

Sunday Herald-Leader Campbell Co Church
Feb. 21, 1965

HISTORIC KENTUCKY

Photo and Text by J. Winston Coleman Jr.



ST. JOHN CHURCH, CAMPBELL COUNTY—

About eight miles from Alexandria, at the junction of Kentucky Highway 9 and John's Hill Road, stands this century-old Catholic church in the community of John's Hill, settled largely by German emigrants. The first meeting-house was a small, log structure erected around 1847 and presided over by Father John Voll of Newport. On June 24, 1857, the log church burned. The cornerstone of a new church was laid April 25, 1858, by Msgr. Frederic Baraga, later bishop of Sault Sainte Marie. The church (as shown), completed in November of that year, is a commodious two-story stone building, 30 by 50 feet, with tower and cross. On a large stone set high in the front wall is the inscription: "Deutsche Romanisch Katholische, St. Johannes Kirche, Gebault A.D. 1858". For 20 years the Benedictine Fathers of Covington

ministered to the people of this parish; some of whom were the Revs. Lambert, Koopman, Leander, Columbanus, Gabriel, Rhabanus, Gutman, Wehrle, Erhard and Heising. In January, 1877, the Rev. Anthony Athmann was appointed first resident pastor; he was succeeded by Rev. William Cassender, who served until 1880. Nine short-term pastors then followed over a period of eleven years until 1891, when the parish became a mission attached to Corpus Christi Church in Newport. Latter-day ministers at St. John the Baptist Church have been Joseph Schaefer, 1891-94; Henry B. Gellenbeck, 1894-95; Bernard A. Baumeister, 1895-1903; Thomas B. Ott, 1903-07; Charles Diemer, 1907-17; Ernst M. Dahlschen, 1917-28; Walter Freiburg, 1928-31; Msgr. Francis R. Mielech, 1931-54; Hugh J. Milligan, 1954-56; Norbert H. Middendorf, 1956-64, and the Rev. Robert L. Vater, since July, 1964.

with chauffeurs and...

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