



# Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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## THE SLAVIC CATHOLICS OF GUERNSEY AND NOBLE COUNTIES

by Lorle Porter, Ph.D.

(Concluded, from Vol. XVII, No. 9)

### Part 4

#### The Slovak Roman Catholic Parishes

##### Father Soukup at Byesville

In February of 1917 Rev. Alois Soukup was sent to Byesville by Bishop Hartley to replace Father Berry. He was to spend nearly thirty years with the impoverished Slovak miners there. Father Soukup was a concert quality violinist, an acquaintance of Anton Dvorak, and a linguist of distinction who spoke Czech (his native tongue), German, and many Slovak dialects. It was a lonely life for such a priest, and there was a touch of the Czech-Slovak disdain: "Czechs are the princes, Slovaks the workers," but he wrote the "lingua hungarica" and he filled his life with incredible energy and dedication -- what other Slovak parish had a children's chamber orchestra! (83)

Father Soukup energetically canvassed his parish and built miners' missions at Dogtown Switch, Harryette, and the Chapel of St. Mary at Walhonding. The parish burst at the seams. Although he mixed Czech theological terms with Slovak in his sermons, he still "talked like us." Soukup became what all good pastors of immigrant national parishes became, the community leader. As the immigrants slowly became citizens and a huge block of votes was at stake, local politicians applied for his support. Soukup was famous for his position: "I don't tell them how to vote, but I tell them how I'm going to vote." (84)

The work load was crushing. The Church was the center of Slovak existence. The saying among the people was that one was only "a good Slovak when one was a good Catholic." On Sundays, families walked to Holy Trinity in Byesville from Walhonding, Lore City, and Dogtown, some without shoes, their "Sunday shoes" carefully wrapped in a paper sack to be worn only when one approached the church. Father Soukup visited all the mining towns, blessed the Easter baskets, visited the sick, and during Epiphany chalked the doors with signs of the three kings: K for Kaspar, M for Malkeor, and B for Baltazar. The priest blessed the day a prosperous parishioner bought a car and drove him on his rounds! Soukup was a supreme theologian who regularly wrote to a parishioner-seminarian in Latin. He was the epitome of a priest-leader and he made some unpopular decisions. The notation of his death in the



Rev. Alois Soukup

Holy Trinity records, April 26, 1960 speaks to his life: "Roses for you; and hidden thorns; God's priest, not the people's." The sum of his life was the firm establishment of Slovak Catholics in Guernsey County.

#### Lore City

Most of the kids playing on the slag heap in King's Mine would end up working in mines and factories, but not Andy Beros. Even when his family moved to Belle Valley in the caravan of miners opening up that mine, Andy was different - he wanted to be a priest. Like Steve Pekalla of Mingo



Rev. Andrew Beros

Junction, he would be one of the first of the immigrant children to so serve the Church. Beros was in seminary at St. Vincent's Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, when Bishop Hartley sent for him. The work load at Holy Trinity in Byesville was overwhelming; Fr. Soukup had to have relief, so Beros was ordained at St. Joseph Cathedral in simplex (without the final year of study) and when he offered his first Mass at Ascension Parish in Belle Valley, June 18, 1922, five thousand people showed up to express their pride -- one of their own would serve their Church. (85)

Father Beros lived at Holy Trinity rectory while preparing for his assignment -- he was to begin a daughter parish in the eastern half of the existing parish. Beros walked daily to Lore City and began to build a rectory on land that Bishop Hartley had purchased. (86) The Ku Klux Klan burned a cross on the property next door. The Slovaks had seen that sort of thing before and they placidly ignored it. Men came in from Black Top and King's Mine to help. George Yanico and his father had no sooner washed the soot off their faces than they walked, shovel in hand, the half mine into the English town toward Slovak Hill. They were building their church next to the one the Russian Orthodox had erected the same year.

From April to September, Father Beros offered Mass in the rectory on weekdays and in the movie theatre (later the high school gymnasium) on Sundays. On September 23, 1923 the new church was finished. It was built with immigrant sweat, but many fellow Catholics had helped. The pews were donated by Sacred Heart Parish in Columbus, the altar, stations of the cross, and baptismal font came from St. Benedict's in Cambridge. The people burst with pride. One hundred families, six hundred people, composed the new parish and all of them, and hundreds more, came to the dedication on May 28, 1924. People from King's Mine, Kipling, Old Orchard, Goodyear, and Black Top had their church, and as the mines began to close in the dark years of the strikes, people who did not join the northern migration moved into the English town to be close to their sanctuary. Father Beros laid a firm human foundation. He taught catechism during the summer with children clustered

under trees and singing beloved Slovak songs, ones still used in special services at the church today. The church was a social service organization, "The good mother of Fr. Beros used to prepare lunches for the men who would come and offer their services for the church" during the strikes; Father Beros made work for the unemployed and still paid off the debt. (87)

### Three Slovak Roman Catholic Parishes

The Slovak immigrants now had three churches in their cocoon, namely Holy Trinity at Byesville, Ascension at Belle Valley, and Sts. Peter and Paul at Lore City. When Father Beros was sent off from Lore City to found another Slovak parish, St. Joseph's in Toronto, he was succeeded by two European priests. Fr. Valentine Mihelic, who remained a year and then returned to Slovakia, and Fr. Stanislas Szadzinski. Fr. Szadzinski as a Pole (ordained in Poland in 1910) did not really fit and moved two years later to the Polish church of Five Martyrs in Chicago. Bishop Hartley was able to provide a native son of America, Father Stephen Pekalla, born at Mingo Junction on December 22, 1902. Fr. Pekalla was educated at St. Agnes School in Mingo and St. Vincent's Archabbey, but the bishop, significantly, sent him to St. Mary's, Emmittsburg, for final preparation. It was clear to the bishop that at least his Slovak priests had to be able to step out of the cocoon. Fr. Pekalla was ordained in Columbus on May 29, 1930. He served Sts. Peter and Paul for fifteen years and then finished his career and life at Caldwell. (88)

The Lore City church was very active. In 1945 it had only seventy-five families in the parish, but it was mother to many families in the northern exodus. In the first twenty-five years of its history, priests had performed 327 baptisms and 117 weddings, and 116 funerals; 438 had received first communions and the bishop had confirmed 469. Of the 116 dead, 101 had Slovak surnames and the remainder were the familiar Irish names of the railroad era. The Belle Valley parish was active too. In 1923 a mine foreman's house was



Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Lore City

deeded to the parish as a rectory and Fr. A. Gross became the first resident pastor, followed in a year by Fr. Horak. The great trauma for Ascension Parish was the devastating fire which destroyed the church just after Mass on January 4, 1914. But "an old friend" (Bishop Hartley) replaced the structure for the Depression devastated parish and it was renamed Corpus Christi. All three parishes began to contract with the out-migration in the 1930s. (89)

The people served by Holy Trinity, Ascension, and Sts. Peter and Paul parishes were poor immigrants. The Byesville banker used to greet Father Soukup with the jest that he was waiting for the Monday morning deposits to secure his supply of pennies for the week! They were poor, and they were peasants, but they found in their parishes an anchor for their lives, and in the parish schools, an avenue for advancement. These churches were three of the two hundred forty-one Roman Catholic Slovak parishes in America in 1930. Catholicism was indeed an overriding characteristic of the Slavic immigration, but the simple adage "a good Slovak is a good Catholic" ignored the large Byzantine and Orthodox populations and the very large Slovak Lutheran population in their midst. There were forty-eight Slovak Lutheran parishes in America, three in the Guernsey coal fields and there were even eight Calvinist Slovak churches in Ohio. The history of Slovak migration had many textures.

The outward migration forced the local Roman Catholic parishes to contract; added to that was the shortage of priests obvious in the newly created Diocese of Steubenville (1945). Belle Valley was a mission of Caldwell from 1945 to 1958 and, after a series of resident pastors, is today a mission of Lore City. Father Rudolph Wargo, nephew of Fr. Beros, served at Belle Valley from 1970 until his death in 1973. Pastors at Belle Valley have been Revs. J. J. Herman, Clement Crock, Carl Gross, Frank Horak, John C. Matysiak, Connie Superfisky, S. J. Karwowski, Mieceslaus Dzhowski, Stephen J. Pekalla, James A. Dirker, and Alex Raab. Pastors at Holy Trinity have been Revs. Anton Gracik, E. Richtartsik, E. E. Berry, Alois Soukup, Celestine Drexler, O.S.B. (administrator), Stephen A. Laca, and Msgr. William Yontz.

The three parishes are still active today. Holy Trinity in 1973 built a new church and uses the old edifice as a social hall. At Lore City, St. Peter and Paul parish purchased the property of the defunct Orthodox congregation of the same name and it is now part of the parish parking lot. (90)

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#### NOTES

83. Msgr. William Yontz and Mrs. Mary Burtik, oral history interviews.
84. Msgr. Yontz.
85. McCarthy, History of Corpus Christi Parish, Belle Valley, p. 26. Msgr. Yontz.
86. Bishop Hartley had purchased lots 73, 74, 75, 81 through 84, and the west half of lot 76 in Richey's Addition to Lore City from Benjamin Hart and wife on April 23, 1921. The price of \$1.00 was paid by "Slovak Roman Catholic Saints Peter and Paul's Church of Lore City."
87. Sts. Peter and Paul Jubilee Booklet.
88. St. Peter and Paul, 1973, parish records.
89. McCarthy, History of Corpus Christi Parish, Belle Valley.
90. Guernsey County Deed Records 264/931 and 264/034 (dated 1965).

ORIGINS OF GERMAN CATHOLICS OF COLUMBUS  
FROM THE HOLY CROSS PARISH CENSUS  
(Continued from Vol. XVII, Number 9)

Konanz, Jacob, born 27 June, 1847, Bretten, Baden, son of Simon Konanz and Theresia. Wife Francisca Moeller, born 5 Dec., 1849. Married 24 Oct., 1872. (two sons) To St. Mary's Church.

Koenig, Joseph, born Oct., 1844, Columbus, son of Anton Koenig and Maria Amalia Dichtmüller. Wife Maria Koehler, born 5 Oct., 1846, Union County, Ohio, daughter of Francis Joseph Köhler and Maria. Married 1867 at Holy Cross. (three children)

Korn, Carl, born 13 Feb., 1834, Karlsruhe, Baden, son of Carl Heinrich Korn and Rosa Brougier. Wife (1) Friderica Boden. Wife (2) Louisa Walter, born 24 March, 1850, Benfeld, Elsass, daughter of Johann Walter and Anna Maria Zueni.

Kraus, Conrad, born 22 Aug., 1840, Waschenbach, Hesse Darmstadt, son of Johann; died May, 1912. Wife Margaretha, born 20 Sept., 1844, daughter of Anton Leibold. (five children) To St. Dominic's Parish.

Krebs, Georg, born 20 Apr., 1847, Zanesville, son of Georg Krebs and Cath. Eliz. Müller; died 3 Feb., 1902. Wife Maria Sidonia Mass [Maas], born 14 Oct., 1848, Columbus, daughter of John Mass and Cath. (four children)

Kremer, Jacob -- see Frick, Matthaeus.

Kronenberger, Jacob, born 22 Apr., 1824, Erbesbüdesheim, Alzei, Hesse Darmstadt; died 1882. Wife Catharina Eisel, born 22 Oct., 1821, Wasserlos, Alzunau, Baiern, daughter of Nicholas Eisel. (seven children)

Kuhn, Caspar, born 26 Nov., 1829, Hessen-Cassel, son of Martin Kuhn and Catharina. Wife Catharina Rohletter, born 22 Feb., 1833, Hürdt, Speier, Rheinpfalz, daughter of Peter Rohletter and Elizabeth Stibig. Married 11 May, 1855. She married secondly, 11 May, 1873, John Schwind. (seven Kuhn children and two Schwind children)

Lampert, Fidel., from Triefsenberg(?), Fürs, Lichtenstein, born 10 Sept., 1881. Wife Elisabetha Jordi, from Cham, Kanton Zug, Switzerland.

Lang, Cornelius, born 23 Sept., 1821, Erbesbüdesheim, Hessen Darmstadt, son of Peter Lang and Maria Anna Kronenberger; died 14 Apr., 1897. Wife Gertruda Daudt, born 17 Feb., 1815, daughter of Wilhelm Daudt and Anna Maria Monschauer; died 28 Jan., 1897. To Columbus 1848; married 3 Aug., 1848. (three children)

Lang, Georg, born 14 Oct., 1836, Rheinpfalz, son of Georg John Lang and Margaretha Priss (Triss?) [buried at Mt. Calvary on March 23, 1880]. Wife Catharina Hock, born 7 June, 1836; died 3 Feb., 1907. Married 27 May, 1858. (eight children)

Lang, Jacob, born Jan., 1827, Erbesbüdesheim, son of Nicholas Lang and Sophia Kronenberger. Wife Adelaide Schlumberger, born Feb., 1829, in Brasilien, daughter of Jacob Schlumberger and Margaretha Zimmer, Kaisersl., Würtbg; died

1908. To St. Mary's Church. (seven children)

Lang, John, born 18 June, 1807, Kriegsfeld, Kirchenboland, Rheinpfalz, son of Franz Lang and Catharina; died 28 Aug., 1874. Wife Louisa Kaiser, born 29 Sept., 1810, Mersfeld, Kirchenboland, daughter of Georg Kaiser and Elizabeth Lang; died 12 Oct., 1909. (three daughters)

Lang, Mathias, born 21 Sept., 1825, Würzbg., Bachenau. Married Petronella Gßb, widow of Ignaz Trott. (six children, including two Trott children; see Ignaz Trott, below)

Lang, Nicholas -- see Scheidel

Larger, Aloys, born 25 June, 1844, Felleringen, Elsass, son of Franz. Wife Catharina Kaiser, born 7 Sept., 1854, Burghard Kr. Schotten, Hesse Darmstadt. To St. Mary's Church.

Lauber, Joseph, born ca 1840, Switzerland. Wife Elizabeth Abel, born 7 May, 1847, Werblin, Trier, of Georg Abel and Catharina. To St. Mary's Church. (Three children)

Lauer, Franz V., born 12 July, 1821, from Alte, Baden; died Nov., 1880. Wife Maria Kath. Schmidt, born 1823, died 22 March, 1901. Married in Alte. (two sons)

Laufersweiler, Heinrich, born 29 Sept., 1839 in Derrebach, Coblenz, son of Peter Laufersweiler and Anna Maria Friedrich from Hilwersheim; died 28 Oct., 1916. Wife Elizabeth Hock, born 14 Feb., 1840, Columbus, daughter of Leonard Hock and Elizabeth Stahl; died 1899. Married 7 Nov., 1861. (ten children)

Leibold, Anton, born 7 Sept., 1816, Brückenau, Baiern, son of Georg Leibold and Margaretha Sterz. Wife Margaretha Haecosler (?), born 1817, Brückenau. Married 1844. (four children) See also Kraus, Conrad.

Liebel, Peter, born 5 June, 1826, Herdt, Speier, Rheinpfalz, son of Anton Liebel and Cath. Renner. Wife Elizabeth Gundermann, born 12 Feb., 1826, Herdt, daughter of Michael Gundermann and Cath. Schwind. (two daughters)

Lind, Christoph, born 4 July, 1828, Weinheim bei Alzei, Hessen Darmstadt, son of Christian Lind and Eliz. Els from Nieder Weinheim; he came to Columbus in 1850. Wife Margaretha Eisel, born 29 Oct., 1829, daughter of Nic. Eisel and Anna Maria Hut; Nic. from Wasseros bei Aschaffenburg, Baiern. Married 2 May, 1852. (fifteen children)

Lind, Jacob, born 28 July, 1832; died 1889. Wife Carolina Bogenschültz, born 12 Aug., 1843, Chillicothe, daughter of Charles Bogenschültz, from Kichelspergen, Baden, and Julia Eichmann; died 1882. Married in Springfield, O. (seven children)

[Kathleen Lind Swint, a descendant of the numerous Lind family, has provided the Society with a copy of the passport belonging to Christian Lind, father of the above Christoph and Jacob. According to her documents, Christian was from the town of Weinheim, near Alzey, Rhein-Hessen, emigrated in 1836, and died in Chillicothe about 1838. The passport, dated 20 April, 1836, lists Christian's

age as 41 years, his height as seven shoes, hair blond, eyebrows blond, eyes brown. His wife was Elisabetha, age 33. Their seven children were Katharina, 18 years; Elisabetha, 15 years; Anna Maria, 14 years; Maria; Christoph, 7 years; Anna Hilar, 3 years; and Jakob, 1 year.]

Lotz, J. Henry, born 8 Oct., 1800, Neustadt, Kurhessen, son of Benedict Lotz and Gertrude Hubert. Wife Salome Steinmetz, born 11 Nov., 1814, Wilwisheim, Canton Hochfelden, Elsass. (four children)

Loughran, Wil, born 8 Dec., 1860, from Lancaster, Pa., son of John Loughran and Mary Donagh; died 18 Jan., 1910. Wife Matilda M. Wolf, born 15 Sept., 1866, daughter of Michael Wolf and Rosalie Blüchner. Married 21 Nov., 1899, Cattlesburg, Ky. (two children)

Lovener, John, born Oct., 1836; died 1896; [mother?] Catharina Dirshell, Regensburg. Wife Petronilla Baumgart, born 13 Aug., 1839, daughter of Bernhard Baumgard; died 26 Apr., 1912. Married 1 Jan., 1860. (eight children)

Loviner, Michael, born 23 Feb., 1844; died 13 March, 1906. Wife Maria Margaretha Baumgard, born 30 Aug., 1853, daughter of Bernard Baumgard; died 9 Oct., 1887. Married 19 Sept., 1871. (four children)

Luckhaupt, Johann A. -- see Henry Wingendorf.

Luckhaupt, Lorenz, born 24 July, 1843, Lützenbach, Fürth, Hesse Darmstadt, son of Johann Adam Luckhaupt and Margaretha Schmidt. Wife Catharina Elizabeth Ranft, born 22 Feb., 1846, Columbus, O., daughter of Georg Ranft and Barbara Wohlleber. Married 13 Oct., 1868. (five children)

Luckhaupt, Philip, born 1825, Fürth, Hesse Darmstadt, son of Johann Adam Luckhaupt. Wife Eva Elizabeth Rothermel, born 28 June, 1826, Fürth, daughter of Nic Rothermel and Cath. Fink. (five children) To St. Mary's Church.

Lunz, Michael, born 29 Jan., 1828, son of Andreas Lunz (b. 19 Dec., 1801) and Anna Maria Dennert (b. 28 Feb., 1806) in Thülfeld. Wife Anna Maria Eisel, born 19 June, 1825, daughter of Nicholas Eisel and Anna Mar. To Columbus in 1840. (two daughters)

Maas, Johann (Mound St. Scioto), born 6 Jan., 1825, Hostenbach, Sarlouis, son of Peter Maas and Barbara Klein. Wife Maria Weiland, born 1823, Walpershofen, Sarbrück, daughter of Johann Weiland and Cath. Maas. Married at Watgassen, Sarlouis. (five children)

Maeder, Frank, born 1861, Columbus, son of Daniel and Carolina. Wife Mary Acker, born 1867, Lockbourne, Ohio, daughter of James and Mary. Married 1889 at St. Mary's. (one son)

Matt, Joseph, born 13 Nov., 1843, Ravensburg, Kr. Bodensee, Württemberg, son of Johann and Maria; died 19 Dec., 1874. Wife Cath. Josephina Weiler, daughter of Dominic. Married at St. Augustine's, Cincinnati. (one daughter)

Meder, Conrad, born 26 Sept., 1832 in Marbach, Amt Villingen, Baden, son of Gregory and Margaretha Meder; died May 11, 1915. Wife Agatha Buhri, born 28

Jan., 1828 in Döningen, Amt Donaußschingen, Baden, daughter of Christoph Buhri and Maria Anna Hilt; died 2 March, 1904. In Columbus 1849. Married 3 Jan., 1855. (twelve children)

Mehling, Frank, born 1 April, 1822 in Steinfeld, Würzbg. Wife Cunigunda Müller, born 7 May, 1837, Schertzlitz, Bamberg; she married secondly Machold J. Fraas; died 12 May, 1914. (six children)

Mehling, Valentin, born 13 Oct., 1824, Steinfeld, Lohr, Main, son of Johann Mehling and Cath. Schuhmacker; died 5 Jan., 1901. Wife Eliz. Eck from Steinfeld, Baiern, born 13 Nov., 1831; died 20 Oct., 1907. Married 12 July, 1853. (seven children)

Mehling, Barbara, sister of Valentin, born 1817, died 1901.

Meinhard, Henry, born Niedermoos, Hesse Darmstadt. Wife Margaretha Rieg, born 9 Oct., 1846 in Columbus, daughter of Franz Rieg and Sidonia Leibold, from Bruckenau. Married in St. Louis by a squire. (four children)

Merk, Valentin, born 19 Dec., 1827, Buch bei Illertissen, Baiern, son of Joseph and Marianna. Wife Barbara Pfeifer, born 17 Nov., 1827, Aufheim, daughter of Andreas Pfeifer and Josephina Betz. Married 13 Aug., 1854 in Columbus. (eight children)

Merkle, Lucas, born Endingen, Baden; died 7 Dec., 1866, aged 52 years. Wife Margaretha Ury, born 19 Dec., 1821, Telei, Trier, daughter of Peter Ury and Johanna Notat. Married in Chillicothe, 7 Jan., 1840. (eight children)

(To be continued)  
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#### DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

Memoirs of Holy Trinity Parish, Somerset, Ohio: One Hundred Years of Dominican Service, 1827-1927. - gift of Sr. M. Francine Stalter, O.P.

Whisker, James Biser, St. Thomas the Apostle Roman Catholic Church [Bedford, Pa.]: Records of Baptisms and Births Marriages and Deaths; Apollo [Pa.]: Closson Press, 1992. - gift of Donald Schlegel

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