

The Norbertines in Silesia

INTRODUCTION

Silesia is an historic region of east central Europe known as Slezko in Czech, Schlesien in German and Slask in Polish. This area possesses a very checkered history involving political control by Poland, Bohemia, Austria and Prussia. At present, Silesia is incorporated into Poland as a consequence of World War II, but parts of it also are in Czechoslovakia and East Germany. After a long period of control by Austria, Frederick the Great of Prussia claimed Silesia in 1740. This was resisted by the Austrians and resulted in the Silesian Wars of 1740-42, 1744-45 and 1756-63. Finally, Austria ceded most of the choice province to Prussia, and that area remained under Prussian domination. After Prussia and the rest of the German States united, Silesia remained a part of the modern German State until 1946.

A deeply Catholic region, Silesia traces its conversion to the efforts of Polish and Czech missionaries before the year 1000. Later, various religious orders contributed to the spiritual and cultural growth of the province. And not the least among those religious communities was the Norbertine Order which established both a male and a female house in Silesia. And in this article, it is the author's purpose to present a short history of the abbey of Vinzenz-Stift in Wroclaw (Breslau) and the parthenon or convent of Domus Dei at Czarnowasy (Czarnowanz). In the following study, particular emphasis will be given to the final 40 years in their existence as well as the details of their suppressions. Although the Norbertines disappeared from Silesia in 1810, they have a glorious past and have contributed much to the Silesian People. Since little or nothing has been published in English about these Norbertine Cloisters, the author hopes his efforts will stimulate further historical research about them in the English Language.

BRESLAU ABBEY

This abbey was founded originally at Koscielna Wies near Kalisz, Poland under the patronage of St. Lawrence the Martyr. Its noble founder was Peter Dunin Wlast who obtained the Norbertines from

Brezesko sometime between 1126-40. During its first years of existence, this cloister was a double monastery, but in the year 1149 the nuns moved to a newly established convent at Strzelno. Between the years of 1180 and 1193 this abbey was relocated at Elbing, a suburb outside the walls of the city of Breslau, and the Norbertines resided in a building formerly occupied by the Benedictines. For the patron of this new cloister, the canons selected St. Vincent, Bishop and Martyr († 300), and thereafter the abbey was commonly referred to as «Vinzenz-Stift». Early records indicate that Cyprianus was abbot during the year 1180 and still ruled as late as 1201. However, it was not until a century and a half later that Marcus Wendeler (1364-83) became the first abbot privileged to wear pontifical regalia.

Abbots of Vinzenz-Stift were under the paternity of Steinfeld Abbey in the Rhineland, while they themselves exercised paternal rights of visitation over the Norbertine Nuns of Strzelno, Czarnowanz and Krzyzanowice as well as over the priests in St. Margaret's Provostry at Beuthen. Now with respect to the internal management of Vinzenz-Stift, the actual head of the cloister was the abbot, who was elected by the priest members of the abbey according to the statutes of the Norbertine Order. As a prelate, this abbot also was the landlord of the cloister property, and as such he enjoyed a status similar to the landowning nobility. To enable himself to govern efficiently, the abbot appointed officials from among the priests. First among those was the prior, who had charge of all the priests and lay brothers. Other minor officials were the subprior, circator, cantor, succentor, sacristan, provisor, novice master, cellarer, librarian and archivist. Others were managers of the kitchen, clothing, guests and farm rentals. Additional priests supervised the choir, the treasury and the theological training of clerics. As to its nationality, Breslau cloister was comprised of Polish members until the year 1400, and subsequently Germans became the dominant ethnic group. During that same century the spiritual discipline of the cloister declined seriously, and during the abbatial term of Andreas I Rugeler (1409-17), the abbey completely severed itself from the authority of the order in 1415 to become subject to the jurisdiction of the archbishop of Breslau.

To provide a more strategic military defense of the city of Breslau, the civil authorities evicted the Norbertines from Elbing in 1530 and demolished the buildings. As their new home, the canons received from the City Fathers of Breslau the vacant Franciscan Minorite Monastery on the Ritterplatz in the very heart of the old city. This cloister and

church were dedicated to St. James the Apostle, but with the advent of the canons in 1530, its name was changed to St. Vincent. In this new domicile, as before, a lax cloister discipline continued until 1650 when the prelates of Louka Abbey in Moravia assumed the paternity over Vinzenz-Stift. Under the guidance of the Louka Abbots spiritual life improved along with a deeper attachment to the order and its statutes. These very positive attitudes motivated the canons to renounce their exemption status in 1660 and to fully rejoin their order as part of the Bohemian Circary. Obviously, the former laxity in spiritual matters had drastically reduced the number in the community so that by the year 1647 the abbey chapter counted only 10 priests on its rolls.

In their new location, the canons gradually set about renovating the old church. It was a typical gothic church with Franciscan decor dating from the 13th century. In direct contrast to the Gothic, the remainder of the church became Norbertine in decor with baroque additions and interior embellishments. For all of these baroque innovations, three abbots deserve most of the credit. First of all, Mattäus Paul (1656-72) acquired the master carpenter Franz Motsch to install the beautiful choir stalls (1665) with the life of St. Norbert portrayed in 16 relief works executed along the backs of the ornate wooden stalls, eight on each side of the sanctuary. To Abbot Paul also belongs the credit for the the main altar and altars to Sts. Vincent, Eustachius, Stanislaus, Hedwig, Roch, Wenceslaus, Nicholas and John the Baptist. This prelate was enough of a connoisseur of art to preserve in the church a relic of the Franciscans — a Pieta dating from the year 1450. Paul also had the new west entrance to the church constructed.

His successor and the second decorator of the abbey church, Andreas Gebel (1673-83), commissioned the installation of the ornate pulpit as well as the additional altars to Sts. Augustine, Norbert (1678), Michael the Archangel and to All Saints in alcove chapels beneath the organ loft. Others had the old south church entry renovated in 1698 by adding a baroque vestibule. And in November of 1699 a Marian Pillar was erected in the Ritterplatz adjacent to that south entrance. During the next century, the third beautifier of Vinzenz-Kirche came in the person of Abbot Ferdinand Graf Hochberg (1720-29) who directed the construction of a costly and beautiful chapel in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the special title of *Mother of Sorrows*, but in honor of its builder it was known as «Die Hochbergkapelle». Having been completed between the years of 1723 and 1727, this oval addition extended outward from the south wall of the church between the newer vestibule and the sanctuary.

This chapel was surmounted by a cupola adorned with four windows. Within that oratory was a beautiful baroque decor which centered on the altar tabernacle. This central focal was adequately set off by exquisite marble statuary and by an oval picture of the Sorrowful Mother copied from the old Pieta of 1450. As a further embellishment, the beautiful silver ornamentation and the exquisite work of the tabernacle helped to lavishly adorn this domed oratory which became the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for the abbey church. Its solemn blessing occurred in 1728 with ceremonies being conducted by Breslau Archbishop Franz Ludwig von Pfalz-Neuburg. In that same year, Abbot Hochberg established a Contraternity of the Sorrowful Mother for the lay people. This pious society was very popular and by 1758 it had 4,823 members. In the church sacristy there was a more recent picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel executed by Franz Felder in 1780. Another noteworthy artistic gem in the same room was an older marble wash stand with the coat of arms of Abbot Gebel (†1686). As a final addition of the 18th Century, Abbot Schmidt in 1785 commissioned Peter Petzius of Frankenstein to build a new church organ.

For examples of the work of the Breslau goldsmiths, the church treasury possessed countless works of art which survived the secularization of 1810 only to perish in the bombardments of World War II. As the oldest of its ornaments were the products of Fabian Nitsch in 1610 — a silver ornamented altar crucifix and gold reliquaries. A lavabo basin which its pitcher and an aspergillum were artistic contributions of Hans Boy in 1660. In 1675 Hans Wittmann finished a stunning sun shaped monstrance encrusted with eight colored stones around its center. Then there was a standing crucifix of silver and a silver censer with its incense boat done by the artist Christian Heintze in 1715. Another lavabo and ewer were by Johann Christoph Meissner and were completed in 1725. From the previous century a beautiful red pluviale existed which was made by Barbara Mankelin in 1677. From 1693 a rococo ostensorium and a First Mass chalice also survived. Other chalices were preserved dating from 1695, 1723, 1752 and 1800, as well as crossshaped reliquaries from 1744 and 1757. Other gems of art by unknown artists were an ornamental censer from 1720 and a lavabo with pitcher dating from 1725. Another pluviale of silver brocade came to the church in 1700; another very ornate one dated from 1780. Finally, there was a very fine old Mass vestment of unknown origin from the year 1701.

Adjacent to the north side of the church was the cloister building. This was a three-storied edifice consisting of four wings surrounding a

rectangular courtyard, and was all the dream of architect Hans Frölich who supervised its construction during the years of 1682-91. Especially noteworthy were its exquisite stuccoed ceilings by Jovano Signo and its fine stone work by Johann Getzinger. There was also the fine portal of the main entry which Josef Winkler finished in 1700. Of the many rooms of the abbey, those of exceptional beauty were the refectory and the abbot's chamber; also the east wing possessed elaborate stucco work which exemplified the months of the year as well as a ceiling fresco of St. Vincent, the abbey patron.

Later in the 18th Century, the rising ascendancy of rationalism and the large scale wars affected the cloister. Three conflicts between Austria and Prussia finally concluded in 1763 with most of Silesia being ceded to Prussia. This cession unfortunately placed Vinzenz-Stift and all of its dependencies including Czarnowanz under the control of a Protestant sovereign. Frederick the Great wisely granted toleration to Catholics in his newly acquired province, so the Norbetines under Abbot Vincent Schulz continued their existence in Breslau as well as their membership in the Bohemian Circary. These canons had as their principal activity service as pastors in their incorporated parishes as well as administering a court of justice in the abbey with the prelate as judge. In 1781, the following parishes were part of the abbey: St. Vincent Abbey Church in Breslau, Kostenblut, Polsnitz (+ Albrechtsau), Zottwitz, Würben, Hundsfeld, Kreiblowitz, Lossen, Elbing, Czarnowanz (+ Zelasno & Brinnitz), Gross-Döbern and St. Margaret Provostry in Beuthen. The latter parish had the automatic title of provost for its pastor. In spite of all the political and philosophical problems of the century, the vocation to Vinzenz-Stift continued to be high as illustrated in the accompanying table.

TABLE I
Personnel Statistics for Vinzenz-Stift

Year	Personnel Total
1647	10
1720	25
1730	56
1740	31
1768	36
1781	36
1786	27
1802	40
1810	34

Since this cloister and Czarnowanz were both located outside the jurisdiction of Joseph II, they did not suffer confiscation or any of the restrictions which he inflicted upon the rest of the Bohemian Circary. In 1781 Breslau Abbey was included in the Catalogue of the Bohemian Circary and comprised 36 members. Unfortunately, the birthplaces of all of them were omitted. However, the Archdiocesan Museum of Wroclaw (Breslau) supplied the missing localities in Silesia as well as most of the obituary dates. On the following pages, that listing from the old catalogue is duplicated.

VINZENZ-STIFT — 1781
IN THE ABBEY & PARISHES

Name. Birthplace & Office	Birth	Profession	First Mass	Death
VINCENT II SCHMIDT Landeshut. 52nd Abbot & Silesian Prelate. Perpetual Paternel Abbot of Czarnowanz & Strzelno. Election: Apr. 7, 1767. Infulatus: May 4, 1767.	Feb. 2 1711	Oct. 13 1743	Sept. 29 1748	Feb. 14 1785
PETER WALDINGER Ottmachau. Prior.	Nov. 14 1710	Nov. 25 1736	Jan. 6 1739	1789
NICHOLAS PRÜSKE Ottmachau. Subprior.	May 22 1727	Jan. 6 1751	Apr. 27 1755	Apr. 6 1794
BONAVENTURA GIRTH Mariapratensis. Senior Canon, Pastor of Kostenblut & Jubilarian.	Oct. 26 1705	Nov. 26 1730	Oct. 10 1734	Nov. 9 1783
ADRIAN AXMANN Oberglögaу. Abbey Residential Senior.	Jan. 17 1706	Mar. 19 1732	Apr. 26 1734	Mar. 24 1782
LEOPOLD DITTRICH Neisse. Pastor of Polsnitz.	July 19 1712	Oct. 15 1732	Jan. 1 1738	Apr. 3 1789
ALAN SIÛRA Koslensis. Pastor in Zottwitz.	June 13 1713	Nov. 25 1736	Mar. 29 1739	May 20 1786

Name, Birthplace and Office	Birth	Profession	First Mass	Death
CHRYSOSTOM STIEGLITZ Trebnitz.	Jan. 12 1728	Nov. 6 1746	Jan. 1 1754	Dec. 11 1785
CHRISTOPHER NEUMANN Breslau. Pastor of Elbing	Dec. 10 1728	Nov. 13 1748	Jan. 16 1754	Mar. 7 1784
LOUIS JOHN Gross Göllschau. Pastor at Würben.	June 23 1728	Jan. 6 1751	Apr. 20 1755	Nov. 23 1793
AUGUSTINE JOHN FRANCIS IGNATIUS REISNER (REUSSNER) Breslau. Pastor in Hundsfeld.	Feb. 20 1729	Nov. 21 1751	Jan. 6 1757	June 13 1793
CHARLES VON LOGAU Brüssel. Abbot's Secretary & Abbey Kitchen Manager.	Sept. 23 1730	Nov. 13 1754	Apr. 17 1759	Aug. 17 1798
JOSEPH LOCHTER Märzdorff. Administrator in Kreiblowitz	Feb. 28 1731	Nov. 13 1754	Apr. 22 1759	Apr. 9 1794
DOMINIC REIMSCHISSEL Striegau. Vicar of Kostenblut.	Apr. 4 1729	Nov. 1 1756	June 24 1759	Apr. 15 1797
NORBERT FELKEL Breslau. Abbey Circator	Jan. 18 1740	July 26 1764	Apr. 13 1766	June 6 1803
GODFREY BECKER Preßnitz. Abbey Church Pastor.	May 6 1741	July 26 1764	Apr. 20 1766	Sept. 30 1791
SIARDUS SCHOLTZ Lichtenberg. Parish Vicar of Polsnitz.	Oct. 19 1741	Nov. 13 1765	May 22 1768	July 31 1790
ISFRID HAUPSTUCK Klein-Glogau.	Nov. 19 1742	Nov. 13 1765	May 24 1768	Nov. 2 1793

Name, Birthplace and Office	Birth	Profession	First Mass	Death
FREDERICK ROTHE Glogau.	Feb. 7 1739	Dec. 8 1766	July 1 1770	May 30 1795
MARTIN CRZONDZIEL ¹ Kladnicensis. Pastor of Zottwitz.	Nov. 16 1742	Dec. 8 1766	July 2 1770	Mar. 25 1781
BERNARD BUCHMANN Beigwitz bei Niesse. S.T.D. Provisor of Abbey.	Mar. 24 1746	Nov. 3 1771	Jan. 1 1770	Mar. 6 1809
VINCENT RIEDEL Grabschen bei Breslau. Sacristan, Vestry Manager, Instructor & Cantor.	July 17 1747	Nov. 3 1771	Sept. 26 1774	Dec. 18 1807
EUSTACHIUS THIEL Neisse.	Mar. 6 1749	Nov. 3 1771	Sept. 24 1774	June 16 1796
CONSTANTINE REITER Raschrund. Parish Vicar of Lossen.	Dec. 15 1748	Nov. 3 1771	Sept. 24 1774	May 2 1812
AMBROSE WIESNER Consenz.	Feb. 24 1753	Jan. 2 1774	Mar. 25 1778	
JOHN BRENDL Greiffenberg.	Jan. 24 1755	June 8 1777	Feb. 28 1779	May 4 1787
BARTHOLOMEW KLICH Boskau. Succentor in the Abbey.	Aug. 20 1751	June 8 1777	Feb. 28 1779	July 4 1813
HENRY HARTMANN Niess.	Jan. 21 1755	June 8 1777	Mar. 3 1779	July 30 1819
FRANCIS WELTZEL Striegau.	Apr. 18 1751	June 8 1777	Mar. 12 1782	Sept. 19 1803
JACOBUS SEDLACZEK Gross Strehlitz.	Mar. 30 1758	Aug. 15 1777	July 10 1781	May. 10 1842

¹⁾ Name is also spelled Grondziel.

Name, Birthplace and Office	Birth	Profession	First Mass	Death
<i>IN CZARNOWANZ PRELATURE</i>				
HERMANN JOSEPH KRUSCHE Krieblowitz. Third Abbot & Infulatus Provost. Prelate of Duchy of Silesia. Pastor of Czarnowanz. Vested: Aug. 24, 1766. Election: Oct. 27, 1777. Infulatus: July 12, 1778.	June 19 1744	Oct. 15 1767	July 8 1770	June 15 1811
LAWRENCE WEYDE Borkau. Confessor to Canonesses in Parthenon Domus Dei.	July 13 1720	Nov. 6 1746	Jan. 6 1752	Feb. 9 1784
STEPHEN SIMON LUKAS Czarnowanz. Pastor of Zelasno & Confessor to Canonesses.	Nov. 5 1724	Jan. 6 1751	Apr. 21 1754	Feb. 7 1788
PAUL LECHNER Opole. Kitchen Manager in the Prelature.	Oct. 17 1747	Jan. 2 1774	June 15 1777	Mar. 14 1787
<i>IN BEUTHEN PROVOSTRY</i>				
IGNATIUS VON TLÜCK Pavloviensis. Provost.	Oct. 26 1731	Nov. 1 1756	June 24 1759	Dec. 22 1800
GREGORY KOSS Zelasno. Parish Vicar.	July 7 1749	Jan. 2 1774	June 15 1777	Nov. 11 1791

Abbot Schmidt died on February 14, 1786. After the obsequies and a suitable mourning period, Abbot Krusche of Czarnowanz with authority delegated by the Abbot of Strahov in Prague summoned the community to the abbey for an election of a successor on March 19th. This

auspicious day began with the prelate celebrating a High Mass in honor of the Holy Spirit. Following the liturgy, the aged prelate delivered a stirring homily about this election during which he read off the names of the 27 members of the abbey chapter. After that, each priest came forward and voted when his name was called. When the votes were counted, there were 22 ballots for Siard Scholz the Vicar of Polsnitz. In total shock, the latter priest prostrated himself before the crucifix and, amid fear and trembling, accepted the office of abbot. Notwithstanding Scholz's acceptance, the chapter canons felt frightened and concerned that the Prussian King was not sharing in their election. To placate their apprehensions, they had two more ballotings in which Augustine Reisner, the pastor of Hundsfield, received 18 votes; and Ambrose Wiesner, the Vinzenz-Kirche Administrator, obtained 16 votes. Without delay the chapter sent the names of the three abbatial nominees to the Emperor for his selection of an abbot. On April 26th of that same year, the Royal Commission proclaimed that Father Reisner was abbot of Vinzenz-Stift. Johann Franz Ignaz Reisner, the son of a revenue officer, was born in Breslau on February 22, 1729 and baptized in St. Matthias Church. In 1750 he entered Breslau Abbey as novice receiving the name of Augustine. And it was because of his well known and sincere and submissive loyalty to the crown that he received the royal confirmation as abbot. Fortunately, Reisner proved to be an ethical austere administrator over his institute, not like his predecessor, who had allowed cloister discipline to deteriorate by his laxness.

On June 13, 1793 death brought an end to the supervision of Abbot Reisner. After more than two months elapsed, the abbey had an election on August 28th to chose his successor. As the fifty-fourth abbot of Vinzenz-Stift, the canons chose Bernard Buchmann who was pastor of Hundsfield, and Duke Friedrich August von Oels gave him his homage in the name of the entire abbey. Buchmann had first been a priest of the Archdiocese of Breslau, and was sent as chaplain to Liebenthal as his first assignment. That same year (1770), Buchmann joined the abbey and became later one of its leaders. During the last two decades of the 18th Century, humanism infected the thinking of the priests making all spiritual life impossible. They also had hidden fears that their last vocations to the cloister had been received and that their abbey would soon become extinct. Buchmann received notes of sympathy and prayer from all the other houses in the Bohemian Circary. On November 18, 1803 he received from Minister Hoym Erlaubnitz the spiritual and

material authority over Strzelno. This made Buchmann provost over those nuns after the government had supervised an election.

In 1794 the abbot along with Anton Michael Zeplichal, Director of Royal Schools, established the first industrial and arts school in the city. It was located by Michael-Kirche rectory, and Zeplichal served in the capacity of its director. Other faculty members included: Father Constantine Reiter as Assessor and Catechist, Joseph Schneider as Assistant Rector and Teacher, and Barbara Adler as Instructor in Feminine Arts and Crafts. Unfortunately, the Napoleonic Wars forced this excellent school to terminate operation in 1806. Of the many Norbertines who assisted in the school, the most notable was Siard Burgund whose excellent administration brought him to the notice of the government. In 1801 Burgund was summoned to Berlin to assume the post of Inspector General for the Schools of South Prussia. Three years later in October of 1804. Buchmann wrote the Strahov abbot expressing concern over the suppressions which both clergy and religious were suffering in other parts of Germany. In fact he feared that Silisia too would suffer a similar fate, and Buchmann confided that he personally knew of plans by civil officials to secularize the religious orders in Silesia. Although his fears continued, they were never realized during Buchmann's lifetime. In fact, the circary catalogue of 1802 indicates that his abbey had 40 members including 3 novices. Other catalogues indicate that more novices were accepted. And, as a means of comparison with the previously documented 1781 list, the entries from the 1802 catalogue are included next in this historical study¹).

¹) Additions to this 1802 list by the author include birthplaces, vestition dates and necrology dates.

VINZENZ-STIFT, BRESLAU — 1802

No.	Name, Birthplace, Office	Birth	Vestition	Profession	First Mass	Death
1.	BERNARD BUCHMAN Beigwitz bei Neisse. Abbot, S.T.D. & P.A. Elected: July 25, 1793 Infultatus & Installation: January 1, 1794.	Mar. 24 1746	Oct. 7 1770	Nov. 3 1771	Jan. 7 1770	Mar. 6 1809
2.	HERMANN JOSEPH KRUSCHE Kriebowitz. Abbot & Infultatus Provost of Crzarnowanz Parthenon. Elected: October 27, 1777. Infultatus: July 12, 1778.	June 19 1744	Aug. 24 1766	Oct. 15 1767	July 8 1770	June 15 1811
3.	VINCENT RIEDEL Gröbschen. Prior & Novice Master.	July 17 1747	Oct. 7 1770	Nov. 3 1771	Nov. 20 1774	Dec. 18 1807
4.	HENRY HARTMANN Neisse. Subprior.	Jan. 20 1755	Feb. 4 1776	June 8 1777	Mar. 3 1779	July 30 1819
5.	NORBERT FELKEL Breslau. Senior & Polsnits Pastor.	Jan. 18 1740		July 26 1764	Apr. 13 1766	June 6 1803

No.	Name, Birthplace, Office	Birth	Vestition	Profession	First Mass	Death
6.	CONSTANTINE REITER Raschgrund. Pastor of Kostenblut.	Dec. 15 1748	Oct. 7 1770	Nov. 3 1771	Nov. 21 1774	May 2 1812
7.	AMBROSE WIESNER Crossen. Administrator of parish at Krieblowitz.	Feb. 24 1753	Dec. 8 1772	Jan. 2 1774	Mar. 25 1778	
8.	BARTHOLOMEW KLICH Borek (Borku.) Gross-Döbern Pastor.	Aug. 20 1751	Feb. 4 1776	June 8 1777	Feb. 28 1779	July 4 1813
9.	FRANCIS WELTZEL Strigoniensis. Pastor of Elbing.	Apr. 15 1776	Feb. 4 1777	June 8 1782	Mar. 22 1803	Sept. 19
10.	JACOBUS SEDLACZEK Gross Strehlitz. Pastor of Zottwitz.	Mar. 30 1758	July 10 1776	Aug. 15 1777	July 10 1781	May 10 1842
11.	MARIANUS LINKE Breslau. Pastor-Administrator in Lossen.	Jan. 2 1763	Aug. 18 1786	Aug. 28 1787	June 1 1788	
12.	EVERMODE SEBASTIAN PROGRZEBA Brinnitz. Confessor to Czarnowans Parthenon and Pastor of Zelasno.	Jan. 21 1763	Aug. 18 1786	Aug. 28 1787	June 1 1788	Aug. 4 1823

No.	Name, Birthplace, Office	Birth	Vestition	Profession	First Mass	Death
13.	STEPHEN NAWROTH Ürdorf. Provost of St. Margaret in Beuthen.	Apr. 5 1767	June 3 1787	June 15 1788	June 13 1790	Jan. 1 1839
14.	ANTHONY OLICK (OHLICK) Krappitz. Pastor in Wurben.	Aug. 11 1765	June 3 1787	June 15 1788	June 21 1789	Mar. 12 1848
15.	LAWRENCE CHARLES RINKE Schmitsch bei Zülz. Provisor of Czarnowanz Parthenon.	Jan. 7 1767	June 3 1787	June 15 1788	Mar. 25 1790	Oct. 6 1819
16.	HERMANN WEIDLER Oppeln. Provisor in Abbey.	June 10 1766	Nov. 28 1789	Jan. 6 1791	Dec. 26 1791	
17.	AUGUSTINE NEANDER Marzdorf bei Ohlau. Abbey Archivist.	Mar. 19 1768	Nov. 28 1789	Jan. 6 1792	Jan. 1 1792	Dec. 14 1845
18.	GERLAC ANTHONY HOPPE Leobschütz. Administrator in Hundsfield.	May 26 1766	Nov. 28 1789	Jan. 6 1791	Jan. 6 1792	Dec. 20 1864
19.	ALOYSIUS MATERNE Prausnitz. Chaplain in Lossen.	Oct. 19 1768	Sept. 18 1791	Sept. 23 1782	Oct. 12 1792	July 9 1837

No.	Name, Birthplace, Office	Birth	Vestition	Profession	First Mass	Death
20.	LEOPOLD SCHNEEWEIS Leobschütz. Administrator of Czarnowanz & Brinnitz.	Apr. 23 1769	Sept. 18 1791	Sept. 23 1792	Oct. 15 1793	June 20 1812
21.	SIARD BURGUND Breslau. Inspector General for Schools of South Prussia at Berlin.	Aug. 31 1771	Sept. 18 1791	Sept. 23 1792	Oct. 10 1793	
22.	WILLIAM SCHNABL Merzdorff. Chaplain in Kostenblut.	July 4 1769	Sept. 18 1791	Sept. 43 1792	Oct. 20 1793	Oct. 20 1816
23.	JOHN STEINER Glatz, Grafschaft Glatz. Abbey Circator, Sacristan & Choir Director.	Feb. 16 1768	May 21 1792	May 26 1793	Apr. 17 1794	Nov. 9 1810
24.	LOUIS HEINTZE Leobschütz. Chaplain in Pölsnitz.	Oct. 4 1771	May 21 1792	May 26 1793	Dec. 28 1794	
25.	INNOCENT SCHMID Breslau. Curate & Sunday Preacher in abbey church.	May 6 1770	May 21 1792	May 26 1793	Apr. 21 1794	May 5 1830
26.	PHILLIP VALENTINE SOBEL Oppeln. Kitchen Manager in Czarnowanz Parthenon.	Feb. 10 1773	May 21 1792	May 26 1793	May 25 1796	

No.	Name, Birthplace, Office	Birth	Vestition	Profession	First Mass	Death
27.	BERNARD IGNATIUS KRUSCHE Breslau. Chaplain in Zottwitz.	Mar. 17 1773	May 21 1792	May 26 1793	May 22 1796	July 7 1814
28.	NICOLAS JASCHKE Reichenstein, Grafschaft Glatz. Cantor in abbey.	Jan. 31 1769	May 25 1794	May 26 1795	Mar. 3 1796	
29.	BENEDICT ADLER Neurode, Grafschaft Glatz. Abbey Kitschen Manager & Librarian.	Feb. 27 1771	May 25 1794	May 26 1795	Mar. 7 1796	
30.	ADRIAN RINK Kuppensis. Chaplain of St. Margaret in Beuthen.	Feb. 22 1774	May 25 1794	May 26 1795	Apr. 7 1797	
31.	JOHN NEPOMUC DOMAINSKY Guttentag. Chaplain of St. Margeret in Beuthen.	Dec. 12 1774	May 25 1794	May 26 1795	Mar. 4 1798	
32.	PETER HOFFMAN Neisse. Succentor & Festival Preacher in Abbey.	Feb. 10 1774	Apr. 24 1796	May 14 1797	Apr. 15 1798	Jan. 17 1812
33.	PAUL SCHOLZ Rörsdorff. Matins Preacher in Abbey.	Apr. 8 1772	Apr. 24 1796	May 14 1797	Apr. 15 1798	

No.	Name, Birthplace, Office	Birth	Vestition	Profession	First Mass	Deaht
34.	ANDREW GROND Mittelwalde, Grafschaft Glatz. Matins Preacher in Abbey.	Nov. 25 1772	Apr. 24 1796	May 14 1797	Apr. 15 1798	
35.	MATHIAS SCEPAINSKY Krappitz. Matins Preacher in Abbey.	May 29 1772	Apr. 24 1796	May 14 1797	Apr. 15 1798	
36.	DOMINIC FIDLER Biehau. Matins Preacher in Abbey.	July 11 1771	Nov. 29 1797	Dec. 4 1798	Oct. 6 1799	
37.	GODFREY NEUMANN Krappitz. Matins Preacher in Abbey.	Mar. 28 1773	Nov. 29 1797	Dec. 4 1798	Oct. 6 1799	
38.	ADOLPH SPRINGER Breslau. Novice.	Oct. 31 1776	Oct. 18 1801	(Left abbey before profession)		
39.	WENCESIAUS AUGUST ZUCKERRIEGEL Glogau. Novice.	Mar. 16 1779	Oct. 18 1801	Nov. 25 1802	Oct. 2 1803	Apr. 21 1830
40.	EUSTACHIUS FISCHER Froembsdorf. Novice.	Apr. 24 1778	Oct. 18 1801	Nov. 25 1802	Oct. 2 1803	

All the fears and anxieties of Prelate Buchmann materialized shortly after his demise on March 6, 1809. Following a lapse of several months, the abbey chapter met on August 29th to elect their fifty-fifth superior by choosing three candidates for submission to the government. After casting three ballots, the names selected were: Alois Materne, the Pastor of Michaels-Kirche in Breslau; Augustine Neander, the Pastor of Polsnitz; Stephen Nawroth, the Beuthen Provost. After considerable delay, the Prussian Emperor confirmed Father Neander as official abbot on October 9th, and his solemn installation occurred on December 29th. As an individual, Neander possessed a jovial demeanor, and he had often quipped about becoming abbot by implying that he was predestined for that august office because he was the Augustine who had remained in the cloister, while three candidates with that name had previously departed from the abbey. Besides his sense of humor, Neander was also a deeply spiritual man, and he therefore could see that cloister discipline had disintegrated. As prelate and spiritual father of his community, he delivered a moving sermon to his brethren on New Years Day of 1810. Speaking eloquently in Latin about the necessity and urgency of spiritual and temporal reforms, Neander emphasized that Holy Orders called a priest to a holy state of life, and that the purpose of the Norbertine Order was to foster that state of life. It seems that his discourse had such a positive impact upon the priests that within a month there was a complete spiritual renewal in Vinzenz-Stift.

Meanwhile, outside political influences were gathering momentum for the suppression of religious institutes within Silesia. These forces, with royal approval, began a premeditated suppression and confiscation in November of 1810. And the government move against Vinzenz-Stift soon occurred. On November 19th, while eating at table, Abbot Neander was brought the news that all cloisters in Silesia were to be suppressed with the exception of those involved with teaching and caring for the sick. Soon afterwards, at 2 o'clock, the Regierungsrath Zimmermann came to the abbey as the authorized commissioner of the Königlische Hauptsäkularisations-Kommission to enforce the suppression by implementing the following procedures:

1. Publishing the suppression by reading the decree to the cloister personnel,
2. seizure and inventory of the property,
3. removing religious personnel and pensioning them,
4. providing custodial care for the churches and schools,

5. determining a future use for the cloisters & their real estate.

Immediately, Zimmermann confiscated the abbot's insignia of authority and incorporation: the infula, crozier and seal, as well as all precious metals such as coins, church silverplate, etc. With regard to the administration of justice which the abbot possessed, this was transferred to Chancellor Hofrath Ebersbach and Judge Jungnitz.

Concerning the real estate of Vinzenz-Stift, the economy consisted of farms and manors in the vicinities of Hundsfeld, Althof, Lossen, Biehau, Krieblowitz and Gräbschen, but all the contract records were conserved in the rent office at Zinsdorf. Accordingly, the government inventory indicated that Vinzenz-Stift owned: 12 parishes, 34 villages and 1 town, all of which are listed in the following table:

TABLE 2

REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS OF VINZENZ-STIFT — NOV. 19, 1810

1. Hundsfeld Stadt	10. Schwentning	21. Hermannsdorf
2. Merkflechten Kostenblut	11. Zedlitz	22. Gurtisch
3. Althof	12. Gros-Tschansch	23. Kampen
4. Karlowitz	13. Woigwitz	24. Buschwitz
5. Gräbschen	14. Fischerau	25. Dokern
6. Krieblowitz	15. Daupe	26. Lossen
7. Ottwitz	16. Mollenau	27. Pawelwitz
8. Ochsentall oder Barteln	17. Stanowitz	28. Gros-Totschen
9. Schottwitz	18. Würben	29. Strau
	19. Zottwitz	30. Sablat
	20. Mallwitz	31. Tschechen
		32. Biehau
		33. Landau
		34. Polsnitz mit der Gilgenauer und Vinzenzmühle

Both Zimmermann and Neander together estimated the annual household budget for church and school to be 12,466 Talers. Furthermore, the abbot estimated his income from percentages on market sales, harvests, wood, etc., to be 7,052 Talers per annum, with 300 Talers of that amount being from court fees, as well as 60 Talers which automatically was given to the abbey prior. As far as the rest of the economy of the cloister was concerned, no other revenue was found after the official inventory. For their livelihood, the religious in the cloister were fed by an allowance for food given by the prelate; and each priest

received 60 Talers a year to provide for his clothing, firewood, candles, etc. Those priests who resided in parishes were supported by the benefices of the various parishes, and from the interest derived from an invested capital of 1,145 Talers. In the entire membership of Vinzenz-Stift there were thirty-four, and most of them resided in the incorporated parishes. Of the thirteen who inhabited the Breslau cloister, six were very feeble men. However, both the infirm and the healthy young priests were ordered to leave the cloister, and to officially sign their names to the suppression protocol. Most of the priests expressed their desire to serve in parishes of the archdiocese, while only four desired to be pensioned by the government: Henry Hartmann, Benedict Adler, Paul Scholz and Dominic Fidler. They each received 334 Talers per year from the income of the real estate. Finally, Abbot Augustine Neander was pensioned with a 700 Taler annual income. He departed from his abbey and resided with the Breslau Cathedral Canons where he was solemnly installed in 1822. On September 2, 1831 Neander acquired his own residence where he lived until death overtook him on December 14, 1845.

After the suppression, Vinzenz-Kirche and the other incorporated parishes of the abbey became part of the Breslau Archdiocese. All of the church treasures, which were itemized earlier in this chapter, were conserved until the destruction of World War II. Former canons remained as the rector and assistants of Vinzenz-Kirche, and they continued to reside in part of the abbey building until the end of the year 1812, when they acquired a new rectory in a house which had formerly belonged to the Claretian Convent.

On February 19, 1812, the real estate of the abbey was mortgaged by the government. And, on October 14, 1812, the estates of Lossen, Dockern, Buschwitz and Totschen, along with the manorial furnishings, were sold to a Breslau merchant named Samuel Jüttner for the sum of 83,357 Talers. In 1826 the cloister furnishings were sold for 14,000 Talers, and in 1841 the remaining real estate changed hands for the sum of 95,000 Talers. As for the beautiful abbey building, it served as the provincial court of justice until its destruction. And to the Silesian provincial and university library in Breslau went the 10,000 volumes of the abbey library along with its own alphabetized catalogue, the largest cloister library in Silesia. The manuscript collection was on a thirty-five page handwritten index list which served to identify the codices and estimate their value, as follows: 87 numbered in folio, 41 in octav and 303 in quarto. There were about a dozen questionable items involving nearly fifty-three volumes of doubtful origin. Unfortunately, nothing

remains today of the former glory of Vinzenz-Stift except for some manuscripts and books of its library. Some of the most valuable of those are listed herein:

1. Liebental, Nikolaus, O. Praem¹). *Kopialbucher*. (1480-1515).
2. Anon. *Necrologium. Liber mortuorum monasterii sancti Vincentii ordinis Praemonstratensis*. (MS of 26 pages with entries from the year 1270 until March 12, 1655).
3. Anon. *Series abbatum monasterii s. Vincencii ordinis Praemonstratensium*. (1666-72).
4. Anon. *Catalogus Candidatorum, Conversorum, Canonicorum Professorum, Eccclae. Sancti Vincentii. Renovatus Anno 1713*.
5. *Catalogus Admodum Reverendorum Religiosorum, Venerabilium, Doctissimorum, Excellentium ac Eximiorum Dominorum, Canonicorum Candissimi Ordinis Prämonstratensis ad Exemptam Ecclesiam S. Vincentii Wratistavia ab Anno 1650 usque in Annum Präsentem*. Descriptus a Fr. Bonaventura Girth, Prof. Vinc. 1730, 26 Octobris.
6. Binder, Franz, O. Praem, *S. Vincencius Vratislaviensis*. (1736). (Chronicle of the Breslau Abbots.)
7. Krusche, Marian, O. Praem., S.T.D. *Annales Vincentini, 1742*. Band 1 - 1139-1538 & Band 2 - 1539-1730.
8. ... *Materialen zur Geschichte von Czarnowanz*. (MS from the year 1734).

During its last 40 years of existence, 4 abbots governed Vinzenz-Stift, and they accepted a total of 50 novices into the community. In the following table, the exact amount which each prelate accepted and professed is indicated:

TABLE 3

Abbots	Novices Vested	Clerics Professed
Schmidt	15	13
Reisner	18	15
Buchmann	17	16
Neander	0	0

¹) Liebental was the most famous annalist and chronicler of Breslau Abbey. He also served as provisor, Beuthen Provost, and Hundsfeld Pastor. † Feb. 12, 1516. His work «Kopialbucher» is a famous historical source for Silesian church history as well as a chronology of Vinzenz-Stift.

During the years following the publication of the Circary Catalogue of 1781 and the abbey suppression in 1810, there occurred 35 vestitions and 32 deaths. As the conclusion to this study of Vinzenz-Stift, a complete listing of the 50 novices accepted between the years of 1770 and 1810 is reproduced. But first, as a historical note, the names of the abbey members alive at the time of its secularized are appended.

CANONS OF VINZENZ-STIFT - NOV. 19, 1810

1. Augustinus Neander - Abbot
2. Hermannus Josephus Krusche - Abbot of Czarnowans
3. Henricus Hartmann - Senior
4. Constantinus Reiter
5. Ambrosius Wiesner
6. Bartholomaeus Klich
7. Jacobus Sedlaczeck
8. Evermodus Pogrzeba
9. Stephanus Nawroth
10. Laurentius Rinke - Prior
11. Gerlacus Hoppe
12. Aloysius Materne
13. Leopoldus Schneeweis
14. Antonius Olick
15. Hermannus Weidler
16. Siardus Burgund
17. Gulielmus Schnabel
18. Ludovicus Heinze
19. Bernardus Krusche
20. Philippus Sobel
21. Nicolaus Jaschke
22. Benedictus Adler - Rent Manager
23. Adrianus Rink
24. Nepomucenus Domainsky
25. Petrus Hoffmann
26. Paulus Scholz
27. Innocentius Schmidl
28. Andreas Grond
29. Mathias Seepainsky
30. Dominicus Fidler
31. Godefridus Naumann
32. Wenceslaus Zuckerrigel
33. Eustachius Fischer
34. Michael Kosubeck

ADMISSIONS TO VINZENZ-STIFT, 1770-1810

(Excerpted from the revised Catalogues of 1713
and 1730 with additions after those years.)

Note:

No. = number

Nomen, Cognomen, Patria = name, family name, birthplace.

Nat. = birthday

Vest. = vestition

Prof. = profession

Prim. = First Mass

Mort. = death date

No.	Nomen, Cognomen, Patria	Nat.	Vest.	Prof.	Prim.	Mort.
1.	BERNARDUS BUCHMANN Beigwitz bei Neisse.	Mar. 24 1746	Oct. 7 1770	Nov. 3 1771	Jan. 1 1770	Mar. 6 1809
2.	VINCENTIUS RIEDL Grabschen.	July 17 1747	Oct. 7 1770	Nov. 3 1771	Nov. 20 1771	Dec. 10 1807
3.	CONSTANTINUS REUTER Raschgrund.	Dec. 15 1748	Oct. 7 1770	Nov. 3 1771	Nov. 21 1774	May 5 1812
4.	EUSTACHIUS THIEL Neisse.	Mar. 6 1749	Oct. 7 1770	Nov. 3 1771	Sept. 24 1774	June 16 1796
5.	PAULUS LECHNER Ppeln.	Oct. 17 1747	Dec. 8 1772	Jan. 2 1774	June 15 1777	Mar. 14 1787

No.	Nomen, Cognomen, Patria	Nat.	Vest.	Prof.	Prim.	Mort.
6.	GREGORIUS KOSS Zelasno.	July 7 1749	Dec. 8 1772	Jan. 2 1774	June 15 1777	Nov. 11 1791
7.	AMBROSIVS WIESNER Corsoncensis.	Feb. 20 1753	Dec. 8 1772	Jan. 2 1774	Mar. 25 1778	1800
8.	MICHAEL KOTINER Weisswasser.	Feb. 19 1747	Feb. 4 1776	Left Abbey May 10, 1777 because his profession was delayed.		
9.	BENEDICTUS TOPFF Striegau.	Dec. 10 1749	Feb. 4 1776	Left Abbey May 10, 1777 because his profession was delayed.		
10.	GULIELMUS SCHULTZE Breslau.	Oct. 21 1750	Feb. 4 1776	Left abbey Feb. 20, 1777 because of illness.		
11.	FRANCISCUS WELZEL Striegau.	Apr. 15 1751	Feb. 4 1776	June 8 1777	Mar. 22 1782	Nov. 3 1803
12.	BARTHOLOMAEUS KLICH Borkau.	Aug. 20 1751	Feb. 4 1776	June 8 1777	Feb. 28 1779	July 4 1813
13.	HENRICUS HARTMANN Neisse.	Jan. 20 1755	Feb. 4 1776	June 8 1777	Mar. 3 1779	July 30 1819
14.	JOANNES BRENDDEL Greiffenberg.	Jan. 24 1755	Feb. 4 1776	June 8 1777	Feb. 28 1779	May 4 1787
15.	JACOBUS SEDLACZECK Gross Strehlitz.	Mar. 20 1758	July 10 1776	Aug. 15 1777	July 10 1781	May 10 1842

No.	Nomen, Cognomen, Patria	Nat.	Vest.	Prof.	Prim.	Mort.
16.	MARIANUS LINKE Breslau.	Jan. 2 1763	Aug. 18 1786	Aug. 28 1787	June 9 1788	Left abbey between 1802 and 1810
17.	EVERMODUS SEBASTIANUS POGRZEBA Brinnitz.	Jan. 21 1763	Aug. 18 1786	Aug. 28 1787	June 1 1788	Aug. 4 1823
18.	HERMANUS CZYZOVSKY Lossen.	May 2 1765	Aug. 18 1786	Left abbey because of a crippled hand.		
19.	AUGUSTINUS WODASS Oppeln.	Mar. 7 1766	Aug. 18 1786	Left abbey because his novitiate was too long.		
20.	STEPHANUS NAWROTH Povitzkoviensis.	Apr. 5 1767	June 5 1787	June 15 1788	June 13 1790	Jan. 1 1839
21.	ANTONIUS OLICH (OLICK) Krappitz.	Aug. 11 1763	June 5 1787	June 15 1788	June 21 1790	Mar. 28 1848
22.	LAURENTIUS CAROLUS RINKE Schmitz.	Jan. 7 1767	June 3 1787	June 15 1788	Mar. 15 1790	Oct. 6 1819
23.	HERMANNUS WEIDLER Oppeln.	June 10 1766	Dec. 21 1789	Jan. 6 1791	Dec. 26 1791	18..
24.	AUGUSTINUS NEANDER Marzdorf bei Ohlau.	Mar. 10 1768	Dec. 21 1789	Jan. 6 1791	Jan. 1 1792	Dec. 14 1845

No.	Nomen, Cognomen, Patria	Nat.	Vest.	Prof.	Prim.	Mort.
25.	GERLACUS ANTONIUS HOPPE Leobschütz.	May 26 1766	Dec. 21 1789	Jan. 6 1791	Jan. 6 1792	Dec. 20 1864
26.	ALOYSIUS MATERN Pravnicensis.	Oct. 19 1768	Sept. 18 1791	Sept. 23 1792	Oct. 13 1792	July 9 1837
27.	LEOPOLDUS SCHNEEWEIS Leobschütz.	Apr. 23 1769	Sept. 18 1791	Sept. 23 1792	Oct. 15 1793	June 20 1812
28.	SIARDUS BURGUND Breslau.	Aug. 31 1771	Sept. 18 1791	Sept. 23 1792	Oct. 19 1793	18..
29.	GULIELMUS SCHNABEL Marzdorf.	July 4 1769	Sept. 18 1791	Sept. 23 1792	Oct. 20 1793	Oct. 20 1816
30.	JOANNES STEINER Glatz, Grafschaft Glatz.	Feb. 16 1768	May 21 1792	May 26 1793	Apr. 4 1794	Nov. 9 1810
31.	LUDOVICUS HEINTZE (HEINZE) Leobschütz.	Oct. 4 1771	May 21 1792	May 26 1793	Dec. 28 1794	18..
32.	INNOCENTIUS SCHMID Breslau.	May 6 1770	May 21 1792	May 26 1793	Apr. 21 1794	May 5 1830
33.	PHILIPPUS VALENTINUS SOBEL Oppeln.	Feb. 10 1773	May 21 1792	May 26 1793	May 22 1796	18..

No.	Nomen, Cognomen, Patria	Nat.	Vest.	Prof.	Prim.	Mort.
34.	BERNARDUS IGNATIUS KRUSCHE Breslau.	May 17 1773	May 25 1794	May 26 1795	May 22 1796	July 7 1814
35.	NICOLAUS JASCHKE Reichenau, Grafschaft Glatz.	Jan. 21 1769	May 25 1794	May 26 1795	Mar. 3 1796	18..
36.	JOSEPHUS ROTH Hermendorf.	June 20 1772	May 25 1794	May 29 1795	Mar. 10 1796	Nov. 27 1799
37.	BENEDICTUS ADLER Neurode, Grafschaft Glatz.	Feb. 17 1771	May 25 1794	May 26 1795	Mar. 7 1796	18..
38.	ADRIANUS RINK Kuppensis.	Feb. 22 1774	May 25 1794	May 26 1795	Apr. 7 1797	18..
39.	JOANNES NEPOMUCENUS DOMAINSKY Guttentag.	Dec. 3 1774	May 25 1794	May 26 1795	Mar. 4 1798	18..
40.	PETRUS HOFFMANN Neisse.	Feb. 10 1774	Apr. 24 1796	May 14 1797	Apr. 15 1798	Jan. 17 1812
41.	PAULUS SCHOLZ Buchelsdorf.	Apr. 8 1772	Apr. 24 1796	May 14 1797	Apr. 15 1798	18..
42.	ANDREAS GROND Mittelwalde, Grafschaft Glatz.	Nov. 25 1772	Apr. 24 1796	May 14 1797	Apr. 15 1798	18..

No.	Nomen, Cognomen, Patria	Nat.	Vest.	Prof.	Prim.	Mort.
43.	MATHIAS SCEPAINSKY Krappitz.	May 29 1772	Apr. 24 1796	May 14 1797	Apr. 15 1798	18..
44.	DOMINICUS FIDLER Klein-Bilau.	July 11 1771	Nov. 29 1797	Nov. 4 1798	Oct. 6 1799	18..
45.	GODEFRIDUS NAUMANN Krappitz.	Mar. 2 1773	Nov. 29 1797	Nov. 4 1798	Oct. 6 1799	18..
46.	ADOPHUS SPRINGER Breslau.	Oct. 31 1776	Oct. 18 1801	Left abbey before his profession.		
47.	WENCESLAUS AUGUSTINUS ZUCKERRIGEL Gross Glogau.	Mar. 16 1779	Oct. 18 1801	Nov. 25 1802	Oct. 2 1803	Aug. 21 1830
48.	EUSTACHIUS FISCHER Frömsdorf.	Apr. 24 1778	Oct. 18 1801	Nov. 25 1802	Oct. 2 1803	18..
49.	RAPHAEL WEESE Brinnitz.	Oct. 3 1778	Oct. 14 1803	Nov. 4 1804	Jan. 6 1806	July 6 1810
50.	MICHAEL KOSUBECK Gross Döbern.	Feb. 25 1783	Oct. 14 1803	Nov. 4 1804	Mar. 25 1806	Apr. 26 1830

CZARNOWANZ

In Silesia much has already been written and published about Czarnowanz. It has enjoyed fame not so much as a town but as a cloister, which has existed in that place from 1228 until 1810. That parthenon (female convent), called «*Domus Dei*», was founded in 1211 at Rybnik by Duchess Ludmilla, the wife of Duke Miesko of Oppeln-Ratibor. To be the occupants of the new cloister, Ludmilla invited the Norbertine Canonesses from Strzelno, Poland. Until the close of the 13th century, this foundation was a double monastery. In 1288 Duke Casimir, son of Miesko and Ludmilla, granted the request of the nuns and moved them to a new cloister at Czarnowanz near Oppeln.

As far as spiritual leadership and guidance was concerned, the nuns at Czarnowanz were subject to Vinzenz-Stift in Breslau since the year 1391, and from among its priests the provosts and confessors for the canonesses were elected or appointed. Within the parthenon itself, the canonesses elected their own prioress to rule over them. She in turn appointed other officials for the operation of the convent such as: subprioress, chantress and succentress for singing, circatrix, sacristan, portress, infirmarian and managers for the kitchen, vestry, refectory, etc. In the earlier centuries, the nuns were Polish and came from mainly the nobility. After 1650 the convent became populated with mostly German women from the small villages and towns of Silisia with less vocations from the Silesian nobility.

In February of the year 1643, the fear of the invading Swedes as well as sickness and death from a plague impelled the nuns to flee to Poland. This fact of seeking haven in Poland indicates that the composition of the personnel was of Polish ethnic background. As their temporary home, the Archbishop of Gnesen allowed the nuns to construct a wooden convent building to house 22 religious at Boleslawiec. This new home was completed by October of that same year, but the community had to wait until 1647 for Abbot Lachen of Louka to canonically establish the cloister. As the vicar general of the Bohemian Circary, Lachen had delayed any official action because he hoped that hostilities would end and that the nuns could then return to Czarnowanz. Meanwhile, their old cloister had been put to the torch by the Swedes, and the canonesses were forced to remain in Poland until 1651. Upon

their return to Czarnowanz, only a few canonesses were alive to make the homeward journey.

However, a new era began for Czarnowanz as well as for Vinzenz-Stift of Breslau. In 1651 both cloisters were annexed to the Bohemian Circary and placed under the paternity of Strahov Abbey in Prague. Immediately, the Strahov abbot sent Paulus Scrabo, one of his priests, as provost of Czarnowanz. Being a zealous man, Scrabo supervised the erection of the parthenon church in honor of St. Norbert; that baroque edifice completed in 1653 still stands today. Later in the century, the reconstruction of the cloister was finished, and in 1682 the nuns rejoiced in their completed home dedicated under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Andrew the Apostle. As previously stated, the Swedish invasions inflicted ruin upon the cloister buildings of Czarnowanz, but those harzardous years caused greater spiritual harm as the cloister discipline deteriorated during the nuns' exile. Definite lack of discipline was confirmed by Abbot Lachen during a visitation of Boleslawiec in 1646. Fortunately, under the capable rule of Provost Balthasar Gerbert (†1695), the discipline and spiritual life vastly improved, and his work was fittingly rewarded on Jan. 13, 1690 by Pope Alexander VIII granting him the right to wear pontifical regalia. That privilege was enjoyed by all succeeding provosts until the secularization.

During the first decade of the following century, the parthenon became famous for the excellent music and singing of the canonesses. People from far and near came to the cloister church to hear at the organ console Sister Maximiliana Much of Wohlau, the daughter of a musician. Another fine musician residing in the convent at the same time was Sister Altist whose father was an organist in Neisse. Besides the attraction of fine music, pious people flocked to Czarnowanz to visit the shrine of St. Anne. This shrine was a wooden church built in 1684 on a nearby hill called appropriately «Annaberg». Between the years of 1727 and 1730, Provost Eustachius I Fritsch supervised the building of the existing prelature. This building is a fine example of the current architecture, and its huge size along with the fact that it is joined to the convent wing across the courtyard makes this prelature a rare type in either Silesia or Poland. Other prelatures of both male and female establishments were smaller separate buildings resembling the country houses of the nobility. In addition to his superb building accomplishments, Fritsch also became the first blessed abbot of Czarnowanz, and his tenure of office extended during the years of 1725-1739. His successors were Eustachius II

Hufnagel¹⁾ and the last prelate, Hermann Joseph Krusche²⁾. And it was also during the 18th century that the convent reached its zenith in personnel numbers. This increase in vocations resulted from the deeply spiritual provosts of the time.

While Hufnagel was provost, there was an official visitation of the cloister on June 9, 1750 by Augustine Weltzel, vicar general of the Breslau Archdiocese. Later that same year on Sept. 28th, Abbot Vaclavik of Hradiste Abbey along with his secretary, Fr. Adam Ernst Ruebner, conducted a visitation on behalf of the Norbertine Order. Happily, both of visitors found the cloister life in Czarnowanz to be satisfactory. Besides directing the good sisters and managing their extensive real estate holdings, Hufnagel also found time for historical research. His efforts produced an excellent and accurate history of the cloister. Another visitation for the order was made by Abbot Vincent I Schulz of Breslau on Dec. 16, 1765; this is presumed to have been favorable since nothing to the contrary has been stated in sources used for this study. During this century, the parthenon enjoyed receiving many novices, and the following table illustrates the population of Czarnowanz until its suppression:

TABLE 4
PERSONNEL

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number</i>
1643	22
1725	25
1751	30 (13 nobles)
1777	16
1718	23 (5 nobles)
1802	25 (2 nobles)
1810	23 (1 noble)

During the last 33 years of its existence as a Norbertine Parthenon, Czarnowanz was governed by the same man, Hermann Joseph Krusche. He saw the first light of day on June 2, 1744 in the village of Krieblowitz bei Canth, and at baptism he received the name of Joseph. His father was the miller in Vierraden bei Canth, and both of his parents were pious Catholics. Young Joseph spent his early years in the small village of his birth, and frequently was impressed by the famous Blucher Family

¹⁾ 1739 - † Aug. 12, 1777.

²⁾ Oct. 27, 1777 - Nov. 24, 1810.

whose famous castle at nearby Albrechtsau was often the scene of gala affairs. Krieblowitz belonged to St. John Nepomuk's Church at Albrechtsau (Woigwitz) which in turn was a filial church of the main parish at Polsnitz. All of the villages named were part of the estates of Vinzenz-Stift in Breslau. As a young man of 22, Joseph entered that same abbey to study for the religious priesthood. No doubt his decision to apply there was motivated by the fact that his village pastor had been a Norbertine. And Joseph Krusche was accepted and robed with the white habit of the order by Abbot Vincent II Schulz on August 24, 1766, at which time Krusche received the cloister name of Hermannus. Being the only novice that particular year must have been difficult for him, but he successfully completed his novitiate. During that same year, the abbey routine was interrupted by the death of Abbot Schulz on Jan. 18, 1767. By the time the young novice was ready for solemn profession, a new prelate had been installed; and so Frater Hermannus made his solemn profession of the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience before Abbot Vincent II Schmid on Oct. 15, 1767. Then followed 3 more years of theological and philosophical studies, and finally came the grand moment of receiving Holy Orders. This event occurred at the end of June in 1770 with the vicar apostolic of Breslau bestowing the sacrament, acting for the exiled Prince-Bishop Schaffgotsch. On that day two other Norbertines were ordained with Krusche — Fridericus Rothe and Martinus Crzondziel. Following this, another festive day dawned on July 8, 1770 when Krusche offered his First Mass in his native village.

After less than a decade of service as a canon of Vinzenz-Stift, events occurred which altered completely the course of Krusche's life. First of all, on Aug. 12, 1777 the illustrious provost of Czarnowanz, Eustacius II Hufnagel, went to his eternal reward. And on the following Oct. 27th, Hermannus Josephus Krusche was elected to the vacant position of abbot-provost at Czarnowanz. His installation and investiture with the pontifical regalia took place on July 12th of the next year. Later statistics indicate that Abbot Krusche had a most beneficial effect upon the convent, and under his benign yet exacting rule the vocations to the sisterhood increased. When the prelate arrived in Czarnowanz, he found 15 choir sisters under a prioress, and the table below indicates the course of vocations subsequent to 1777:

TABLE 5

Year	Choir Sisters			Lay Sisters
	Simple Profession	Solemn Profession	Novices	
1777	2	13	1	—
1781	7	14	1	1
1802	—	22	—	3
1810	—	17	—	6

Furthermore, extant catalogues of the Bohemian Circary for the years of 1781 and 1802 illustrate that Abbot Krusche presided at many profession ceremonies in the Czarnowanz convent church.

TABLE 6

PROFESSIONS BY ABBOT KRUSCHE

July 28, 1778	— 2 simple profession (1 choir sister & 1 lay sister)
Aug. 23, 1778	— 2 solemn professions (choir sisters)
Jan. 12, 1779	— 2 simple professions (choir sisters)
Apr. 27, 1780	— 4 simple professions (choir sisters)
Aug. 28, 1781	— 1 simple profession (choir sisters)
Apr. 00, 1782	— Accepted 1 solemn professed choir sister from Doksany Parthenon in Bohemia.
Sept. 29, 1782	— 3 solemn professions (Choir sisters)
Aug. 3, 1784	— 3 simple professions (Choir sisters)
Oct. 10, 1784	— 5 solemn professions (Choir sisters)
Oct. 25, 1785	— 1 simple profession (Choir sisters)
Nov. 9, 1786	— 1 simple profession (Choir sisters)
Apr. 3, 1789	— 1 simple profession (lay sister)
Feb. 2, 1790	— 3 solemn professions (choir sisters)
June 12, 1791	— 2 solemn professions (choir sisters)
May 22, 1794	— 1 simple profession (choir sisters)
Oct. 22, 1799	— 2 simple professions (1 lay sister & 1 choir sister)
Oct. 27, 1801	— 2 solemn professions (Choir sisters)
1802-1810	— 3 simple professions (lay sisters)

In addition to being a brilliant spiritual guide for the canonesses, Krusche was also an astute farm supervisor. When he assumed control of the Czarnowanz properties, he found that there were 15 villages which are enumerated in the table which follows next in this article.

TABLE 7
CZARNOWANZ ESTATES IN 1783

1. Biadacz (Kreuz)	6. Chroscina	11. Krzanowitz
2. Borrek	7. Czarnowanz & the	12. Muchenitz
3. Bowallno	Zelasno Ferry	13. Wreske
4. Brinnitz	8. Frauendorf	14. Zelasno
5. Brody	9. Horst with the	15. Zuzella
	glass-works	
	10. Klein-Döbern	

In 1789, Abbot Krusche established a new settlement northeast of Nurow which was named Hermannsdorf in his honor. As early as 1780 he had an iron ore refinery and furnace constructed in Czarnowanz after iron mines were opened in Czarnowanz and Brinnitz. This provided much needed work for the population as well as added income for villagers and sisters alike.

As the pastor of Czarnowanz and its filial churches, Abbot Krusche carefully maintained the ecclesiastical buildings. In 1784 he had a new organ installed at Czarnowanz and completely redecorated the church interior. His duties to his order obliged him to travel to Olomouc, Moravia to attend what was to be the last chapter of the old Bohemian Circary. He participated in the discussions of the chapter at Hradiste Abbey on Aug. 27, 1780, and since no official statements were to be promulgated, Abbot Krusche returned to Czarnowanz. In reference to his spiritual character, the parish chronicle of Czarnowanz states this about him: «Vir vere Religiosus». As aides to the abbot, several canons of Vinzenz-Stift were appointed to serve in the capacities of parish administrators, confessors to the sisters, local chaplains and provisors.

1781

Laurentius Weide — Convent Confessor

Stephanus Lucas — Convent Confessor & Administrator of Zelasno

Paulus Lechner — Kitchen Prefect & Administrator of Gross-Döbern

1802

Laurentius Rinke — Convent Confessor & Assistant in Czarnowanz

Leopoldus Schneeweiss — Administrator in Brinnitz

Phillipus Sobel — Kitchen Prefect

Bartholomaeus Klich — Administrator of Gross-Döbern

Evermodus Pogrzeba — Convent Confessor

1810

Evermodus Pogrzeba — Convent Confessor & Administrator of Zelasno

Leopoldus Schneeweiss — Assistant in Czarnowanz & Brinnitz

Phillipus Sobel — Brinnitz Administrator & Convent Provisor

Michael Kosubeck — Kitchen Prefect

Bartholomaeus Klich — Administrator of Gross-Döbern

Upon hearing repeatedly the unfortunate news of the suppressions of Emperor Joseph II which involved so many Norbertine Houses in Austria, Bohemia, Moravia and Hungary, Krusche and the canonesses prayed for the welfare of the order, especially for the dispersed religious. Naturally when Doksany Parthenon in Bohemia was closed in 1782, Abbot Krusche and Prioress Sophia joyfully welcomed Sister Electa Reyberger from that convent into the community of Czarnowanz. Furthermore, she was granted her seniority in the community based upon her profession date in Doksany. Another exile also sought and received refuge with Abbot Krusche during the following decade. Driven from his native France by the revolution, Canon Hervé Julien Lesage of Beauport Abbey resided in Czarnowanz during the years from 1794 until 1802. And while in the prelature with Krusche, the Frenchman occupied himself with prayer and assisted the abbot in caring for the spiritual needs of the canonesses. Another spiritual task for the good of his order fell upon the shoulders of Abbot Krusche. During the year of 1786 Abbot Schmid of Breslau died, and a new election was announced for March 19th of that same year. To summon the community and to supervise this election, the Abbot of Strahow delegated Abbot Krusche. As was stated in detail earlier in this study, Reisner was proclaimed the new abbot, and the will of the abbey priests was ignored by the Prussian Emperor. Because of his long life, Krusche was able to participate in the election of two more abbots of Vinzenz-Stift.

Along with Abbot Buchmann, he experienced the difficulties presented to religious orders by a hostile government. Both prelates had an ever present fear of suppression; this fear became aggravated when the civil

authorities began to tax the property of the cloisters. This taxation obliged Krusche to make the following payments to the Upper Silesian Landschaft¹⁾ at Oppeln:

- a. 4,400 Talers on Dec. 28, 1804
- b. 7,020 Talers on June 25, 1805
- c. 620 Talers on June 28, 1805.

Several years later, the government began to compile inventories of the assets of the various cloisters. In the Czarnowanz archive, there existed an old inventory of the gold and silver assets of the convent signed and sealed by the civil assessor from Brieg on June 30, 1769. In 1809 that inventory was updated by another official inventory of the gold and silver items in the parthenon. This more current inventory was sealed and dated by a civil official from Oppeln on Dec. 19, 1809, and Prelate Krusche carefully placed the document in the archive. All of these and other measures culminated in a civil suppression near the end of the year 1810.

For Czarnowanz Parthenon, the day of doom was Nov. 24, 1810. On that fateful day the Suppression Act was read to the religious personnel including priests and nuns who assembled in the convent refectory. After reading the secularization document, the government commissioners Class and Hentschel ordered Prelate Krusche to present to them a complete written inventory of the cloister estate including all gold and silver coins and objects. In compliance with that order, Krusche wrote out the following:

1. Surrendering upon demand the spiritual insignia of authority and the corporation assets, the Infulatus Prelate himself surrenders the following:

- A. 10 infula vestments and 11 pair of pontifical shoes.
- B. 1 crozier.
- C. The Prelatura Seal.
- D The Nuns' Convent Seal.
- E. 8 Pectoral Crosses:
 1. Enamel with enamel corpus and 10 diamonds.
 2. Gold with 15 diamonds attached to a purple band.
 3. Gold with 1 side having star of 32 diamonds, and the reverse side having 25 rubies, 1 emerald and 3 diamonds.
 4. Gold with 10 large hyacinth gems.

¹⁾ The Landschaft was the provincial governmental body of Upper Silesia.

5. Gold with 6 large emeralds and 4 diamonds.
6. Silver with 9 diamonds in a red case, and also a ring.
7. Gold with gold corpus on a purple band.
8. Gold with gold corpus on a gold chain, which the Lord Prelate ordinarily uses.

Under this list of 8 pectoral crosses, Prelate Krusche added a note that some were his personal property which he desired to keep after the suppression. He specified cross # 6 because he had used it for 30 years as abbot, and # 8 which had little value because its daily use by him. This small request was honored by the Commissioners.

2. Krusche then listed a true inventory of the gold and silver items in the church, convent and prelatura. A former permanent listing was had from a document of an Oppeln official dated Dec. 19, 1809, and this had been declared by the Prussian government as permanent by the attachment of a silver stamp.

The Commissioners immediately placed all the silver church ornaments and utensils into the cloister archive so no one could steal them. At this time, Abbot Krusche claimed 8 items of silver as belonging to the Czarnowanz Parish Church:

1. 4 chalices, 1 of copper.
2. 1 monstrance.
3. 1 ciborium with a golden cup.
4. A basin for wine.
5. 1 Pacificale.

All the remaining silver with the infula and crozier were placed in the archive under seal.

In addition to these items, the prelate made a second inventory of the church. He claimed that the enemy troops in the area had stolen a good amount of silver so that the 1809 inventory was no longer valid. He also claimed that since the Zelasna Parish was incorporated to Czarnowanz, it was entitled to the church vessels which were absolutely necessary for the liturgy and at that time still in the church. Likewise, he made similar claims for the filial churches of Brinnitz and Gross-Döbern. Nothing of silver was omitted either in the convent or the prelatura, so this special inventory of Prelate Krusche was accepted as true and duly sworn as such by him and the Commissioners.

3. Next the Prelate explained about cash on hand. He stated that he was destitute of estate revenues, giving the reason that the rent due date was already passed. When questioned about a cash account, he dutifully

reported that he had no more than 150 to 200 Thalers, adding that from his 33 years in office at Czarnowanz he possessed no private fortune. Rather, he had expended all of the estate revenues and gifts to main the buildings and to feed and clothe the cloistered canonesses and himself. Deferring to the old prelate by accepting his statements and politely offering to refer them to higher authorities, the Commissioners very courteously granted all of his requests. They were easily disposed to be so courteous when the prelate stated that he would take a reduction of 1/5 of his annual pension, provided that all of his requests were acceptable to the government.

4. Prelate Krusche then turned over to the Commissioners the deeds to the property along with other legal and ecclesiastical documents. Of special note are the following:

- A. Brieg Assessor's record of all Czarnowanz assets dated June 30, 1769.
- B. Loan to Sts. Peter and Paul Kreuz-Stift at Neisse of 2,400 Fl. in 1764 — dated April 1, 1774.
- C. Another loan of 1,000 Fl. to the same place dated Feb. 1, 1774.
- D. Debt to Himmelwitz Stift of 1,000 Fl. net — dated Sept. 30, 1751.
- E. Receipt of Oberschleischen Landschaft for 4,400 Thlr., Dec. 28, 1804.
- F. Receipt of Oberschleischen Landschaft for 7020 Thlr., June 25, 1805.
- G. Tax Receipt of Oberschleischen Landschaft for 620 Thlr., June 28, 1805.

These were all of the assets except for the real estate, and the Commisioners accepted this second inventory. Besides the inventory, Krusche gave them 2 volumes: «Privilegia und Documenta, monasterii Bozi dom seu domus dei in Czarnowanz, sacri ordinis Praemonstratensis de oppido Riebnik, huc in Czarnowanz translati Anno 1228». Krusche concluded his written statement by adding that these books were in the cloister from the year 1228 and all during his 33 years as prelate. Then the prelate signed his name as: Joseph Krusche and the Commissioners signed by their last names: Class & Hentschel.

With respect to the real estate holdings of Czarnowanz, a listing from the year 1810 mentions 15 villages and their woodlands:

- 1. Biadaz, including the hamlet of Greutz, or Krzisowski.
- 2. Borek or Borku.
- 3. Bowalno with 21 homes.

4. Brinnitz with 31 homes and 2 farms, one of which is named Surovina.
5. Brode
6. Chrozstinna with 28 homes.
7. Czarnowanz with the Zelasno Ferry and 18 homes.
8. Frauendorf with 18 homes.
9. Grabzok, a colony of 14 homes.
10. Klein-Döbern with 15 farmsteads.
11. Krzanowitz with 1 farmstead and 11 gardens.
12. Muchowitz with 20 homes.
13. Wrzeste or Wrosek with 22 homes.
14. Zelasno with 1 farmstead and 26 homes.
15. Zuzella with 1 farmstead and 21 homes.

In addition to the above listed farms, there was the cloister building itself, the prelate's residence contiguous to it, a distillery in the cloister garden, an iron foundry with its machinery, another building alongside the refining furnace with a kiln, machinery and outbuildings, 26,000 morgen of woods¹⁾, 3,000 Talers worth of sacred vessels and prelatal vestments in church (listed above), the church in Czarnowanz with its filial churches in Zelasno, Brinnitz and Gross-Döbern, and lastly the valuable iron mines in Czarnowanz and Brinnitz.

The Commission and the Prelate next concerned themselves with the pastoral situation at Czarnowanz. The town consisted of one parish with the convent church serving as the town parish church with other filial churches in Zelasno, Brinnitz and Gross-Döbern. First of all, the commission designated the cloister church of St. Norbert as the official parish church of Czarnowanz. Then, with regard to the clergy personnel, there was the convent provost who was the pastor and five assistant priests. One of the assistants was Evermodus Pogrzeba who was confessor to the nuns as well as administrator of the Zelasno church with his residence being in the prelature with the provost. Since Zelasno Parish had insufficient income, the convent had always maintained the church edifice and provided a living for the priest. After the confiscation, Provost Krusche advised the Royal Commission to endow Zelasno with a rectory and a minimum monthly income of 24 Talers which sum could be paid from the rent income of the real estate. Although Provost Krusche was the Czarnowanz Pastor, Canon Leopoldus Schneeweis

¹⁾ 1 morgen = 0.6 to 0.9 acres.

served as his administrator for the town as well as the local chaplain for Brinnitz. Since this priest was not very fluent in the Polish Language, Krusche suggested his removal to the Commission. In his place, the provost recommended Laurentius Rinke, the prior of Vinzenz-Stift — which had just been suppressed. Previously, Rinke had served for 17 years at Czarnowanz, and he had been prior for only the past year. This transfer was acceptable to the Commission, so it provided another income for Schneeweis and immediately appointed Rinke as pastor in Czarnowanz. Upon his arrival in the town, Rinke resided in part of the deserted convent wing of the cloister.

Another of the priests with Krusche was Phillip Sabel who was the convent provisor and the local chaplain at Brinnitz along with Schneeweis. His position at Brinnitz was confirmed by the Commissioners and his income and residence was officially designated to be the new rectory at Zelasno with Fr. Pogrzeba. As the convent kitchen manager, Fr. Michael Kosubeck was now without a position or income, and Krusche asked the Commission to appoint him as assistant pastor in Czarnowanz, another request which the government men fulfilled. Finally, they came to the disposition of the incumbent pastor of Gross-Döbern, Fr. Bartholomaeus Klich. He was confirmed in his position, and since his parish already had its own income and rectory, nothing further was necessary to sustain it after the secularization.

All that remained of the clergy was the prelate himself. His disposition was personally handled by Commissar Class who made all the arrangements of his pension and departure from Czarnowanz. On Dec. 18, 1810, he awarded the prelate a pension of 1,000 Talers a month. This was done in recognition of Krusche being the oldest living resident infulatus prelate in Silesia, having been nominated by Emperor Frederick the Great. Another consideration motivating Class was Krusche's excellent management of the Czarnowanz for 33 years, and also the fact the old man had amassed no personal fortune with which to sustain himself. After courteously granting all of the prelate's requests as well as completing arrangements for his future living, Class bade farewell to the old abbot on Dec. 20, 1810, the day he departed for Ottmachau where he was to live in retirement. With most of the sisters already gone into the world with his blessing, Prelate Krusche doubtless suffered a very melancholy journey to Ottmachau filled with thoughts of his past 33 years. Unfortunately or fortunately, as the case may be, retirement did

not last very long for Abbot Krusche, because the venerable prelate expired in June of the following year.

In regard to the female inhabitants of the convent, there were 23 in residence including 17 choir nuns and 6 lay sisters. After sadly listening to the reading of the suppression edict in their refectory, they remained there discussing among themselves their rather bleak future while the commissioners and the prelate went about their tasks of compiling an inventory. According to the official secularization protocol, each of canonesses was to be pensioned as the table below illustrates. However, their real income was quite different from the nominal figures given by the government.

TABLE 8
PENSIONS FOR CZARNOWANZ CANONESSES

	Nominal Income	Real Income	
Prioress, Subprioress, & Senior Canoness	300 Talers annually	20 Talers monthly	20 Talers = 13 1/3 Talers real income
Other Canonesses	250 Talers annually	15 Talers monthly	15 Talers = 10 Talers real income

After receiving their pensions, the nuns made arrangements to reside with relatives or friends, and most of them departed from the convent between Dec. 10th and 15th after each receiving a farewell blessing from Abbot Krusche. Both the prioress and subprioress retired to Wünschelburg while Sister Candida De Sturm with 2 other choir sisters moved into a house in Czarnowanz where they continued to live a convent routine. Three others waited to accompany the abbot to Ottmachau, and the rest of the community scattered to various towns. The last survivor of this Norbertine Convent was the lay sister Antonia Gebauer who died in 1872 at Gross-Strehlitz.

Unfortunately, Lange's book on Czarnowanz does not list the names of the canonesses at the time of the suppression. However, he does list other details such as their ages and their places of retirement. By a careful study of the circary catalogue of 1802, the following names are among those known to have been alive.

TABLE 9
CANONESSES OF CZARNOWANZ, NOV. 24, 1810

1. Sr. Agnes Schöbel - Prioress	8. Sr. Raphael Nitsch
2. Sr. Josepha Grotky - Subprioress	9. Sr. Aloysia De Blacha
3. Sr. Candida De Sturm - Senior	10. Sr. Catharina Klemt
4. Sr. Electa Reyberger	11. Sr. Magdalena Felkel - Lay Sister
5. Sr. Bernarda Rosenberger	12. Sr. Nepomucena Hampl - Lay Sister
6. Sr. Michaela Zobagl	13. Sr. Barbara Cholewi - Lay Sister
7. Sr. Gabriela Muller	14. Sr. Antonia Gebauer - Lay Sister

As illustrations of the personnel of Czarnowanz during its last years of existence, the lists from both the circary catalogues of 1781 and 1802 are duplicated herein.

CZARNOWANZ PARTHENON PERSONNEL — 1781

Name	Birth	Simple Prof.	Solemn Prof.	Death
SOPHIA DE EICHENDORF Prioress.	Nov. 22 1718	Aug. 31 1738	Apr. 17 1746	
ANTONIA DE LONGUEVALL Subprioress.	June 14 1714	Dec. 8 1745	Nov. 16 1749	
MECHTILDIS THIM ¹⁾ Senior Canoness. Jubilarian.	Jan. 6 1693	Jan. 6 1710	Oct. 24 1723	
LUDMILLA DE EICHENDORF Jubilarian.	June 6 1708	Aug. 19 1725	Apr. 12 1733	July 13 1782
THERESA VON ADAMETZ Circatrix.	Feb. 8 1732	Feb. 2 1750	Oct. 23 1763	
HEDWIG GLATZ Sacristan.	Nov. 1 1733	Oct. 5 1755	Oct. 23 1763	
BARBARA GLAUER Incapacitated in the Infirmary.	July 13 1734	Oct. 5 1755	Oct. 23 1763	

¹⁾ Sr. Mechtildis is the oldest member of the entire Bohemian Circary listed in 1781 Catalogue.

Name	Birth	Simple Prof.	Solemn Prof.	Death
CECILIA LIEFER Novice Mistress.	Mar. 18 1735	Oct. 5 1755	Oct. 23 1763	
CANDIDA DE STURM Vestry Supervisor.	Oct. 21 1733	Oct. 17 1756	Oct. 23 1763	
AGNES SCHÖBEL Cantress.	Dec. 14 1741	Oct. 25 1767	Sept. 8 1776	
CATHERINE KASTNER Kitchen Supervisor.	Aug. 2 1754	Oct. 23 1767	Sept. 8 1776	
JOSEPHA GROTKY Refectory Supervisor	Nov. 2 1748	Apr. 25 1772	Sept. 8 1776	
NORBERTA WAGNER Portress.	Aug. 16 1754	Oct. 2 1774	Aug. 23 1778	
BERNARDA ROSENBERGER Infirmarian.	Dec. 25 1749	Oct. 2 1774	Aug. 23 1778	
MARIA ANNA STÖHR Succentress.	Aug. 19 1754	July 28 1778	Sept. 29 1782	
HERMANNA ERVERTH Vestry Assistant.	Apr. 12 1758	Jan. 12 1779	Sept. 29 1782	
VINCENTIA MENTZL ¹⁾ Inspectress Domus Crematariae.	May 16 1756	Jan. 12 1779	Sept. 29 1782	
FRANCISCA STANISCHEK Assistant Infirmarian.	Oct. 3 1753	Apr. 27 1780	Oct. 10 1784	
ELEONORA CZIRZEWSKI Assistant Sacristan.	Dec. 4 1753	Apr. 27 1780	Oct. 10 1784	
AUGUSTINA KELLER Assistant Portress.	June 16 1751	Apr. 27 1780	Oct. 10 1784	

¹⁾ Last name in also spelled Merczl.

Name	Birth	Simple Prof.	Solemn Prof.	Death
GERTRUDE AMBROS Refectory Assistant.	Aug. 24 1755	Apr. 27 1780	Oct. 10 1784	
BENEDICTA KAUSCH Novice.	Jan. 22 1753	Aug. 28 1781	Oct. 10 1784	
NEPOMUCENA HAMPL Lay Sister.	Oct. 14 1750	July 28 1778		

CZARNOWANZ PERSONNEL — 1802

Name, Birthplace, Office	Birth	Simple Profession	Solemn Profession	
HEDVIGIS GLATZ Prioress & Senior.	Nov. 1 1733	Oct. 5 1755	Oct. 23 1763	
CANDIDA DE STURM Czarnowanz. Subprioress.	Oct. 12 1733	Oct. 17 1756	Oct. 23 1763	
AGNES SCHOEDEL Wünschelburg. Circatrix.	Dec. 14 1741	Oct. 25 1767	Sept. 8 1776	
ELECTA REYBERGER Vienna, Austria. Vestry Manager.	Apr. 26 1726	Jan. 15 1768	July 2 1775	
JOSEPHA GROTKY Wünschelburg.	Nov. 2 1748	Apr. 25 1772	Sept. 8 1776	
NORBERTA WAGNER	Aug. 16 1754	Oct. 2 1774	Aug. 23 1778	
BERNARDA ROSENBERGER	Dec. 25 1749	Oct. 2 1774	Aug. 23 1778	
MARIA ANNA STÖHR Sacristan.	Aug. 19 1754	July 28 1778	Sept. 29 1782	
HERMANNA ERVERTH Kitchen Manager.	Apr. 12 1758	Jan. 12 1779	Sept. 29 1782	

Name, Birthplace, Office	Birth	Simple Profession	Solemn Profession
VINCENTIA MENCZL	May 16 1756	Jan. 12 1779	Sept. 29 1782
FRANCISCA STANISCHEK Infirmarian.	Oct. 3 1753	Apr. 27 1780	Oct. 10 1784
ELEONORA CZIRZOWSKI Novice Mistress.	Dec. 4 1753	Apr. 27 1780	Oct. 10 1784
AUGUSTINA KELLER Portress.	June 16 1751	Apr. 27 1780	Oct. 10 1784
GERTRUDE AMBROS Assistant Portress.	Aug. 24 1755	Apr. 27 1780	Oct. 10 1784
BENEDICTA KAUSCH Assistant Sacristan.	Jan. 22 1753	Aug. 28 1781	Oct. 10 1784
MICHAELA ZOBAGL Refectory Manager.	Nov. 21 1763	Aug. 3 1784	Feb. 2 1790
GABRIELA MULLER	Mar. 12 1764	Aug. 3 1784	Feb. 2 1790
RAPHAELA NITSCH Vestry Assistant.	Apr. 21 1764	Aug. 3 1784	Feb. 2 1790
ALOYSIA DE BLACHA Cantress.	Nov. 14 1764	Oct. 25 1785	June 12 1791
CAROLINA DUXELLES Succentress.	Feb. 19 1760	Nov. 9 1786	June 12 1791
CATHARINA KLEMT Assistant Infirmarian.	Aug. 28 1768	May 22 1794	Oct. 27 1801
THERESIA MITSCHKY	Aug. 11 1776	Oct. 22 1799	Oct. 27 1801
NEPOMUCHNA HAMPL Lay Sister.	Oct. 14 1750	July 28 1778	
MAGDALENA FELKEL Breslau. Lay Sister.	July 6 1759	Apr. 3 1789	

Name, Birthplace, Office	Birth	Simple Profession	Solemn Profession
BARBARA CHOLEWI	July 26	Oct. 22	
Lay Sister.	1777	1799	

After the silver and gold ornaments and ecclesiastical vestments of the prelate had been confiscated by the government, the officials in Breslau began to consider the disposition of the convent library. Following the secularization of the cloisters in Silesia, the collection and cataloging of the cloister libraries was undertaken by the Central Library in Breslau. Before taking the books away, the Commission felt that some neutral person should make an inventory of all the books in Czarnowanz. To carry out this monumental task, they appointed Rector Floegel of the Oppeln Gymnasium. That man came to Czarnowanz in late November, and composed a brief listing of the library, estimating it to contain about 11,000 volumes. In the library archive, Floegel listed 3 important manuscript codices:

- 1) *Historia domus Dei in Czarnowanz*
- 2) *Historia Siles(iae) super(ioris)*
- 3) *Eine Geschichte des Oberschlesischen Adels.*

He also found there a library catalogue compiled by someone during the time of Prelate Hufnagel. This catalogue the rector used as a norm of what volumes to preserve. After a hasty look around the library room, Floegel found it to be large and suitable. Quite by accident he picked up a treasured manuscript never before printed entitled: *Historia Crucigerorum cum stella rubea*. Oddly this ms had been left by itself and considered to be of little value, while Abbot Hufnagel had carefully gathered all the other old Silesian Chronicles and historical source into the archive. Now this literary discovery by Floegel made the Commission assess a higher worth to the Czarnowanz Library, and accordingly the rector took greater time and care in compiling his inventory lest he damage some valuable book or manuscript by careless handling.

Prompted by Floegel's manuscript discovery, the government appointed a special commissioner to again call upon Prelate Krusche and to examine with him the signed protocols, and to check all the books and documents preserved in the archives. After his examination, that commissioner was convinced that the library catalogue and the archive contents were correctly listed by Krusche. This also verified that the aged prelate had signed a true inventory statement. Later on in May of 1812,

the Breslau Commission sent men to Czarnowanz to confiscate its books. Upon entering the library and archives, they found them both still sealed. After breaking the seals, they packed up 6 large chests of books for the Central Library in Breslau. From the manuscripts, they took the Latin History of Czarnowanz compiled by Abbot Hufnagel, a quantity of archival books, some princely family genealogies and numerous others. Continuing his work, Floegel found another catalogue of the library, but this was not very useful to him. After finishing the inventory, Floegel did not find any other valuable books or manuscripts, and he sent his completed inventory to the Central Library in April of 1814. The fate of the books of Czarnowanz was that the most valuable ones were sent to Breslau, while others found their way to the Oppeln Gymnasium. As for the archives, those documents were taken in 1810 and sent to the Schlesischen Akademischen Provinzial-Archiv in Breslau where they were catalogued with those of other cloisters for future reference.

With the original owners of the Czarnowanz Estates no longer inhabiting the cloister, the government immediately took over the management of the farms and manors. In January of 1811, the government appointed Amtsrat Bayer as the Rent Manager for the estates, and he moved into part of the cloister wing as a residence. Things moved along quietly until October of 1813. That month the village became crowded with wounded Russian Soldiers retreating from the Battle of Leipzig. They commandeered the cloister as a hospital, and Father Rinke and Amtsrat Bayer were both evicted. Although the priest provided continual spiritual care for the soldiers, he had to reside in a house of a minor official in the village. Since medical science and nursing were still in their infancy, great numbers of the wounded soldiers died and were interred in the convent cemetery. In 1815 after peace was restored to the area and the Russians had departed, Father Rinke was allowed to move back to the cloister complex, but this time he was given as his rectory the former prelatry of Abbot Krusche. After 130 years passed by the buildings were again in a battle zone of World War II, but after suffering some scars the Czarnowanz Cloister is still intact today.

EPILOGUE

It is now over 170 years since the Norbertines have resided and worked in Silesia. Their cloisters are either destroyed or put to other uses. Even their libraries and archives were largely destroyed in the battle of Breslau during World War II. However, their accomplishments as

pastors, school teachers and estate managers have immortalized many of the Norbertine Canons. And the prayerful devotion of the Canonesses certainly had a beneficial effect upon the area of Czarnowanz. Though little remains of their accomplishments today, the Norbertines and their endeavors will always remain an integral part of the history of Silesia. Even today many Silesian cemeteries have tablets marking the last resting places of the Norbertine priests and nuns scattered by the suppression of 1810.

222 East Main Street Rev. Harry E. CENEFELDT, M.A. Hist.
Tuckerton, New Jersey, 08087, U.S.A.

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*APPENDIX A**The Bohemian Circary in 1781*

<i>Male Houses:</i>	<i>Total Personnel</i>
1. Strahov	101
2. Tepla	94
3. Zeliv	36
4. Louka	89
5. Hradiste	88
6. Zabrdovice	52
7. Nova Rise	25
8. Jasov	30
9. Csorna	10
10. Türje	6
11. Geras	48
12. Pernegg	20
13. Griffen	24
14. Schlägl	46
15. Vinzenz-Stift, Breslau	36
 <i>Female Houses</i>	 <i>Total Personnel</i>
1. Chotesov	45
2. Doksany	47
3. Czarnowanz	23

*APPENDIX B**The Bohemian Circary in 1802*

<i>Male Houses</i>	<i>Total Personnel</i>
1. Strahov	75
2. Tepla	66
3. Zeliv	29
4. Nova Rise	19
5. Jasov	18
6. Csorna	8
7. Geras	33
8. Schlägl	40
9. Vinzenz-Stift, Breslau	40
 <i>Female Houses</i>	 <i>Total Personnel</i>
1. Czarnowanz	25