

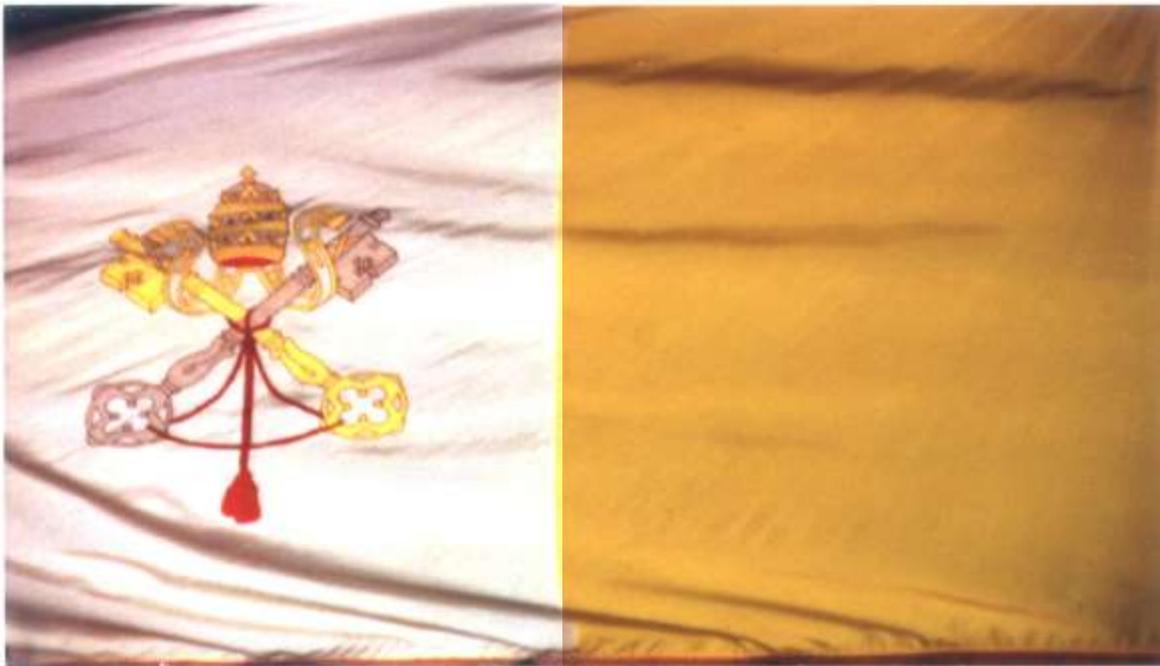
**ST. MARY AND ST. ANDREW MISSION STATEMENT  
1999-2001**

*You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one, after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

*Matthew 5:*

*14-16*

The Papal Flag





*During 1999 St. Andrew the Apostle Parish of Le Roy, Wisconsin, celebrated 150 years as an independent Catholic community.*

*In commemoration of the many milestones achieved, the parish family welcomes all to share the blessings recorded within the covers of our sesquicentennial history. We thank God for the past and ask Him for His blessings in the future.*

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**ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH**  
Sesquicentennial History Message 1849--1999

During the pontificate of Pope Pius IX, in the 73rd year of the Declaration of Independence and during the United States presidency of James K. Polk, while Henry Dodge was Governor of Wisconsin and the Most Rev. John Martin Henni Archbishop of the Diocese of Milwaukee, the following warranty Deed 'L' 149 dated April 23, 1849, was recorded March 22, 1852 by Joseph Shetzley, Justice of the Peace, Juneau, Wisconsin. The transfer of property from Casper and Regina Sterr to the Most Rev. John Martin Henni was recorded as follows:

***'For the exclusive use and benefit of the Roman Catholic Congregation by the name of St. Andrew in the township of Le Roy, Dodge County, Wisconsin.. All that certain piece or parcel of land , known and distinguished as follows; The said land lies in the N,E, 1/4 of Section 26, in Township 13 north of range 16, east commencing at the quarter stake on the north line of said Section 26 , then running from the quarter stake 26 rods east, then south 65 rods, then west 26 rods to the quarter line, then north on the quarter line 65 rods to the place of commencing. The said land is to contain 10 acres. Note: The above Deed is shown for reference purposes only and title not followed further''.*** The above transaction marks the founding of St. Andrew congregation.

It is indeed with great pride to write and reflect on the 15 decades of time since the founding of St. Andrew Parish. Our forefathers who are now at rest in God's acre number more than one thousand. They taught us to be followers of Christ by their humble lifestyle and strong religious convictions. Since the early days of the pioneering settlers, men and women of the faith community, past or present were shepherded by twenty five missionary and resident priests who were under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of nine archbishops of Milwaukee. In addition, 101 years of Catholic education was provided by the Racine Dominican Sisters. Seven men and nine women answered the call to religious life. Founded April 23, 1849, St. Andrew is believed to be the oldest Catholic parish in Dodge County.

German immigrants from Bavaria were among the first to clear the land in this area with a determination sustained by their faith in God. In the many changes that evolved throughout the years, the people of St. Andrew stood tall in testimony to their beliefs and remained constant in their desire to fulfill their mission as a people of God. The early settlers and missionaries openly proclaimed their unwritten *Mission Statement* by their determination and example. With self discipline and their commitment to the virtues of faith, hope, and love to guide them, they grew as a strong proud people.

In journeying back through time, we will try to open the doors of the past and provide a opportunity to learn the way in which the people of St. Andrew have toiled and struggled to build the Christian community we know today. May our parishioners remember that we are the gifted recipients of the sacrifices and labors of our ancestors and benefactors over these 150 years. May their spirit and treasured Christian values, the high standards that they set forth and the years of experience, the perseverance, successes, failures, joys and sorrows guide us into the next millennium. With the guidance of God, may the future generations carry forward this strong tradition. May they remember our contributions in 25, 50 or 100 years from now. It is our desire to recall those many events, big and small, that have happened among us, in this 'Sesquicentennial Parish History Book'

Four historical events are highlighted as we celebrate our 150th anniversary:  
April 23, 1849 St. Andrew's Parish of Le Roy, Wisconsin was founded. In the Fall of 1899 Father Blum was commissioned by Archbishop Frederick Katzer to lay the cornerstone for the new church.

On September 25, 1901 Saint Andrew Church was consecrated.

On November 21,1999, the Feast of Christ the King the Sesquicentennial Jubilee Mass was celebrated at 2:00 P.M. with Archbishop Rembert Weakland, OSB, presiding .

The history of St. Andrew's was written by missionaries, priests, sisters, and by the parishioners of St. Andrew. Much of what transpired to achieve the goals we enjoy today could not be documented because it was written with the eternal ink in God's own book of records. Only when we realize the gift of their sacrifices, may we appreciate their unwritten history that brought us where we are today. The history written within the covers of this book is

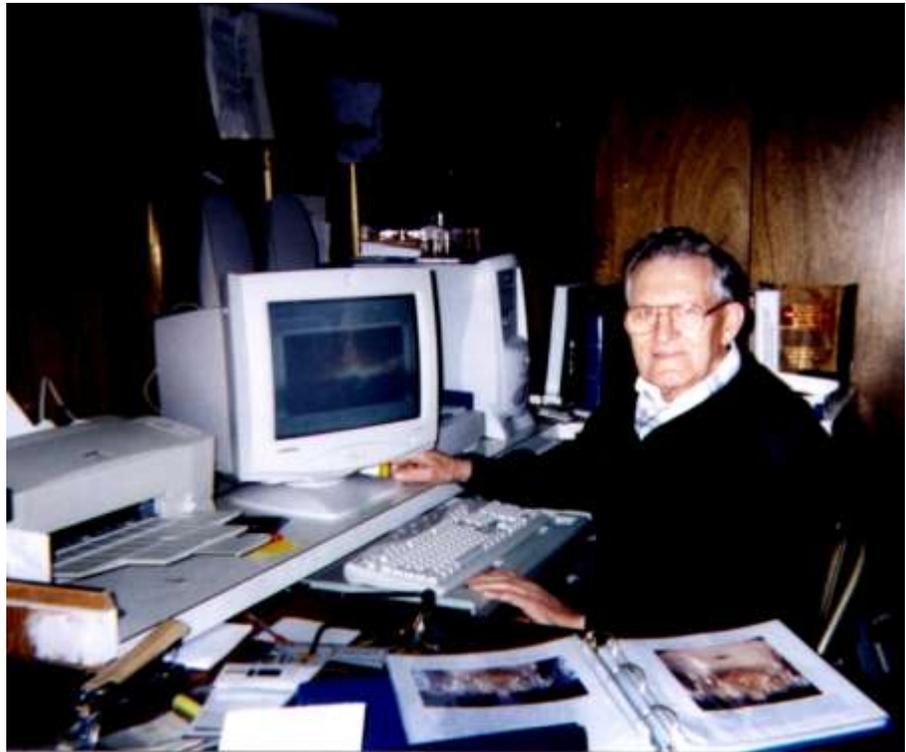
only a fraction of the whole story and therefore, a summary of the life of St. Andrew Parish.

The documentation of this parish history was the work of a parish member of 78 years, engaged in several years of study, research and writing. It was intended to document this history based on the information available and factual and to focus on the full scope and the unique spirit of the people of St. Andrew's and the people of Le Roy and to reach into the past seven generations that made this possible. It was about the life of the parish family and the farming community bonded with love for God and neighbor. Documenting this history was a love of a new venture, not a burden. It was a gift received, more so than returned, and it was an extension of my life. One could reflect on the wonderful past as the year by year of this parish history unfolded in which one felt one lived much longer, perhaps in spirit the full 150 years. I therefore wish to thank retired Father Robert Berghammer and our pastor The Very Rev. Charles Wester and all the members of the parish community for this opportunity to document St. Andrew's parish 150 year history. *Leonard Schraufnagel*

ST. ANDREW CHURCH  
LE ROY, WISCONSIN  
1849 SESQUICENTENNIAL JUBILEE 1999



Cover drawing  
by Francis



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A word of appreciation to Father Robert Berghammer, who supported this venture, and also a word of thanks to the Very Rev. Charles Wester, who extended this needed support to bring this historical documentation of St. Andrew's history to its 150 year conclusion. One may hope that a child now only 8 or 10 years old will continue to carry on recording the extension of this history to the year 2024 and 2049. At this time I want to acknowledge the late Milton Hurlbert for his dedication to St. Andrew's history and the exploratory work he completed before his passing.

The primary resources and historical material was obtained from St. Andrew's office of records. Early biographical documents were provided by Timothy Cary, Archdiocesan Archivist. Sister Diane Kenel of the Racine Dominican Office of Archives provided the historical list of sisters and organists at one time associated with St. Andrew's. The Dodge County Abstract Office and the Dodge County Register of Deeds provided the Warranty Deeds, town plat maps and survey data. The Mayville Public Library provided microfilm copy collections. Other Library resources, the Watertown Public Library and the Fond du Lac Public Library. Additional resources were provided by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. In addition, the history of early Dodge County and many articles from The Mayville News contained useful information. I want to express my appreciation to the following who consented to be taped recorded or extended personal interviews during my research in the Parish History, Le Roy Athletic Club, Military History, and Town of Le Roy History.

Raymond and Elizabeth Vollmer	Alfred Schraufnagel	Marie Woller
Father Gabriel Hinkes	Armond and Rosina Wass	Joseph and Gladys Feucht
Theresa Vollmer	Alvina Schraufnagel	Ruth Wolfschmidt Lehman
Frank Schmid	Edgar Mueller	Roger Wild
Norbert (Nuss)Hoffman	Aurelia Kuehl	Margaret Simon
Ida Bauer Reiser	Hildegard Lehman	Wilbur Steiner
Neal & Arlyne Hoffman	Eugene and Mary Hoffman	Norbert Weinberger
James Weinberger	Roger and Diane Zangl	Ray Dohrman
Roger Gassner	Alois Scheberl	Louis Mueller
Lucy Weninger	Albert Valle	Merlin Zangl
Art Krapfl	Francis Schraufnagel	Kenneth Weinberger
Robert Weinberger	Norma Lechner	Ann Guse
Bev Hetzel	Jeff Bauer	Norman and Elizabeth Sabel
Norbert Zangl	Anita Clark	Marcella Clark
Mary Simon	Donald Gourlie	Dennis Gourlie
Norbert and Elaine Schabel	Dale Hoffman	Vernon Kehrmeier
Sister Beata Reiser	Father Melvin Breit	Father Michael Wild
Dale Gourlie	Verna Panzer	Marilyn Oechsner
Mary Ann Wettstein	Irwin Gassner	Edward and Rosemary Sukowatey
Donald and Ann Bauer	Rudolph Schraufnagel	Rudolph Bauer
Kenneth Bauer	Ray Collien	Lee Geschke
Duane Waas	Anita Zahn	Elizabeth Hoffman
Ida Zwirlein	Rita Weinberger	
Philomene Ertl		

Thanks to Paul Hanke for loan of his computer, service and assistance:

Computer mentors : Paul Hanke, Jennifer Youngbeck, Angela Youngbeck, Nicholas Schraufnagel and Seminarian Oriol Regales.

Marie Schraufnagel and Helen Weinberger for identifying group photos of the first communicants and graduates taken from years 1930 to 1980.

Kenneth Bauer, Rudolph Schraufnagel and Francis Schraufnagel for art and material assistance.

Father Charles Wester and Ann Guse for proofreading the manuscript.

*Leonard Schraufnagel*

## *Archbishop John Martin Henni 1843-1881*



Archdiocesan archives photo

The following text is taken in part from the Catholic Herald, Nov. 18, 1993 –150 year history issue of the Archdiocese:

The first bishop of the new diocese was Swiss born John Martin Henni (1843-1881), a priest of the Diocese of Cincinnati. Ordained in 1828, Henni had worked in the Ohio missions for many years, first as an itinerant and later as a resident pastor. The chief object of his ministry were the floods of German speaking Catholics who were pushing into the Midwest. Indeed, he had been pastor of one of the first German parishes in Cincinnati, Holy Trinity, and founder of a newspaper, (*Der Wahrheitsfreund*) devoted to preserving the faith and German identity of the German immigrants.

Henni was consecrated a bishop on March 19, 1844 and arrived in Milwaukee in on May 5, 1844. Henni set to work immediately touring his vast jurisdiction and laying plans for the institutions necessary to provide a stable and orderly life for the Catholicism in Wisconsin. Two priorities framed the first years of Henni's episcopate. Within a year of his arrival he began a small seminary in his household to provide for priests. This small and often floundering program moved to Germantown for a time and then eventually took permanent root in the village of Nojoshing (today St. Francis), where Henni raised St. Francis De Sales Seminary in 1855-1856.

St. Andrew's Warranty Deed April 23, 1849

WARRANTY DEED.

Held by HALL & CHAMBER, 134, East Water Street, Milwaukee.

This Indenture, made the twenty third day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ~~fourty~~ nine between Caspar Stern and wife Regina Stern of the first part and Joseph N. Kenne Bishop of the City and County of Milwaukee of the second part

WITNESSETH, that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar to them in hand paid, by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby confessed and acknowledged, has given, granted, bargained, sold, remised, released, aliened, and confirmed, and by these presents do give, grant, bargain, sell, remise, release, alien, and confirm, unto the said party of the second part, his ~~his~~ assigns forever for the exclusive use and benefit of the Roman Catholic Congregation by the name of the St Andrew in the town of Leroy all that certain piece or parcel of Land known and distinguished as follows the said Land lies in the North East quarter of ~~section~~ section twenty six (26) in township Number thirteen (13) North of range Number Sixteen (16) East Commencing at the quarter stake on the North line of said section (26) then running from the quarter stake west twenty six (26) roads East then South sixty five (65) roads then west twenty six (26) roads to the quarter line then North on the quarter line sixty five (65) roads to the place of Commencing the said Land is to contain ten (10) Acres

Together with all and singular the Hereditaments and Appurtenances therunto belonging, or in any wise appertaining; and all the estate, right, title, interest, claim, or demand whatsoever of the said party of the first part, either in Law or equity, either in possession or expectancy of, in and to the above-bargained premises, and their hereditaments and appurtenances.

To Have and to Hold the said premises as above described, with the Hereditaments and Appurtenances, unto the said party of the second part, and to his ~~his~~ assigns forever.

And the said Party of the first part, for themselves ~~themselves~~ and their executors, and administrators, do covenant, grant, bargain, and agree to and with the said party of the second part his ~~his~~ assigns, that at the time of the enclosing and delivery of these presents they ~~they~~ are well seized of the premises above described, as of a good, sure, perfect, absolute, and indefeasible estate of inheritance in the Law, in fee simple, and that the same are free and clear from all incumbrances whatever, and that the above-bargained premises, in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part, his ~~his~~ assigns, against all and every person or persons, lawfully claiming the whole or any part thereof they ~~they~~ will forever WARRANT AND DEFEND.

In Witness Whereof the said party of the first part has ~~has~~ hereunto set their ~~their~~ hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Sealed and Delivered  
in presence of  
Rev. Charles B. Smith  
Andrew Stern  
Joseph Stern  
John J. G. H.

Caspar Stern  
Regina Stern  
Joseph N. Kenne  
Bishop

STATE OF WISCONSIN, }  
County of Dodge } Be it Remembered, that on the twenty third day of April,  
A. D., 1849 personally came before me, the above-named Caspar Stern and wife Regina Stern  
to me known to be the persons who executed the said Deed, and acknowledged the same to be thats ~~thats~~ their ~~their~~ act and deed, for the  
uses and purposes therein mentioned.  
Joseph Shetley Justice of the Peace



## ST. ANDREW'S FIRST MISSIONARY



### *Father Charles Schraudenbach*

St Andrew, Le Roy, ( P.O. at that time in history, Farmersville) was founded in 1849. Father Charles Schraudenbach who was among the first missionary priests to serve the Le Roy area. Charles Schraudenbach was born in Aschaffenburg (Wuerzburg ) Bavaria, May 25, 1819. His ordination took place at Wuerzburg, Germany July 25, 1845 for the Diocese of Milwaukee. Father Schraudenbach arrived in the United States December 1845.

On November 3, 1847 Bishop Henni confirmed eighty-six members of Father Schraudenbach's congregation at St. Lawrence. In 1847 Father Charles Schraudenbach celebrated Mass in the log house occupied by Andrew Flasch at St. Kilian. The following year 1848, while under the administration of Father Schraudenbach, the congregation of St. Peter and Paul at Nenno was organized. Father's missionary work also reached out to the people of St. John's Church at Plymouth and its vicinity. Father

Schraudenbach and Father Rehrl were among the first pioneer missionaries of the Northwest, and offered Mass in the homes of the local settlers. During the years 1849 to 1855 Father Schraudenbach offered spiritual assistance to the Catholic settlers in the Le Roy area. In his time of missionary work at St. Andrew's, Father proceeded to build the first log church, St. Andrew The Apostle named to honor Andrew Sterr, beloved brother of Casper Sterr.

Stories passed down from generation to generation relate that Father Schraudenbach celebrated Mass at the home of Jacob Weinberger on his visits to the Farmersville (Le Roy) area before the log church was built

Father Charles Schraudenbach was the first to sign the Warranty Deed on behalf of Bishop John Martin Henni. The warranty deed signed, sealed and delivered on the 23rd of April 1849 accepted the 10 acres of prime farm land from Casper and Regina Sterr that entered St. Andrew congregation into the Milwaukee diocese. Father Schraudenbach's signature is seen on the deed of this recorded transaction. ( Page 18)

Little is known of this early history during Father Schraudenbach's pastorate at St. Andrew's, as sacramental records were not recorded until 1855.. In the latter part of 1855, Father Schraudenbach assumed the duties of pastor of St. Alphonsus Church, New Muenster, Wisconsin, where he ministered until 1857. Father Schraudenbach assumed the pastorate of St. Joseph Church, Grafton, from May 31, 1865 to Sept. 9, 1866 after which time he attended the parish of St. Charles Borromeo at Charlesburg. From May 23, 1871 to April 18, 1873 Father Schraudenbach was assigned to the little mission parish at Kieler, once a mission parish of St. Andrew's Congregation at Potosi, Grant County. During the years of 1876 to 1883 Father Schraudenbach attended the missions at Boscobel, Mt. Hope and Patch Grove and also built a chapel at Pigeon. Father Charles Schraudenbach died August 10, 1883 and was buried at Charlesburg. He was a learned, pious and zealous priest, a contributor to the Catholic press, and a poet.

### **Father Michael Beitter**

Father Michael Beitter was born in Bavaria where he became a student of theology. He moved to America and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John Martin Henni in September of 1847. Father Beitter then received orders to assist the pastor at St. Mary's parish Milwaukee. From March 17, 1848 to July 1849 Father Beitter was assigned as assistant to St Stephen's Parish in New Berlin. When the work of organization was completed by Father Schraudenbach, at St. Peter and Paul Parish, Nenno, Father Beitter succeeded Father Schraudenbach at this parish and also attended St. Andrew's Parish, Le Roy as a visiting pastor. Father Beitter ministered to the parishes of St Martin Ashford, St. Kilian, St. Kilian, and St. Theresa at Theresa, and built the first church there. From 1851 to 1855, Father Beitter was assigned rector of St. Lawrence Parish at St. Lawrence. From 1855 Father Beitter was pastor at St. Andrew's Parish Potosi, Grant County till 1856 when he became rector at St. Boniface Parish in Manitowoc. In the years from 1856 to 1860 Father was in charge at Brighton where his administrative work also extended to Marytown. In the time from February 1862 to April 1864 Father became administrator of St. John's Parish in Jefferson as well as St. Lawrence Parish. Father continued his ministry to St. Joseph Parish in Racine from November 17, 1875 to April 1877. Father Beitter retired serving the Sacred Heart parish at St. Francis.



*Illustration of the First St. Andrew's log Church 1848. Drawn by Francis Schraufnagel*

### Father Casper Rehrl

Father Casper Rehrl, missionary, teacher, founder of churches and the convent of St. Agnes was born in Salzburg, Austria December 31, 1809. Casper Rehrl was ordained at Salzburg Sept. 20, 1835. Father Rehrl mastered German, English, French, Hebrew, Syrian, Arabic and the Chaldean languages before his ordination. Ministering in his native land for nine years, Rehrl then moved to America via New Orleans to Milwaukee, arriving on January 8, 1845. Here he was regarded as a most welcome addition to the priestly force which at that time was all too limited for the work required. Father traveled on foot through the Wisconsin wilderness to Johnsburg.

On Sept. 26, 1845 Father Rehrl arrived at Johnsburg, having been sent by Bishop Henni to organize a congregation. As a result of his zealous efforts, a small log church was completed in 1846 and dedicated in honor of St. John the Baptist. The name of this worthy and zealous priest is associated with nearly all of the first Catholic congregations in Wisconsin. In ministering the area of the "Holy Land" Father Rehrl was known as the Apostle of Calumet County.

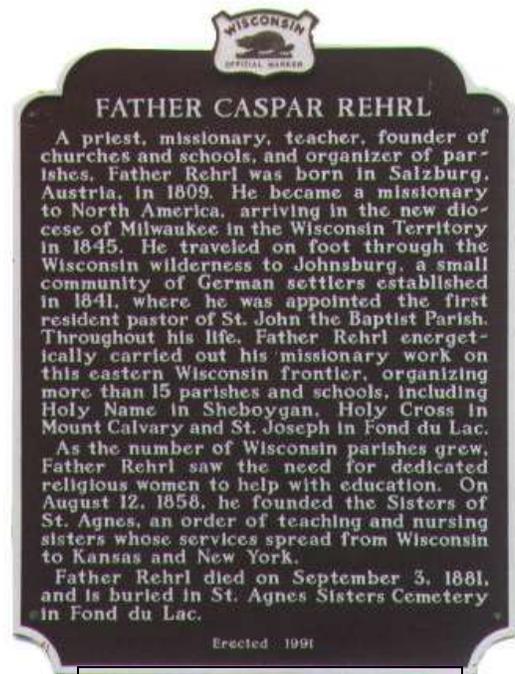
Quoting Fieldstones: a book written by Sister M. Palen of the Congregation of St. Agnes: "As early as 1847, Father Rehrl said Mass at St. John's in Byron. Father visited Marytown, St. Anna, Chilton, Plymouth, Manitowoc, Two Rivers, Sheboygan, Green Bay, Appleton,

Fond du Lac and Dotyville."

From 1852-1855 Father Rehrl spent time in his native Salzburg. He canvassed Europe for sisters to work in his beloved mission fields in America. On his return on May 20, 1855 Father once again came back to Wisconsin. The Bishop saw a greater need for Father's missionary work south of the Fond du Lac area. Again quoting from Fieldstones: "By mid-November Father walked the mission trails again. Some sense of his pace may be seen by examining the March records of baptisms he administered. He administered the Sacrament of Baptism at St. Lawrence on March 2, 4, 15, 21, 26, and 30. On March 5 and 19 he covered St. John's in Rubicon and March 7 at St. Andrew's at Le Roy. March 8 and 9 at Theresa, March 10 at St. Martin of Ashford, March 16 at St. Peter and Paul Nenno, March 17 St. Anthony, Allenton and March 24 at St. Matthias, Nabob." The records point out Father Rehrl simultaneously ministered to the parishes at St. Andrew's at Le Roy, St. Theresa at Theresa, St. Mary's at Mayville and St. Martin's of Ashford, having been one of the pioneer missionaries of this Wisconsin territory as early as 1845. Matthias Engel's log home at Dotyville was the setting for Mass offered by Father Rehrl every other month in the years of 1847-1848. The congregation of the Holy Cross, Mt. Calvary was founded by missionary Father Rehrl in 1848 and in early 1850 Father Rehrl took charge of a newly established German congregation in Kenosha. The congregation of St. Bridget at Wayne in Washington County was organized in 1856 and first attended by Father Rehrl. On Sept. 12, 1857 traveling missionary Father Rehrl was the first to celebrate Mass in the original church of the Immaculate Conception built at Barton, Wisconsin. Father took charge of Holy Trinity parish, Newburg from May 1858 to January 1862. Father Rehrl's missionary work continued in the congregation at Fredonia from 1861 to 1863. In addition to places already mentioned, this remarkable priest ministered to other parishes such as St. Anna, St. Kilian, and St. Lawrence parishes. As the number of parishes grew, Father Rehrl saw a need for religious women to help with Catholic education. Father founded the Sisters of St. Agnes on August 12, 1858.

Towards the end of his career, after he had retired from active service, Father Rehrl moved to Barton where he had already built a convent. Father died as Chaplain of the Sisters of St. Agnes Sept. 3, 1881. Father Rehrl was buried in the parish cemetery of St. Mary's at Little America in Barton. On September 3, 1968, 87 years after his death, Father Rehrl's remains were disinterred and brought to Fond du Lac and reburied in St. Joseph Spring Cemetery near the graves of Mother Agnes and a long line of pioneer Sisters.

The first sacramental records recorded at St. Andrew's were recorded by Father Rehrl. In the early years parish records were recorded in Latin, which have been translated into English by members of the staff of the Milwaukee Archdiocese Office of Archives. These records point out interesting customs of those times, such as consent of the bride's father for marriage of a minor daughter. Also note: that witnesses at weddings happen to be all male. Was this a common practice at that time? It should further noted most families were immigrants from Bavaria. In some entries we read about (the late), referring to a young, deceased mother of a family. The death of a mother was a frequent occurring family tragedy as many of our cemetery stone markers will testify.



Historical Marker of Father Rehrl at St. John the Baptist Church Johnsburg, Wisconsin

Die 5. Septembris 1856 ad S. Andream matrimonium conjunxi  
 Andream Weix, adhuc viventem Andream Weix et defunctae  
 Annae Mariae Preusser ex Bavaria filium, 28 annos  
 natum, cum Crescentia Greiner, et Magdalinae  
 Stinzelhammer filia, 17 annos nata, ex Bavaria vi-  
 vens, consentiente patre praesente coram Lawrence  
 et Andream Weix testibus.  
 Casp. Rehl

Below: English translation of the above Latin entry.

April 5, 1856

At St. Andrew, I joined in marriage Andrew Weix, son of the living Andrew Weix and the late Anna Mary Preusser from Bavaria, 28 years old, with Crescentia Greiner, daughter of James Greiner and Magdalen Stinzelhammer, 17 years old, born in Bavaria, with her fathers consent. Witnesses: Lawrence and Andrew Weix. Casper Rehl

The following is the Baptismal record of John Nepomuc Schraufnagel in 1857.

1857.

Die 8. Februarii 1857 ad S. Andream baptizavi Joannem  
 Nep., Joannis Nepomuc Schraufnagel et Mariae Grei-  
 ner leg. filium, die 2. Februarii 1857. natum, levante  
 bus Josepho et Maria Wittmann.  
 Casp. Rehl

St. Andrew Le Roy, WI.

Feb. 8, 1857.. At St. Andrew's I baptized John Nep., son of John Nepomuc Schraufnagel and Mary Greiner, born Feb. 2, 1857. Godparents: Joseph and Mary Wittman. Casper Rehl.

Below: Latin entry and translation of the marriage of Joseph Schmitzer and Theresa Vollmair

Die 27. Julii 1857 ad S. Andream  
 matrimonium conjunxi: Josephum  
 Schmitzer adhuc viventis Antonii  
 Schmitzer et defunctae Mariae  
 Greiner ex Bavaria inferiore, 26  
 annos natum  
 cum  
 Theresia Vollmair adhuc viventis  
 Petri Vollmair et adhuc viventis

Mariae Holzer, ex Bavaria inferiore, 15  
 annos nata, coram Patre sponsae,  
 Petro Vollmair, in matrimonium mi-  
 noris suae filiae consentiente, et Josepho  
 Brunner et Nepomuc Schraufnagel testibus.  
 Casp. Rehl