

# All the News That's Fit for Catholics — in German

For more than a century, Pittsburgh's large and vital German community was able to transact all its business in its mother tongue. Certain neighborhoods, especially in parts of Allegheny, were almost entirely German-speaking. Even the big department stores downtown employed German-speaking clerks. A German in Pittsburgh might live his whole life without having to learn English. In the mid-19th century, when Father (now Blessed) Francis X. Seelos was pastor of St. Philomena in the Strip District, priests of the parish even founded a German daily newspaper — the only Catholic daily ever published in Pittsburgh. Known as the *Pittsburgher Beobachter*

(“Pittsburgh Observer”), it prospered for half a century, later adding a Sunday edition called the *Katholisches Familienblatt* (“Catholic Family Paper”). Pittsburgh had daily newspapers in German right up to the beginning of World War II.



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