

CATHOLIC RECORD SOCIETY - DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS
SOCIETY NEWS
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197 E. Gay Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215

241-2571

Spring Meeting

The Spring Quarterly Meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 19, 2002 at the Borrelli Center behind St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 1600 N. Hague Avenue. Father M. Edmund Hussey will speak about "Purcell of Cincinnati."

Archbishop Purcell, a native of Ireland, became the second Bishop of Cincinnati in 1833. For fifty years he helped his small diocese develop into a large and distinguished archdiocese. His see city was largely German, but he functioned so capably that the Church in Cincinnati was virtually free of ethnic tensions. On the border between North and South, he struggled to move beyond the merely political and economic aspects of slavery and finally was able to defend the Emancipation Proclamation. The last chapter of his life, which was dominated by a disastrous financial failure, undermined his legacy. After his death, his memory was allowed to pass quickly into oblivion.

Purcell's episcopacy was crucial for our diocese, for it was he who visited the area often, established many churches here, accepted Sylvester Rosecrans as a candidate for the priesthood and eventually consecrated him as auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati, and installed him as first Bishop of Columbus.

Father Hussey is a retired seminary professor and pastor of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, now living in Hilliard. He earned a Ph.D. in historical theology from Fordham University and also served as archivist for the Archdiocese. Among his publications are several studies of Ohio Catholic history, including articles on the life of Archbishop Purcell.

Dominicans at Home in a Young Nation : 1786-1865

Volume I of The Order of Preachers in the United States: A Family History, with the above title, is now available from Project OPUS. This 304-page, hard cover book, a compilation of fifteen chapters and four profiles, was written by an impressive array of seventeen authors, under the general editorship of our friend Sister Mary Nona McGreal, with contributions by Sisters Loretta Petit and Paschala Noonan. The book includes numerous illustrations (all in a dark sepia) and quotations from primary sources.

Familiar subjects include the stories of Bishop Fenwick and the missions and schools in Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee. Less familiar but just as interesting are the work of the Order in Wisconsin, California, New Orleans, and elsewhere. Of particular interest to us are a profile of Angela and Benven Sansbury and 'The Kelly Diary', notes kept by Father Joseph Kelly while President of St. Joseph's College near Somerset from January to May, 1858.

Without going into so much detail as to be uninteresting, the volume discusses the internal struggles of the order regarding discipline and purpose, relations with the bishops, and relationships of the women's houses with each other and with the men. Some of the personal problems of the Fathers are discussed but, interestingly, few of the Sisters!

We commend this book highly to our readers! It can be ordered from Project OPUS, 5082 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60644. The price is \$25 plus \$2.50 postage and handling. (For further information, call 773-921-2538.)