



Blood Lines

Newsletter of the Atlantic Province Winter-Spring 2019

From the Provincial and Council

On Wednesday, January 16, 2019, the Provincial Council met at the Centre House in Niagara Falls, Ontario, at 9:45 a.m. All council members were present. Fr. Peter Nobili, the Treasurer, was also present for the financial report.

The minutes of the previous meeting on November 5, 2018 were approved.

Report of the Provincial Treasurer

Fr. Peter presented an update on various financial projects that are in the works, including the sale of the Bathurst property. The relocation of the house of formation is in progress with several promising properties under consideration. Fr. Augusto Menichelli is in charge of looking for the property since it will likely need to be retrofitted for our purposes. All is expected to be finished within a one-year time frame.

After being with the mission office for seven months, the secretary has been off work for a considerable period of time. Fr. Peter thinks we will eventually need one full time secretary and a half-time secretary as there is now a mailing list of about 20,000 people. To keep the list current will demand a lot of secretarial time. Donations to the mission office are running around \$100,000, more or less, which is enough to keep our projects going at the present time.

The first issue of the magazine went out in January with Fr. Augusto as the new editor.

The remodeling of the kitchen is well-underway at the Niagara Falls house. A woman is coming in twice a week to clean and once the kitchen is finished she will be hired full time as a cook for the evening meal.

Fr. Peter then proposed to the council that a discretionary fund be created in the US for people working there. After listening to his presentation, Fr. Ron moved that the fund be set up. Fr. Michael seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Finally, Fr. Mario brought up the issue of the annual cost of living increment. After some discussion on the pros and cons of the increase, Fr. Peter agreed to work on the issue and present a proposal at the assembly in June.

Agenda for the Assembly.

Most of what needs to be included on the agenda is in the Provincial Statutes, no. 72. A nominating ballot for provincial and a list of those members eligible for the office will be sent out soon and to be returned by April 15, 2019.

Fr. Michael suggested that the agenda be written up and sent out from Fr. Mario's office along with the nominating ballot and return envelope. Fr. Mario was in agreement with this proposal.

Presidium

Fr. Mario shared material he had from Presidium regarding their program for training and certification related to sexual abuse. Since this only affects four men currently in the US, we need to look at what the CCCB is demanding along these lines because they have just finished updating their procedures. Fr. Mario will undertake a study of the CCCB document to see what may be lacking relative to what the US bishops expect.

Mexico

Fr. Ron shared his experience with the members in Mexico when he was there in November-December. There seems to be an opinion that they should be moving out from Mexico City. One possibility would be Puebla because the current archbishop was bishop of the zone in which we are currently located and knows us. This needs to be discussed in much more detail.

Fr. Mario suggested that he, Fr. Augusto as formation director, and Fr. Ron, since he speaks Spanish, should go in March and have this discussion with them before the business assembly. Fr. Mario would consult his calendar and be in communication with Fr. Augusto and Fr. Ron about proposed dates for this trip.

Personnel

A number of personnel issues were then taken under consideration.

The council will meet again on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, at 10:00am at the Niagara Centre House. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 24, 2019, the provincial council met at the Centre House in Niagara Falls, Ontario, at 10:15 a.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the previous council meeting on January 16 were approved.

Nominating Ballots for Provincial

23 ballots were returned. The process for tallying the votes was as follows: Fr. Mario opened the envelopes, Fr. Michael read the name on each ballot, and Fr. John oversaw the reading of the ballots while Fr. Ron kept the tally. The outcome was as follows:

Fr. Mario Cafarelli – 10
Fr. John Colacino – 5
Fr. Phil Smith -- 3
Fr. Patrick Gilmurray – 2
Fr. Rene Cerecedo – 2
Fr. Jeff Finley – 1

Agenda for the Assembly

In the letter announcing the assembly, the proposed agenda was sent out and the membership was invited to submit additional items of which 4 were received:

Fr. Brendan Doherty asked that the Brendan Discretionary Trust for the elementary school in Tanzania be presented to the assembly and that trustees be selected in a staggered style.

Fr. Peter Nobili asked that allowances be reviewed by the membership with the idea of putting some type of cap or moratorium as to raising them every other year. Fr. John suggested that since this is an item in the customary, it should be presented when we are covering statute revisions.

Fr. Peter also suggested that we look at the statute regarding the community retreat. He felt there needs to be clarification because a retreat should be made every year and not just every other year. Fr. John again suggested that this item be taken up when we are dealing with statute revisions.

Fr. Lui submitted a number of ideas relative to community life, some of which Fr. Mario noted have been addressed and others would be part of the proposed changes to the provincial statutes.

It was the consensus of the council that Fr. Mario's report be presented, not only in writing, but read aloud at the assembly since it is a "State of the Province" address. While all reports are to be made available to the membership in written form prior to the assembly, the following have asked to deliver theirs orally as well: Fr. Peter as Provincial Treasurer, Fr. Augusto Menichelli as Director of Formation, and Fr. Alarey Abella as Director of Vocations.

Written reports need to be into the Provincial Secretary by May 20, 2019.

Jubilarian Celebration

This year's jubilarians are Fr. Peter Nobili (50th of ordination); Fr. Lui Santi (25th of ordination), and Br Anthony Canterucci (70th of incorporation). Bishop Bergie will be invited to the celebration during the assembly as he would like the opportunity to meet the Moderator General and because both Fr. Lui and Fr. Peter have worked in his diocese.

Assembly Schedule

The following timetable was proposed for the assembly and can be adjusted as needed:

Monday Evening: The reading of the statutes governing a business assembly and Fr. Mario's report.

Tuesday Morning: 9:30 – 11:00: Reports continue.

Tuesday Afternoon: 3:00 – 4:30: Reports continue.

Tuesday Evening: 7:00 – 9:00: Reports concluded.

Wednesday: The entire day on Statute Revisions.

Thursday Morning: Draft of Mission Office Guidelines.

Thursday Afternoon – Elections begin.

Friday – End of the elections and new business.

Personnel

A number of personnel matters were taken into consideration.

New Business

A property for the House of Formation has been located. The ACTA of the extraordinary business assembly conducted by mail stipulated that the Provincial Council was to authorize the purchase of any new building.

Fr. John therefore moved: "In view of the resolution approved by the extraordinary assembly conducted by mail ballot and subsequently ratified at the Major Superiors Meeting, the provincial and council authorize the purchase of the property located at 299 Assiniboine Rd., Toronto, for \$1,070,00.00 CAD." Fr. Michael seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Fr. John then made a second motion: "The Provincial and Council authorized the development of the property in line with the resolution approved by the extraordinary assembly." Fr. Michael seconded the motion. The motion then passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Voice of the Founder



“Oh how we are comforted in our souls by the mysteries of the Resurrection! Yes, please pray that I too may truly be risen with Jesus, that is to say, to a new life and to an eager pursuit of holiness” (Letter 2026).



In your charity, please remember:

Stanislao (Lallo) Nobili, brother of Fr. Peter

Bruno Santi, father of Fr. Lui

Rev. Luciano Baiocchi, C.P.P.S., 1930-2019



Rev. Luciano Baiocchi was born August 24, 1930 in Gavignano, Italy. He was incorporated January 6, 1953 and ordained a priest on June 27, 1954. Father Luciano has been a member of the Congregation of Missionaries of the Precious Blood for 66 years. Shortly after his ordination, Father Baiocchi was assigned to the Italo-American Delegation of the Italian Province in North America. He began his ministry at St. Clare Church in the Archdiocese of Toronto serving the spiritual needs of the Italo-Canadian community along with Father Mario Bufalini. Later on the Archdiocese entrusted to them the care of St. Alphonsus Church. In the early seventies he served as associate along with Father Oreste Cerbara in the newly founded church of St. Roch. After a few years Father Baiocchi served as administrator in the House of Studies in Rochester, New York. In the early eighties he was sent as pastor of the

parish of St. Mary in London, Ontario. From St. Mary's he returned to the Archdiocese of Toronto where he served as associate at St. Roch until his retirement. After his retirement, Father Luciano returned to Italy where he resided at the Sanctuary of San Gaspare in Albano, Laziale, Italy. Father Luciano Baiocchi entered eternal life January 4, 2019 at 12:45pm. He is pre-deceased by his parents and one sister. He is survived by a sister and brother and other family members. The mass of Christian Burial was held on January 5, 2019 at the Sanctuary of San Gaspare in Albano, Italy. Interment was in the Community section of the cemetery adjacent the Sanctuary.

Provincial Calendar

MAY

- 2 Brendan Doherty (O - 1981)
- 4 James Reposkey (O -1974)
- 8 Jeffrey Finley (I -1990)
- 9 Angelo Della Vecchia (D- 1992)
- 10 Peter Nobili (O -1969)
- 12 *Mary, Mother of Mercy (Optional Memorial)*
- 21 Phillip Smith (O -1977)
- 24 *Mary, Help of Christians (Memorial)*
- 24 German Santiago Esteves (O - 2014)
- 25 Rene Cerecedo (O - 1985)
- 27 Anthony Canterucci (B -1929)
- 28 German Santiago Esteves (B -1974)

JUNE

- 3 Mario Cafarelli (B - 1956)
- 9 Jeffrey Finley (B -1969)
- 12 *Gaspar del Bufalo Canonized (1954)*
- 20 Mario Bufalini (D - 2010)
- 21 Luigino Santi (B -1961)
- 22 *Giovanni Merlini declared Venerable (1972)*
- 23 Phillip Smith (B -1950)
- 25 Michael Mateyk (O -2011)
- 26 Ronald Wiecek (O -1971)
- 29 William Mnyagatwa (O -1973)

JULY

- 1 *Solemnity of the Most Precious Blood*
- 1 Alaray Abello (O - 2007)
- 3 Dominic Jung (O - 1995)
- 3 Sam D' Angelo (O - 1999)
- 12 Augusto Menichelli (B -1973)
- 12 Joseph Grasso (B -1955)
- 16 James Reposkey (B -1946)
- 29 Patrick Gilmurray (B -1963)
- 31 Joseph Grasso (O -1992)

The New House of Formation; 299 Assiniboine Rd., Toronto



Scenes from the St. Francis Xavier Celebration; Merlini House



History of the Atlantic Province; Fr. Andy Pollack C.P.P.S.

I have retyped this 21-page document, delivered as a talk by Fr. Pollack during "A Festival of the Precious Blood" held at the Loretto Christian Life Centre, Niagara Falls, from August 25-30, 1985, since the scan that appeared in the last issue was of poor quality. I have also done some further research on some of the persons and locales mentioned in the history to supplement and update the information it contains. I hope both the members of the province who were at the festival and those who have joined since will find this expanded account as interesting as I have. In the first section of Pollack's document, which might be termed a "pre-history," the connection with the former California Province should be especially interesting to our membership whose own roots, interestingly enough, lie there. Supplemental information is always italicized to distinguish it from the Pollack original (John Colacino).

The Atlantic Vicariate began as a mission in 1904. In 1928, it became the Italo-American Delegation. In 1966, it became the Atlantic Vicariate. However, there is quite an interesting history that preceded the establishment of the mission in 1904. In that history, Fr. Hennebery's California venture plays a large part.*

Because of the personal problems Fr. Hennebery was experiencing in the California province, and more specifically in the conduct of his St. Joseph's College in Rohnerville, California, he appealed to Rome for help. On June 10 1873, the General Curia decided that, in case the House of Trois Epis in Alsace would be suppressed, the members of Trois Epis in Alsace should go to swell the ranks of the California Province. It was also decided at the same meeting to send missionaries as soon as possible to California, two former members of the House at Trois Epis, Fr. John Thoma and Valentine Grilli. They had with them a document authorizing them, in case the situation at Rohnerville did not offer much hope, to open a house somewhere else where the work of the Society could be carried out peacefully. At the same time they had instructions to stop off in Detroit to see what the bishop there had to offer because that bishop had to somehow gotten wind (perhaps through Bishop Dwenger C.P.P.S. of Fort Wayne) of the possible suppression in Alsace and had expressed the wish that the expelled members come to work in his diocese.



Father Patrick Hennebery, superior of the California Province, founder of St. Joseph's College, Rohnerville, CA.

Humboldt County was a remote and sparsely-settled wilderness when, in the fall of 1865, the Irish missionary, Father Patrick Hennebery, arrived in California and, though popular in the matter of giving missions throughout the mining towns of the old Grass Valley Diocese, desired to establish a novitiate of the Society of the Precious Blood in the northern part of the state. Following approval from his superiors, Eureka was chosen as the site.*

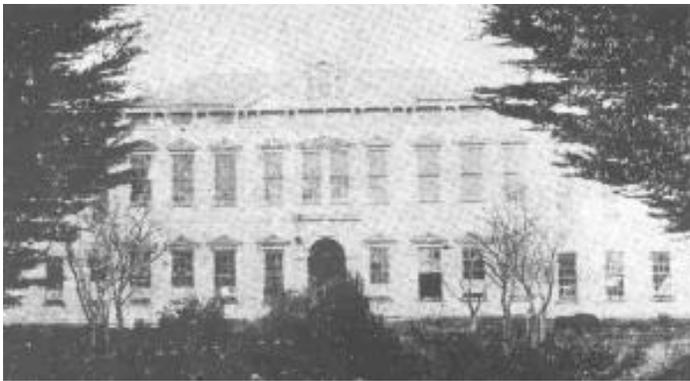
In the fall of 1868 Father Hennebery became the parish priest for Del Norte and Humboldt counties and soon began the building of the novitiate. But, with no means of support, he decided to start a secular school for boarders outside Eureka; this in hopes that profits would support the novitiate. Rohnerville pioneer, James Degan, donated a 30-acre site high on the bluff overlooking the Eel River and the "Ionian style" St. Joseph's College building was

completed in the fall of 1871.

The school was plagued by never-ending financial problems. Fr. Henneberry left his beloved school in the fall of 1875 to begin a ten-year fund-raising crusade; traveling throughout the world and giving missions in Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, South Africa, India, Rome and England before returning home in 1886. The school was forced to close for lack of students but resident seminarians and priests continued their studies and service to nearby parishes. Fr. Henneberry considered Rohnerville home, always returning to St. Joseph's from his business trips and preaching tours.

*Fr. Henneberry did not heed an invitation, extended to him while in Chicago, to retire to a C.P.P.S. Home. He returned to the West and, in vain, sought funds everywhere. He began a series of missions and worked without a day of rest between, Reno, Carson City, Gold Hill and Virginia City. On Sunday, August 15th, he offered Mass at St Mary's in the Mountains in Virginia City and worked tirelessly until the following Friday (8/20/1897). While celebrating Mass that day, he suffered a Stroke and was paralyzed. Admitted at the Sisters' Hospital in Virginia City, he passed to eternal life on Monday, the 19th of September (Feast of Saint Januarius, Bishop and Martyr).***

NOTE: The college was re-opened in January, 1894, but closed again in 1897; with final disposition of the property in 1899 when purchased from the Henneberry estate (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/133150345/patrick-henneberry>)



St. Joseph College, built at Rohnerville in 1871 on the site of the present-day airport (Fortuna Beacon, July 30, 1953).

The St. Joseph's College building was completed in the fall of 1871 at a cost of \$16,000 for materials. Designed by Rohnerville resident M. N. Lockington, the "magnificent edifice" was described as "Ionian style" architecture (Humboldt Times, Sept. 1, 1871). Lumber was brought from Eureka but other materials were purchased in San Francisco, shipped by steamer to Humboldt Bay and hauled by wagon to the site. During the final days of construction, contractors Masson and Campton employed fifteen men, including carpenters, painters, bricklayers and laborers.

To place this major undertaking in perspective to a time frame, consider that the Humboldt Bay had been rediscovered only twenty years earlier. The horse was the only mode of land transportation. There were no roads to the other areas of the state; the only way in or out of the area was via trails or by coastal steamers. The first school in Rohnerville had been built only ten years earlier, and it would be forty more years before the railroad would arrive and before Fernbridge would be built. William Carson would not begin construction on his Eureka mansion for another 14 years.

The fact that the school was even suggested, let alone completed, shows a tremendous amount of faith by Father Henneberry. The rest of the 'civilized world' considered the area a wilderness, and it was undoubtedly pointed out to

him that a school that teaches the foreign languages, fine arts, philosophy and classic culture studies would be better built where its student base was not made up of sons and daughters of farm and dairy families.

The three-story building, containing 62 doors, 97 windows, and eight skylights, extended 170 feet across the front, with an eight-foot wide corridor running 120 feet along the building from east to west. On the ground floor were three parlors, the bishop's room, two dining rooms, two recreation rooms, and eleven bedrooms. The second floor included two piano rooms, six bedrooms, the infirmary, study hall, classrooms, library, chapel, and rooms for the priests and professors. The third floor dormitory was topped by a promenade surrounded by an iron railing with a twenty-foot cupola. (Northern Independent, Sept. 7, 1871).

An imposing building, the college rose from the bluff with an ocean view in the distance, and, just below, the Eel River passing through its delta to the sea. To this frontier wilderness came priests and seminarians to teach the sons of local Catholic families, as well as boarders from other parts of the state. In addition to the standard commercial and English course of study, the students were offered Latin, Greek, French, Spanish, Italian, German literature, math, chemistry, and natural philosophy (<https://www.sunnyfortuna.com/history/rohnerville/college.htm>).

** Obviously, there are discrepancies between Pollack and other sources as to the correct spelling of their subject's surname.*

*** The cited source seems confused as to the dates and days of the week during which Hennebery died. August 15, 1987 was indeed a Sunday which would make the 19th a Thursday.*

Frs. Thoma and Grilli arrived in the U.S. about the beginning of September 1873. After a brief meeting with Fr. Hennebery, who happened to be in the East giving missions, they went on to Detroit, Michigan. There Bishop Borgess did not have much trouble convincing them that the needs of his diocese were greater than those of California. The two missionaries salved their conscience with the argument that, once they had established a House in Michigan, they would be able to help Hennebery from there. They make their headquarters, in the neighborhood of Grand Rapids at North Door, the largest rural parish in that area and which serviced quite a number of other stations. However, at the insistence of Fr. Rizzoli, the Moderator General, Fr. Grilli, went to California. He stayed there not quite a year and returned to North Dorr. During the first half of January 1875, Frs. Thoma and Grilli were joined by two confreres from the recently suppressed house at Trois Epis in Alsace, namely, Fr. Casimir Rohowski and Joseph Ebert.

All these missionaries had studied in Albano and were under the direct jurisdiction of the Moderator General. When it was suggested to them to place themselves under the direction of the American Provincial, they balked saying they preferred the Roman way. The best way, it seems, to describe the Michigan venture, is to take each one of the missionaries separately and to summarize his activities in Michigan.

After his return from California, Fr. Valentine Grilli was reassigned to the French parish of St. Joseph in Bay City, Michigan. He built a new parochial residence there and reopened the parochial school. In July 1878, he returned to Italy. Eventually, he became Superior of the house in Benevento and then afterwards of the House in Rimini. There he died on December 4th, 1918.

Fr. Joseph Ebert was stationed at North Dorr with Fr. Thoma (1875-1876), then by himself during all of 1876 and 1877. From the beginning of 1878, he was Pastor of St. Boniface parish in Bay City, Michigan. After a year's rest, he became pastor in Long Branch, Michigan (1890-1893). In 1893, he became pastor of the parish in a New Salem, Michigan, and remained there until he died on January 7, 1902.

Fr. John Thoma was in charge of the parish in North Dorr (near Grand Rapids, Michigan) as well as a member of attached missions stations. At first (1873-1874), he was alone, then with Fr. Ebert until 1876. In January 1876, he became pastor of St. Boniface (German) parish in Bay City, Michigan, until the end of 1877. In 1878, when the terrible yellow fever epidemic broke out in Memphis, Tennessee, he went there to help. He figured he had gone through a number of malaria fever epidemics in Italy and therefore was immune. He was not. He caught the disease but was more fortunate than ten other priests there who died. He returned to North Dorr and in February 1879

return to Europe to the use of Baumgartle which he had initiated in 1871. With him he brought three lads to study for the priesthood in the Society. He returned to the USA in late January 1886, but this time without the permission of the Moderator. Fearing the anti-clerical sentiment of certain elements in Germany, because of a certain unwise action of his, he decided to leave Germany. A letter of the Moderator to the American Provincial stated that Fr. Thoma was not to be considered a member of the Society until he received a commendatory letter from the Moderator General. By April 5th, he had been installed as pastor in New Hirlingen, not far from St. Joseph, Missouri. He died there on April 18, 1887, protesting his innocence to the end. Maybe it is not too late to issue that letter!



In 2014, the unused church of St. Joseph, Bay City, MI ("the mother church of the Saginaw diocese") was converted to housing for low-income residents



Today All Saints Parish includes St. James Church, St. Boniface Church and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church -- all in Bay City.

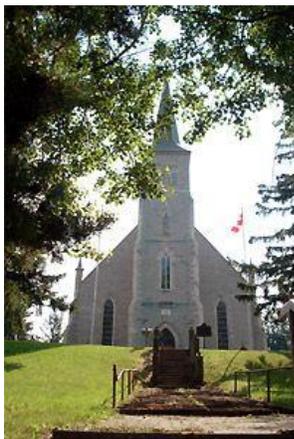
Fr. Theobald Bitsch was another former member of the House at Trois Epis who worked in Michigan for a short time. From October 1878 until April-May 1879, he assisted Rev. Andrew Herbstritt, an ex-member of the American Province, in the environs of Big Rapids, Michigan. Unexpectedly, the bishop informed him that, since he was ordaining five theologians, his services would no longer be required. Strange! Could it have been that the priest's name was a source of embarrassment to the bishop? The bishop issued him a very good recommendation and with this Fr. Bitsch betook himself to Canada and stayed there for three months with Fr. Luigi Elena, a cousin of Fr. Rizzoli, in Formosa, Bruce County, Ontario Province. Here some pioneers, were getting ready to seek their fortunes in the Manitoba Province, recently opened to colonization, asked him to accompany them. Encouraged by Fr. Elena, he decided to go. He arrived at St. Boniface, Manitoba, on July 12, 1879, and, in September of that year, he was assigned by the Bishop of St. Boniface to the settlement at St. Leon, about 100 miles from St. Boniface, 75 miles from the closest railway, and with no post office. On September 5, 1879 he wrote to Fr. Rizzoli requesting a copy of the Rules of the Society, a list of indulgences of the Pious Union of the Precious Blood, and he concludes, "I will try my best to work for the glory of God, the salvation of souls, and the honour of the congregation." He signed himself "Your obedient son in the blood of Jesus." He died there on March 18 .1892. His tomb should be the object of a pilgrimage by the Atlantic Vicariate!



The Theobald School District was founded in 1879 through the actions of Father Theobald Bitsche, parish priest of St. Leon, Manitoba. Named for him, a one-room wood frame school operated as of 1889 on the northwest quarter of 9-5-9 west of the Principal Meridian (on two acres of land donated by Edouard Labossiere) in the Rural Municipality of Lorne. A new schoolhouse erected in 1918 was used continuously until 1959, when it closed and henceforth students in the area went to St. Leon Village Consolidated School No. 1425 or Richard Consolidated School No. 1092. The former school building was moved to a museum in St. Leon but a monument, dedicated on 15 August 2004, commemorates it at the original site. Pictured here is the second “Theobald School.”



The present-day church of St. Leon, perhaps the site where the “Pious Union of the Precious Blood” -- forerunner of the USC – was first established in Canada. The village of Saint Léon, with a bi-lingual population of 100, was established in 1877 and is recognized as the oldest established parish in the region. It is situated in the Pembina Mountain Region 150 km southwest of Winnipeg. One of its attractions is The Théobald School Museum. (http://saintleon.ca/main.asp?cat_ID=3)



Church of the Immaculate Conception, Formosa ON, the earliest C.P.P.S. presence in Canada.

After the foundation of the new stone church was laid in 1875, work proceeded at an uneven pace. The new pastor of the day (Father Louis Elena C.P.P.S.) and the parishioners did not want to go into debt, so work progressed as fast as contributions allowed. Much of the materials (limestone hand-cut from local rock, and timber) were obtained locally at no expense other than volunteer labour. Other materials had to be purchased and shipped to the area, including sandstone from Guelph quarries. The shell of the new church, completed in 1880, was constructed over the original wooden church. The old wooden building remained in use until the new roof was completed, after which it was dismantled and removed. Construction continued for a few more years, with the new church being consecrated on September 13, 1885. (Wikipedia, "Formosa, Ontario")

Fr. Casimir Rohowski's first assignment in America was as pastor of two parishes in Bay City, Michigan: Saint Boniface (German parish), and St. Stanislaus (Polish parish) (1875-1876). His next charge was St. Joseph, a German Parish in Adrian, Michigan. There he constructed a complete parish complex. He also built a small hospital for the poor and induced Dominican Sisters from New York City to staff it. This institution was the beginning of the Adrian Siena Heights, Dominican Sisters complex, and they look upon Fr. Rohowski as a sort of co-founder. From Adrian, he sent five lads to study for the priesthood in the Society of the Precious Blood in Europe. Two of them were ordained, namely the Schaeper brothers, Joseph and Frederick, one of the lads died in Europe, and the remaining two returned to the States. From March, 1889 until August, 1891, he was pastor of a large Polish parish in Detroit, Michigan: St. Albertus. While in that position, he established a daughter parish, St. Josephat's. While pastor for a few months in 1891, in Hastings, Michigan, he found a lad there to send to Rome to study for the priesthood in the Society – John Mullen – who was ordained in 1902. His next pastorate was at Port Huron, Michigan (German Parish).

This pastorate began in November 1891 and came to a sudden end with an apoplectic attack in the middle of January 1893. He recovered, but was never fully himself again. After four or five months in "his" hospital in Adrian, he went to Europe to seek a cure in the Kneipp Sanitarium in Worishofen, Germany. He also visited Rome. He returned to America in November 1893 and received an appointment together with Fr. Frederick Schaeper (whom he had sent to study from Adrian) to take care of the mostly Polish parish of Bronson, Michigan together with its three attached missions (White Pigeon, Sturgis, and Three Rivers). Fr. Rohowski looked upon this as the establishment of the first House or even a new Province according to the Roman Observance. Fr. Rohowski and Fr. Schaeper lived together at Bronson; the former took care of Bronson, while the latter took care of the missions, plus an English sermon once a month at Bronson for the "Irish." However, in 1898, Fr. Schaeper received an appointment as pastor of Mendon, Michigan. He moved to the rectory of this parish and still took care of the three missions which he had in his care since 1893. Meanwhile, Fr. Rohowski's health had been feeling. In 1899, he returned to Rome to live at the Generalate at S. Maria in Trivio, the diocese of Detroit offering to pay and annuity of \$300.00 for his keep. He died there April 4, 1908.



In the old elm farmhouse that once stood on this site, six Dominican nuns opened the St. Joseph Hospital and Home for the Aged on May 20, 1884. They were sent by Mother Hyacinth Sheininger, Prioress of Holy Rosary Convent in New York City, at the request of Father Casimir Rohowski, pastor of Adrian's St. Joseph Church. From 1884 to 1896 the St. Joseph Hospital cared for 138 patients and 18 orphans, who in 1887 were accommodated in a larger facility, In 1896 the hospital was closed and converted into the St Joseph Academy. It later became the center of the present Motherhouse of the Adrian Dominican Sisters. The farmhouse was demolished in 1926. (<https://www.michmarkers.com/default?page=L1178>)

Two other members of the Roman "Province" worked in Michigan for shorter or longer periods of time, namely, Frs. Joseph and Frederick Schaeper, blood brothers. They had been sent to study for the priesthood in the Society in Italy from Adrian, Michigan by Fr. Rohowski, the former in 1877, the latter in 1879. After ordination, they were sent back to the United States in September 1889 to help Fr. Hennebery reconstitute the House (not the college) in Rohnerville, California. However, that did not work out. In the fall of 1891, they left Rohnerville. During February, March, and April 1892, Fr. Joseph Schaeper stayed with Fr. Rohowski at St. Joseph in Port Huron, Michigan. Around the middle of May 1892, he left for Rome taking a young lad, John Mullen, to study for the priesthood in the Society. Fr. Joseph was welcomed back in Rome where he formed a part of the General Curia from 1896 until his death on May 25, 1934.

Fr. Frederick Schaeper had no desire to return to Italy. From December 12, 1893 until May 1898 he lived in Bronson, Michigan in the St. Mary's rectory with Fr. Rohowski and took care of three missions stations (White Pigeon, Sturgis, and Three Rivers). After May 5, 1895 Mendon was added. In May 1898, he was appointed pastor of Mendon and went there to live, still taking care of the three original mission stations. When Fr. Ebert died on January 7th, 1902, Fr. Frederick conducted the funeral. In March 1903, the bishop transferred Fr. Frederick from Mendon to St. Joseph's parish in Adrian, Michigan (his home parish). He continued as pastor in Adrian, Michigan until February 19, 1917 when he was reassigned by the bishop to St. Anthony's Parish in the city of Detroit, Michigan. Since he needed assistants for that large parish and none could be furnished by the Roman Province he requested and received assistants from the American Province and he himself was transferred into the American Province by a decree of the Moderator General, Petroni, on December 3rd, 1917.

The Archdiocese of Detroit closed St. Anthony's parish in 2006 after a long-term presence of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood dating from the time of Fr. Frederick Schaeper. In 2010, St. Anthony's reopened under the auspices of the "Ecumenical Catholic Church of Christ" and was eventually named a "cathedral abbey" under the leadership of its self-styled "Primate Archbishop and Prior," Karl Rodig. Karl's name should be familiar to members of the C.P.P.S. as he was ordained a priest for the Teutonic Province!



The restored interior of St. Anthony's Church; Detroit



St. Anthony's serves a hot meal every Sunday after Mass. "We used to just serve coffee and cookies, but we soon realised that what people needed was a hot meal," said the church's pastor, Bishop Karl Rodig. (Photo: Donna Terek / The Detroit News) <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/columnists/donna-terek/2016/08/06/donnas-detroit-st-anthony-church/88354096/>