

REV. JOSEPH LANNERT

Lawrence county has been the home and the scene of labor of many men who have not only led lives which should serve as a lesson and an inspiration to those who follow them onto the stage of life's activities, but who have also been of important service through important avenues of usefulness in various lines. The honored and highly esteemed subject of this sketch is a man of well rounded character, sincere, devoted and loyal, so that there are many salient points which render consonant a tribute to him in this compilation. Standing as he does today the head of one of the most important churches in Lawrence county, his labors have long been directed for the amelioration of the people of this community and rewarded with gratifying results.

Rev. Joseph Lannert, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic church at Bedford, was born at Evansville, Indiana. on the 9th of February, 1867, and is the son of Joseph and Frances (Bossler) Lannert, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Pennsylvania. Joseph Lannert, Sr., who followed the vocation of a painter, lived the major part of his life at Evansville, where his death occurred on January 16, 1876. He was survived many years by Mrs. Lannert, whose death occurred on June 2, 1902, at Evansville. She remained a widow thus more than a quarter of a century that her children should not have a stepfather, as had been her experience. She was the mother of five children, all but one of whom are living, namely: Joseph, the subject of this review: Raymond, who is manager of the Diamond Coal Company, of Evansville Indiana; Mary, the housekeeper of Father Lannert; Mrs. Walter Buhrman, of New Castle, Indiana. Joseph received his elementary education in the parochial schools of Evansville, which he attended for seven years. During the following luster he was variously employed in Evansville stores, but he had determined to devote his life to the ministry of his church, and to that end, in September, 1888 he went to St. Minard's College, in Spencer county, Indiana, where he studied for four years. In September, 1889, he went to Mount St. Mary Emmitsburg, Maryland, where he spent another period of four years. The following two years he attended the seminary at Mount St. Mary's of the West, Cincinnati, where, on June 19, 1895 he was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop William Henry Elder.

His first appointment was as assistant priest at St. Joseph's church, Indianapolis, where he remained five and a half years, following which, for four and a half years, he was pastor of St. James' church, in Gibson county, Indiana. On July 14, 1905, Father Lannert became pastor of the church at Bedford, and has remained here continuously since. His labors here have been fruitful in results and he has earned the commendation of his superiors for his splendid administration of the church here. He has succeeded in paying off the greater part of the church debt which existed when he came here, and on September 8, 1908, he opened a parochial school on Eighteenth street. Three years later he erected on I street the present school building and residence, constructed of Bedford stone. The first day the building on Eighteenth street was occupied for school purposes ninety-five pupils responded; now there are one hundred and sixty enrolled, with an average daily attendance of one hundred and forty. These accomplishments meant much hard work and a zeal and perseverance that only those who were closely connected with the parish can clearly understand and appreciate. Besides this, Father Lannert has been active in building up the spiritual welfare of the congregation, which is now in excellent condition. Father Lannert's work here has met with the united approval of his own people and others as well. The good he has accomplished does not stand alone in the material and visible results, which are apparent to the eye, but they are deeply engraven on the hearts of the people of the community, among whom he is held in the most reverential regard.

(History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties Indiana , 1914 B. F. Bowen & Co. Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana pgs 543-544)