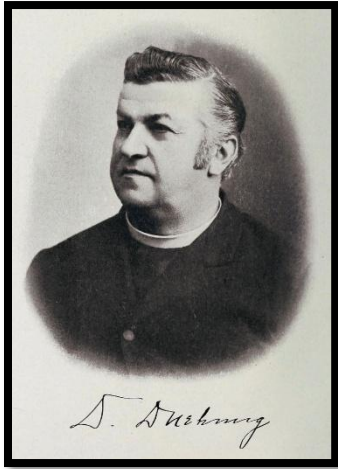


## The Rev. Dominic Duehmig



He was born November 9, 1842, in Ebenhied, Baden, Germany. He was the eleventh of a family of twelve children. He attended the schools of his native village until 1854. His classical studies were made at Wertheim, on the Main, in July 1862. Two years of his theological studies were made at the University of Freiburg and two years more at the University of Louvain. He was ordained priest by the Bishop of Liege, Belgium on August 5, 1866. He left his native country on December 6 and arrived in New York on the 22nd of the same month, reaching Fort Wayne on the 24th, in 1866. His first appointment was at Huntington for a short time only. He was made assistant priest at Avilla, on February 22, 1867, and was duly installed as pastor of Avilla, on May 12th, of the same year. The places which he attended as missions of Avilla, were Kendallville, Ligonier, Millersburg, Waterloo, Summit, Ege, Albion, Bremen, Auburn, Angola, Lagrange, Goshen, Leo, Rome City and Butler. Father

Duehmig's life was full of hardships and personal sacrifices. Traveling from place to place, sleeping in log houses, celebrating Mass in railroad shanties and humble cabin homes, preaching in courthouses and public halls, dispelling prejudice and sowing the good seed, he certainly was a pioneer priest, worthy of the highest love and esteem. As far as known, Father Duehmig offered the first Mass ever said in Lagrange county, in the little log house, the home of Patrick Foley, in 1871. In Steuben county, he was want to celebrate Mass repeatedly, in the little railroad shanty belonging to Eugene Moriarity, as far back as 1869. Father Duehmig, after an illness of a year or more, departed this life in the Kneipp Sanitarium at Rome City, on June 3, 1905. His life and labors will be ever held in grateful remembrance. His remains rest just back of the Mortuary Chapel in the Cemetery of Avilla, the statue of the Sacred Heart looking down upon his grave. (Excerpt from History of The Catholic Church in Indiana, Volume 1 1898)

Franziska Bischler was born in Berhampton, 1834 while Dominic Duehmig was born in Baden, 1842. Though there was eight years difference, Dominic attended primary grades until 1854. Thus 20 yrs difference in Anastasia's birth year (1834) and Dominic's completion of primary grades (1854).

It is likely the Dominic was a student of Mother Anastasia when they both were in Germany. Most likely the primary grade teacher (like in America) because they only needed 4-6 months of training to learn to teach. This contact may well have been the connecting link of Mother Anastasia and Fr. Duehmig of coming to America, to his Avilla parish. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1866 when he traveled to Fort Wayne. In 1867, on May 12, he became to assistant pastor at St. Mary Avilla, Indiana.

It was stated in the funeral obit for Fr. Duehmig that his grade schoolteachers were present for his funeral. Most likely this reference was to Mother Anastasia! Fr. Duehmig did much for the early sisters in his parish and we are indebted to him for his generosity and kindness. Let us remember him this month on his birth date, November 9.

