

Catholics Buy Retreat Land

Beacon Journal Service

McCONNELSVILLE, O.—A monastic hermitage, the first in Ohio, is being established in Morgan county under the Steubenville diocese of the Catholic church.

Father Cletus Altermatt, who has been serving in Watertown, O., revealed that he will be in charge of the Ave Maria Monastery, according to present plans.

He said the diocese purchased 485 acres of farmland from Tom McGovern, a well-known Morgan county stock raiser, two miles south of McConnelsville.

A secluded area, it is to be used as a sort of retreat for monks, priests and those who devote their lives to the church. About 20 persons will reside there.