

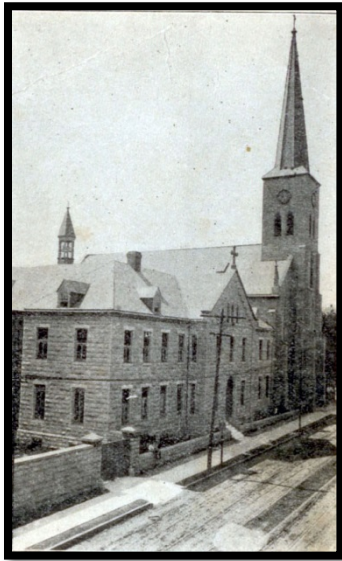
HISTORY OF THE FRANCISCANS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT LOUIS

The Franciscan Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus began as an American Mission from the Saxonian Province of Holy Cross, in Germany. They are officially recognized as the Order of Friars Minor, a religious Order, simply known as the “Franciscans.” In 1858, they responded to an invitation from the Bishop of Alton, Illinois and were entrusted with the care of the German-speaking parish of Saint Francis, in Teutopolis. Special permission from their Franciscan superiors granted the friars reasonable travel permits, use of money and special garb. This allowed the Franciscans to spread the Gospel throughout the surrounding areas in Quincy, Illinois and Saint Louis, Missouri.

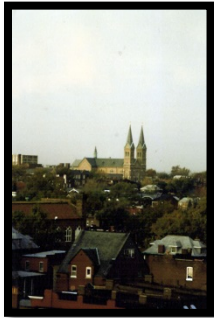
Also in that year, Archbishop Peter Richard Kenrick of Saint Louis, already aware of the friars’ presence in his diocese, (at the parishes of Saint Liborius and Saint Boniface), asked the Franciscans to begin a parish and friary in his city. Father Servace Altmicks, O.F.M., arrived in December of 1862 to organize the parish of Saint Anthony of Padua at the corner of Kansas (Compton Avenue) and Meramec Street. It also became the Provincial House for the Province. Other missions followed in: Creve Coeur (Saint Monica), Kimmswick (Saint Joseph), Saint Louis (Saint Stanislaus), and beyond to Oakville (Saint Francis) and Eureka (Sacred Heart). They continued to assist in the parishes of Saint Liborius and Holy Trinity. The Fathers also attended to the House of Refuge, the Work House and County Farms, (Poor House, Insane Asylum and Female Hospital), Koch, Veterans, Saint Alexis and Saint Anthony Hospitals and cared for the spiritual needs of the various communities of Sisters.

The Franciscan presence in the Archdiocese of Saint Louis continues today. They administer the Sacraments, (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony, and Holy Orders), bring aid to the poor, visit the sick and elderly, bless the animals, care for the environment, advocate for better health, and promote peace.

The Franciscans invite those who are interested in religious life to visit our websites at thefriars.org and befranciscan.com, contact us by email at yes@befranciscan.com, or to call us at 314-766-1952. Our website lists the opportunities to visit us for Come and See and attend retreat experiences.



Saint Louis, MO, Saint Anthony of Padua Church, 1909



Saint Louis, MO, Saint Anthony of Padua Church (Present)





Saint Louis, MO, Saint Anthony Hospital



Eureka, MO, Sacred Heart Church



Franciscan Connection, Friar Doug Collins, O.F.M.



Franciscans Renewal of Vows, Saint Louis, MO, Saint Anthony of Padua Church