



Charles Joseph Francis Schraudenbach, the son of Francis Joseph Schraudenbach and Barbara Anna Ruppert, was born May 25, 1818 in Aschaffenburg, Lower Franconia, Bavaria. He was baptized there, on the same day, in St. Agatha Church. He attended the University of Würzburg. Charles was ordained on July 25, 1845 in the Chapel of the Bishop's Residence in Würzburg, Bavaria and celebrated his first mass the next day in the Würzburg cathedral. Later that same year, he immigrated to the United States arriving in New York on December 1st. He came to Milwaukee after a brief stopover in Philadelphia and according to *The Metropolitan Catholic Almanac* served St. Boniface, St. Augustine and Jack Washington along with three other German communities briefly in 1846.

After he left St. Boniface, he served the following missions and nearby house churches:

- St. Sebastian, Burlington WI; St. Mathias, Greenfield; St. Thomas, Waterford and Ottawa, Waukesha County and Spring Green (1846-1848)
- St. Lawrence, St. Lawrence WI; St. Theresa, Theresa; Ss. Peter & Paul, Nenno (1848-1849)
- St. Ignatius, Racine (1850-1851)
- St. Andrew, Dutch Hollow (Tennyson); St. Thomas, Potosi; St. Charles Borromeo, Cassville; St. Clement, Lancaster; and in Beetown WI (1851-1854)
- Platteville (1854)
- St. Alphonsus, Wheatland (New Munster) and St. Kilian, Hudson (Lyons) WI (1856-1857)
- St. Stephen, Newport KY (1857-1858)
- St. Mathias, Nabob and St. Mary's Immaculate Conception, Barton (1858)
- St. Mary, Beaver Dam; St. Peter, Beaver Dam; St. Malachy, Horicon; St. Andrew, Farmersville (Leroy) WI (1859-1860)
- St. Mary Magdalene, Sheboygan; St. Wendel, St. Wendel (Cleveland); St. George, St. George (Six Corners) WI (1861)
- St. Mary, La Crosse and St. Joseph the Workman, La Crosse WI (1863)
- St. Joseph and St. Francis Xavier, Grafton; St. James, Mequon; St. Mary's Immaculate Conception, Saukville WI (1866)
- St. Augustine, Chilton; St. Catherine, Stockbridge; St. Martin, Charlestown, St. Charles Borromeo, Charlesburg (1866-1869)
- St. Mary's Maternity, Metamora (Chebanse) IL (1870)
- St. Mary's Immaculate Conception, Kieler WI (1871-1873)
- St. Charles, Cassville (1873-1876)
- St. Mary's Immaculate Conception, Boscobel WI (in residence) (1876-1883)

Schraudenbach's biography is found in the German edition of Heming's *The Catholic Church in Wisconsin* (1899). There he is praised as an eloquent speaker, poet and author whose health declined because of the rigors of pioneer missionary life. The account omits that he riled Bishop Henni by not reporting promptly to Wisconsin when he immigrated to the United States. He remained in Philadelphia upon the advice, he claimed, of the local bishop who told him not to travel during the winter. In the end Henni concluded that his prolonged stay in Pennsylvania was due to family ties, "a troublesome drawback for a missionary."

The biography also omits his fallout with Henni in 1857. He deserted the parish in Lyons for Kentucky without securing Henni's permission purportedly to avoid winter. The letters of Bishop George Carrell to Henni in February and March of 1858 indicate that Carrell was not at all impressed with this braggadocious priest who seemed to think he was accountable not to Henni but the Bishop of Würzburg. In just four months, Schraudenbach had riled his Newport parishioners over a potential Benedictine monastery in Newport, annoyed people with an article he wrote in the "Wahrheitsfreund," and formed a committee of parishioners to plead for him to be accepted into the Covington diocese. They argued that if the new Bishop of Fort Wayne was ready to accept him why not Carrell? Henni ordered Schraudenbach home relieving Carrell of his burden.

By the end of his life, Schraudenbach owned property in Minnesota and Wisconsin. He died a wealthy landlord on August 10, 1883 in Boscobel WI of dropsy and is buried in St. John Cemetery, Muscoda WI.

He left his entire estate to Mother Caroline Friess of the School Sisters of Notre Dame with the stipulation that schools be established in LaCrescent MN and Prairie du Chen. Father's relatives whom he had disinherited because they fell away from the church sued. Much of his estate was depleted before a compromise was reached.



*St. Agatha's Church was destroyed during World War II.*



*Current  
St. Agatha Church*

