



THE VIEW FROM THE BLUFF

MARCH 2017

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA



OLMs From Ireland

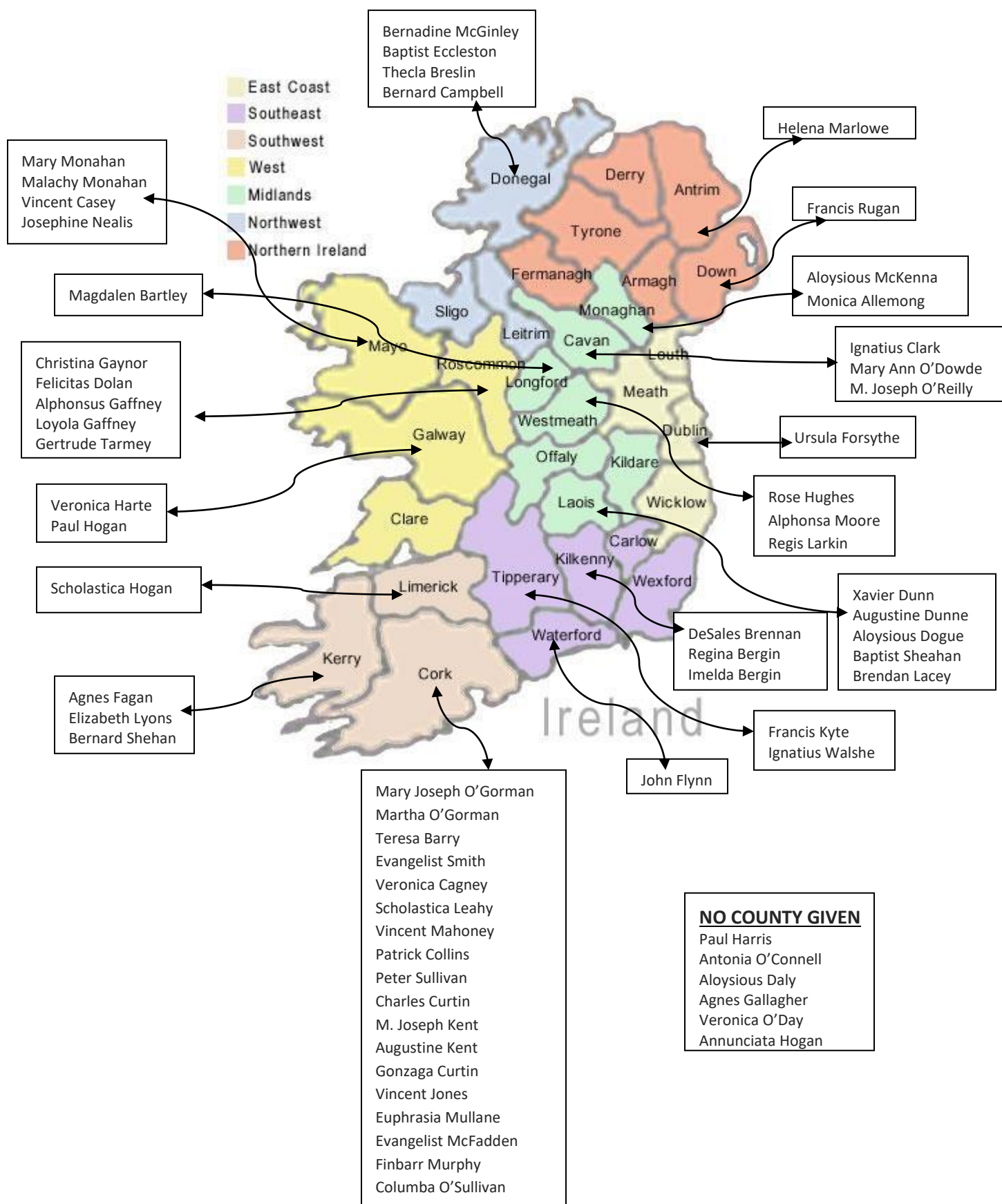


“The story of Roman Catholicism in the nineteenth century IS the story of immigration. Until about 1845, the Roman Catholic population of the United States was a small minority of mostly English Catholics, who were often quite socially accomplished. But when several years of devastating potato famine led millions of Irish Catholics to flee to the United States in the mid 1840s, the face of American Catholicism began to change drastically and permanently. In the space of fifty years, the Catholic population in the United States suddenly transformed from a tight-knit group of landowning, educated aristocrats into an incredibly diverse mass of urban and rural immigrants who came from many different countries, spoke different languages, held different social statuses, and emphasized different parts of their Catholic heritage.”

Julie Byrne, Department of Religion, Duke University

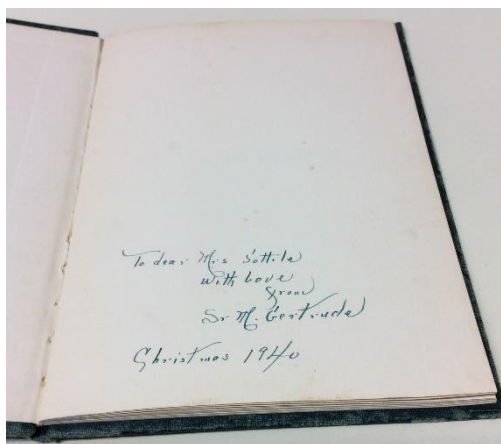
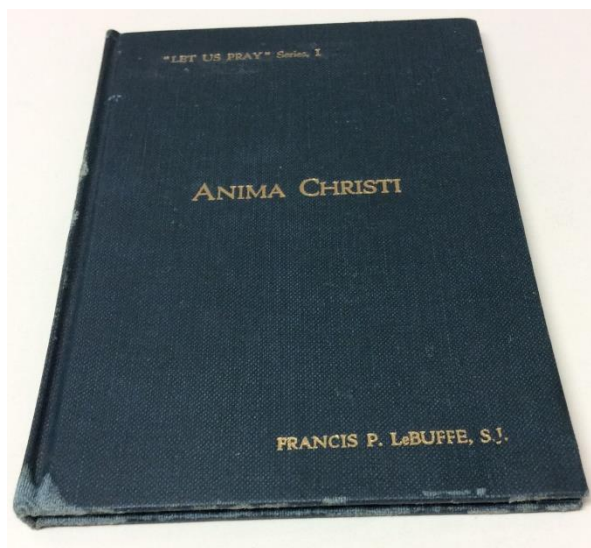
In honor of St. Patrick's Day, the map on the next page indicates the counties in Ireland from which our Sisters left their homes to come to America and eventually enter our community.







An Interesting Acquisition



Recently the archives received a little book of meditations on the prayer ANIMA CHRISTI. Written by Father Francis P. LeBuffe, S.J. and published in 1930 by America Press, the book was among Msgr. James Carter's possessions and sent to the archives by

Rosalyn Wilkins who noted the inscription: "To dear Mrs. Sottile with love from Sr. M. Gertrude, Christmas 1940." The following information about Sr. M. Gertrude, Fr. LeBuffe and the Sottile

Family sheds some light on their connections with the OLM Community.

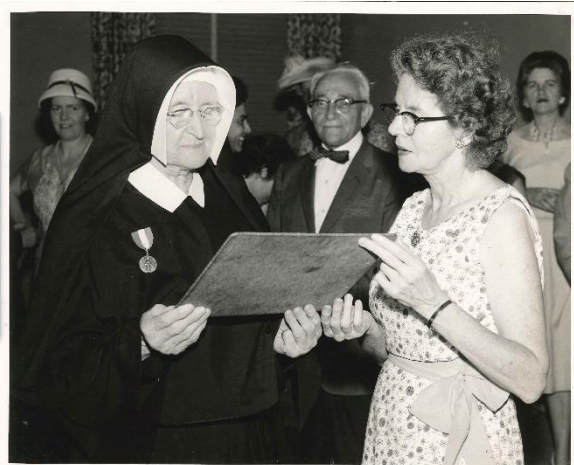
Sister M. Gertrude Tarmey, was born in County Roscommon, Ireland, on November 2, 1885. She came to the USA in 1908, entered the Community on September 24, 1909 and was professed on April 8, 1912. A 1916 graduate of St. Francis Xavier Hospital School of Nursing and certified by the State of South Carolina three years later, Sister M. Gertrude served as Directress of Nursing at St. Francis from 1919 to 1942. She was assigned to Divine Saviour Hospital, York, SC in 1947 and was in charge of the operating room there until her retirement early in 1964. When she was awarded the Catholic Nurse of the Year for South Carolina in May 1960, a participant said: "Sister Gertrude radiates a quiet charm. It is not the kind that bounces out and says look at me. Rather, her charm slips up on you and you find yourself looking and admiring." Sister M. Gertrude died at St. Francis Xavier Hospital, Charleston, on August 23, 1964.

Nurse of the Year Award:

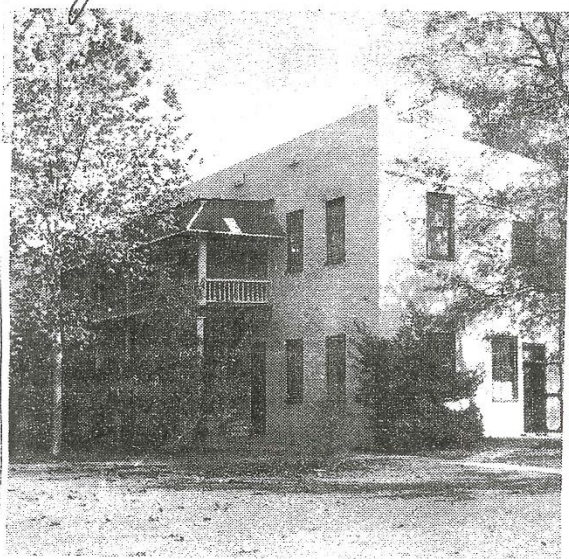
Sister Gertrude Tarmey, OLM

Dr. Leon Banov

Miss B. Molony



V. O'Brien, Sr. Gertrude, M. Kennedy



THE BUILDING pictured above on the grounds of the Cathedral is being removed to make way for the New Cathedral Day School. It had been used for many years as the Diocesan Home for Ladies. The site also served as the first Cathedral Parochial School in 1869. Here, too, is the site of Bishop John England's Seminary, library of 17,000 books and the Cathedral Rectory. All were destroyed in the fire of 1861.



Father Francis P. LeBuffe was born in Charleston, SC, in August 1885. He attended the first Cathedral Parochial School in the mid-1890s. At the time the school was for boys only and staffed by laity. According to research done by Sister M. Ignatia Gavaghan, OLM, one of his classmates was Albert Sottile. Moreover, his principal teacher was Miss Margaret Eugenia Sweegan, who became Mrs. Charles Gibson, the mother of Sister Mary Charles Gibson, OLM.

Francis LeBuffe entered the Jesuits in 1901 and was ordained in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1915. He served as an educator, lecturer, sodality leader and prominent figure in the Catholic Press until his death May 27, 1954 in New York City.

The Sottile Family includes the descendants of five brothers who immigrated to Charleston from Gangi, Sicily in

the late 1800s. When they arrived in America they could barely speak English and were of limited financial resources. *But through hard work, determination and strong family bonds which united them, these brothers lived the American dream to its fullest, becoming outstanding citizens who prospered and served their communities well.* (Sottile Family Reunion publication) All five brothers became outstanding citizens who prospered and have served their communities well. Family members have been friends and benefactors of the OLM Community for decades. The plaques in the Motherhouse Chapel commemorate and evidence their generosity. However, efforts to identify the Mrs. Sottile to whom Sister M. Gertrude gave Father LeBuffe's book have been unsuccessful. Nor is it known how the book came to be among Msgr. Carter's possessions. Any information or suggestions you can provide will be welcome. The search continues.



PAROCHIAL SCHOOL SYSTEM (1890 ?) Lay Appointments -- O.L.M., appointments 1899 ?)

Cathedral School--

Sr. Mary Charles Gibson
Miss Margaret Eugenia Sweegan (better known as "Jennie"
Miss Hermine St. Amand
Appointed by Bishop H. P. Northrop, D.D. (1890 ?)

Among the first students:

Francis L. LeBuffe, S. J., Aloysius Michel,
Emile Erickson, Josh Guida, Harry Molony, Albert Sottile,
Jeremiah Carmody, (afterwards Diocesan Priest)

St. Joseph School (Anson Borough)

Miss Elizabeth Teresa Hancock (better known as "Miss Lizzie")
Miss Susie O'Rourke
Appointed by Bishop H. P. Northrop, D. D. (1890 ?)

Among the first students:

John I. Cosgrove, Joseph Condon, and Matthew A.
McLaughlin (Father J. L. McLaughlin's Father)

Memento--

When Sister Mary Ignatia was principal of St. Joseph's School Mr. Matthew A. McLaughlin stopped in the school one day and said, "Sister, you are standing in a hallowed place. Your Mother, Miss Lizzie, taught me years ago in this very room."

Sister M. Ignatia Gavaghan
Sister M. Ignatia Gavaghan
Date *March 21, 1926*

Sister M. Ignatia Gavaghan
Sisters of Charity of O.L.M.
St. Angela Academy, Aiken, S. C. 29801

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Submitted by Sister Stella Maris Craven, OLM

Additional Information on the OLM Connection With Immaculate Conception School as Presented in the February issue of The View From the Bluff:

In 1967, during my third year serving as a teacher at Our Lady of Mount Virgin School in Middlesex, New Jersey, I received a letter from Mother Mary Charles Gibson asking if I would be willing to teach at Immaculate Conception High School with the goal of integrating the faculty. Sister Marie Cecilia Ferro also received the same request. At this time it was most unusual to be asked about an assignment as we were usually placed in one of our ministries without consultation. I agreed and taught an array of subjects in math, science and religion and also served as the sponsor of the Junior Class. Near the end of this school year, 1967-1968, we were informed that the high school department would be closed at the end of the school year. Bishop Unterkoefler gave declining enrollment and the fact that Bishop England High School had been integrated in 1964 as reasons for the closure. This decision was greeted with sadness by many as Immaculate Conception had served for many years as the equivalent of Porter Gaud and Ashley Hall for the black population including many non-Catholics. Numerous leaders from this population had been educated at Immaculate Conception and served exceptionally in many areas and positions. The elementary school continued in operation until 1973.

OLMs Collaborate with Federation Members on effort to place a Federation advertisement in the Global Sisters Report social media entities

Sisters of Charity Federation

12 congregations

1900 Associates

2700 Sisters Strong



Learn More

Look for it during the months of May and June on the Global Sisters Report social media sites. When a viewer clicks on “Learn More” they will be directed to the Charity Federation webpage and all of the member pages.

=====

NEWS FROM THE UN



2017 Theme: “Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030”

International Women’s Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

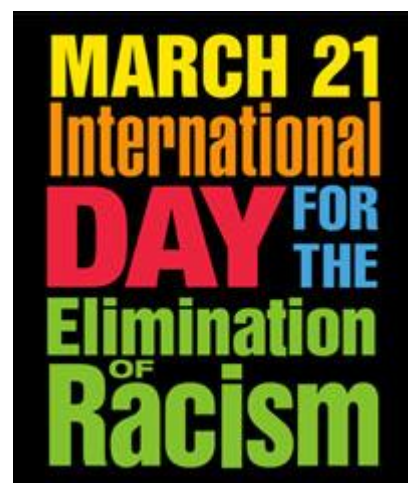
The idea of this theme is to consider how to accelerate the 2030 Agenda, building momentum for the effective implementation of the new Sustainable Development Goals, especially goal number 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; and number 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning. The theme will also focus on **new commitments under UN Women’s Step It Up initiative**, and other existing commitments on gender equality, women’s empowerment and women’s human rights.

Some key targets of the 2030 Agenda:

- By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and Goal-4 effective learning outcomes.
- By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education.
- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

The world of work is changing, and with significant implications for women. On one hand, we have globalization, technological and digital revolution and the opportunities they bring, and on the other hand, the growing informality of labour, unstable livelihoods and incomes, new fiscal and trade policies and environmental impacts—all of which must be **addressed in the context of women’s economic empowerment**.



The UN General Assembly has proclaimed March 21 the day when all eyes should be focused on racism.

It may be particularly important in a time that is witnessing a surge of intolerance, racist views, and hate-driven violence. As former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said, “In these tumultuous times. We must stand up for rights and dignity for all, and for diversity and pluralism. We must speak out against anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim bigotry and other forms of hate. An assault on one minority community is an attack on all.”



MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

Let's Fight Racism!

Happenings around the house



Art Teacher Deborah Reeves



Birdhouses several Sisters painted are now up in the yard



Partner in Charity Ann Mitchum enjoying the art class



Roxanne and Becky heading out on their cruise!



Sister Carol at a rally



Sister Mary Cyril working her puzzle



Sister Rosemary in Art Class



Becky and Sister Carol at the Roper Society Gala



Sister Mary Thomas in Art Class



Sister Maureen practicing for Motherhouse Liturgies



Sister Carmelita on the NUstep