

KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bulletin

December 1996



INSIDE:

The Influence of Bishop Howard on Norther Kentucky High Schools (Third in a Series)

NOTICES

Volunteers Needed

Computer Skills KCHS has had some response to the call for someone to enter data onto computer disk, but the handwritten research projects which we would like to publish are voluminous. We still need more people who can enter this data onto computer disk so that we can transfer them to publishing form. If you have the time and no computer, the Society's computer is available.

Do you have an interest in old photos? The Society wants to collect, label, preserve, and keep old photos, which may have historical significance, in our files for possible use in the magazine or other historical display events. We need someone who has ideas on how to publicize the need for old photos; someone to collect, label and file the photos.

Could you stock Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine in a store near you? The Magazine can now be purchased at bookstores and gift shops in the area. We need people willing to restock and collect money from the sales each month.

N. K. Heritage Magazine is being sold at the following stores:

Barnes & Noble, Florence Madison Stationary, Cov. For Love of Books, Latonia Blue Lick State Park in Robertson County, near Mt. Olivet, Ky.	Ohio Bookstore, Main St., Cincinnati Visitor's Center, Philadelphia St., Cov. Beringer Crawford Museum Gift Shop
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If you have the skill or the interest for any of these of these projects, please call Karl Lietzenmayer, 261-2807 or John Boh, 491-0490 (H), or 292-2124.

FOR SALE

✓ George Roth History of Trinity Church, Covington- hardbound, 300 pages, indexed, 20 pages of black and white and color pictures and illustrations. Cost \$10 plus \$2 postage.

✓ 7 X 7 Color 1947 Photo of the Kentucky Parlor Streetcar.

Kenton Officers From 1776 To 1888----- In 1884, in the Daily Commonwealth newspaper, O. J. Wiggins listed over 100 names of court officers and legislators primarily from Kenton County but also Campbell County before 1840 when the region was one county. Recently John Boh compiled brief, biographical "abstracts" of each and arranged them alphabetically. It could be a wonderful help for your research. Cost: \$2.00, including mailing.

KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

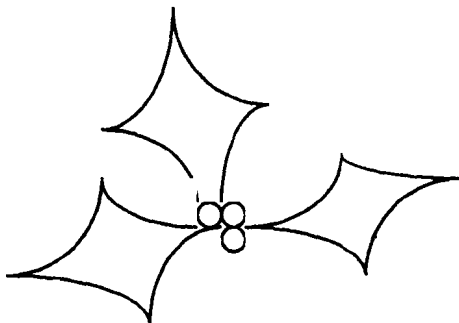
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Christmas Party at the Earl House (Lietzenmeyers)

On December 10, at 7 PM, all members of the Kenton County Historical Society are invited to a party, in lieu of a meeting, at the home of Karl and Peggy Lietzenmeyer, the Earl House, 501 East Southern Avenue, Covington. If you need directions, call Lietzenmeyers, 261-2807.

**Education and Faith: The Influence of Bishop Howard on Northern
Kentucky Catholic High Schools**
(Third in a series)
by David K. Schroeder

The parish high schools of Campbell and Kenton Counties thrived during the 1920's. Having a Catholic secondary school around the corner or down the block fostered local ownership and pride in these institutions.

However, parish high schools did have their disadvantages. The major disadvantage of creating parish high schools was financial. Only large and financially stable parishes could commit the resources necessary to maintain a high school. Thus, a majority of parishes could not financially support their own secondary schools. Accredited high schools required well trained teachers with advanced degrees, adequate buildings, a wide range of supplies and equipment, libraries, and laboratories. Few northern Kentucky parishes, already struggling to support their own elementary schools, could afford the luxury of a high school.

The leader necessary to advance the work of secondary education in the Diocese arrived in Covington in 1923. The Rev. Francis W. Howard was consecrated the fifth bishop of Covington on July 15, 1923.²³

Francis Howard was born on June 21, 1867 in the city of Columbus, Ohio. On June 16, 1891 he was ordained a priest at St. Joseph Cathedral in Columbus. Father Howard studied at Columbia University and at a theological school in Rome, Italy. In 1901, Father Howard founded the Columbus Diocesan School Board, and a year later organized the National Catholic Education Association.²⁴

Bishop Howard came to Covington with a general philosophy of education. He abhorred the secularization of education. In 1927, Bishop Howard said, "There is need of more freedom and less legislation in the educational life of this country, education becomes stereotyped, formal and inefficient if there is no room for experiment and no incentive for initiative."²⁵

On the occasion of Bishop Howard's death, Archbishop McNicholas, of Cincinnati, said of his friend, "He knew that local and neighborhood influence keep the responsibility of education where it belongs, under the control of parents. He knew too well that no Washington bureaucracy would consider itself the delegates of parents."²⁶

The bishop placed few regulations on the schools of the Diocese of Covington. At a time when public schools were undergoing extensive centralization and developing bureaucracies, the schools of the Diocese of Covington remained locally controlled and remarkably independent.

Bishop Howard did establish a Diocese Teachers Institute in 1925. This institute examined new methods of teaching and held annual meetings of teachers. At these meetings, priests, sisters and lay teachers made presentations

on such topics as discipline, teacher training, grading students, and religious instruction for high school pupils. These conferences offered the opportunity for teachers to discuss new methods and to learn from the successes and failures of neighboring Catholic institutions.²⁷

He also established a board of priests who visited each school of the Diocese twice a year. The board approved all texts and made certain that a basic minimum standard of academics was being fostered in all the schools of the Diocese. Beyond these measures, Catholic elementary and high schools were given great latitude. School government came under the control of the local pastor, parents, and religious orders who staffed them.²⁸

Upon arriving in Covington, Bishop Howard found a flourishing system of academies for young ladies, but few opportunities for young men. He took a personal interest in founding a number of Catholic high schools for boys in northern Kentucky. The majority of these new schools were established as central Catholic high schools. Central high schools served a specific city or county instead of a single parish.

In September 1923, Bishop Howard opened an experimental college preparatory high school in the old Shine residence in the rear of the Cathedral Elementary School. He founded the new school to meet a specific objective: "To provide intelligent young boys with the opportunities of a solid classical education that would develop them into scholarly, Catholic leaders." This new high school became known as the Covington Latin School.²⁹

Covington Latin began as an experiment in education, accepting students who had completed the sixth grade, and who would complete four years of high school courses before entering college. This system of education was based on the German Gymnasium. Covington Latin School's adoption of this system met with great success.³⁰

Bishop Howard chose the Revrend John Kroger as the first headmaster of the Latin School. The curriculum was based on the classical courses, particularly Latin and Greek. The Bishop took great care and interest in the school and frequently solicited the priests of the Diocese to support the fledgling institution.³¹

By 1925, Covington Latin had outgrown all the available space at the Cathedral property. At this time, Msgr. Henry Tappert, pastor of Mother of God Church in Covington, offered the use of several classrooms in his school building on 6th Street. Covington Latin remained at Mother of God School until 1927 when it moved to a new location on 11th Street. This building, purchased from the Covington Knights of Columbus, had originally been constructed as a Methodist church. After extensive renovations, Bishop Howard dedicated the new building in March 1927, at which time he declared the school a success.³²

Covington Latin School prospered and grew throughout the 1930's. In 1940, the present three-story was built on Madison Avenue adjacent to St. Mary Cathedral. Over the main entryway was carved the teaching ideal of Bishop Howard, "Teach me goodness and knowledge and discipline."³³

Mr. Schoeder is archivist with Thomas More College and the Diocese of Covington.

Next month in the series: *Reaching Out To Other Young Men of the Diocese and Improved Training For Teachers.*

²⁴Rev. Paul E. Ryan, *History of the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky* (Covington: Diocese of Covington, Kentucky, 1954), 290.

²⁵*The Messenger*, 19 January 1944, p. 3.; *The Messenger*, Memorial Number January 1944, p.15-16.

²⁵*Kentucky Post*, 28 March 1927, p. 1.

²⁶*The Messenger*, Memorial Edition, January 1944, p. 18.

²⁷Ryan, *The Diocese of Covington*, 297-98.; *Kentucky Post*, 19 August 1927, p. 11.; *Kentucky Post*, 18 August 1928, p. 2.

²⁸*Ibid.*, pp.297-98.

²⁹*The Messenger*, Memorial Edition January 1944, p. 18.

³⁰*Kentucky Post*, 30 December 1972, p.7.

³¹Ryan, *The Diocese of Covington*, 300.; *Kentucky Post*, 19 August 1927, p. 12.

³²Ryan, *The Diocese of Covington*, 300-301.; *Kentucky Post*, 28 March 1927, p. 1.

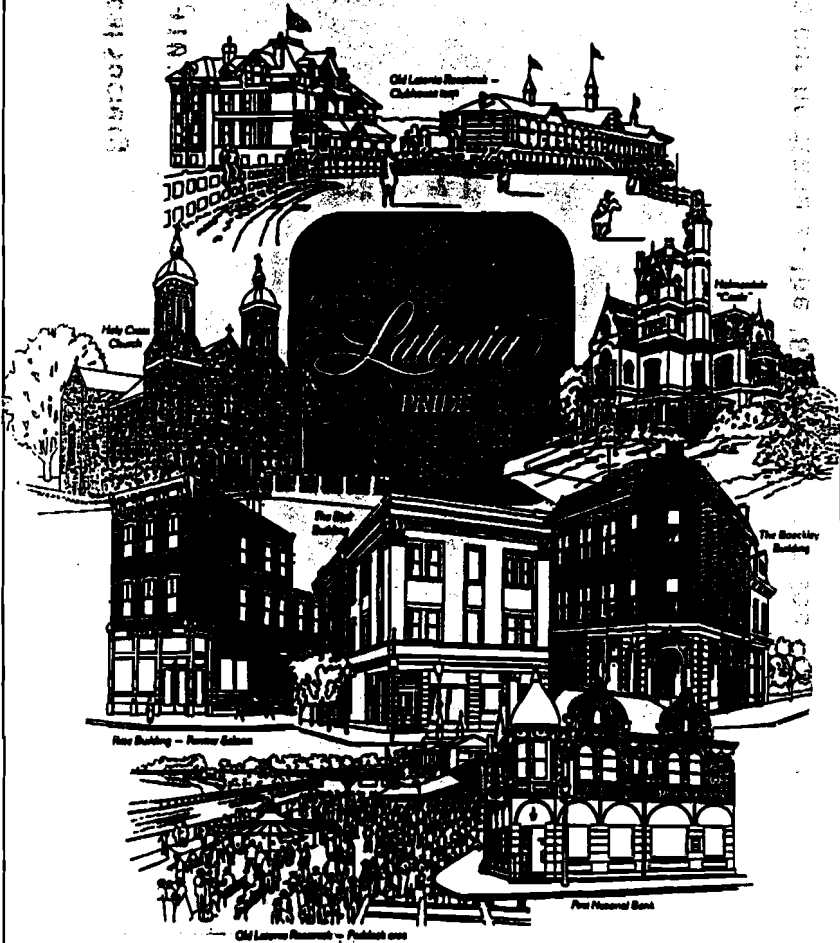
³³Ryan, *Diocese of Covington*, 301.

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