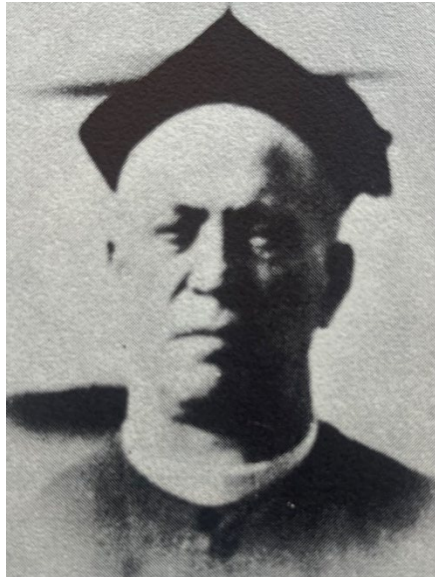


Charles Grobschmidt

Charles Grobschmidt, son of Peter Grobschmidt and Maria Schummers, was born on December 16, 1852 in Bissen, Mosselle, Luxembourg. He was baptized on the same day in St. Etienne Church, Bissen.¹ His family came to the United States in 1868, settling on a farm in Lake Township (Milwaukee County).²



Charles attended St. Francis de Sales Seminary in St. Francis. Arrangements were made for him to enter the seminary before the family immigrated.³ He was ordained in the seminary chapel by Archbishop John Martin Henni on June 24, 1877.⁴

Father Grobschmidt was assigned to the following parishes:

- St. Michael, St. Michaels (Kewaskum) with St. John of God Mission, 1877-1882
- St. Francis Xavier, Cross Plains (1882-1884)
- St. Boniface, Goldenthal (Germantown), 1884-1886
- St. Andrew and St. Thomas (Potosi), 1886-1890
- St. Peter, Schlesingerville (Slinger), 1890-1898
- St. Mary, Port Washington (1898-1910)
- Holy Ghost, Layton Park, Milwaukee (now St. Rafael), 1910-1918

Father Grobschmidt built a school in St. Michaels, a rectory in Port Washington, the main body of the current church in Slinger and the second church used by Holy Ghost Congregation in Milwaukee. He also enlarged the Holy Ghost school building. Grobschmidt was “known for his eloquence and force as a speaker and his kindness and sympathy.”⁵

Father Grobschmidt died of influenza, at the age of 65, on December 2, 1918. His funeral mass was celebrated in Holy Ghost Church on December 5, 1918. He is buried in Sacred Heart Cemetery in St. Francis.⁶

¹ St. Etienne Baptismal Register, Bissen, Luxembourg.

² United States Federal Census, Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Lake, June 25, 1870, p. 43, line 33 and June 8, 1880, p. 171, line 40; United States Federal Census, Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, 219 Austin St., June 4, 1900, p. 5B, line 80.

³ Heming, Harry. *The Catholic Church in Wisconsin*. (Milwaukee: Catholic Historical Publ. Co., 1895-98), 533.

⁴ Ordination Register, St. Francis de Sales Seminary, St. Francis, Wisconsin.

⁵ Avella, Steven. “The Archdiocese of Milwaukee and the Influenza Pandemic of 1918” *Catholic Herald* (Milwaukee WI), Thursday, April 9, 2020; *Catholic Citizen* (Milwaukee WI), December 7, 1918.

⁶ *Der Sonntagsbote und der Seebote* (Milwaukee WI) Sunday, December 8, 1918, p. 5:4.