



SISTERS OF CHARITY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

NOVEMBER 2016

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA



From the Archives

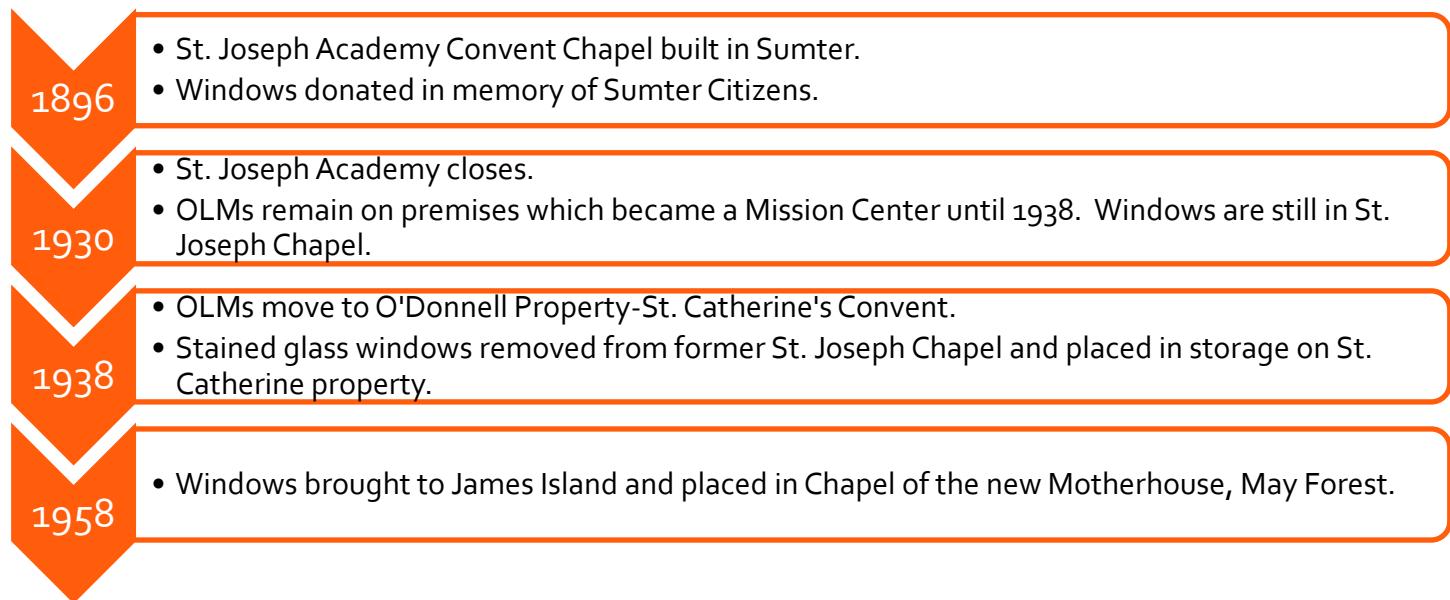
By Sister Carol

*The Journey of
the Windows in
the May Forest
Chapel*



While the chapel ceiling was being painted recently and all the chairs were removed from the chapel, I took a good look at the stained glass windows. I began to wonder about their history and thought an article in the View would be appropriate for sharing their story.

Below is a timeline of their journey to May Forest



The following information was taken from "A Retrospect of The First Educational System in Sumter, South Carolina" by Sister Mary deLourdes Boyle, OLM written in 1930.

"In the year 1863, the Charleston Convent was in the range of the Federal guns; therefore, it became necessary for the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy to see other quarters for the orphans and boarding pupils in their charge. Mr. Edward Lafitte, a member of an old French family, and a prominent merchant in Charleston, relieved the Sisters of all anxiety by placing in their possession house and grounds in Sumter, South Carolina. The orphans, boarding pupils, and a number of Sisters, under the direction of Sister Mary Joseph Kent, were sent to this new house, which after the war was converted into an Academy for young ladies and placed under the partonage of Saint Joseph." Thus began Saint Joseph's Academy operated by the OLMs from 1867 until 1930.

The New Building in 1867

"Saint Joesph Academy began its work under great difficulties, but the reputation of the Sisters as teachers attracted many pupils from the town, country, and the states of North Carolina and Georgia, so that at the close of the war, even though the orphans and the pupils from the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy had returned to Charleston, the small building was no longer suited to the growing needs. In 1867, the new building, known as St. Joseph Academy, was completed and paid for by means of the income received for board and tuition, but funds were lacking for some of the necessary furnishings. The convent records contain the following letter, written under date of July 28, 1867, by Mother M. Teresa (Barry) to Messrs. Eugene Kelly & Co. of New York City." (shown on next pages as taken from Sr. de Lourdes Boyle's thesis)

"CONVENT OF MERCY

Charleston, S. C., July 28, 1867.

Messrs. Eugene Kelly & Co. Bankers,
36 Wall Street, New York.

Esteemed Sir:

As I have not the pleasure of knowing the name of the other members of your company in New York, I shall use your own familiar address in calling your special attention in this letter to the enclosed extract recently published in the "Sumter News" and copied here yesterday, July 27th, by "The Charleston Daily Courier."

The printed extract will show you how God has blessed our Religious Community before the world, and I shall now give you all other necessary information in regard to my object in writing to you as banker.

I am and have been for some years the Mother Superior of "The Sisters of Mercy" established in Charleston by Bishop England in the year 1829.

Since then God has blessed and prospered us beyond our expectation. We have now a comfortable house in Charleston. Though pierced and injured by cannon balls during the bombardment, it is fully repaired. General Sickles has been very kind and clever in helping us and we are again, thank God, in our own comfortable house and free from debt.

During the war, the Sisters were at their post in the Hospital. We have at this time files of grateful letters from Federal Officers and Soldiers whom we attended, and who were anxious to know how to serve us.

While some of us were thus employed in the Hospital, we sent the rest with the boarders and orphans to the town of Sumter, in the

interior part of the state, far beyond the reach of bombs and shells. In that healthful and flourishing town, the Sisters at once opened their school, to which young ladies, Protestant as well as Catholic, hastened for education and shelter.

Since then that little foundation has grown like the "Mustard Seed." The old shanty residence disappeared and a new and stately building like a "Phoenix from the Ashes" has arisen. That splendid convent is seen without spectacles in the printed notice I enclose to you and which was written by an impartial and candid outsider.

The Convent, as to the ground and the edifice, is entirely out of debt, and this was all done during and since the war, through God's blessings; but although we are under cover, the building is not finished.

So far, we paid as we went, but now it is our interest to make an effort to finish during the vacation and fine weather, and to have our windows, doors, fire hearths, closets, desks, and sufficient furniture in order when the autumn closes and the winter sets in. This done, every room will be occupied, and our pay school, like a bee hive will resound, please God, with the hum or recital of studious young ladies, whose pension in the coming year would meet all we stand in need of at present.

We hold our own property in our own name and attend to our own liabilities. We could borrow money here, but owing to the political aspect of things South, all lenders require a mortgage on property; but Bishop Lynch, not wishing to class us among the worldlings, has forbidden us to mortgage our precious Convent in Sumter to brokers.

In this predicament, the Very Reverend Doctor Birmingham, the Administrator of the Diocese, has advised us to apply to you and to give a full statement of our past and present history and leave the result

to God and your Catholic heart and spirit.

We have done so as above, and therefore request of you the loan and favor of Four Thousand Dollars at present, and which sum (as we have no other debt) we will soon pay, through God's favor and blessing and by our rigid economy, with interest and gratitude.

Praying that God will enable and induce you to become our friend in need, we are and ever shall be, Respected Sir, -

Your grateful humble friends in Christ and His Church,

MOTHER M. TERESA BARRY,

Superiorress of the Convent of Charleston and Sumter."

St. Joseph's Academy with Convent Chapel on the left.



Sister Teresa must have received the loan as the Academy was furnished and flourished. Various OLM Sisters served as Directress of the Academy from its opening until 1889 when "Sister M. Loretto Quinlan was appointed Directress and held that office until July 1900, when she was

elected Mother Superior of the Community at the death of Mother Teresa Barry. While she was Directress, the Convent Chapel was built. On November 22, 1896, the Feast of Saint Cecilia, the Chapel was solemnly dedicated to Almighty God, under the patronage of Saint Joseph, by the Right Reverend H.P. Northrop, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston. It was a day of general rejoicing in Sumter, especially for the Sisters, who had made such efforts to erect the chapel, and also for the members of the congregation, who had contributed to its erection, and had moreover **donated the handsome memorial windows in memory of their beloved dead.**"

Stained glass memorial windows of the finest quality were donated to the Chapel as follows:

Copy of the Crucifixion, over the Main Altar, in memory of Thomas and Margaret Monaghan and Margaret Doyle.

First window on the Epistle side of the Chapel, in memory of William and Johanna Begin. ←

Second window on the Epistle side of the Chapel, in memory of James P. Brennan and John E. Dowling. ←

Third window on the Epistle side of the Chapel, in memory of Mary Moran.

Fourth window on the Epistle side of the Chapel, in memory of Annie Maloney, nee Hennagan. ←

First window on the Gospel side of the Chapel, in memory of William D. Begin.

Second window on the Gospel side of the Chapel, in memory of Francis A. Epperson. ←

Third window on the Gospel side of the Chapel, in memory of H. Cusick and Mr. and Mrs. B. Kavanagh. ←

Fourth window on the Gospel side of the Chapel, in memory of Margaret I. Poole and Anetta J. Hulbert.

Window in the rear of the Chapel, on the Gospel side, in memory of Frank J. O'Connor. ←

Window in the rear of the Chapel, on the Epistle side, in memory of Thomas Monaghan.

Arrows indicate windows from Sumter that were installed at May Forest Chapel in 1958.

The first listed window of the Crucifixion is being stored in our storage shed.

From pictures it is clear that there were 10 windows.

Six were installed at May Forest.

The locations of the other four windows are unknown.



Good picture of the Chapel windows on the left and right sides.

INTERIOR VIEW OF ST. JOSEPH'S CHAPEL.

Stained glass window behind the altar is the one we have stored in our storage shed.



"June 6, 1928 was the last commencement of St. Joseph Academy. On January 2, 1929, by order to the Council of the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy, the High School Department was closed. In the following June, the entire school was closed. This was necessitated by the need of the Sisters in other fields of religious activity in the diocese. Thus came to a close sixty-five years of unremitting toil and zeal. Solid and refined in its results, the education given was intended to train the heart as well as the mind; to form women who would not only grace society by their accomplishments, but also honor and edify it with their virtues. The shrines raised in the souls of the students-shrines where virtue and virtuous deed live- perpetuate the good seed sown from generation to generation, encircle St. Joseph Academy with an aureole significant of the eternal years of glory."

"In August 1929, Right Reverend E.M. Walsh submitted to the Community the plan of using the Academy building as a Missionary Centre for the propagation of the faith. Unanimously, the Sisters gave acceptance."

"The building continued to be the home of our Sisters for a short while. Later the O'Donnell home was occupied by the sisters until the new brick convent on Liberty Street was built. During World War II the first floor of the Academy was used as USO headquarters. After World War II the chapel was named Gerald Hall in memory of John Paul Gerald who was killed in that conflict." Later, the beautiful old building was torn down and Gerald Hall was moved.



St. Joseph's Convent Chapel (Gerald Hall).....May Forest windows clearly seen in this picture.

St. Joseph Academy Convent Chapel

Built in 1896 by the Sisters

Between 1906 and 1911 the chapel was used by St. Anne parish for daily and Sunday masses because their parish church, St. Lawrence, was torn down. In 1911 the present St. Anne Church was dedicated by Bishop Northrop.

In 1930, St. Joseph's Academy closed. In 1937 the Sisters moved to the O'Donnell property and conducted kindergarten while St. Anne's parish continued to use St. Joseph Chapel.

In 1946 the parish bought the chapel from the Sisters and it was renamed Gerald Hall. In 1962 Gerald Hall was moved to its location on South Magnolia from the corner of Liberty and Magnolia where St. Catherine's Convent was located.



SAINT JOSEPH CHAPEL NEXT TO SAINT JOSEPH ACADEMY, SUMTER



"The hand of my God was good with me; the God of heaven. He helpeth us, and we are His servants."

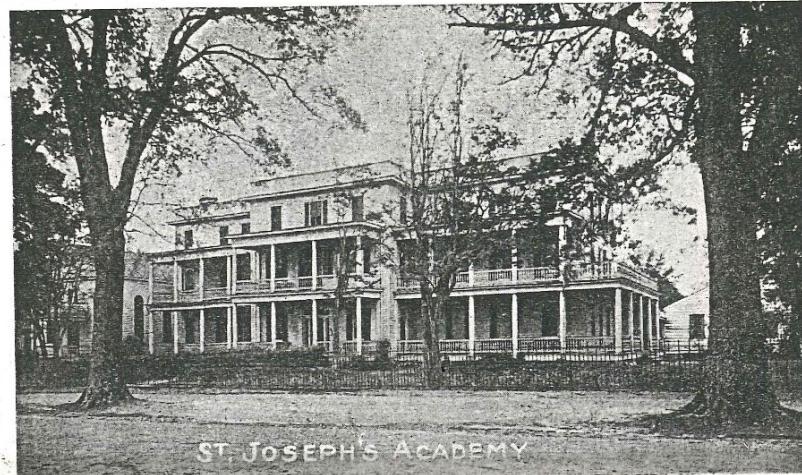
Sumter Edition—The St. Anthony Guild, Florence, South Carolina.
Established October 15, 1890.

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The Sister-hood of Our Lady of Mercy was founded in 1830 by Rt. Rev. John England, D. D., Bishop of Charleston. The Sisters are in Charge of the Academy at Sumter since 1863.

Their private Chapel served as "Parish Church" 1890-1911. This Academy is one of the pioneer Catholic Schools of South Carolina.



SAIN T JOSEPH'S ACADEMY
SUMTER, S. C.

A Boarding and Day School, conducted by the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, is beautifully located adjacent to the New Church, has extensive grounds and a complete corps of teachers offering a thorough course in Academic and Preparatory Studies. Terms reasonable. For information, address the Rev. Sister Directress.



THE NEW RECTORY

THE NEW CHURCH

ACADEMY AND CHAPEL OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY



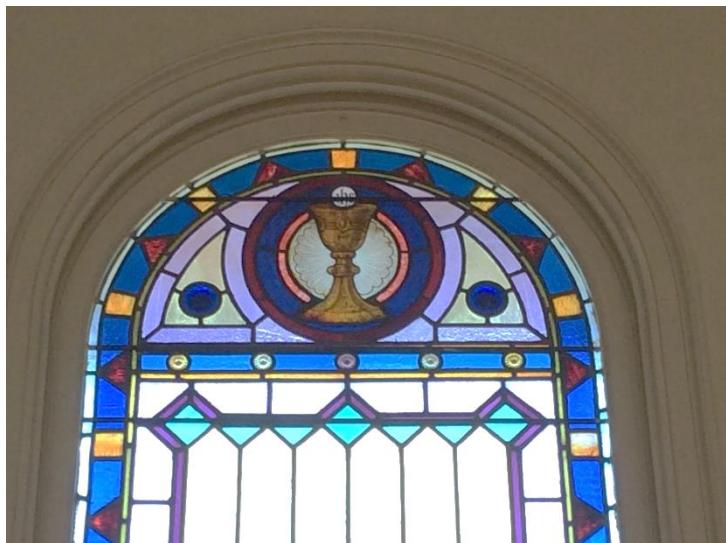
OLM's Move into the O'Donnell House in 1937



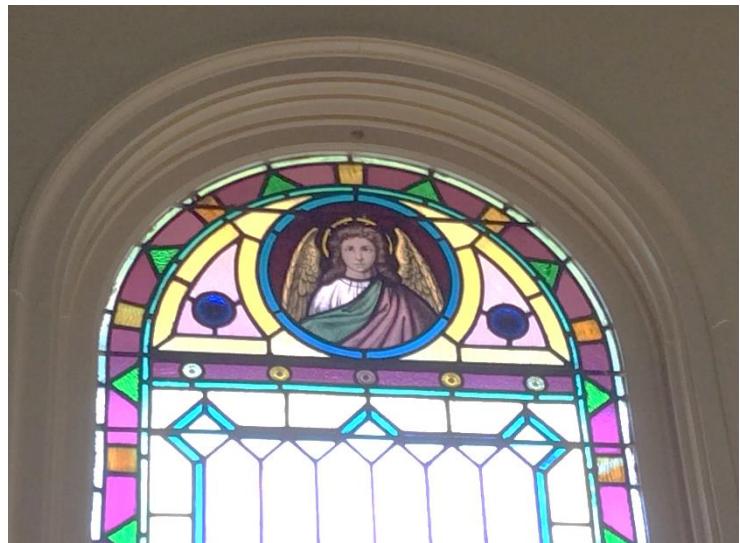
The O'Donnell House today serves as a wedding and reception location.



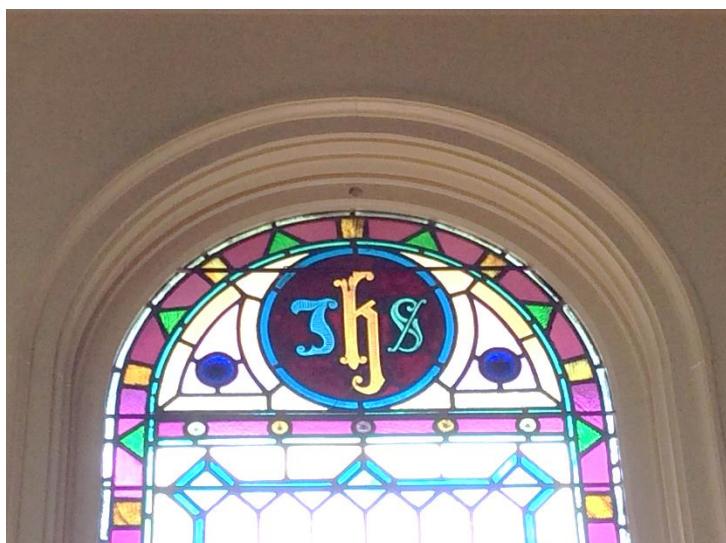
THIS WINDOW IS BEING STORED AT MAY FOREST. IT WAS THE WINDOW BEHIND THE ALTAR IN THE ST. JOSEPH CHAPEL.



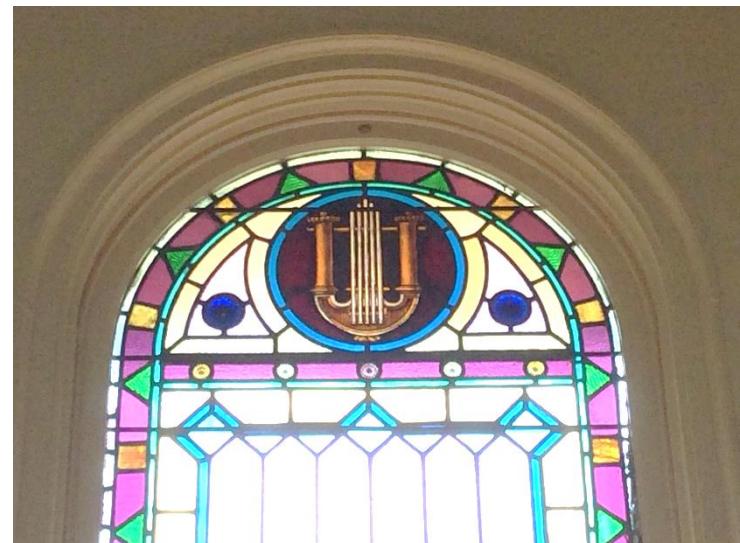
HOLY EUCHARIST



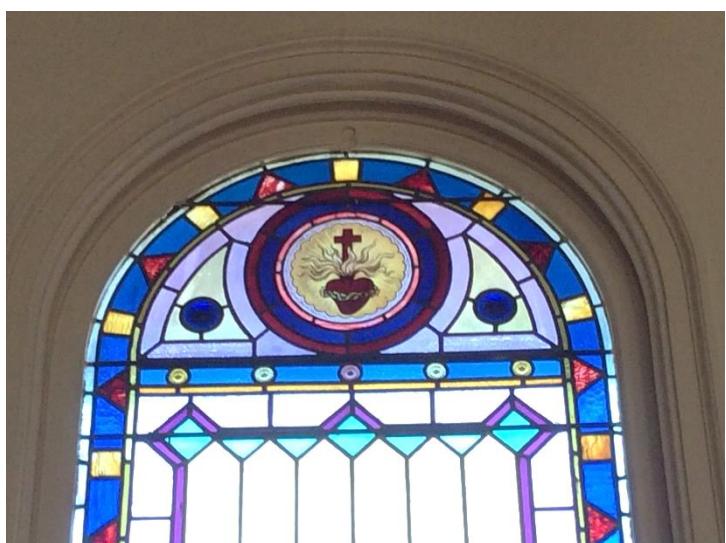
ANGEL



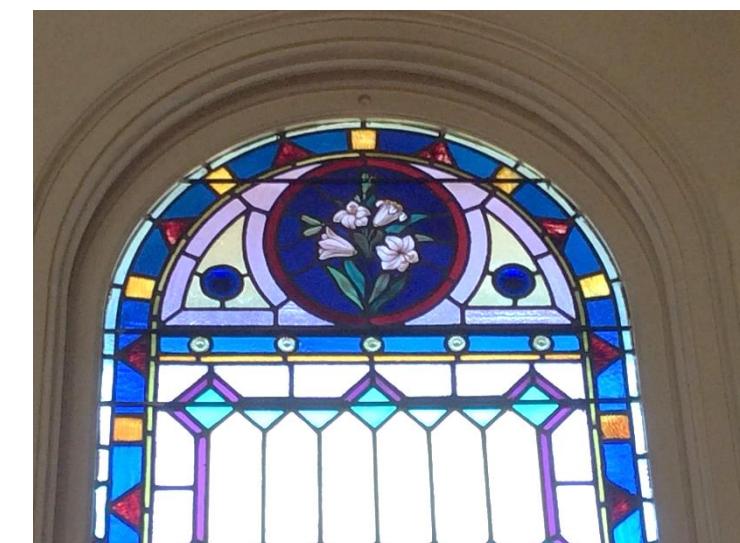
MONOGRAM OF THE NAME JESUS



HARP, SYMBOL OF PRAISE



SACRED HEART



LILIES, SYMBOL OF ST. JOSEPH

Meet Our Associates

Ann Mitchum

1. Where do you currently live? Sycamore Ave., Charleston.
2. Are you currently employed? If so, please describe your responsibilities and how long you have been there. Retired
3. Tell us a little about yourself, including your hobbies, interests. I am a native Charlestonian and have never really lived anywhere else. I am a widow for the last 11 years. I had four children. Two have passed on and I have a daughter who lives in Charleston and a Son who is a Director of South Florida Veterans Cemetery in Lake Worth Florida. I have eight grandchildren who live all over the United States.
4. How did you become acquainted with the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy? I guess I have always known the Sisters. I had an aunt who was a Sister of Charity, Sister Mary Ann Duffy. She died in the 1920's or 30's so I did not know her. I was taught by the Sisters throughout my elementary and high school years. I have always had friends who were nuns. My sister, Patty Duffy was a nun for three years in the 1960's
5. How long have you been an Associate? I have been an Associate since 1995.
6. What compelled you to become an Associate of the Community? I began coming with my friend, Cecilia Velte. Sister Marcella would have meetings with us and we would listen to religious tapes and would have presentations from the sisters on

spirituality and the history of the sisters. We also had time to connect with the different sisters.

7. Do you see yourself touching others' lives as many Associates have touched yours? Yes, I feel that I have grown in my spirituality and love of people by being a member of the Associates and hope that I have touched others as much as I have been touched. I find that my sharing my faith only increases my faith.
8. In what ways do you feel you carry out the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy in your daily life? I pray more and find gratitude comes more easily to me. I am a member of my St. Vincent De Paul group in my parish. I feel that my faith is really nourished by being able to bring Holy Communion to the Homebound and those in hospitals.

Diane Heisser Cochran

1. Where do you currently live? Wappo Heights.
2. Are you currently employed? If so, please describe your responsibilities and how long you have been there. Retired organist and realtor.
3. Tell us a little about yourself, including your hobbies, interests. Reading, knitting and sewing.
4. How did you become acquainted with the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy? I attended Cathedral School.
5. How long have you been an Associate? Many years.
6. What compelled you to become an Associate of the Community? By invitation.

7. Do you see yourself touching others' lives as many Associates have touched yours? Yes.
8. In what ways do you feel you carry out the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy in your daily life? Prayer, weekly participation at the perpetual adoration chapel at Blessed Sacrament Church; needlework projects for the Neighborhood House.

Gertrude Cochran McManus "Trudie"

1. Where do you currently live? I have lived in the same house my husband and I built 63 years ago. God called Neil to His house this past May and my daughter Miriam moved in with me. What a blessing!
2. Are you currently employed? If so, please describe your responsibilities and how long you have been there. I do not work nor have I these past 65 years of marriage. But with 5 children I managed a 24/7 schedule for many years. Add to that 14 grandchildren and 12 great grands! More blessings!
3. Tell us a little about yourself, including your hobbies, interests. My entire life has been one of unending blessings. Religious Sisters guided me through childhood education with the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy in the Cathedral Grammar School. Then at Bishop England High School followed by the Sisters of Mercy at College Misericordia. This molded my life upon the foundation my parents laid out and instilled in me.
4. How did you become acquainted with the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy? The Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy were no strangers to me and being invited to become an OLM Associate was the cherry atop my spiritual cake. Sister Stella Maris was gracious to submit my name as a candidate. Sister Marcella took over from there as moderator.
5. How long have you been an Associate? My commitment was made 23 years ago on April 24, 1993.

6. What compelled you to become an Associate of the Community? When God called me I felt it through the spiritual leadership, example, planning ability for then and the future by Sister Marcella. When God called her home Sister Stella Maris took over where Sister Marcella left off. All OLM Sisters have been a tremendous influence upon my life.

7. Do you see yourself touching others' lives as many Associates have touched yours? I would like to shout YES but I'll leave that to them to answer.

8. In what ways do you feel you carry out the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy in your daily life? As I have aged I cannot carry on the ministry closest to my heart in serving for 28 years to God, nursing houses, hospitals and shut-ins. I have since found a special ministry all my own with three little words—"God Bless You!" I say it constantly to all my family, friends, neighbors and above all....strangers. It gives me great joy each time I say "God Bless You". I would hope this would be a charism of the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy. I am proud to be an Associate.

*Upcoming Event for
Associates, Sisters and
Future Associates
"Living Our Charity Charism"
A day of reflection and discussion with
Sister Mary Ann Daly, SC-NY
Saturday, November 5, 2016
9:30 am
John England Hall*



Sister Mary Cyril found this in a box in which the Advent wreath holder was stored.

Do you know what it is? It's an ice crusher called a Chip Chop circa 1946. Ours is missing the end piece which is a cork screw and bottle opener.



Source: Google

