

Fr Martin Gensler

Although many of the names in the photos are well known to me, I want to point out in particular the photo of the St. Cecilia's Young Ladies' Society photo. This 1907 photo nicely illustrates the maiden and married names of the ladies. The lone priest in the photo is **Father Martin Gensler** who served as pastor at St. Mary's Lourdes from 1900 to 1908. His mother, **Mary (Vaeth) Gensler (Mrs. George Gensler)** is also shown in the photo of the St. Mary's Ladies Society in 1907. She is seated in the second row (from the bottom), third from the right side with the married ladies' society.

Here is a bit of a briefing on **Fr. Martin Gensler**:

Rev. Martin Gensler: (Sept. 1, 1873 - Nov. 25, 1932)

Born in Mellrichstadt, Bavaria, Germany, Martin Gensler studied for the priesthood in Bavaria, completing his studies in Louvain, Belgium where he was ordained June 29, 1896. He came to the United States very shortly after ordination and was posted to St. Malachy's in Rantoul, IL in December of 1896. He became a pastor at St. Mary's Lourdes IL in 1900 and served there until 1908. Father Gensler was Naturalized on Jan. 30, 1902. He then served as a pastor at St. Mary's in Henry, IL, but was transferred in 1915 to Leonore IL to the parish of St. Peter and St. Paul, where he served his remaining years as the beloved pastor of the parish. Suffering from diabetes, a sudden bout of pneumonia caused his death after only a few days. He was 59 years old. He had two brothers and two sisters. His parents are buried at Calvary Cemetery in Henry, IL. Father Martin Gensler is buried in Leonore, LaSalle County, IL at the cemetery of Saints Peter and Paul.