

YORK

1776-1819;
1834-1838
1853

H.C. WATTS

York, Pennsylvania, with a population today of more than 55,000; with two large churches and two missions in East York; with the combined energies of six priests and eleven nuns expended on its spiritual and educational needs, was of so little consequence from 1776 to 1808, that the monthly visit of a priest from Conewago sufficed for the needs of the few scattered Catholics. In 1808 a property was purchased, and Mass celebrated in the dwelling house. Two years later the dwelling house chapel was demolished and a brick church dedicated to St. Patrick was erected in its place.

1819 a secular priest, Rev. Lorence Huber, became the first resident pastor at York, and after that date Jesuits from Conewago, though no longer actually in charge, frequently officiated there. From 1834 to 1838 Father Lekeu visited York regularly to hear the Confessions of the Germans, and thereafter at irregular intervals German-speaking Fathers from Conewago visited York for the same purpose.

During the year 1852-1853 Father Hohn B. Cattani was again officially designated for this duty; so that from 1776 to 1853 York had practically the almost continuous services of the Jesuits from Conewago.

The arrangement of having a resident pastor for the English speaking portion of the congregation, and a visiting priest for the German-speaking portion became unsatisfactory. In June 1852 the Germans purchased a lot in the town, and erected a

a church dedicated to St. Mary. On October 25th of that year the first Mass was celebrated in the new church, which now became an independent congregation. Father James B. Cotting celebrated Mass in the new church twice a month until 1853, when the newly-ordained Rev. J. Wachter was appointed the first resident pastor at St. Mary's. York ceased definitely to be a mission of Conewago on July 4, 1853.