

The Lauths: A Family on a Mission
Lisa Loughran - June 2018
Holy Cross History Association Conference

1
2018-6

In the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, shoemaker Michael Lauth and wife Margaret raised ten children in the village of Bous, near the bend of the Moselle River. Six of those children found a new home at Notre Dame and St. Mary's as members of the Congregation of Holy Cross; a seventh was an alumnus of the University and active supporter of the Congregation. The family served on many assignments together and became an important force in the pioneering efforts of the order in the 1870's through the turn of the century in the United States. Peter would be first to come to America, proving to be the tip of the spear in the migration of his family and many other Luxembourgers, who were known to make excellent priests as they were gifted linguists with the ability to serve a variety of ethnic communities.¹ Through recruiting trips, Peter and John Bernardus would be instruments that paved the way for young men and women to join Holy Cross. Nearly one quarter of the priests and seminarians Fr. Sorin documented in his 1885 circular letters were from Luxembourg.² The stories of Peter Lauth and his siblings shed light on what mission life was like for the congregation during these important pioneering years and the important role that Luxembourgers played in it.

Peter Lauth was born May 24, 1834 in Bous, the second son of Michael and Margaret. At the age of 20, he left Nassau Germany and sailed across the ocean to America on a two month

¹ Gonner, Nicholas; Liebenau, Gerald; Muller, Jean-Claude. 1889, 1987. Luxembourgers in the New World., ed. Muller Enschede. Vol. 1. Luxembourg: Kremer-Muller & Co., Foetz.

² Sorin, Rev Edward. 1885. Circular letters of the Very Rev. Edward Sorin. In 1st ed., 331. Notre Dame, IN. Gonner, Nicholas; Liebenau, Gerald; Muller, Jean-Claude. 1889, 1987. Luxembourgers in the New World., ed. Muller Enschede. Vol. 1. Luxembourg: Kremer - Muller & Co., Foetz.

voyage arriving on May 5, 1854 in New York. He made his way to Illinois where he was hired as farm laborer for the next several years in Aurora, Little Rock, Plano and at the resident farm of Henry Potter in Somonauk.³

While in Illinois he learned English at a small district school, increasing his spoken knowledge of languages to four.⁴ In September of 1859, five years after his arrival in America, he attended St. Mary's of the Lake College in Chicago IL. It was there he was introduced to the Holy Cross Congregation.⁵ Peter enrolled in the Commercial Course at Notre Dame for the 1861-1862 academic year and graduated with premium awards.⁶ He became a postulant of the order in September 1863 and when asked, "What is your Temperament?" he answered, "Somewhat quick!".⁷

Peter was ordained to the Priesthood on March 7th, 1869 at the age of 34.⁸ While studying to be a Salvatorist, he also taught German at the college for seven years.⁹ His first assignment as priest would be to serve with Fr. Cooney at St. Patrick's in South Bend in 1870.¹⁰ In February of 1871, Fr. Cooney, Fr. Peter and his brother Fr. John preached a successful mission at St.

³ Lauth, Peter. 1868. *Notebook of letters and activities 1863 -1868 CSCP 1/36*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Archives (UNDA.)

⁴ Silver anniversary of Rev. Lauth's Ordination. 1884. *The Southern Messenger*, 4-20-1884, 1884.

⁵ Howard, Timothy Edward. 1907. *A History of Saint Joseph County Indiana*. Vol. 1, 578-579. Chicago-New York: The Lewis Publishing Comp.

⁶ Notre Dame, Univ. 1862. *18th Annual catalogue of the officers and students of the University of Notre Dame*. Vol. 1. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame.

⁷ Holy Cross, Cong. 1863. *Interrogatories for postulants*. Notre Dame, IN: Holy Cross Province Archives (HCPA.)

⁸ Gonner, Nicholas; Liebenau, Gerald; Muller, Jean-Claude. 1889, 1987. *Luxembourgers in the New World.*, ed. Muller Ensich Owen. Vol. 1. Luxembourg: Kremer-Muller & Co., Foetz. *Matricule General 1867 ordination of Peter Lauth*. Notre Dame, IN: HCPA.

⁹ *Early teachers and administrators at Notre Dame, 1850-1950*. Notre Dame, IN: UNDA.

¹⁰ St. Patrick's Parish. 1958. Biographical sketch of pastors. In *A century at St. Patrick's*. Vol. 1, 31-35. South Bend, IN.

Bernard's parish in Watertown, WI. The following month, St. Bernards church would be given to the Holy Cross as a mission start.¹¹

By 1872, Peter had been in the United states for almost two decades, and would be assigned by Fr. Sorin to return to Luxembourg on business for the community. The Scholastic reported in September that "Rev. Father Peter Lauth is on his way back, with seventeen companions bound for Notre Dame."¹² Among these companions were his siblings, Michael and Catherine, as well as several young men who would become Holy Cross Priests.¹³ In October Fr. Sorin wrote to Rev. Ferdinando in Rome, "I am sending back again our Rev. Fr. Lauth...he brought 17 last month."¹⁴

On the day after Christmas the church of St. Joseph in the town of Lowell, IN burnt to the ground, and the parish community went back to St. Alexis chapel with Fr. Peter as pastor.¹⁵ He would lead that community for the next year and a half, building a two-story structure to serve as both school and church.¹⁶

¹¹ Watertown History.org. History of watertown WI, St. Bernard's Church. [cited 3-2018 2018]. Available from <http://www.watertownhistory.org/articles/StBernards.htm> (accessed 6-2-18.)

¹² Rev. Peter Lauth is on his way back from Germany with seventeen companions. *The Scholastic* 6, (3) (September 21, 1872), pg. 14, http://www.archives.nd.edu/Scholastic/VOL_0006/VOL_0006_ISSUE_0002.pdf (accessed November 20, 2014.)

¹³ Ships records. [cited May 11, 2018 2018]. Available from https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7488/NYM237_366-0141?pid=13876452&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/ssc.dll?indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D7488%26h%3D13876452%26tid%3D%26pid%3D%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26_phsrc%3DPiW536%26_phstart%3DsuccessSource&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=PiW536&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true#?i=141 (accessed May 11, 2018.)

¹⁴ Sorin, Rev Edward. 1872. Letter from Rev. Sorin to Fr. Ferdinando, 10-4-1872. Sorin's Correspondence as Superior General 1872-1878. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

¹⁵ Howard, Timothy Edward. 1907. *A History of Saint Joseph County, Indiana*. Vol. 1, 578-579. Chicago-New York: The Lewis Publishing Company.

¹⁶ Alerding, Rt. Rev. Herman Joseph. 1907. *The Diocese of Fort Wayne, 1857-September 1907* pg. 254. Fort Wayne, IN.

In September of 1874, he was sent to serve as President of St. Joseph's College in Cincinnati, OH for 10 months.¹⁷ Over the next several years Fr. Peter moved back and forth between the parishes of St. Joseph, Lowell IN, St. Patrick, South Bend, IN and St. Bernard in Watertown, WI, settling in August 1878 as pastor to St. Patrick's South Bend for the next three years. His parishioners described him as "so devoted to his people that he never took a day off, never took a vacation or rest."¹⁸

Yet in the midst of this flurry of service, Fr. Peter was not pleased. In August of 1881, he wrote to Fr. Sorin asking for a dispensation. He asked that Fr. Sorin not assign him, or make any calculation on him, as his heart had become alienated from the community.¹⁹ Nevertheless, as he would write later in life, he was next ordered by Fr. Sorin to serve on mission in California.²⁰

Fr. Peter arrived at St. Turibius Mission, Kelseyville CA in September of 1881, noting that he would have responsibility for the 120 Indians living on the 160 acre farm, as well as four outlying missions. As September turned into October, and the promised help of three sisters, a brother and a fellow priest had not arrived, some frustration started to surface in his letters to Fr. Sorin. He wrote, "I have to see to the calves, cows, pigs, horses and fences just like a farmer."²¹ The alienation he felt was expressed to Fr. Sorin, "I can call God to witness that I acted as a faithful member ever since I joined the community, and when I asked you for a dispensation, you

¹⁷ Father Peter Lauth, newly appointed president of St. Joseph College. *Scholastic* 8 (2) (10-3-1874): 14.

¹⁸ St. Patrick's Parish. 1958. Biographical sketch of pastors. In *A century at St. Patrick's*. Vol. 1, 31-35. South Bend, IN.

¹⁹ Fr. Peter to Fr. Sorin, St. Patrick's Church, Sorin's files box 6 folder 5. 8-5-1881. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

²⁰ Ordered to California, *The Southern Messenger*, 7-28-1898, 1898. Obtained from the Texas Catholic Archives.

²¹ Letter to Fr. Sorin from Peter Lauth, Sorin's files, box 6, folder 5. 10-12-1881. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

sent me here!”²² At January’s end, help had still not arrived. He confided to Sorin, “I remember distinctly the time when I would die for you... when my soul was as closely united to yours as that of David’s to Jonathan’s.”²³ He bemoaned, “I have not seen a priest since the middle of November; there is no one to whom I can speak a confidential word.”²⁴ A week later at the beginning of February, he wrote a postcard stating simply, “Send help at once!”²⁵

Help finally arrived in early Spring, in the form of Fr. Kollop and Brother Clement.²⁶ There were no more letters of anguish flowing back to Notre Dame; he had begun his journey out of the desert, and by September, he had been transferred to Austin, TX. But he wrote to Fr. Sorin, “Fr. Kollop says he will not stay here alone!”²⁷ On October 6th, the Holy Cross pulled out of St. Turibius, Kelseyville, CA for good.²⁸

Fr. Peter’s assignment to St. Mary’s Parish in Austin began on September 6th, 1882.²⁹ The building of the new church continued for the first eighteen months of his pastorate; and by the spring of 1884, the church was ready for dedication. The bishop of Galveston decided to hold the event on Low Sunday, which fell on April 20th.³⁰ Fr. Sorin traveled from Indiana to attend

²² Letter to Sorin from Peter Lauth, Sorin’s files, box 6, folder 5. Asked for dispensation, you sent me here!. 10-31-1881. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

²³ Letter from Fr. Peter Lauth to Fr. Sorin. Sorin’s files, box 6, folder 7. 1-27-1882. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

²⁴ Letter from Fr. Peter Lauth to Fr. Sorin. Sorin’s files, box 6, folder 7. 1-27-1882. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

²⁵ Postcard from Fr. Peter Lauth to Fr. Sorin. Sorin’s files, box 6, folder 7. 2-3-1882. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

²⁶ Aidan, Bro. Br. Clement to Sorin 1882, Brother Aidan’s extracts. in UNDA [database online]. Notre Dame, IN, Available from <http://archives.nd.edu/aidan/aidan347.htm> (accessed 6-2-2018.)

²⁷ Letter from Fr. Peter Lauth to Fr. Sorin (Kollop won’t stay). Sorin’s files, box 6, folder 7. 8-7-1882. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

²⁸ Zephyrin, Engelhardt, O.S.F. 1897. St. Turibius Mission. In *The Franciscans in California*, 470. Harbor Spring, MI: Holy Childhood Indian School.

²⁹ Letter to Brother Edward from P. Lauth, Sorin’s files, box 6, folder 7. 9-6-1882. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

³⁰ Lauth, Rev Peter. 1884. *Dedication of St. Mary’s Austin invitation card*. Sorin’s files, box 7. Notre Dame, IN: HCPA.

the ceremony as celebrant; the Lauth brothers, Fr.s John and Jacob, were there to support their brother.³¹

In 1885 he would be assigned as one of five members of the new board at St. Edwards College when the school had incorporated,³² and by the Summer of 1887 would be teaching himself Spanish at the age of 53.³³ Over the next several years, improvements were made to the church in Austin, including a stain glass window which he donated. He celebrated his Silver Jubilee on March 28, 1894 with many friends surrounding him.³⁴ When he came to Austin, his parish was small. In 12 years it had grown to be one of the largest in the City. At the age of 60, he was reported to be “in the zenith of his manhood”.³⁵

In April of 1898, the newly appointed provincial, Rev. John A. Zahm C.S.C., arrived in Austin to make his first visit to St. Edward’s College and St. Mary’s Congregation.³⁶ He left nine days later, but following his visit there was a significant change for Fr. Peter: a transfer to Sacred Heart Parish in New Orleans.³⁷

In July the Austin Statesman reported, under the banner “Change for New Orleans” that “his promotion comes in good grace, for it is certainly merited.”³⁸ Fr. Peter was much loved and

³¹ Barkley, Mary Starr. 1974. St. Mary's Church 1874-1974. IN, 14-15.

³² Dunn, Br William C. S. C. 1986. *St. Edward's University: A centennial history*. 1st ed. Austin, TX: Nortex Press.

³³ Rev. Toohey. 1887. Letter from Rev. Toohey to Rev. Hudson, CHUD x-3-e. 7-30-1887. UNDA, Notre Dame, IN.

³⁴ Silver anniversary of Rev. Lauth's Ordination. 1894. *The Southern Messenger*, 3-28-1894, 1894.

³⁵ A Priest's Silver Anniversary. *The Galveston Daily News*, 3-29-1894, 1894.

³⁶ Very Rev. Father Zahm visits St. Edward's College. *The Southern Messenger*, 4-14-1898, 1898.

³⁷ Hudson, D. 1898. Letter from Fr. D. Hudson to James Edwards X-4-b- A.L.S. July 12, 1898. UNDA, Notre Dame, IN.

³⁸ Newspapers.com. 1898. Change for New Orleans. *Austin American Statesman*, 7-19-1898, 1898.

respected at St. Mary's, where he had served for 16 years. On August 7th he gave his farewell speech. The church was filled to capacity, many turned away at the doors. The heat was excessive; his topic, "With all Thy Soul Honor God and Reverence his Priest", was cut short to a half an hour.³⁹ By August 14, he celebrated his last marriage, baptism and funeral finalizing his service to St. Marys. That afternoon, his parishioners presented him with a \$100 purse as a token of gratitude; his mission to Austin was finished.⁴⁰

Peter served just a year in New Orleans. He next returned to Notre Dame and taught Christian Doctrine for two years.⁴¹ Fr. Toohey noted, "Fr. Lauth never tires of expressing his admiration for the excellent spirit of Notre Dame."⁴² In 1902, Peter began his last assignment in the parish he had served 30 years prior, finishing his final ministry with a grand 11 year run at St. Joseph's South Bend.⁴³ His sibling Mary, then Sr. Boniface, began as directress to St. Joseph school in 1903, where she served with her brother for the next 10 years.⁴⁴ He resigned as pastor in July of 1913, but continued to work for the church until two months before his death from chronic myocarditis in June of 1916.⁴⁵ Peter would say of himself, "I never lost the memory of my fatherland, but was an ardent lover of America."⁴⁶

³⁹ Farewell Sermon. *Austin American Statesman*, Aug. 8, 1898, 1898.

⁴⁰ Received a Present. *Austin American Statesman*, 8-15-1898, 1898.

⁴¹ Notre Dame, Univ. 1900. *Catalogue of the University of Notre Dame 1899-1900*. Notre Dame, IN: UNDA.

⁴² Rev. Toohey. 1887. Letter from Rev. Toohey to Rev. Hudson CHUD x-3-e. 7-30-1887. UNDA, Notre Dame, IN.

⁴³ Parish of St. Joseph Church. 1903. *The religious guide and church calendar*, ed. Rev. Peter Lauth. South Bend, IN.

⁴⁴ Holy Cross, Sisters of the. *Record of apostolic service for Boniface Lauth*. Vol. I.D. 943. St. Mary's, Notre Dame, IN: Archives of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

⁴⁵ Indiana Archives and Records Administration: Indianapolis, IN, USA; *Death Certificates*; Year: 1916; Roll: 17. *Peter Lauth death certificate*. (Accessed through Ancestry.com, 6-11-2018.)

⁴⁶ A Priest's Silver Anniversary. *The Galveston Daily News*, 3-29-1894, 1894.

Peter's brother, John Bernardus Lauth, was born on New Year's Day in 1841 in Bous.⁴⁷ He came to America in 1859, where he followed his brother to Somonauk, working on the Sylvester property adjacent to Peter's employer.⁴⁸ Following the civil war, he went to ND to study and would receive the habit in October of 1867.⁴⁹ He also taught German at the college for four years.⁵⁰ On November 11th, 1870, he would be ordained by Archbishop Purcell alongside his brother Jacob at Sacred Heart, Notre Dame.⁵¹ Fr. Granger wrote of that event to Jimmy Edwards: "There were three Rev. Lauths on the altar today."⁵²

In 1871, Fr. John and his brother Peter preached the first Holy Cross mission in Watertown, WI, and in 1872 was one of the founding priests of the College of Our Lady of Sacred Heart.⁵³ While there, John mentored his youngest brother Michael, who was studying at the College.⁵⁴ In January of 1874, John was called back to Notre Dame to embark on recruitment duties to Luxembourg in search of new postulants for the community.⁵⁵ In the middle of May he returned from Luxembourg with eleven recruits ready to study for the religious life at Notre Dame, including nine young women and two young men: a Mr. Johannes, and the future bishop of

⁴⁷ Congregation of Holy Cross. *Matricule general (births dated at 1797-1901)(Salvatorist)*. Vol. MCII.1. 076-085 Reel 1 UNDA. Notre Dame, IN: UNDA.

⁴⁸ Ancestry.com. 1860 federal census for Illinois. in Ancestry.com [database online]. 2018]. Available from <https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/ssc.dll?indiv=try&db=1860usfcxcen&h=37166716> (accessed 05-14-2018.)

⁴⁹ Gonner, Nicholas., Liebenau, Gerald., Muller, Jean-Claude. 1889, 1987. *Luxembourgers in the New World.*, ed. Muller Ensich Owen. Vol. 1. Luxembourg: Kremer-Muller & Co., Foetz.

⁵⁰ *Early teachers and administrators at Notre Dame, 1850-1950*. Notre Dame, IN: UNDA.

⁵¹ A Beautiful Sight. *The Scholastic* 4 (5) (11-19-1870): 4.

⁵² Granger, Rev A. 1870. Letter to Jimmy Edwards., XI-1-a - A.L.S. - 2pp. - 8vo. - {4}. UNDA, Notre Dame, IN.

⁵³ Watertown History.org. History of Watertown WI, St. Bernard's Church. [cited 3-2018 2018]. Available from <http://www.watertownhistory.org/articles/StBernards.htm> (accessed 6-2-18.)

⁵⁴ Letter to Fr. Granger from Fr. John Lauth. Granger files, box 1 folder 9. 12-19-1873. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

⁵⁵ Rev. Father J. Lauth, C.S.C. is called to new duties here. *The Scholastic* 7 (22) (1-24-1874): 172.

Dacca, East Bengal, Peter Hurth.⁵⁶ This trip would be the first of several recruitment trips John made to the Grand Duchy during his lifetime. Two days after after Fr. John's return to Notre Dame, Fr. Sorin left for his 1874 Pilgrimage to Europe with handwritten directions from John, describing in detail how to travel from Paris to Luxembourg, and who to visit among the Catholic hierarchy for the purpose of recruitment.⁵⁷

That October, John was sent to Texas to serve as Fr. Spillard's assistant to St. Mary's, Austin, where his sibling Sr. Boniface would serve alongside him at the parochial school.⁵⁸

Four years later, Fr. John would be back in South Bend at St. Patrick's Parish, where he endeared himself to his parishioners, who described him as, "gracious to everyone as well as a good and gentle confessor."⁵⁹ By Summer of 1879 he had been reassigned to Watertown, WI, where he acted as advisor to Michael Lauth during a challenging time in his youngest brother's vocation.⁶⁰

With the founding of St. Edward's Academy Austin, TX on the Doyle farm in November of 1881, Fr. John would be assigned as new Superior and President by Rev. Louis Le' Etourneau, who wrote, "You will have the satisfaction of being the Founder we may say of the future great

⁵⁶ Rev. Father John Lauth C.S.C. *The Scholastic* 7 (38) (5-16-1874): 308.

⁵⁷ John Lauth to Sorin - Sufficient for little trip to Luxembourg (Sorin files, box 6) 5-1874. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN. (Fr. Hurth, Fr. Johannes, and Sr. Wigbert Koppes among the eleven listed in Letter to Sorin.)

⁵⁸ Fr. John to Lone Star State. *The Scholastic* 8 (2) (10-3-1874): 14.

⁵⁹ St. Patrick's Parish. 1958. Biographical sketch of pastors. In *A century at St. Patrick's*. Vol. 1, 31-35. South Bend, IN; Scholastic, The. 1876. Personal. Rev. John Lauth has been appointed pastor of St. Patrick's Church, South Bend, IN. *The Scholastic* 9 (23) (2-5-1876): 361.

⁶⁰ Personal: Rev. John Lauth, for the past two years pastor of St. Patrick's church, South Bend, will leave next week for Watertown, Wis. *Notre Dame Scholastic* 12 (2) (9-14-1878): 30.

University of Texas.”⁶¹ John’s Presidency lasted less than a year due to illness.⁶² When in July of 1885 the new College of St. Edwards was incorporated, a board was formed of five holy Cross priests: Fr. Sorin, and four Luxembourgers: Fr. John Lauth, Fr. Peter Lauth, Fr. Franciscus (who had been brought over by John Lauth), and Fr. Hurth (who had been brought over by Peter.)⁶³

While stationed in Taylor, Tx, Fr. John asked Fr. Sorin’s permission to return to Bous in May 1886.⁶⁴ The newspapers report his departure for Luxembourg, writing “For the last ten years, he has engaged in arduous missionary duties... His zeal for souls, greater than his strength.”⁶⁵ On his arrival in Bous in July, he penned an update to Fr. Sorin about the “state of affairs in regards to postulants.”⁶⁶ The following April, he wrote, “I cannot hope to meet with much success, as the clergy of our country are generally opposed to young folks crossing the Atlantic.”⁶⁷ But in fact, the Ship Waesland left Antwerp, Belgium, three months later with twenty five “young folks” on board bound for South Bend, including Fr. John’s Nephew Michael A. Lauth and a niece, soon to become Sr. Genevra, C.S.C.⁶⁸ Fr. Sorin, who had gone to recuperate at the Mineral Baths of Mondorf--just a few miles from the Lauth home--wrote back to Notre Dame

⁶¹ Le’Etourneau, Rev L. 1881. Copy of letter from Rev. Le’Etourneau to Rev. John Lauth. 11-11-1881. St. Edward’s University, Austin, TX.; Personal: We are glad to learn from the Daily Statesman, Austin Texas, that two former teachers of Notre Dame, Rev. Father John Lauth, and B. Alban, C.S.C., are conducting a very successful academy in that city. *Notre Dame Scholastic* 15 (32) (4-22-1882): 494.

⁶² Dunn, Br. William C.S.C. 1986. *St. Edward’s University: A centennial history*. 1st ed. Austin, TX: Nortex Press.

⁶³ Dunn, Br. William C.S.C. 1986. *St. Edward’s University: A centennial history*. 1st ed. Austin, TX: Nortex Press.

⁶⁴ John Lauth to Sorin letter. Brother will pay for trip to Bous. Sorin files, box 7, folder 7. 3-18-1886. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

⁶⁵ Newspapers.com. 1886. The Rev. John Lauth, C.S.C., left for Luxembourg. *Austin American Statesman*, 5-2-1886, 1886.

⁶⁶ John Lauth to Sorin letter. Regarding recruitment in Luxembourg. Sorin files, box 7, folder 7. 7-31-1886. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

⁶⁷ John Lauth to Sorin letter, Sorin Files, box 7, folder 10. 4-11-1887. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

⁶⁸ Ships records for the Waesland, October 6th, 1887. in Ancestry ships records [database online]. [cited May 12, 2018 2018].

Available from

https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/ssc.dll?indiv=1&dbid=7488&h=10245824&tid=&pid=&uscPUB=true&_phsrc=PiW537&_p_hstart=successSource (accessed 5-12-2018).

that he felt perfectly restored to health, and himself arrived at South Bend just a week after John.

⁶⁹ Fr. John readied himself to go back to his duties in Texas, where he served for two more years until late in 1888.

His next assignment, at St. Vincent's parish in Academie, IN, would be one of his most difficult. In a letter to Fr. Hudson, he bemoaned, "I am making my second novitiate."⁷⁰ He resigned from St. Vincent's in November of 1890, and by the 29th of that month was on his way back to Luxembourg.⁷¹ The following Summer, while still in the the Grand Duchy, Fr. Sorin again arrived in Luxembourg to visit the healing Baths of Mondorf.⁷² Fr. John returned to Notre Dame in early October with his eldest brother, John Lauth Sr. who had come to visit his two children, Mr. Michael A. Lauth CSC and Sr. Genevra Lauth CSC.⁷³ For the next twenty years, Fr. John lived at Notre Dame, making just one more trip to Luxembourg in 1912.⁷⁴ He celebrated his Golden Jubilee in November 1921, where it was noted, "He had a special love for the sick and afflicted".⁷⁵ Fr. John passed away eight years later, after a lifetime of struggle with illness, at 88 the oldest of the Holy Cross Lauths.⁷⁶

⁶⁹ A cablegram from Very Rev. Father General Sorin from Mineral Springs at Mondorf. *Notre Dame Scholastic* 21 (7) (10-22-1887): 107.

⁷⁰ Letter from John Lauth to Daniel Hudson CHUD x-3-i. I am making my second novitiate. 12-9-1888. UNDA, Notre Dame, IN.

⁷¹ Rev. John Lauth, C.S.C, left Notre Dame on Wednesday evening for Luxembourg. *The Notre Dame Scholastic* 24 (13) (11-29-1890): 204.

⁷² A letter from Very Rev. Fr. General to the minims. *Notre Dame Scholastic* 25 (1) (8-22-1891): 9.

⁷³ Local items: Rev. John Lauth, C.S.C., arrived on Tuesday from Luxemburg. *The Notre Dame Scholastic* 25 (5) (10-3-1891): 81

⁷⁴ Lauth, Rev John. 1912. Postcard from Rev. John Lauth to Col. Hoynes. CHOY 1/02 Correspondence. 7-31-1912. UNDA, Notre Dame.

⁷⁵ A golden jubilee, *The Notre Dame Scholastic* 55 (10) (11-29-1921): 154.

⁷⁶ Funeral services held for Reverend John Lauth, C.S.C., *The Notre Dame Scholastic* 63 (11) (11-29-1929): 327.

The third Lauth brother to enter the order was Jacob Franciscus, born on April 14, 1845 in Bous.

⁷⁷ When he wrote about his childhood, he described himself as having lived a simple and obedient life, and from the age of twelve to eighteen, drawn to prayer and happy in seclusion.⁷⁸

Jacob immigrated to the United States in June of 1863⁷⁹ to attend Notre Dame, where he also joined the congregation of Holy Cross as a postulant. When asked in his Interrogatory what his disposition was, he answered frankly, "Unamiable".⁸⁰ Following his graduation, he accepted the habit late in 1867. Like his brothers before him, he would teach Latin and German at the College for the next four years,⁸¹ at the end of which time he and his brother John would be ordained together by Archbishop Purcell.⁸²

Following a two month illness in the fall of 1872,⁸³ Fr. Jacob was sent to St. Joseph's College in Cincinnati as chaplain, where he wrote to Fr. Sorin on Christmas Eve to report over crowded and difficult living conditions.⁸⁴ Six weeks later, the congregation purchased an unoccupied mansion adjacent to their college for expansion.⁸⁵ By October, Fr. Jacob began to experience significant emotional distress.. While in South Bend, he penned a letter to Fr. Sorin describing his suffering. "I think I am obliged to inform you of my state of mind....No man, except my

⁷⁷ Congregation of Holy Cross. *Matricule general (births dated at 1797-1901)(Salvatorist)*. Vol. MCIJ1. 076-085 Reel 1 UNDA. Notre Dame, IN: UNDA.

⁷⁸ Rt. Rev. and Dear Abbot Letter, Fr. Sorin's Correspondance, box 5, Province Archives Congregation of Holy Cross, Notre Dame, IN, 1878.

⁷⁹ Family Search. United States, Germans to America, ships records. in familysearch.org [database online]. [cited 10/04/2017 2017]. Available from <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:1:L1DQ5-9H1D?print=true> (accessed 10/04/2017).

⁸⁰ Congregation of Holy Cross, "Interrogatories for Postulants". Province Archives of Holy Cross Congregation, Notre Dame, IN, 1867.

⁸¹ Congregation of Holy Cross, *Early teachers and administrators at Notre Dame, 1850-1950*. Notre Dame, IN: UNDA.

⁸² A beautiful sight. *The Scholastic* 4 (5) (11-19-1870): 4.

⁸³ Recovering. *The Scholastic* 6 (13) (12/07/1872): 100.

⁸⁴ *Sorin papers* 1872-A box 5. Notre Dame, IN: Province Archives Holy Cross Congregation.

⁸⁵ St. Joseph's Academy. *The Scholastic* 6 (26) (March 8, 1873): 203.

confessor, knows how much I suffered in the last three years.”⁸⁶ He was sent back to Ohio, this time as professor at the College for a short while. By 1875, he was serving as assistant to his brother, Fr. Peter, at St. Joseph Parish in Lowell. That Fall, Jacob went to Watertown WI, and there it became clear he was in severe suffering. He pleaded with Fr. Sorin to be removed at once, stating, “I need immediate relief”.⁸⁷ It would appear his request was granted, as two weeks later he was co-celebrating mass with Bishop Dwenger at the dedication of St. Patrick’s in Chesterton, IN.⁸⁸

In 1876, Fr. Jacob would be sent to Austin, TX as assistant pastor at St. Mary’s parish alongside his brother Fr. John, where he would serve for the next four years.⁸⁹ By October of 1878, he had asked for an exeat from the congregation, and corresponded with the head of the Cistercians at Gethsemani Abbey in Kentucky, where he was refused admittance.⁹⁰ When the general chapter met in Neuilly, France in April of 1880, he wrote to the governing council and again asked for his exeat, pleading, “Do not take ill of me when I make a final effort to get out of misery.”⁹¹

Fr. Jacob received his requested leave in the fall of 1880, but asked that his brothers and sisters not be told.⁹² The following summer, he was thrown from his carriage and seriously injured, but

⁸⁶ *Sorin papers* 1873-A box 5 South Bend. Notre Dame, IN: Province Archives Holy Cross Congregation.

⁸⁷ *Sorin papers* 1875-A box 5 Watertown. Notre Dame, IN: Province Archives Holy Cross Congregation.

⁸⁸ Rt. Rev. Dr. Dwenger dedicates new church. *The Scholastic* 9 (9) (10/30/1875): 138.

⁸⁹ Barkley, Mary Starr. 1974. St. Mary's Church 1874-1974. In , 14-15.

⁹⁰ “Rt. Rev. and Dear Abbot” (Letter from Jacob to Cistercian Abbot, Fr. Sorin's Correspondance 1878 Box 5, Province Archives Congregation of Holy Cross, Notre Dame, IN, 1878).

⁹¹ Letter to General Chapter in Neuilly, France from Jacob Lauth. Sorin's Files 1880 A Box 6. 4-5-1880. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

⁹² Letter to Fr. Corby from Jacob Lauth, Corby's files box 1:3. 10-01-1880. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

survived.⁹³ There would be no further evidence of his anguish, which perhaps he had conquered. Fr. Jacob stayed the course in the congregation for another fifteen years in Texas, pioneering and founding churches in Granger, Taylor, Caldwell, and Corn Hill.⁹⁴ In Galveston, he served the German parish for six years,⁹⁵ with his total years of service to the Lone Star State numbered at nineteen. He was well liked by his parishioners as well as his fellow confreres in the Holy Cross, and served with his brothers and sister on numerous assignments in Texas. In 1895, he left Texas for what would be his final assignment for the Holy Cross in Academie, IN.⁹⁶

The following year, Jacob finally took his exeat and was accepted into the Benedictine order in Cullman, Alabama at St. Bernards Abbey, and later assigned as Professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology.⁹⁷ Once more he was blessed to serve God with other members of the Lauth family when his two nephews, Fr. Andrew and Fr. John Capesius from Luxembourg, joined the order at St. Bernards, seeing him into his final days and death on August 29, 1915.⁹⁸ At Notre Dame it was noted that he had been a priest who had led an exemplary life and was a linguist of marked ability.⁹⁹

⁹³ Hudson, Rev D. 1881. Rev. Hudson to James Edwards, XI-1-b - A.L.S. - 7pp. - 12mo. - {11}. 7-22-1881. UNDA, Notre Dame, IN.

⁹⁴ Holy Trinity Catholic Church. 125 year anniversary. Corn Hill, TX, 2018]. Available from <http://holymtrinitycatholic.org/files/2018/03/125th-HTC-History-403635.pdf> (accessed 6-2-18.)

⁹⁵ May, Lisa. 2018. Lauths in Galveston, TX. 3-27-2018. Galveston, TX.

⁹⁶ Alerding, Rt. Rev. Herman Joseph. 1907. *The diocese of Fort Wayne: A book of historical reference*, 1669-1907.

⁹⁷ Abbey, St B. The monks of St. Bernards pg 13. Cullman, AL, 2016. Available from <https://stbernardprep.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/SBP-HappeningsSept.pdf> (accessed 5-26-2018.)

⁹⁸ American-Cassinense Congregation of Benedictine Monasteries. Necrology of the Order of St. Benedict. Available from <http://www.osb.org/amcass/people/necrology/index.html>. (accessed 6-9-2018.)

⁹⁹ The Rev. Jacob Lauth, O.S.B. *The Scholastic* 49 (3) (September 25, 1915): 44.

Jacob's younger sister Mary was born on July 17, 1848 in Bous as well. She immigrated to the United States in 1866 at the age of seventeen, and entered the congregation in May.¹⁰⁰ She would be given the name Sr. Boniface.

Even though four of her brothers were then at Notre Dame, she was nonetheless lonely for home. Mother Angela Gillespie took the young novice under her wing, and was especially considerate of the homesick girl.¹⁰¹ Through this relationship, Mother Angela would entrust Sr. Boniface with many worthy assignments over the next several years.

While preparing herself for her final profession, she taught German and French at St. Mary's Academy.¹⁰² The congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross received their charter in July of 1869, and in August of that same year Sr. Boniface made her final profession in St. Michael's chapel on the bank of the river, where the Guardian Angel statue now stands.¹⁰³ In September, as a newly professed nun, she would be sent on her first pioneering mission to Alexandria, Va where she and five others would open the new St. Mary's parochial school. It was reported that the first few weeks they sat on their trunks and ate their bread and meat without plates or utensils.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁰ *Record of apostolic service for Boniface Lauth*. Vol. I.D. 943. St. Mary's, Notre Dame, IN: Archives of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

¹⁰¹ McAllister, Anna Shannon, ed. 1944. *Flame in the wilderness: Life and letters of Mother Angela Gillespie, C.S.C.* Book VI, Centenary Chronicles of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Paterson, N. J.: St. Anthony Guild Press.

¹⁰² *Record of apostolic service for Boniface Lauth*. Vol. I.D. 943. St. Mary's, Notre Dame, IN: Archives of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

¹⁰³ Holy Cross, Sisters of the. 1941. *Our Mother House*. Hammond, IN: W. B. Conkey Company.

¹⁰⁴ Eileen, Sr M. Rose. 1941. The Eastern Province: Book II. In *Our Province: Centenary Chronicles of the Sisters of the Holy Cross*, 91-157. Notre Dame, IN.

In 1874, Mother Angela accepted the request to send some of her sisters to Austin Texas to open a school associated with St. Mary's church. Sr. Boniface would finally be on a mission with one of her siblings, since Fr. John was assigned to help Fr. Spillard at St. Mary's in October of that year. This pioneering venture occupied the next five years of her life.¹⁰⁵

Still in Texas in 1878, Sr. Boniface would miss the special blessing of the statue of "Our Lady of Luxembourg" at St. Mary's College in South Bend, where the ceremony would be attended by many Luxembourgers.¹⁰⁶ Mother Angela had purchased the statue on her trip to the Grand Duchy in 1876 while on a recruiting trip, guided by Sr. Wigbert Koppes, who had been brought over by Fr. John Lauth.¹⁰⁷ Mother Angela had accredited Notre Dame de Luxembourg with procuring ten postulants for the Sisters of the Holy Cross.¹⁰⁸

Following her Texas mission, Sr. Boniface would be sent back to Washington, D.C. to teach German at the Holy Cross Academy for four more years.¹⁰⁹ Then she was sent to Indiana where she would start her new pioneering venture in Elkhart IN. Fr. Kroeger requested that the Holy Cross Sisters open a school at St. Vincent's in Elkhart, and Boniface was sent as directress.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁵ Eileen, Sr M. Rose. 1941. The Eastern Province: Book two. In *Our Province: Centenary Chronicles of the Sisters of the Holy Cross*, 91-157. Notre Dame, IN.

¹⁰⁶ The blessing of a statue of Our Lady of Consolation. *The Scholastic* 12 (9-28-1878), http://archives.nd.edu/Scholastic/VOL_0012/VOL_0012_ISSUE_0004.pdf (accessed 5-11-2018.)

¹⁰⁷ *A historical sketch of the miraculous image of the Blessed Virgin of Luxembourg*. St. Mary's, Notre Dame, IN: Sisters of the Holy cross.

¹⁰⁸ McAllister, Anna Shannon, ed. 1944. *Flame in the wilderness: Life and letters of Mother Angela Gillespie, C.S.C.* VI Centenary Chronicles of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Paterson, N. J.: St. Anthony Guild Press.

¹⁰⁹ *Record of apostolic service for Boniface Lauth*. Vol. I.D. 943. St. Mary's, Notre Dame, IN: Archives of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

¹¹⁰ Sisters of the Holy Cross. 1941. Pioneers and builders. In *Centenary chronicles of the Sisters of the Holy Cross*. Vol. 3, 158. Notre Dame, Ind.: Sisters of the Holy Cross.

Three months after her arrival, her youngest brother Michael would celebrate his first mass at the parish.¹¹¹

The next twenty years saw Sr. Boniface teaching in many of the Holy Cross schools in Indiana, and in 1903 she would serve alongside her brother Fr. Peter at St. Joseph's South Bend.¹¹² In the twilight of her life, she would be assigned as Mistress of the Scholastics for seven years. At the age of 82, her final service to God and her congregation would be to serve her remaining life as hostess to visitors at the Mother House, having had the distinction of being the oldest sister in the community. She had served for 71 years¹¹³ and would outlive her younger sister Catherine by nearly five years.

Catherine Lauth was born on her brother John's 10th birthday, on January 1, 1851.¹¹⁴ She immigrated to America in September of 1872, arriving at New York with a large group of seventeen, led by Fr. Peter.¹¹⁵ Fr. Sorin had started his own Novitiate in the Sister's House at Notre Dame that year, and Catherine would enter as postulant in the Fall. She received the habit at Notre Dame du Lac on February 2, 1873;¹¹⁶ two years later in August she made her profession

¹¹¹ Letter to Sorin from Michael Lauth, Sorin's files, box 6. 12-7-1881. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

¹¹² The catholic directory, almanac and clergy list. v.17. 1903. In 1903. Vol. 17. 331. University of Minnesota.

¹¹³ Findagrave. Sister M. Boniface Lauth C.S.C. Obituary from South Bend Tribune. June 9, 2013 [cited May 11, 2018 2018]. Available from [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/112049058/m_boniface-\(mary\)-lauth](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/112049058/m_boniface-(mary)-lauth) (accessed May 11, 2018).

¹¹⁴ Holy Cross, Sisters of the. *Record of apostolic service of Catherine Lauth ID #861*. St. Mary's Notre Dame, IN: Sisters of the Holy Cross Archives.

¹¹⁵ Ancestry.com. Ships records. [Cited May 11, 2018 2018]. Available from https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7488/NYM237_366-0141?pid=13876452&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D7488%26h%3D13876452%26tid%3D%26pid%3D%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26_phsrc%3DPiW536%26_phstart%3DsuccessSource&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=PiW536&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true#?imageId=NYM237_366-0141 (accessed May 11, 2018.)

¹¹⁶ Holy Cross, Sisters of the. *Record of apostolic service of Catherine Lauth ID #861*. St. Mary's, Notre Dame, IN: Sisters of the Holy Cross Archives.

in Brownson Hall at the convent chapel. She was given the name Sr. Susanna.¹¹⁷ Immediately following her profession, she began her work of setting type by hand and reading proofs for the printing presses of the Ave Maria Press at Notre Dame, no doubt under the tutelage of Brother Stanislaus.¹¹⁸ Sr. Susanna worked alongside Rev. Daniel Hudson, newly appointed editor of the Ave, for the next 54 years. After 15 years of service, in 1890, she was promoted to the charge position in the Ave printing office.¹¹⁹ Of all the Lauth siblings, she lived a relatively undocumented life, and yet her steady contribution to the Ave Maria Press would be a substantial ministry of support for the Mission of the Holy Cross. She moved permanently to St. Mary's where she lived in the infirmary for two years until her death on August 7th, 1932.¹²⁰

Michael Lauth was the last child born to Michael and Margaret on May 28, 1856. In 1872, he left Luxembourg with his brother Peter and sister Catherine, arriving at Notre Dame in September.¹²¹ At age 16, he enrolled as a student and postulant. The following year he studied at Sacred Heart College in Watertown, WI. In letters to Fr. Granger in 1873, Fr. John described his brother's disposition as "very quiet, reserved and somewhat timid", and asked that he remain

¹¹⁷ The solemn ceremony of religious profession. *Notre Dame Scholastic* 9, (1) (August 28, 1875), http://archives.nd.edu/Scholastic/VOL_0009/VOL_0009_ISSUE_0001.pdf (accessed May 11, 2018).

¹¹⁸ Findagrave. Obituary South Bend Tribune for Sr. Susanna Lauth. in Findagrave [database online]. 8-3-2013 [cited May 11, 2018 2018]. Available from [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/112049278/mary_susanna-\(catherine\)-lauth](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/112049278/mary_susanna-(catherine)-lauth) (accessed May 11, 2018.)

¹¹⁹ Holy Cross, Sisters of the. *Record of apostolic service of Catherine Lauth ID #861*. St. Mary's Notre Dame, IN: Sisters of the Holy Cross Archives.

¹²⁰ Findagrave. Obituary South Bend Tribune for Sr. Susanna Lauth. in Findagrave [database online]. 8-3-2013 [cited May 11, 2018 2018]. Available from [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/112049278/mary_susanna-\(catherine\)-lauth](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/112049278/mary_susanna-(catherine)-lauth) (accessed May 11, 2018.)

¹²¹ Ships records. [cited May 11, 2018 2018]. Available from https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7488/NYM237_366-0141?pid=13876452&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D7488%26h%3D13876452%26tid%3D%26pid%3D%26uscat%3Dtrue%26_phsrc%3DPiW536%26_phstart%3DsuccessSource&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=PiW536&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true#?i=1&cat=NYM237_366-0141 (accessed May 11, 2018.)

in Watertown with him to finish the term.¹²² At Notre Dame the next year, Michael participated in the choir, the coronet band, and was assistant teacher of piano for four years.¹²³ He joined the Novitiate and professed to the Congregation in 1875 and 1876, respectively.¹²⁴

In October of 1878, his brother, Fr. Jacob, was defending Michael's honor in letters to Fr. Sorin against rumors circulating about him, involving a conflict between him and another at Notre Dame.¹²⁵ Following the great fire in April of 1879, the Local Council met on June 6th to discuss Michael's presentation for ordination, and decided not to advance him.¹²⁶

When Michael learned of the rumors against him, he left for Watertown, WI to take counsel with his brother, Fr. John. While there, he wrote to Fr. Granger and agreed that one, but only one of these accusations against him was true, that he did disobey his order to sing in the church.¹²⁷ He defended his prior six years of service and commitment as one who had shown proof of diligence to the call of his vocation. Michael refused Fr. Granger's offer for him to remain in the order but move to Canada, stating that the congregation would think he was either a drunkard or going for immoral reasons that he and Fr. Granger both knew not to be true. He fought for his vocation, and asked to be allowed to remain at Watertown to prove his merit as others had done.¹²⁸ He

¹²² Lauth, Rev John. 1873. Letter to Fr. Granger from Fr. John Lauth. Granger 1873 box 1, folder 9. 12-19-1873. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

¹²³ *Early teachers and administrators at Notre Dame, 1850-1950*. Notre Dame, IN: UNDA

¹²⁴ Congregation of Holy Cross. *Matricule general (births dated at 1797-1901)(Salvatorist)*. Vol. MCIJ1. 076-085 Reel 1 UNDA. Notre Dame, IN: UNDA.

¹²⁵ Letter to Fr. Sorin from Jacob Lauth, demands exeat, defends michael. Sorin's files 1878, box 5. 10-15-1878. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

¹²⁶ University of Notre Dame. 1879. *Council minutes June 6, 1879, folder #4*. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN:

¹²⁷ Letter from M. Lauth to Fr. Granger, Watertown 7-10-1879. Granger Files 1:22. 7-10-1879. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

¹²⁸ Letter from M. Lauth to Fr. Granger. Watertown 7-23-1879. Granger Files 1:22. 7-23-1879. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

seems to have succeeded; two years later, on November 30th, 1881, he was ordained a Holy Cross priest by Bishop Elder in the Cincinnati Cathedral, surrounded by his Luxembourgish friends Fr. Hurth and Mr. Johannes.¹²⁹

A week following his ordination, he celebrated his first mass on the feast of the Immaculate Conception at St. Vincent's Elkhart, IN. Fr. Sorin was invited to attend.¹³⁰ Most likely the only sibling in attendance was his older sister, Boniface, newly assigned there. Fr. Michael returned to St. Joseph's in Cincinnati as professor for the next year and a half.¹³¹

Linguistically gifted, Fr. Michael taught himself Polish for his new assignment as assistant pastor to St. Hedwig's parish in South Bend, IN.¹³² He preached his first Polish homily on March 31, 1883; two weeks later, the church of St. Hedwig's was dedicated.¹³³ For the next three years, he served the parish as well as the outlying congregation of St. Stanislaus in Terre Coupee, IN,¹³⁴ and found time to translate into Polish some articles and stories of famous composers, sent to Fr. Hudson for printing by the Ave Maria press.¹³⁵

¹²⁹ Cincinnati Daily Gazette. 1881. Catholic dedication. (11-11-1881).

¹³⁰ Letter to Sorin from Michael Lauth. Sorin's files 1881 - A box 6. 6.12-7-1881. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

¹³¹ Letter to Sorin by Michael Lauth. Sorin's files 1882 - A box 6. HCPA, Notre Dame, IN.

¹³² Rev. Michael Lauth, C.S.C. is now assistant at St. Hedwig's. *Notre Dame Scholastic* 16 (29) (3-31-1883): 458.

¹³³ Parish, St Hedwig. *History of St. Hedwig*. South Bend, IN.

¹³⁴ Archives, Polish. The History of *St. Stanislaus Kostka Church*. St. Stanislaus Kostka Church 1884-1984, New Carlisle, IN. Orchard Lake: CAP.

¹³⁵ Letter to Rev. D. Hudson from M. Lauth 4-1-1886. CHUD X-3-b. 4-1-1886. UNDA, Notre Dame, IN.

In May of 1886, Fr. Michael was assigned to St. Stanislaus Parish in Pittsburgh, PA where he served through 1887.¹³⁶ By September of 1888, he was on his way to Austin as assistant to his brother Fr. Peter Lauth at St. Mary's Cathedral, and new chaplain at St. Mary's Academy.¹³⁷ This assignment lasted till he was called back to Notre Dame in June of 1892, as Professor of German Literature at the college.¹³⁸ In October, he formed a "mission band" in Holy Cross with Fr. Klein, and by mid November, the two preached their first week-long Mission to the Catholic residents of South Bend at Sacred Heart Church.¹³⁹ His tenure as Professor lasted till the end of the 1895 academic year, at which time he returned to Austin to serve with Fr. Peter for the next three years. Alongside Fr. Klein, he preached missions in Austin, Liberty, and Beaumont, Texas. Fr. Michael would join the faculty at St. Edwards as Professor of Theology for the 1897- 1898 academic year.¹⁴⁰

Midway through the spring term at St. Edwards, the newly appointed provincial, Rev. John Zahm, arrived in Austin.¹⁴¹ Fr. Michael Lauth was released from the Congregation just one month later on May 5th, 1898 for unknown reasons.¹⁴² Outside the congregation, Rev. Michael found employment at the parish of St. Mary's in Appleton, WI, Chicago, and Peru, IL.¹⁴³

¹³⁶ *History of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Pittsburgh. 100th anniversary St. Stanislaus Parish 1875-1975*. Orchard Lake: CAP.

¹³⁷ *Personal Journal: Peter Lauth*. Austin, TX: Texas Catholic Archives.

¹³⁸ Notre Dame, Univ. 1893. Professor of German literature. In *Annual catalogue of the University of Notre Dame.*, 4. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria.

¹³⁹ Bathon, Josh. 2016. A history of the Holy Cross mission band. Texas.

¹⁴⁰ Dunn, Br. William C.S.C. 1986. *St. Edward's University: A centennial history*. 1st ed. Austin, TX: Nortex Press.

¹⁴¹ Very Rev. Father Zahm visits St. Edward's College, Texas Catholic Archives. *The Southern Messenger*, 4-14-1898, 1898.

¹⁴² Congregation of Holy Cross. *Matricule general (births dated at 1797-1901)(Salvatorist)*. Vol. MC1J1. 076-085 Reel 1 UNDA. Notre Dame, IN: UNDA.

¹⁴³ Catholic Directories, 1900, 1905

Nothing further is known of him, except that he was buried on May 5th, 1908 in Calvary Cemetery in Milwaukee, as “Michael Lauth.”¹⁴⁴

While not pursuing a religious vocation, another Lauth brother, John Peter, was born on October 20th, 1843 in Bous. This fourth oldest brother attended Notre Dame from 1863 to 1867, before moving back to Chicago. When the Luxembourger mutual aid society of Chicago incorporated in 1872,¹⁴⁵ he was voted as President of the Society. He started a preparatory school in Chicago on N Clark St., and was voted High Master in the Catholic order of Foresters in Chicago. He was prominent in local Catholic and city events, and made many trips to Notre Dame, giving speeches and attending graduations.¹⁴⁶ His generosity helped purchase the stations of the Cross as well as the frescoing for the old Church of Loretto.¹⁴⁷ Though not a member of the congregation, John Peter Lauth was buried in the community Cemetery in April 1917, the burial site marked by its largest tombstone.¹⁴⁸

The tombstones standing peacefully in the community cemeteries at Notre Dame and St. Marys are physical reminders of a loyal family who left home to spend their life in service together for Holy Cross and its pioneering efforts in America. Through their recruitment trips to the Grand Duchy, the Lauth brothers opened the door for many Luxembourgers to come to the new world and follow that mission path. Their pioneering efforts helped forge a Catholic culture on new

¹⁴⁴ Nelson, Amy. 2018. Calvary Cemetery records, Milwaukee, for Michael Lauth. (accessed by phone, April 2018.)

¹⁴⁵ A Luxembourger Mutual Aid Society. Available from <http://luxembourgensia.blogspot.com/2013/02/6-february-1870-luxembourger-mutual-aid.html> (accessed May 12, 2018.)

¹⁴⁶ Fraternal benefit societies. *The Notre Dame Scholastic* 27 (4) (9-30-1893): 49.

¹⁴⁷ Sisters of the Holy Cross. 1905. *A Story of Fifty Years*. Notre Dame, IN: The Ave Maria.

¹⁴⁸ Obituaries: Professor John P. Lauth. *The Notre Dame Scholastic* 50 (28) (4-28-1917): 475.

frontiers in Virginia, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, and especially Texas. Undoubtedly, the Lauths were a family on a mission.