

Adult Education Series, October 2008

St. Agatha Parish, Upper Arlington, Ohio

The Catholic Church in Ohio

These programs will be on Sunday mornings from 9:40 to 10:40
in the Monsignor Kennedy Parish Hall
1860 Northam Rd.
Columbus, OH 43221

Sunday, October 5

The Origin of the Catholic Church in Ohio (1802-1832)

Farmer Jacob Dittoe and Bishop Edward Dominic Fenwick

A German farmer near Somerset, Jacob Dittoe, begged John Carroll, the Bishop of Baltimore, to send a priest to minister to the Catholics of Ohio. Finally a Dominican priest, Edward Dominic Fenwick, established the first parish in Ohio on land donated by Farmer Dittoe. Fenwick later became the first Bishop of Ohio.

Sunday, October 12

The Growth of the Church in Ohio (1933-1883)

Archbishop John Baptist Purcell, an Irish Bishop in a German City

John Baptist Purcell was the second bishop of Ohio and served as Bishop and Archbishop of Cincinnati for a total of fifty years. During that time the State of Ohio experienced rapid growth. Purcell was a colorful Irishman who successfully presided over a largely German immigrant church. He also opposed the definition of papal infallibility at the First Vatican Council and, near the end of his life, saw his archdiocese sink into a tragic financial failure.

Sunday, October 19

The Last of the Prince-Bishops (1950-1969)

Archbishop Karl Joseph Alter

Karl Joseph Alter became the Bishop of Toledo at the beginning of the Great Depression. He retired as the Archbishop of Cincinnati several years after the Second Vatican Council. He was the last of the pre-Vatican II archbishops in Ohio. A distinguished looking character with a somewhat regal style, he began the implementation of the Council's reforms cautiously and carefully. His self-confidence combined with his innate courtesy enabled him to lead his archdiocese through the unsettled post-Vatican II period in the Catholic Church with a minimum of disquiet.

Sunday, October 26

The Church of the Laity after the Second Vatican Council

Archbishop Paul Francis Leibold (1969-1972)

Paul Francis Leibold, a native of Dayton, Ohio, served as an Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati and as the bishop of Evansville, Indiana, before becoming the bishop of Cincinnati in 1969. He suffered a severe stroke on May 31, 1972, and died the next day, having served as Archbishop of Cincinnati for less than three years. During his all too brief tenure, he had made a vigorous and comprehensive effort to fulfill the Second Vatican Council's vision of the Church as the entire community rather than only the hierarchy.