

William Dejalle

Guillaume¹ Joseph Dejalle, the son of Jean Antoine Dejalle and Anne Barbe Baltus, was born on February 10, 1863 in Hombourg, Plombières (Bleyberg), Liege, Belgium. He was baptized the same day in *l'Église Agnus Dei*.² Professor Dejalle arrived for a protracted stay in the United States at Ellis Island on June 1, 1893 onboard the Ship Servia.³

Guillaume was ordained by Bishop Victor Joseph Deoutreloux on December 19, 1885 in Liege.⁴ He was a professor at the minor seminary of St. Roch, Ferrierès, Belgium until 1889 when he was named director of the Institute of St. Joseph in Douhain, Belgium. He left the institute in order to serve in the United States for a five-year term.⁵

Father Dejalle served the following parishes:

- St. Boniface, Goldenthal (Germantown), July – October 1893
- St. Wendel, St. Wendel (Cleveland) with the missions of St. Joseph, Schwartzwald; St. George, Centerville and St. Fidelis, Spring Valley (Meeme Township, Manitowoc County (1893-1899)
- No appointment, 1899-1904
- St. Hubert Church, Gemmenich, Belgium (1904-1908)
- St. Firmin Church, Rotheux, Belgium (1908-1919)
- *l'Église Agnus Dei*, Hambourg, Belgium (1919-1921)
- Holy Assumption Church, Plombières (Bleyburg), Belgium, (1921-1926)

St. Wendel's Church in Cleveland burned on Christmas morning 1894 and Father Dejalle saw to the building of the current church with its unique steeple.⁶ The new church in Plombières was being built while he was pastor there.⁷ Father Dejalle was an active member of the German Association for the Province of Lüttich, an organization dedicated to preserving the German language along the Belgian border.⁸

¹ Father Dejalle also used Wilhelm and William.

² *l'Église Agnus Dei* Baptismal Register; *Registres Paroissiaux et Etat-Civil, Belgique, Liège*.

³ Passenger Manifest, Thomas Dutton, Master, June 1, 1893

⁴ Ordination Register, Archives, Diocese of Liege.

⁵ "Chronique Relegieuse," *Journal de Bruxelles*, Monday, September 9, 1889; "A Champion of the German Language in the old Belgian region along the border," *Echo der Gegenwart*, Wed. May 19, 1926. Hereafter cited as *Echo*.

⁶ *Manitowoc Pilot*, January 3, 1905; March 7, 1895; May 30, 1895; Thursday, November 2, 1905

⁷ Christian Dury, archivist, Diocese of Liege, to Michael Petrie, December 2, 2020.

⁸ *Echo*, Wed. May 19, 1926.



Father Dejalle is third from the right. This picture was taken in 1923.

Father Dejalle died in Plombières on May 9, 1926, at the age of 63.⁹

⁹ Regine Brindle, translator of Christian Dury, archivist, Diocese of Liege, to Michael Petrie, December 2, 2020.