HECKER Isaac

Was born in New York on 18th December 1819, Soon after becoming a Catholic he joined the Redemptorists, taking his vows in St. Trond on 15th October 1846 and being ordained priest in Wittem on 23rd October 1849. He returned to America with Father Hafkenscheid in 1851, and at once began with other converts to preach missions in English, rather than the German which had been the previous practice. The work was so successful that the band requested a separate house for the English-speaking missioners. Failing to gain this objective, Father Hecker went to Rome without permission to put his case to Father Mauron, the Superior General. For this action he was dismissed from the Congregation, a sentence which, after an appeal to the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars and to Pius IX, was altered to dispensation from his vows on 6th March 1858. He was joined by four of his companions in founding the Congregation of St. Paul. Father Hecker died in New York on 22nd December 1888.

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