

membership list. Later, the opposition would disappear and the American branch would reach the first place, but the work --which till the present has always remained under Spiritan direction in the USA -- owes its first success to Fr Willms. He died after a brief illness in Mercy Hospital.

218. Fr. Francis Joseph Roth 72  
United States of America, Reunion, Senegal  
\*Oct 12 1841 Colmar, Alsace

+Jan 5 1914 Chippewa Falls

Professed, after ordination on 12/21/1867, at Chevilly Aug 23 1868, he went to reunion, but in 1870 we find him at St Louis, Senegal. Toward 1876 he came to the USA and left the Congregation to become pastor of St. Remy, Piqua, Ohio. After Schwindenhammer's death, he was re-admitted in 1887 in Pittsburgh. We find him listed as at St Joseph's Bay City, Mich., in 1890 at St. Joachim, Detroit and at St. Joseph's, Conway, Ark., in 1897; as pastor of Holy Spirit, Chippewa Falls, 1902; and superior of Ferndale in 1908. From 1910 he lived as semi-retired in the same community. He died while substituting for an absent pastor at Chippewa Falls. "He greatly edified the Ferndale community by his perfect regularity and his great charity."

While in Ferndale, he was once called to the sickbed of a dying prostitute who had tried to commit suicide and who was no longer able to speak. Offering his own life to enable her to repent, he succeeded in preparing her for death. To the doctor's and patient's surprise, the poor woman recovered almost at once; two weeks later she entered the ranks of the Good Shepherd sister's Magdalenes. He was usually referred to as Fr. Joseph Roth.

219. Fr. John Haas 58  
United States of America, Germany  
\*July 11 1855 Meudt, Rhineland

+April 27 1914 Morrilton

Together with his older brother, the future Fr. Jacob Haas, who became a missionary in Gambia, he entered Marienstatt. When Bismarck closed this house in 1873, he finished his studies at a German school and in 1874 followed his brother to Chevilly. Ordained Oct 28 1878, he made his vows Aug 8 1879. Sailing to the USA, he taught for 2 years at the college in Pittsburgh, then served some time at St Mary's Sharpsburg. Around 1883 the talented young priest went to the new Marienstatt in Arkansas and worked among the immigrants at Conway and Morrilton.

In 1888 illness imposed a home leave, during which he attempted to obtain permission for the Congregation to re-enter Germany. When the effort failed, he arranged the opening of a seminary in Watersley, near Sittard, Netherlands, but when everything was ready in 1892, the Archbishop of Cologne promised to get the Spiritans re-admitted to Germany. The prelate failed, but in 1893 Fr. Haas accepted an invitation of Cardinal Schonborn of Prague to open a house at Eger, for which Emperor Franz-Joseph also gave his approval. The emperor's minister of Religious affairs, however, prevented the execution of this plan. When Fr. Acker succeeded where everyone else had failed in 1895 and acquired the old abbey of Knechtsteden, Haas was appointed to the new foundation. He attracted many candidates, including the future Bishop Henry Ritter and the Provincial Fr John Hoffman. However, like many others, he could not live under Fr. Acker's autocratic rule and, in 1903, he returned to the USA. He became pastor at Morrilton, Ark., made it "the best parish in the diocese," and was the bishop's trusted adviser. He died of a wrongly diagnosed appendicitis.