

to the Franciscan superior requesting help during the paschal season.

The request was granted! Via horse and buggy the first Franciscan came to Quincy. It was in the spring of 1859. History records his name as Father Capistran Zwing, O.F.M. Padre Capistran assisted the pastor of St. Boniface in the confessional and in the pulpit from Low Sunday to Trinity Sunday. Fifty days! A long time, but Father Capistran did not wear out his welcome. On the contrary, many Quincyians expressed their desire to have the sons of St. Francis settle in their fair city. One Christian Borstadt, a prominent citizen, generously offered a site for a church and monastery if the Friars would accept the invitation to take up permanent residence in Quincy. Mr. Borstadt had a soft spot in his heart for the Padres.

"When a journeyman, I fell dangerously sick at Fulda, Germany, and didn't know whither to go," he is quoted as having said. "In this emergency, the Franciscan Fathers took pity on me and nursed me back to health. Ever since, I have thought of doing the Franciscans a good turn, should opportunity present itself."

Opportunity was knocking! Bishop Hy. Damien Juncker and Father Schaefermeyer traveled all the way to Teutopolis to make sure that the Franciscans heard the knocking. The Ordinary urged them to come to Quincy and establish a parish and an institution of higher learning. Would they accept? How could they refuse such an offer? A formal petition was sent to the Franciscan Provincial in Germany asking for permission to found a residence in the Gem City. On Sept. 25, 1859, the proposal was approved.

At the same time two Fathers, three clerics and one Brother were sent from Germany to help their confreres in America. The small band arrived at Teutopolis on Nov. 26, 1859, and from their number

Father Servatius Altmicks was appointed first superior and pastor of the future establishment in Quincy. The 32-year-old pastor, together with Brother Honorius Doop, arrived in Quincy on Dec. 2, 1859. It was a red letter day in the history of Quincy and in the annals of the Franciscan Order.

Father Schaefermeyer and a large number of Quincyians heartily welcomed the Friars as the answer to their prayers. Two days after the arrival of the Franciscans a building committee was set up to gather funds and materials for the new church and college. In the meantime, Father Servatius and Brother Honorius had to have a place to hang their cowls. Joseph's Mast's three-story brick building on the southeast corner of Eighth and Maine would serve the purpose. So the sign: "For Rent, \$29 per month," was taken down, and the pastor tacked up his own shingle: "Franciscan Monastery." The first floor was used for school purposes after March, 1860; the second story contained the living quarters for the religious and the third floor served as their chapel.

As soon as a site for the church and monastery had been determined upon (Feb. 9, 1860), the building committee stepped up its "Fair Share" campaign for contributions. Borstadt donated the land. St. Boniface parish contributed \$1,800, and the good people of Quincy generously pledged money, materials and working hours.

Ground breaking took place in March of 1860 and on July 2, the cornerstone was set in place by the Most Rev. Bishop Juncker. The local clergy, visiting priests and a large concourse of people turned out for the occasion. Chroniclers tell us that the collection taken up at this ceremony was unusually good—amounting to \$60.25.

Parishioners were surely remind-

HISTORY OF ST. FRANCIS SOLANUS PARISH

This is the story of your parish. It begins when your great-grandfather was neither great nor grand, just up-an-comin'. He belonged to St. Boniface parish, but occasionally he dashed off to St. Peter's, especially when his sleep and the St. Boniface Mass schedule got confused. The metropolis of Quincy could boast of only two Catholic churches away back in 1858. But the Gem City of the West was booming. In fact, it could and did brag of being "the largest city in Illinois next to Chicago."

No wonder that Father Herman Schaefermeyer was a little wary about handling all the Easter confessions himself. As pastor of St. Boniface he had over 2,000 souls under his care. He needed help and badly. But where to get it? Easter is a busy time for every priest. In this mission territory each shepherd of souls had more work than he could handle. What about the Franciscans? They seemed friendly and willing to be of service when he met them on the boat coming from Germany. The small band of Friars had settled in a small town with a big name—Teutopolis—some 200 miles southeast of Quincy, in the fall of 1858. It was worth a try. Father Schaefermeyer sat down and wrote