

American Foundation 1876 – 1908

Becoming More Firmly Established as a Congregation

Archbishop Patrick Augustine Feehan Archdiocese, Chicago, Illinois

1829 – August 28, Born in Killenalee, Ireland
 1852 – November 1, Ordained to priesthood
 1852 – Emigrated from Ireland to United States
 1865 – Third Bishop of Dioc. of Nashville, Tennessee
 1880 – Fifth Bishop and first Archbishop of Chicago
 1902 – July 12 (died at age of 72)

The See of Chicago was made into an Archdiocese on September 21 with Archbishop Patrick Augustine Feehan installed as the first Archbishop on November 28, 1880. The new Archdiocese boundaries stretched from east to west in the northern part of Illinois.

Archbishop Feehan had an interest in promoting our congregation and its apostolic endeavors which were within his jurisdiction.

1880 – Welcomed our Sisters into the Archdiocese of Chicago to begin nursing in Joliet. His parting words to the four Sisters were "you must depend solely upon Divine Providence."

1883 – Motherhouse in Avilla, Indiana was transferred to Joliet, Illinois.

1885 – Authorized twenty-one of the pioneer Sisters to make Perpetual Vows.

1888 – Gave his written approval of our first Constitution to be lived for four years.

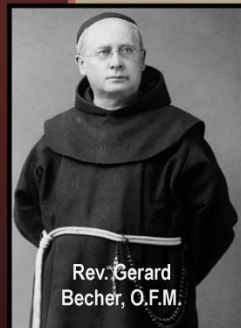
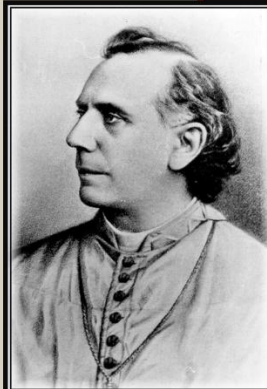
1892 – Authorized the first General Chapter and first Canonical Election for Superior General Instrumental in obtaining the Decree of Commendation.

1894 – Regarded the welcoming of the Cross Village Sisters from Michigan into our congregation as "an excellent work of mercy" and gave his approval with directions to show our hospitality in any way we saw appropriate.

1896 – Solemnly dedicated the chapel in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the new hospital in honor of St. Joseph.

1898 – Instrumental in obtaining Approbation from the Holy See.
 Dedicated the new St. Anthony de Padua Hospital in Chicago.

1902 – Recommended to the people of Elgin that our congregation begin a hospital in the area.

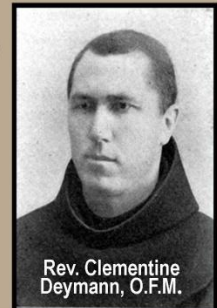


Rev. Gerard
Becher, O.F.M.

Through the combined efforts of Rev. Gerard Becher, O.F.M. and of Rev. Clementine Deymann, O.F.M., our community became incorporated into the State of Illinois under the title of "An Association of Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart." The charter

was signed on August 28, 1885 in Springfield, Illinois.

The second task for the two Franciscan priests was the writing of practical rules suitable for living in community for us as a congregation.



Rev. Clementine
Deymann, O.F.M.



The Seal of the congregation is oval in shape and surrounded by the inscription, **Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart.**

In the center oval, the crossed arms of Christ and Saint Francis of Assisi represents membership in the Franciscan Order.

The heart is a symbol of love and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The cross symbolizes Francis' great love for the Crucified Savior.