SISTER GLEMATA GEIER

Born July 23, 1854

SISTER GLEMATA (MARIA) GEYER/GEIER

Maria Geyer (Geier) was born July 23, 1854, to Jacob Geyer and Eva Maria Deimel in Vanderburgh County, Indiana. In 1856, Jacob and Maria moved about 80 miles northwest of St. Joseph, Indiana to southwest rural Jasper County in South Muddy Township where they had bought 160 acres from a farmer who was moving to Iowa.

Jacob would help build the St. Ignatius/John's Church in 1861 and Maria grew up in the parish along side her siblings Frank Joseph, Anna (Stark), Mariam, Thomas, Joseph, and Katherine (Schmitt).

Jacob would die in 1869 at the age of 40 and was buried in the St. John's Cemetery. Following Jacob's death Maria's mother Eva would live in Olney for a while before moving with family members to California.

Maria would be the first person from St. John's/Holy Cross to enter religious life. She would join one of the Precious Blood Orders and take the name Sister Glemata. Very little is known about her service, she is believed to have been located in New York at the time of her death where she is buried.

GEYER/GEIER

It is believed that the name Geier was changed to its present spelling (from Geyer) at the encouragement of Frank Jacob, Sister Glemata's older brother who had moved to California in 1914 (at the age of 60) to become a laborer in the fresh produce industry.

It was during World War I that Frank wrote back home to his Illinois children and suggested replacing the "y" with an "i" would perhaps make the name seem less German when it appeared in print and would prevent any "trouble" while the United States was fighting against Germany.