, then one must consider, when even in nominal terms the Church is only ten percent of the general population, what must be done today to develop and protect that milieu? How does the Church best proclaim the Gospel to the world but not be of the world? How does the Church best remain open to those of other faiths without saying that the Church is the same as their churches?

Whatever analyses were carried out, might one finally conclude, as Rev. John Brummer said of one of his missions, that "Faith, living Faith is what is wanting." Bishop Flaget of Bardstown visited the tiny Catholic community near Somerset in 1812 when not one priest lived in all of Ohio. With him we should all be praying the prayer he offered then, "God of all goodness, send us priests!"

Special thanks to the A. T. Wehrle Memorial Library of the Pontifical College Josephinum, for statistics from volumes of the annual Catholic Directory not available at the Chancery. Thanks also to the Diocesan Census office.

MT. CALVARY CEMETERY, COLUMBUS
CATHEDRAL DIVISION LOT RECORDS, 1867-1926?
(continued from Vol. XIV, Number 11)

page 63, Mrs. James McNally, east half of lot 90-B, purchased Apr. 14, 1869; graves: Feb. 19, 1889 (child); May 3, 1889; Jan. 15, 1891; Jan. 29, ----; May 12, ----; Feb. 4, 1912.

"Family of Edward & Ellen Keefe/James & Margaret McNally"

page 66, Patrick Murphy, west half of lot 48-B, purchased July 22, 1870; graves: May 7, 1878; Feb. 6, 1886; Mar. 13, 1924.

Joseph Murphy, Oct. 17, 1902 - May 25, 1918

page 66, Gustavus Patton, south half of lot 137-B, purchased Aug. 20, 1869; graves: Feb. 4, 1878 (child); Jan. 24, 1912; Sept. 6, 1918; Oct. 2, 1924.

- (Mother) Ellen K. Patton, 1848 + 1935
- (Father) Gustavus Patton, 1837 + 1913
- (Son) Gustavus J. Patton Jr., 1878 + 1918
- (Son) Charles H. Patton, 1868 + 1869
- (Son) Frederick G. Patton, 1876 + 1877
- (Son) William K. Patton, 1872 + 1924

page 67, Lawrence Irwin, west half of lot 81-B, purchased March 10, 1870;
graves: Apr. 11, 1881; Nov. 17, 1898 (child); Mar. 28, 1908; Mar. 6, 1909;
Feb. 19, 1911; Feb. 6, 1915; Nov. 23, 1915; Feb. 19, 1927.

Winifred Irwin, Feb. 26, 1939
Agnes Irwin, Nov. 21, 1915
Lawrence Irwin, Feb. 6, 1915
Bridget Irwin, Feb. 18, 1911
Arthur Irwin, Apr. 2, 1931

page 67, William Irwin, east half of lot 81-B, purchased March 10, 1870;
graves: Jan. 8, 1885; Jan. 16, 1922.

William, son of Wm. & Ellen Irwin, died May 31, 1948
Mary, daughter of Wm. & Ellen Irwin, died Jan. 7, 1885, age 21 years
(Father) William Irwin, died May 11, 1893, age 66 years
(Mother) Ellen Irwin, died July 6, 1907, age 68 years

page 69, Rosa McGuire, 323 Buckeye St. (later 321 N. Fourth St.), south half
of lot 65-B, purchased 1870; graves: Aug. 8, 1887 (child); Aug. 1, 1887; Dec.
19, 1890; Aug. 24, 1894; Aug. 27, 1927.

Rose McGuire, 1840 - 1900
Bridget McGuire, 1803 - 1889
Michael McGuire, 1886 - 1915
Peter J. McGuire, 1846 - 1927
Margaret M. his wife, 1854 - 1890
Mary C. McGuire, 1874 - 1893
(Husband) Michael H. McGuire, 1886 + 1915

page 70, James Fallon, 680 N. Kerr St., east half of lot 76-B, purchased Apr.
17, 1868. Graves: May 24, 1884; Aug. 17, 1892; Apr. 30, 1900; Apr. 1, 1910;
and June 15, 1923.

(Sister) Ellen Fallon, Oct. 3, 1859 - June 14, 1923
(Sister) Catherine E. Fallon, d. Mar. 31, 1911 @ 57y
(Father) James Fallon, d. Aug. 16, 1892, @ 69y
(Mother) Mary Fallon, d. Apr. 28, 1900, @ 78y
(Brother) James H. Fallon, d. May 23, 1884, @ 27y

page 71, John Lomasney, 307 "Popular" Ave., west half of lot 84-B, purchased
Sept. 11, 1872; graves: July 31, 1894; May 4, 1903; Jan. 18, 1904. [no
tombstones]

page 74, Patrick Finneran, south half of lot 141-B, purchased Apr. 14, 1870;
graves: Sept. 7, 1902 (child); Aug. 6, 1913; Jan. 26, 1914. [no tombstones]

page 77, Edward Ruine, west half of lot 61-B, purchased Jan. 27, 1874 (??);
graves: Apr. 9, 1889; July 26, 1916.

Ann Ruine	Mary R. Ruine, Dec. 11, 1914
Elizabeth A. Ruine, Oct. 5, 1946	Edward Ruine, Apr. 6, 1889
Ambrose I. Ruine, March 4, 1934	Margaret Dunn, died May 28, 1934
Edward J. Ruine, July 16, 1916	

page 77, Michael Connors, north half of lot 141-B, purchased in Aug. 22, 1876; graves: Aug. 22, 1876 (child); Apr. 1, 1877 (child); Sept. 1, ---- (child); Oct. 15, 1898; July 15, 1909. [no tombstones]

page 79, Mrs. Bridget Owens, west half of lot 36-B, purchased Aug. 31, 1876; graves: Aug. 31, 1876; Aug. 2, 1910; Aug. 25, 1913; Dec. 23, 1914. On Oct. 1, 1916 the remains on this lot were moved to St. Joseph Cemetery. Lot transferred to Francisco Mercurio, 232 E. Spring St.

page 506, Francisco Mercurio, west half of lot 36-B, transferred by Bridget Owens, May 7, 1917.

Mary Ann Mercurio, born July 15, 1915, died Nov. 25, 1916
(Father) Frank Mercurio, July 27, 1861 - May 30, 1918
(Mother) Mary Mercurio, Jan. 10, 1880 - Mar. 17, 1957
(Father) Joseph J. Mercurio, Dec. 10, 1896 - Nov. 26, 1963

page 80, Peter Minogue, west half of lot 107-B, purchased Apr. 30, 1873; grave for M. King, May 24, 1878; no payments were made and the lot was re-sold.

page 453, Daniel R. Mahoney, 1143 Hamlet St., west half of lot 107-B, purchased July 1, 1904; graves: March 18, 1905 (two removals); Sept. 27, 1927.

(Mamma) Mary, wife of Daniel P. Mahoney, died July 5, 1904, age 24 years.

Gone but not forgotten.

(Son) Cornelius D. Mahoney, 1904 + 1927, at rest.

In loving memory of Daniel P. Mahoney, Feb. 5, 1878 - May 25, 1941

In loving memory of (Mother) Anna M. Mahoney, Aug. 31, 1879 - July 16, 1955

(To be continued)

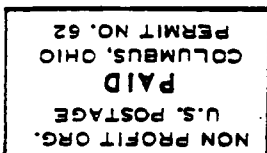
DONATIONS AND ACQUISITIONS FOR THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

A series of booklets published by the University of Notre Dame Press in 1964 and 1965, "Men Who Make the Council", concerning Cardinals Suenens, Lercaro, Ritter, Tisserant, Saygh, Leger, Ottaviani, Meyer, Koenig, Doepfner, Lienart, Butler, Roberts, Hallinan, Cicognani, Hurley, Rugambwa, and McGrath. (Missing are the booklets on Cardinals Bea, Beran, Friugs, D'Souza, Helmsing, and Alfrink.)
- anonymous donation

A set of the Divine Office, 1955, plus associated materials from the convent of the Poor Clares in Portsmouth. Donated by the Sisters, via Sr. Joan Harper, Vicar for Religious.

Photographs: The rectory at Minerton St. Mary; Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Royer Chapel, Coshocton County. - gifts of Rev. Bernard F. McClory

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197 E. Gay Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 Donald M. Schlegel, editor



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