

Father Michael A. Dausch and a New Baltimore Bottle

By William A. Andersen, M.D.

In 1996 I wrote an article (1) for the *DIGGER* about a Dr. Pierre Dausch and thought I was finished with him. But thanks to a bottle I bought on eBay® in August 2003, he has returned once again. Maybe I shouldn't say he has returned, but at least the Dausch name has returned.

The subject bottle (see sketch) is a cough medicine belonging to, used, recommended or invented by a Father Dausch. I estimate the bottle dates from around 1870 - 1880. Father Michael A. Dausch, on the other hand, dates from 1836 - 1892. He was born and died in Baltimore, and he started St. Andrew's Catholic Church on Monument Street near Washington in 1878 (2). Further, Father Dausch was the older brother of Dr. Pierre Dausch (3), which could explain Father Dausch having a medicine named for him.

But, there is a problem: The bottle does not say where it's from. So you first have to assume that there was no other Father Dausch anywhere in the universe at that time. Second, you have to assume from Dr. Dausch's pharmaceutical activities that he liked to invent medicines, since Cream of Pearls, Sarsaparilla and Celery Compound and Leo XIIIth Tonic are all probably his creations. It is just a short leap of faith to come to the conclusion that Dr. Dausch named another of his medicines after his priestly older brother, a brother who

had just established an apparently thriving parish in east Baltimore. (St. Andrew's Catholic Church lasted until 1974 when it was sold to Johns Hopkins University which tore it down and used the space for its medical school and hospital.)



Finally, based on all the above assumptions, I have come to the following conclusions: 1) That the subject bottle is from Baltimore, and 2) that the medicine therein was concocted by Dr. Pierre Dausch who named it for his older brother, Father Michael Dausch. Accordingly, unless anyone comes to a contrary conclusion and convinces me of my error, the bottle will be listed as a Baltimore medicine in the 3rd Edition of the *Baltimore Bottle Book*. You can look it up whenever it comes out.



Sources:

- (1) *Baltimore Bottle Digger*, Vol. 26, No. 6, p. 3. June, 1996.
- (2) *The Catholic Mirror*, July 30, 1892.
- (3) Michael J. Dausch, IIIrd, personal communication. Aug. 2003.