

**St. Michael the Archangel Church**

Speech on the occasion of the dedication  
Of the grave site of Brother Anselm

By

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Brothers of the Holy Cross in Grogan Hall  
St. Michael the Archangel Church  
On the occasion of the dedication of the grave site of Brother Anselm  
June 12, 2004

MADISON, INDIANA WAS LAID OUT AS A TOWN IN 1809, AND THE FIRST LOTS SOLD IN 1811. AS PIONEERS MIGRATED WEST DOWN THE OHIO RIVER, THE TOWN BECAME KNOWN AS 'THE GATEWAY TO THE NEWLY DEVELOPED NORTHWEST TERRITORY. ONE NEED ONLY TO LOOK AT A MAP TO SEE THE NORTHERN MOST LOBE OF THE RIVER AS LOCATED HERE AT MADISON. THE TOWN GREW BY PROVIDING GOODS AND SERVICES NEEDED TO OUTFIT THESE EARLY SETTLERS.

MANY COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES WERE ESTABLISHED: IRON FOUNDRIES, BOILER FACTORIES, PORK PACKING, STARCH FACTORY, FLOUR MILLS, COOPERAGES, SADDLETREE PRODUCTION, SPOKE & WAGON FACTORY, WOOLEN MILLS, SHIP BUILDING AND REPAIR, WHOLESALE WAREHOUSING, ALL TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF SETTLERS MOVING TO SETTLE THE NEW WEST, PLUS THE ABILITY TO IMPORT & EXPORT VIA OHIO RIVER

ONE IMPORTANT RESULT OF THIS NEW FOUND PROSPERITY, TODAY'S MADISONIANS WOULD INHERIT AN ASSEMBLAGE OF EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE – SAID BY SOME TO BE THE LARGEST AND LEAST ALTERED IN THE COUNTRY.

HOW DID THIS SMALL OHIO RIVER TOWN COME TO HAVE SO RICH AN ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE? IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND, WE NEED TO LOOK BRIEFLY AT THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN ITSELF. IN THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY, WHEN THE URGE TO CONQUER THE WEST WAS STRONGLY PLANTED IN THE MINDS OF MANY EASTERN SEABOARD SETTLERS, "THE WEST" REALLY MEANT THE TRANS – APPALACHIAN REGION OF OHIO, KENTUCKY, INDIANA, AND ILLINOIS. LARGE NUMBERS OF SETTLERS CAME DOWN THE OHIO RIVER FROM PITTSBURG AND WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA IN FLATBOATS AND ON RAFTS. THEY EVENTUALLY ARRIVED AT A POINT LONG FAVORED BY THE MICHIGAN INDIANS FOR CROSSING THE RIVER. THIS TRAIL, LATER TO BECOME THE MICHIGAN ROAD, NOW SERVED SETTLERS IN SEARCH OF FERTILE FARMLAND AS A MEANS OF ACCESS TO THE INTERIOR.

BY 1806, TWO LOG CABINS HAD BEEN BUILT ALONG THE RIVER'S EDGE AT THE START OF THE TRAIL. SETTLEMENT OF WHAT WOULD BECOME MADISON HAD BEGUN. AS MENTIONED EARLIER, THE TOWN WAS LAID OUT IN 1810 AND THE FIRST LOT SALE OCCURRED IN 1811. WITHIN FIFTEEN YEARS THE SETTLEMENT HAD GROWN TO THE POINT THAT IT WAS INCORPORATED AS A TOWN.

THE TOWN'S CHIEF SOURCE OF INCOME DURING THIS EARLY PERIOD WAS DERIVED FROM OUTFITTING THOSE SETTLERS WHO MOVED INLAND.

MADISON GREW RAPIDLY, BY THE MID 1850'S NEARLY ALL OF DOWNTOWN MADISON WAS BUILT UP WITH SCARCELY A VACANT LOT LEFT. THIS EARLIEST DEVELOPMENT OCCURRED AT AN INTERESTING TIME ARCHITECTURALLY. THE FEDERAL STYLE HAD REPLACED THE COLONIAL GEORGIAN STYLE IN MOST EASTERN POPULATION CENTERS AND WAS BEING TRANSPORTED ACROSS THE APPALACHIANS WITH WESTWARD MIGRATION. FEDERAL STYLE ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS WERE OFTEN SIMPLER AND MORE DELICATE THAN THOSE OF THE GEORGIAN ERA AND THEREBY EASILY ADAPTABLE TO FRONTIER CONDITIONS.

BY THE MID 1830'S, THE CLASSICAL REVIVAL STYLE EMERGED IN THE AREA WITH THE GREEK DORIC SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ERECTED BY EDWIN J. PECK IN 1835. THE EARLIEST PUBLIC BUILDING TO REMAIN STANDING TODAY, THIS STRUCTURE HAS BEEN FREQUENTLY REFERRED TO BY ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS AS THE BEST EXAMPLE OF ITS KIND SURVIVING IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

LATER EXAMPLES OF THE CLASSICAL REVIVAL WERE CONTRIBUTED BY THE ARCHITECT - MASTER BUILDER, FRANCIS COSTIGAN. COSTIGAN ARRIVED FROM BALTIMORE AS EARLY AS 1837 BRINGING WITH HIM THE INFLUENCE OF BENJAMIN HENRY LATROBE, ARCHITECT OF THE U.S. CAPITOL, AND OTHER VERY SIGNIFICANT CLASSICAL REVIVAL STRUCTURES. THE IMPACT OF LATROBE'S INFLUENCE ON COSTIGAN CAN BE SEEN IN THE LATTER'S JAMES F. D. LANIER HOUSE OF 1840-44 AND THE CHARLES LEWIS SHREWSBURY HOUSE OF 1846-49. BOTH HOUSES WERE DESIGNATED NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS IN 1994. THE CLASSICAL REVIVAL PERIOD WAS FOLLOWED BY THE RICH WEALTH OF THE ITALIANATE.

ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT FACTORS AFFECTING THE TOWN'S PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT WAS ITS GEOGRAPHY. EARLY MADISON WAS BUILT ON A NARROW PLAIN EXTENDING SOME TWO MILES ALONG THE RIVER AS I ALREADY MENTIONED, THIS AREA WAS VERY DENSELY BUILT-UP BY ABOUT 1860. LATER CONSTRUCTION, INCLUDING RECENT SUBDIVISIONS, SHOPPING CENTERS, AND INDUSTRIES HAS OCCURRED ON TOP OF THE HILL, WHICH RISES 450 FEET ABOVE THE ORIGINAL TOWN. THE GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION HAS MOLDED A SPLIT LEVEL COMMUNITY WITH THE OLD ARCHITECTURE BELOW AND THE NEW TOWN ABOVE.

A SECOND FACTOR THAT INFLUENCED THE PRESERVATION OF MADISON'S EARLY ARCHITECTURE WAS THE RAILROAD. BY THE MID 1850'S, RAILROADS HAD CHANGED MANY OF THE EARLIER TRAFFIC PATTERNS OF SHIPPING RAW MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES. TRAFFIC ALONG THE OHIO RIVER DWINDLED AND MADISON'S IMPORTANCE AS A PORT AND TRANSFER POINT DECLINED SHARPLY. FOR SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS, THE TOWN EXPERIENCED NO GROWTH. DURING THE PERIOD OF POVERTY VIRTUALLY NO BUILDINGS WERE DEMOLISHED FOR THERE WAS NO MONEY TO REBUILD. THE RESULT IS THAT PRESENT DAY MADISONIANS HAVE INHERITED A SPECTACULAR COLLECTION OF ALMOST UNTOUCHED EARLY AND MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY BUILDINGS.

AS THE TOWN GREW, RELIGION OF COURSE, WAS VERY MUCH A PART OF THAT EARLY DEVELOPMENT. BAPTIST, METHODIST, AND PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION AND CHURCHES BECAME AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE YOUNG COMMUNITY. CATHOLICS ARE MENTIONED AS EARLY AS 1814. A NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT OF MASS CELEBRATED IN A HOUSE LOCATED ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THIRD AND BROADWAY IN 1817 BY A PRIEST FROM CINCINNATI, MARKS THIS DATE AS THE FIRST GATHERING OF CATHOLICS IN MADISON.

TO UNDERSTAND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MADISON AND SOUTHERN INDIANA, WE MUST LOOK AT ITS ORIGIN. CATHOLICISM IN NORTH AMERICA FINDS ITS BASE UNDER THE ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION OF THE SEE OF QUEBEC, ESTABLISHED IN 1674. IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1784 WITH THE CREATION OF AN ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE BISHOPRIC LOCATED AT BALTIMORE IN 1790, WITH JOHN CARROLL, ITS FIRST BISHOP, DO WE SEE INDIANA UNDER THE SPIRITUAL JURISDICTION OF THIS NEWLY FORMED INDEPENDENT COUNTRY.

IN 1808 FOUR NEW CATHOLIC DIOCESE WERE CREATED - NEW YORK, BOSTON, PHILADELPHIA, AND BARDSTOWN, KENTUCKY. FATHER BENEDICT JOSEPH FLAGET BECAME FIRST BISHOP OF THE BARDSTOWN DIOCESE TAKING POSSESSION OF THE SEE OF BARDSTOWN MAY 9, 1811 THREE YEARS AFTER HIS APPOINTMENT IN 1808. HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ERECTING ST. JOSEPH PROTO-CATHEDRAL - THE FIRST WEST OF THE ALLEGHENY MOUNTAINS. CONSTRUCTION BEGAN IN 1816 - COMPLETED IN 1819. THE NEW DIOCESE COVERED ALMOST THE ENTIRE NORTHWEST TERRITORY, SOUTH TO NEW ORLEANS AND AS FAR NORTH AS DETROIT. (THE CATHEDRAL WAS CONSECRATED IN 1819, THOUGH THE INTERIOR WAS NOT FULLY COMPLETED UNTIL 1823. WHEN THE EPISCOPAL SEE WAS MOVED FORTY MILES AWAY TO THE FAST GROWING CITY OF LOUISVILLE IN 1841, ST. JOSEPH'S BECAME A CHURCH PARISH).

TO THIS DATE INDIANA HAS BEEN UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF QUEBEC, BALTIMORE AND BARDSTOWN UNTIL MAY 6, 1834 WHEN POPE GREGORY XVI CREATED THE DIOCESE OF VINCENNES APPOINTING FATHER SIMON BRUTE' ITS FIRST BISHOP. THE NEW DIOCESE EMBRACED THE STATE OF INDIANA AND THE EASTERN HALF OF ILLINOIS, INCLUDING THE VILLAGE OF CHICAGO. THE CHURCH, ALREADY UNDER CONSTRUCTION SINCE 1826 WAS LARGELY COMPLETED AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF BISHOP BRUTE' IN 1834 ALTHOUGH AN ENLARGED SANCTUARY AND STEEPLE WERE ADDED AFTER HIS DEATH IN 1839. THE CHURCH, NOW REFERRED TO AS THE OLD CATHEDRAL HAS BEEN ELEVATED TO THE DESIGNATION OF THE BASILICA OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER. VINCENNES REMAINED THE SEAT OF THE DIOCESE UNTIL 1898 WHEN REMOVED TO INDIANAPOLIS BY BISHOP CHATARD, SIXTY-FOUR YEARS AFTER ITS CREATION.

AT THE TIME OF THE ARRIVAL OF BISHOP BRUTE' IN VINCENNES IN 1834 GREAT ADVANCES WERE BEING MADE FOR CATHOLICISM IN SOUTHERN INDIANA. HOWEVER, WITH CATHOLICS PRESENT IN MANY COUNTIES, BESIDES THE BISHOP HIMSELF, THERE IS RECORD OF ONLY TWO RESIDENT PRIESTS. BY



SUMMER OF 1835 BRUTE' SETS OUT FOR FRANCE HOPING TO RECRUIT A NUMBER OF MISSIONARY PRIESTS FOR HIS NEW DIOCESE AND ALSO TO SOLICIT FUNDS.

SUCCESS WAS HIS AS HE RETURNED WITH SEVERAL PRIESTS AND YOUNG MEN WELL ON THE WAY IN THEIR STUDIES OF THE PRIESTHOOD. AMONG THESE SEMINARIANS WAS ONE NAMED MICHAEL EDGAR SHAW.

MICHAEL SHAW WAS THE FIRST TO BE ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD BY BISHOP BRUTE' IN THE NEW DIOCESE OF VINCENNES AND THE CEREMONY OCCURRED MARCH 12, 1837. FATHER SHAW WAS SENT TO EVANSVILLE FIRST AND THEN ON JULY 18, 1837 THE BISHOP AUTHORIZED THE FOUNDING OF THE PARISH IN MADISON AND APPOINTED FATHER MICHAEL E. SHAW ITS FIRST PASTOR. THE NEXT DAY THE BISHOP ISSUED THE FOLLOWING PERMIT:

"WE AUTHORIZE BY THE PRESENT LINES THE REVEREND MICHAEL SHAW TO RECEIVE THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND OFFERINGS HE MAY OBTAIN FOR ERECTING A CHURCH AT MADISON AND THE OTHER SACRED PUROPOSES TRUSTED TO HIM BY HIS BISHOP."

DATED 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 1837 SIMON BRUTE' BISHOP OF VINCENNES AND SO IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF FATHER MICHAEL SHAW IN JULY 1837 THAT THE MADISON COMMUNITY ENJOYED THE SERVICES OF A RESIDENT PASTOR. FATHER SHAW'S IMMEDIATE CHARGE WAS TO ESTABLISH A PARISH AND BUUILD A CHURCH. THE LAND WAS ACQUIRED IN THE SUMME4R OF 1838 AND ON DECEMBER 22, 1839, THE FIRST MASS WAS HELD IN ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH.

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH, ONE OF THE OLDEST SURVIVING CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN INDIANA, IS AN IMPORTANT ARCHITECTURAL, HISTORIC, AND ARTISTIC TREASURE OF BOTH MADISON AND THE STATE OF INDIANA. IN ITS INFANCY, THE CHURCH WELCOMED IMMIGRANTS, PARTICULARLY OF IRISH DECENT, WHO CAME TO MADISON TO BUILD THE MADISON-INDIANAPOLIS RAILROAD. IT IS SAID THAT THE STONES FROM THE RAILROAD "CUTS" WERE USED TO CONSTRUCT THE GOTHIC STYLE EDIFICE. IT IS ALSO NOTEWORTHY THAT FRANCIS COSTIGAN, MADISON'S MOST FAMOUS BUILDER AND ARCHITECT WAS A RESIDENT OF MADISON AT THE THIS TIME, HAVING MOVED HERE FROM BALTIMORE AS EARLY AS NOVEMBER, 1837. COSTIGAN, WHO'S LANIER MANSION AND SHREWSBURY HOUSE IN MADISON ARE HIS MOST IMPRESSIVE WORKS, WAS A MEMBER OF ST. MICHAEL CHURCH, AND IS CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE THE ARCHITECT OF THE CHURCH

ST. MICHAEL HAS SERVED AS A FOCAL POINT FOR SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE MADISON CATHOLIC COMMUNITY. AS THE RENEWED LITURGY OF VATICAN 11 (IN THE 1960'S) PROFOUNDLY AFFECTED EXISTING ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES EVERYWHERE, SO TOO HAVE THOSE CHANGES CAUSED THE LOCAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY TO INITIATE CHANGE THROUGH

CONSOLIDATION AND UNITY WITHIN THE MADISON AND JEFFERSON COUNTY PARISHES.

BY 1933, WE ARRIVED AT THE POINT WHEREIN THE LOCAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY HAS MOVED TO A ONE PARISH, ONE CHURCH FACILITY CONCEPT. WITH THAT HAS COME THE DECISION OF THE ARCHDIOCESE AND THE LOCAL PARISH TO DISCONTINUE USE OF ST. MICHAEL CHURCH. WE NOTE THIS IMPORTANT LANDMARK STRUCTURE IS ALREADY INCLUDED AS PART OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT AND WITH ITS TRANSFER TO HISTORIC MADISON FOUNDATION, INC. IN 1994. WE NOW BEGIN TO SEE ITS EXPANDED ROLE. THE RESULT IS THIS VENERABLE BUILDING WILL NOW BELONG TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF MADISON AND THE STATE OF INDIANA.

PRESERVATION OF THESE BUILDINGS IS IMPORTANT TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND THE COMMUNITY BECAUSE IT EPITOMIZES THE TRADITIONAL VALUES OF FAMILY, CHURCH AND COMMUNITY AT A TIME WHEN THERE IS A NEED TO STRENGTHEN THESE BASIC VALUES WHICH WE ALL CHERISH. WITH THE TRANSFER OF THE PROPERTY THERE WAS ONE BINDING

AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE USE OF THE ST MICHAEL CHURCH BUILDING: IT READS – “THE PERFORMANCE OF ANY MARRIAGE, FUNERAL, BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, CATHOLIC MASS OR PSEUDO-CATHOLIC MASS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED IN THE BUILDING KNOWN AS ST. MICHAEL CHURCH FOR A PERIOD OF TEN YEARS. A REVIEW OF THIS STIPULATION MAY BE HELD ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THIS AGREEMENT AT THE REQUEST OF EITHER PARTY.”

THIS, THEN IS A THUMBNAIL SKETCH OF THE EARLY YEARS OF THE TOWN OF MADISON AND ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH. IT IS WITHIN THIS EARLY PERIOD OF 1830'S, 40'S, AND 50'S THE MADISON COMMUNITY WOULD ENJOY ITS GREATEST PERIOD OF GROWTH.

AND IT IS IN 1843, BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF ANY OTHER FORMAL, PUBLIC PROVIDED EDUCATION, THAT ST. MICHAEL WOULD ESTABLISH A SCHOOL FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN.

THE FIRST EVIDENCE WE HAVE OF A CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN THE PARISH IS FROM A BRIEF NOTE IN THE BAPTISMAL REGISTER STATING THAT THE SCHOOL OPENED ON SEPTEMBER 26, 1843. FOR THE FIRST FEW WEEKS, CLASSES WERE HELD IN THE CHURCH ITSELF, THEN ON NOVEMBER 1, 1843 CLASSES WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE BASEMENT.

THE FIRST TEACHERS WERE BROTHER MARY JOSEPH AND BROTHER ANSELM. BOTH BELONGED TO THE BROTHERS OF ST. JOSEPH OR JOSEPHITES WHO LATER BECAME HOLY CROSS BROTHERS, AN ORDER FOUNDED IN 1820 IN FRANCE.

THESE BROTHERS ARRIVED IN NEW YORK IN 1841. THEN WENT TO VINCENNES WITH THEIR SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR FATHER EDWARD SORIN. AFTER A SHORT STAY AT ST. PETERS, OUTSIDE VINCENNES, IN 1842 BISHOP DE LA

HAILANDIERE OFFERED THEM LAND IN NORTHERN INDIANA WHICH THEY ACCEPTED AND FR. SORIN WITH THE BROTHERS LEFT TO ESTABLISH NOTRE DAME.

TWO BROTHERS STAYED BEHIND. ONE BROTHER ANSELM STAYED TO TEACH AT VINCENNES AND BROTHER MARY JOSEPH WAS SENT TO MADISON'S ST. MICHAEL'S. THE TWO SWITCHED POSITIONS IN THE FALL OF 1844 WHILE HERE IN MADISON.

ON JULY 12, 1845 BROTHER ANSELM, WHILE SWIMMING IN THE OHIO RIVER WITH FATHER DELAUNE, PASTOR OF ST. MICHAELS, DROWNS.--IT WAS A SATURDAY AFTERNOON WHEN SEVERAL HUNDRED FEET FROM SHORE--THE BODY WAS FOUND SOME FIVE HOURS LATER AROUND 10:00 P.M. ACCORDING TO AN ACCOUNT IN FR. DELAUNE'S LETTER TO FR. SORIN. HE WAS LAID OUT IN THE BASEMENT CHAPEL. THE SERVICE WAS THE NEXT DAY IN THE CHURCH. "AT 4:00 P.M. WE BROUGHT THE BODY TO THE CHURCH AND LEFT THE COFFIN EXPOSED. BROTHER LOOKED LIKE ONE SLEEPING, SO CALM WAS HIS APPEARANCE. PROTESTANTS AND CATHOLICS ALIKE GATHERED TO THE NUMBER OF A THOUSAND. THE CHOIR SANG THE VESPERS OF THE DEAD. I MADE A DIFFICULT EFFORT AND PREACHED OF THE FOURTH CHAPTER OF THE BOOK OF WISDOM, THE SEVENTH AND FOLLOWING VERSES. I HAD THE THIRTEENTH VERSE WRITTEN IN ENGLISH ON A BLACK BANNER: "BEING MADE PERFECT IN A SHORT SPACE, HE FULFILLED A LONG TIME."

THE SCHOOL CHILDREN KISSED HIS FOREHEAD AND THE COFFIN WAS CLOSED AND COVERED WITH A MORTUARY CLOTH. THE TWO SCHOOLS LED THE FUNERAL PROCESSION WITH A BANNER AND ACROSS. THE HEARSE FOLLOWED AND THEN THE PEOPLE, TWO BY TWO. I MARCHED BETWEEN THE STUDENTS AND THE CARRIAGES. WE PASSED THROUGH THE CITY TO THE CEMETERY, WHICH IS A MILE FROM HERE."

BROTHER ANSELM IS BURIED IN SPRINGDALE CEMETERY--HIS HEADSTONE READS:

BROTHER ANSELM OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. JOSEPH

BORN IN FRANCE 1826 (INCORRECT DATE)

DIED IN MADISON JULY 12, 1845

'HIS SOUL PLEASED GOD: THEREFORE HE HASTENED  
TO BRING HIM OUT'"

THIS STONE WAS LOST IN THE FLOODS OF 1937 BUT A PICTURE SURVIVES