



Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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Diocese of Columbus

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The Bishops of Columbus: Most Rev. George Avis Fulcher, S.T.D.

The Diocese of Columbus has had only two auxiliary bishops. The first of these was the saintly Bishop Hettinger, a native of Lancaster, who served humbly and prayerfully, scorning honors and preference, and lived to be the senior bishop of the American hierarchy. The second, George Fulcher, was quite different. Like Hettinger he was a hard worker, but his work on the U.S. bishops' Peace Pastoral brought him to the national scene and probably was behind his elevation to the see of Lafayette, where he died at the early age of sixty-one years.

The Fulcher family has lived in the United States for many decades, tracing back to western Virginia, but the future bishop's other six great-grandparents were born in Ireland. After serving in the U.S. Army during the first World War, George A. Fulcher Sr. returned to Columbus and held various jobs in retail sales. He married Mary Lennon and the future bishop was the first of their eight children, born in Columbus on January 30, 1922. George was baptized at St. Patrick Church six days later and attended St. Patrick elementary school for the first grade. The family then moved to Midland Avenue on the Hilltop, a block or so from the new St. Aloysius Church and young George completed this phase of his education at St. Aloysius parish school under the tutelage of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. He attended St. Charles Preparatory School from 1936 to 1940 and continued at St. Charles College, where he was awarded the A.B. degree

in June of 1944. From 1944 until 1948 he attended Mount St. Mary of the West Seminary in Norwood, Ohio and, in the summers, Catholic University of America. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Michael J. Ready on February 28, 1948.

Father Fulcher's major assignments were: assistant pastor at St. Francis de Sales Parish, Newark in 1948 and 1949; theological studies at the Angelicum in Rome, 1949 to 1951, where he received the S.T.D.; assistant pastor at St. Joseph Cathedral Parish, 1951 to 1958; assistant at Marble Cliff Our Lady of Victory Parish and at Columbus Holy Cross Parish, both in 1960;



*Most Rev. George A. Fulcher
1922 - 1984*

administrator of Holy Cross Parish in 1962 and 1963; and founding pastor of Columbus St. Anthony Parish, 1963 to 1975. He returned to St. Joseph Cathedral Parish as pastor in 1975.

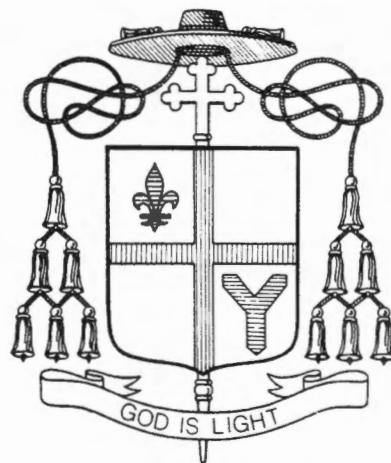
He was enthusiastic in all of his assignments, showing great love for the Church. He had a way of making persons with whom he spoke feel special, making room for everyone. Nobody claimed that he was a perfect man, but he was a very good person who worked hard at his job. He was a tremendous conversationalist and a traveler.

Although not a canon lawyer, Fulcher was *Officialis* (presiding judge) and held other positions on the diocesan Tribunal from 1952 until 1955 and again beginning in 1963. From 1956 until 1983 he was part-time instructor in moral and pastoral theology at the Pontifical College Josephinum. In 1965 he was named a member of the diocesan Ecumenical Commission. He also was named diocesan liaison officer to the Catholic Conference of Ohio in 1971.

Fulcher was a prolific reader and loved to write; his bachelor's thesis was in English literature and this was the basis for his doctoral dissertation on how the grace of God works in people's lives. He was editor-in-chief of the diocesan *Catholic Times*, beginning June 10, 1958, in which position he wrote hard-hitting editorials on the problems and concerns of the time. He was relieved of this duty on February 1, 1967, when, according to one account, he was fired by Bishop Carberry for being too liberal.

Auxiliary Bishop

On May 24, 1976 Father Fulcher was appointed to the titular see of Morosbisdo and Auxiliary Bishop of Columbus. He was ordained a bishop on July 18, 1976 in St. Joseph Cathedral by Bishop Edward Herrmann. As his personal coat



of arms the new bishop chose a field of silver divided by a red Cross of St. George, containing in the first quarter a blue fleur-de-lis to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary and the bishop's mother; and in the third a blue shakefork or pall, from the coat of arms of the Cunningham family of his paternal grandmother.

As Auxiliary Bishop, Fulcher was named Vicar General of the diocese and he was a founder of the diocesan Medico-Moral Committee. On the national level, he was a member of the NCCB Committee on Doctrine and the USCC Committee on Communications.

In 1976 he was named chairman of the Diocesan Commission on Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs. He also served two terms as chairman of the Metropolitan Area Church Board. He was chairman of the Ohio Pastors Convocation in 1982 and was chairman of the public policy commission of the Ohio Council of Churches. He spent many hours at ecumenical gatherings, "showing a warmth and tenacity which lifted up the essential oneness of Christ's church in such a way that no one could miss it."

The Peace Pastoral

The NCCB named Fulcher one of the five member committee, headed by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, that over a two-year period wrote the

bishops' peace pastoral. Titled "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response," it was a widely debated document that urged nuclear disarmament. Fulcher was known as middle-of-the-road, but as time went on he became more willing to speak out on the issues involved. The pastoral was completed in November of 1982 and approved by the bishops in April of 1983, after Fulcher had become Bishop of Lafayette. The bishops proclaimed peace as a goal for the world, but they did not intend to provide a blueprint of political or military steps to be taken. After its completion, Fulcher was chairman of the bishops' follow-up committee on the pastoral and went about seeing to its implementation, in the sense of making it known. When facing skeptics, in explaining the place of the pastoral in their lives, he was neither intimidated nor intimidating.

Bishop of Lafayette

Bishop Fulcher was a borderline diabetic, had high blood pressure, and in March, 1982 had double heart bypass surgery. This was not enough to slow him down or prevent his appointment as Bishop of Lafayette. One must wonder what part Cardinal Bernardin, whom Fulcher worked with on the peace pastoral, had in this appointment. The appointment was made on February 8, 1983 and Fulcher was installed in St. Mary Cathedral on April 14. The Diocese of Lafayette then consisted of 86,000 Catholics in sixty-four parishes in the part of Indiana lying northwest of Indianapolis. The new ordinary took the position that he would make no major changes in the diocese in the first year, other than establishing a Presbyterial Council as recommended by the 1983 Code of Canon Law. He continued active in the ecumenical movement and in promoting the peace pastoral. In November of 1983 he and Rabbi Samuel Fishman of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations knocked at the door of the Soviet Embassy in Washington. They refused to leave until they

delivered thousands of letters from the Lafayette area asking the release of three "refusniks" from the Soviet Union.

On January 25, 1984 Bishop Fulcher was driving himself back to Lafayette from his fifteenth speaking engagement on the peace pastoral as Bishop of Lafayette. About 1:30 p.m. the car left the road some thirty-five miles north of Terre Haute and burst into flames. It is not known what caused the accident, whether the bishop had fallen ill or asleep or just lost control of the automobile. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery, Lafayette, amid the tears of a large family, two dioceses, and many people of other faiths, all of whom considered themselves blessed by God through the bishop's life.

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Among many other sources, this article was based on newspaper clippings in the bishop's file, most of them from the *Catholic Times*.



Abstracts from *The Catholic Telegraph*

(Continued, from Vol. XXIII, No. 9)

August 21, 1845

The Boarding and Day School of the Nuns of St. Dominic, Somerset, Perry Co., will reopen about the first Monday in September.

September 11, 1845

[A long letter on the Episcopal Visitation of the Diocese of Milwaukee by Bishop Henni.]

October 2, 1845

OBITUARY

Died at St. Mary's Convent, Somerset, Perry County, Ohio, on the 18th inst., in the 30th year of her age, SISTER MARTHA (McDermott.) Her disease was pulmonary consumption, which confined her to the infirmary for four months,

after having gradually undermined her constitution for the last six years, which she had passed in the community. She bore her protracted sufferings with perfect resignation to the divine will, and yielded her pure spirit into her Maker's hands with an ardent desire to be united with the citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, in praising and loving him forever! May she rest in peace.

November 13, 1845

[Rev. Michael A. Byrne was ordained to the priesthood last Sunday. Rev. Otho Borgess is appointed to St. Mary's, Chillicothe.] We are happy to learn that the new and beautiful Church commenced in Chillicothe last June is already under roof. The churches commenced about the same time in Canton and Columbus are in a similar state of forwardness. The church of Columbus is one of the most beautiful in the West and reflects the highest credit on the Catholics of that city.

November 27, 1845

[Advertisement by Thomas D. Spare, architect and builder, Main & English Sts., Cincinnati.]

December 18, 1845

[This issue contains the first notice of the crop failure in Ireland.]

January 22, 1846

Subscriptions:

Hon. T. Ewing, Lancaster, O.

James Scully, Chillicothe, O.

Miss Braddock, Marietta, O.

F. Maguire, do.

E. Magevney, Memphis, Tenn.

St. Mary's, Somerset, O.

M. Guessinger, do.

"G. P. M'Caddon. We have mailed the Almanac P.M. [Post Master], Columbus, Ohio."

February 5, 1846

Subscriptions:

Andrew Stanton, Wilksville, O.

L. A. Zimmer, Portsmouth,

Adam Miller jr., Delaware, O.

James McGinness, Steubenville, O.

Charles Rafferty, Wellsville, O.

February 12, 1846

Advertisement:

THOS. D. SPARE

ARCHITECT & BUILDER

SOMERSET, PERRY CO. OHIO

Refer to the Provincial of St. Joseph's

February 19, 1846

Subscriptions:

James Taylor, Duncan's Falls, O.

Rev. C. P. Montgomery, Zanesville, O.

Wm. White, Fulton, O.

Rev. J. Kearney, Steubenville, O.

February 26, 1846

[Minor ordes were conferred on Thomas Boulger by Bishop Purcell on the 24th.]

March 19, 1846

[Dedication of St. Mary's Church in Piqua.]

Subscriptions:

John Lynch, Zanesville, O.

William Mattingly, do.

Rev. C. P. Montgomery, do.

April 9, 1846

DIED, on the 27th ult., Cornelous [sic] Crosson, aged 72 years. The deceased was a native of Ireland, born in Sufford [Lifford], county of Donnegal. He came to this country in eighteen hundred, and after residing some years in Baltimore, he came to Ohio in the vicinity of St. Joseph's, where and in which place being an early settler. He has been a very useful member of the Catholic Church. He has left a large number of friends to mourn his loss, confidently trusting his good deeds will not go unrewarded.

April 30, 1846

Subscriptions:

B. Dolan, Wilksville, O.

June 4, 1846

Subscriptions:

Rev. M.[W.] Schonat, Columbus, O.

June 18, 1846

DIED at Malaga, Monroe Co., Ohio, on Saturday, June 6th of Consumption, F. BENINGHAUS, aged 26 years.

June 25, 1846

[Contains the story of the commencement of erection of the College at Sinsinawa Mound in Wisconsin by Father Mazzucelli; cornerstone laid on the 24th of last month.]

July 2, 1846

Episcopal Visitation

[Cleveland St. Mary's; St. John of the Cross near Laporte; Toledo; St. Philomena's on the Sandusky River; Lower Sandusky where St. Ann Church was dedicated; St. Alphonso near Norwalk; dedication of St. Peter Church in Norwalk; St. Boniface at Wolf Creek; Tiffin St. Mary's; dedication of St. Joseph's, Tiffin; Sacred Heart in Crawford County; St. Bernard at New Washington, Crawford County.] ...There were sixty persons confirmed in the church of St. Luke, Danville, Knox County, on the 28th of June.

[Bishop's schedule: Canton; Louisville; St. Paul's in Columbiana County; St. Pius in Steubenville July 10; St. Dominick's Guernsey County on the 12th; St. John's, Malaga, the 14th; St. Mary's in Marietta on the 19th; St. Francis on Sunday Creek on the 22nd; Deavertown St. Michael's on the 23rd; St. Thomas in Zanesville on the 26th; St. Nicholas on the same day; Somerset the week following.]

July 9, 1846

Subscriptions:

J. Postlewaite, Homer, O.

John M'Cune, Beverly, O.

P. M'Mallen, Rehoboth, O.

Mich. Welsh, Homer, O.

July 16, 1846

[Death of Pope Gregory XVI.]

On Tuesday [July 7] the Bishop confirmed forty-six at St. Paul's, Columbiana County. The cornerstone of a new church, one mile from the old one, which is now too small, will be laid on the 15th of August, and also of another five miles east, so much have the Catholics in that vicinity increased under the pastoral care of the Rev. Mr. Conlan.

July 30, 1846

EPISCOPAL VISITATION. -- During the past week the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered in St. Patrick's church, Washington, and St. Dominick's, Guernsey County, St. John's at Millersburg [Miltonsburg], St. Peter and Paul's [Crane's Nest], and St. Michael's [?], Monroe county. The youth of the congregation of St. Pius, Steubenville, not being thought by their zealous Pastor sufficiently instructed, the sacrament was received by only adult persons. The church of St. Patrick at Washington, Guernsey county, is very beautiful and would be considered an ornament, says our Correspondent, to any city in the Union.

The Bishop will be in Somerset on next Sunday and in Fayetteville, Brown county, on Sunday the 9th of August.

[Election of Pope Pius IX.]

(To be continued)

St. Mary's at the Furnaces
Pine Grove, Elizabeth Township, Lawrence County
Parish Census of 1888

(Continued, from Vol. XXIII, No. 10)

Vesuvius, continued		Michael Hubert	1 mo.	John	11 C
106. Anastasia White	40	113. John Grant	43	Charles	8
Robert	20 Ch	Charles	18 Ch	Mary	5
Margareth	18 Ch	Michael	16 Ch	Thomas	3
Catharine	16 Ch	John	14 Ch	Lawrence	1/2
Anastasia	4	James	12 C	119. Thomas Galvin	38
Mary Juila	3	Patrick	10 C	Elizabeth Galvin	29
John Kane	80	Sarah	8	Anastasia	4 1/2
Mary Kane	58	114. Daniel Mulhearn	48	Margareth	2 1/2
Margareth	18 Ch	Bridget Mulhearn	52	Patrick	2 mos.
107. Patrick Kane	22	Catharine	24 Ch	120. Frank Micke	23
Anna Kane	20	Bridget	22 Ch	Martha Jane Micke	20
Ellen Elizabeth	2	James	18 Ch	Joseph	1/2
John William	1	Grace	16 Ch	121. John Kelly	26
108. John McMacom	57	115. Joseph Lahrman	38	Lydia Kelly	24
Catherine McMacom	50	Mary Lahrman	33	John Kelly	3
Daniel	32 Ch	Joseph	8 C	James	1
Catharine	27 Ch	Hugh	6	122. Jane Keating	55
Mary	22 Ch	Mary Agnes	4	Catharine	17 Ch
Charles	20 Ch	Catharine	4		
Dennis	17 Ch	Elizabeth	1 1/2	Vesuvius Furnace	
Caecilia	15 Ch	[Lohrman at Ironton		Henry Frank	
Edward	14 C	Calvary Cemetery]		Stundtebeck	25
[McMakin at St. Mary		116. Hugh Gallagher	65	Mary A. Stundtebeck	24
Cemetery]		Catharine Gallagher	60	123. Thomas Chrystal	100
109. Thomas Keating	38	Patrick	22 Ch	Catharine Chrystal	70
Patrick K	9	Edward	20 Ch	124. Joseph Graeman	64
James	7	117. Joseph Burke	61	Elizabeth Graeman	63
Catharine	5	Mary Burke	46	Theresia Graeman	27 Ch
Margareth	3	Patrick	22 Ch	George	25 Ch
Henry	1	John Burke	22 Ch	Benjamin	21 Ch
110. John Keating	41	Anastasia	20 Ch	125. John Lenhardt	28
John Keating	18 Ch	Mary	17 Ch	Anna Mary	6
111. Patrick Keating	65	Thomas	19 Ch	William H. Lenha[r]dt	3
Jane Keating	58	Catharine	14 Ch	Margareth E.	1
James Keating	26 Ch	Michael	10 C	126. William Kampelman	50
Henry	24 Ch	James	8 1/2	Euphrosyna	
Hugh	17 Ch	Ellen	6 1/2	Kampelman	43
112. Edward Pirrung	25	118. Thomas Morahan	36	William C.	23 Ch
Catharine Pirrung	20	Mary Jane Morahan	29	Joseph H.	21 Ch

Edward J. 19 Ch
 Anne M. 16 Ch
 Maggie E. 14 Ch
 George H. 11 C
 Frank B. 9
 [now Compliment]
 127. Charles Friederich 38
 Isabella Friederich 42
 Mary 14 Ch
 Caroline 12 Ch
 Dora 9
 128. Pauline Hecker 36
 Frank Hecker 27 Ch
 Joseph Hecker 18 Ch
 William 17 Ch
 Frederic 14 Ch
 Euphrosyna 11 C
 Julia 9
 Georges 6
 Oselha?? 4
 Charles 2
 [Hacker in Ironton
 Calvary Cemetery]
 129. Henry Bäumer 40
 John Bäumer 38
 Anna Baumer 30
 Mary Bäumer 10 C
 Bertha Bäumer 8
 John Bäumer 6
 William 4
 Joseph 1
 130. John Graeman 33
 Janette Graeman 30
 Henry 7
 Anna 3
 Grace 2
 131. James Mulhearn 67
 Anna Mulhearn 48
 Margareth 21 Ch
 Anna 19 Ch
 James 17 Ch
 132. Joseph Miller 32
 Sophia Miller 29
 Mary 2
 John Beresford 72

New Richland

133. Edward Kelly 31
 Anna Kelly 27
 James 6
 Mary E. 4
 Caecilia C. 2
 John J. 1 mo.
 134. Roddy Curran 51
 Catharine Curran 52
 John 29 Ch
 Theresia 24 Ch
 Mary 22 Ch
 Bridget 20 Ch
 Ellen 18 Ch
 Rosa 15 Ch
 Patrick 13 Ch
 Daniel 10 C
 Sophia 7
 135. Frank Werner 38
 Mary Werner 38
 Emma 14 Ch
 Joseph 12
 Estella 10
 Edward 9
 Norah F. M. 7
 Dora E. J. 7
 Mary J. 5
 Minna K. 1
 [Warner at St. Mary Cem]
 136. Frank Dugan 29
 Francisca Dugan 27
 John Dugan 22 C
 Honorah Dugan 20 C
 Edward Dugan 14 Ch

Centre Station

George McGonnaghe 27
 Hannah McGonnaghe 24
 James 2
 Patrick 8 mos.
 137. James McGonnaghe 64
 Mary McGonnaghe 58
 James 21 Ch
 Daniel 17 Ch
 Margaretha 15 Ch

138. Charles Gallagher 61
 Sophia Gallagher 53
 Patrick 27 Ch
 Hugh 21 Ch
 Michael 19 Ch
 Mary 16 Ch
 Hannah 13 Ch
 Sophia 7
 139. Andrew Brangan 50
 Frank 20 Ch
 Patrick 18 Ch
 James 16 Ch
 Andrew 14 C
 Dennis 12 C
 Ellen 10
 140. John McGee 26
 Mary McGee 24
 Fanny 5 mos.
 141. John McGonnaghe 37
 Margareth
 McGonnaghe 37
 Mary 12 C
 Margareth 11 C
 Anna 9
 Joseph 7
 Catharine 5
 Norah 1
 James Dixon 70
 James Herede? 22 Ch
 142. Hugh McGonnaghe 32
 Susan McGonnaghe 33
 Mary 8 mos.
 143. John McClain 54
 Mary McClain 39
 Margareth 20 Ch
 Henrietta 18 Ch
 Elizabeth 14 Ch
 Anna 12 C
 Michael 10 C
 Bridget 8
 John 5
 Mary 3
 144. Dennis McGee 48
 Hannah McGee 28
 Fanny 17 Ch

Mary	15 Ch	149. Frank Lüpker	51	Walter	8
Hannah	14 Ch	Josephine Lüpker	45	John	5
Ellen	12 C	John	21 Ch	Caecilia	2
Patrick	10 C	Rosa	15 Ch	155. Daniel Morning	61
James	8	Agnes	13 Ch	Ellen Morning	45
Anna	8	Georges	9 C	John Morning	23 Ch
Catharine	2	William	7	William	22 C
145. Peter Dugan	50	Mary	5	Henry	20
Betty Dugan	40	[now Lipker]		Daniel	18
Margareth	16 Ch	150. Charles Gallagher	60	Joseph	14
Hannah	15 Ch	Caecilia Gallagher	56	James	8
Mary	13 Ch	Ellen	25 Ch	Adam	6
Edward	10 C	Anna	21 Ch	Hugh	4
Susan	8	Cornelius	17 Ch	Cornelius	1
Mathew	7	151. August Hummel	75	156. Edward Gibbons	60
Ellen	5	Cornelia Hummel	46 prot.	Margareth	20 Ch
146. James Mellot	35	[Catharine Hummel,		Catherine	18 Ch
Margareth Mellot	34	1825-1881, is buried at		157. Thomas Riley	26 Ch
Michael	15 Ch	the Centre Furnace Cem.]		John Riepenhof	35 Ch
John	13 Ch	152. John Power	40	Mary	6
James	12 C	Elizabeth Power	34	Benjamin	3
Grace	10 C	Nancy	18 Ch	158. John Doyle	60
Daniel	8	Margareth	16 C	Mary	22 Ch
Margareth	6	John	13	Julia	19 Ch
William	2	Sarah	9	Catharine	17 Ch
147. Margareth Gallagher	56	Mary	5	James Dorigan	
Johanna	26 Ch	153. Peter Burke	37	boarder	49 Ch
Margareth	25 Ch	Anthony Morgenthaler	47		
Daniel	23 Ch	Charles	20 Ch		
Peter	21 Ch	Mary	19 Ch		
Edward	19 Ch	Anton	16 Ch		
148. Margareth Hughes	52	Emma	13 C		
Bridget	22 Ch	George	11		
Thomas	18 Ch	Anna	5		
Anna	15 Ch	154. James Furlong	41		
Catharine	10	Bridget Furlong	31		

Mount Vernon

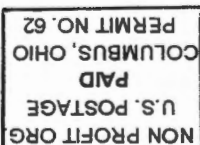
159. John Burke	42
Jane Burke	37
Ellen	7
James	5
Thomas	3
Mary	1
(To be concluded)	

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Donald M. Schlegel, editor



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