



Pontifical College Josephinum

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

Introduction

The Collegium Josephinum was founded in Columbus, Ohio, in 1888 by Reverend John Joseph Jessing in response to interest by some older orphans attending Jessing's trade school to join the priesthood. Its first class included 23 young men from across the United States. In 1892, the college was transferred to the Holy See and granted pontifical status, becoming the Pontifical College Josephinum. It was the leading educational center for German-American priests in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and today is the only pontifical college in the Western Hemisphere. Through 1953, it was supported in part by the *Ohio Waisenfreund* ("Ohio Orphan's Friend"), a German-language newspaper providing religious instruction, reports from the Holy See in Rome, and news about the Josephinum community. Initially focused on preparing its students to minister to German-speaking Americans, today Josephinum's students mostly serve those in rural and missionary dioceses, remaining true to Jessing's original mission of educating and supporting those in financial need.

Important Dates

- 1867: John Joseph Jessing emigrates from Germany to the United States and settles in Ohio, where he attends Mount Saint Mary's Seminary of the West in Cincinnati.
- 1873: Jessing starts publication of the *Ohio* (later called the *Ohio Waisenfreund*) to support orphans.
- 1875: Jessing establishes an orphanage at Sacred Heart Parish in Pomeroy, Ohio.
- August 1877: The orphanage moves to Columbus and a trade school is soon established.
- September 2, 1888: The Collegium Josephinum is founded.
- December 12, 1892: Pope Leo XIII accepts Josephinum as a pontifical institution.
- June 1894: The Josephinum is incorporated under Ohio state law and chartered as a degree-issuing institution.
- November 2, 1899: Jessing dies.
- 1931: The Josephinum moves from its downtown Columbus location to its current site just north of the city in Worthington, Ohio.

Suggested Search Strategies

- Search "Pontifical College Josephinum" as a phrase or try combining "Josephinum" as an "all" word search or in proximity with the following terms: schüler (student), Jessing, Columbus.
- Some results may be articles or brief notices written about Josephinum faculty and students.
- Use an online translation service to translate search terms and articles between German and English.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- "[Français et Allemands](#)" *Echo de l'Ouest* (Minneapolis, MN), January 25, 1895, Image 2, col. 1-3.
- "[Comes Out for Free Silver](#)" *Perrysburg Journal* (Perrysburg, OH), October 3, 1896, Image 3, col. 6.
- "[Kurze Geschichte des Josephinums](#)" *Ohio Waisenfreund* (Pomeroy, OH), April 2, 1941, Image 4.
- "[Der neuernannte Rektor des Josephinums](#)" *Ohio Waisenfreund* (Pomeroy, OH), January 17, 1945, Image 1, col. 1-4.
- "[Jessings Augendiahre](#)" *Ohio Waisenfreund* (Pomeroy, OH), May 9, 1943, Ausgabe der 'Wanderer' Edition, Image 5, col. 4-6.