



# THE VIEW FROM THE BLUFF

JUNE 2017

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA



## From the Archives

The *View From The Bluff* Editorial Committee is beginning a new series of articles for its readership's enjoyment. The new series is entitled "Moments In Ministry". The first "moment" highlights Saint Angela Academy which was located in Aiken, South Carolina.

The picture above is of Sister Celestine Quale, OLM, the first principal of Saint Angela Academy, and some of the very early students.

Sister Celestine was born in Charleston October 10, 1861. She entered the community February 2, 1893 at age 32. She attended the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy and Catholic University in Washington, DC. Sister was the directress of Saint Angela Academy from 1907 – 1915. She died October 12, 1915 at Saint Angela Academy.





# MOMENTS IN MINISTRY

## SAINT ANGELA ACADEMY, AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA



1906

On August 27, the OLM Sisters accepted Bishop Northrop's invitation to take charge of St. Angela Academy. The Ursuline Sisters founded the school in 1900 and were recalled to their Motherhouse in Columbia, SC. In September the OLMs began to operate SAA located at the corner of Richland and Pendleton Streets. The first group of OLMs included Srs. M. Cecilia Lynch, Gabriel Wyndham, Rosalia Meyer, Colette Kelly and Annunciata Hogan.

1907

Sr. M. Celestine Quale became Principal. The school was both a boarding school for young ladies and a day school K-12, enrollment was 100. Boys were accepted for the lower grades.

1912

Magnolia Inn purchased after sale of original property. The Inn became the convent and student residence. Classes were held in a frame building adjoining the main House. 1912-1950 parishoners from St. Mary, Help of Christians came to SAA Convent Chapel for daily Mass and Sunday evening devotions. The OLMs served as sacristans, taught CCD and directed the choir at St. Mary's Church.

1915

Sr. Celestine Quale died on October 12. During her administration attendance had increased and an Alumnae Association begun. She won the hearts of people of all denominations and endeared herself to all.

1920

1920-1950 children from the Aiken Missions were bused to SAA for religious education. The sisters also gave weekly religious instruction in Williston, Langley, Edgefield, Greenwood, Joanna and Newberry.

1938

The original frame building next to the Convent was replaced by a red brick classroom building which was dedicated on Jan. 6, 1939.

1950

The OLM Community purchased an 11 acre estate on Berrie Road. The Georgian-styled residence on the property became the Sisters' convent and residence for the boarders. Classes continued in the red-bricked building on York Street for the next three years.

1953

The OLM Community incurred a heavy debt with the erection of a high school building on the Berrie Road property.

1955

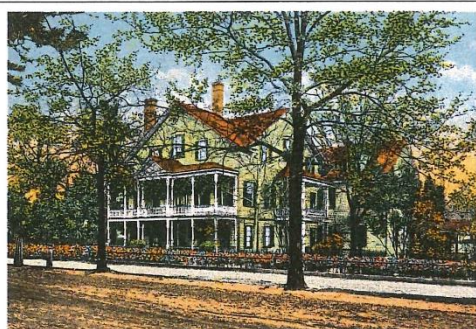
The OLM Community relinquished the Kindergarten program and elementary school on York Street to St. Mary Help of Christians Parish. The Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan operated the parochial school until 1970. Following their withdrawal the OLMs administered the parish school until 1997.

1974

SAA was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as a four year co-educational high school staffed by OLMs and lay teachers.

1988

Due to declining enrollment and financial concerns, the OLM General Council decided to close St. Angela Academy and sell the property. The last class graduated in June 1988.



ST. ANGELA'S ACADEMY, AIKEN, S. C. York Street Convent & School



SAA from 1939-1953



Berrie Road Convent and Boarding Students

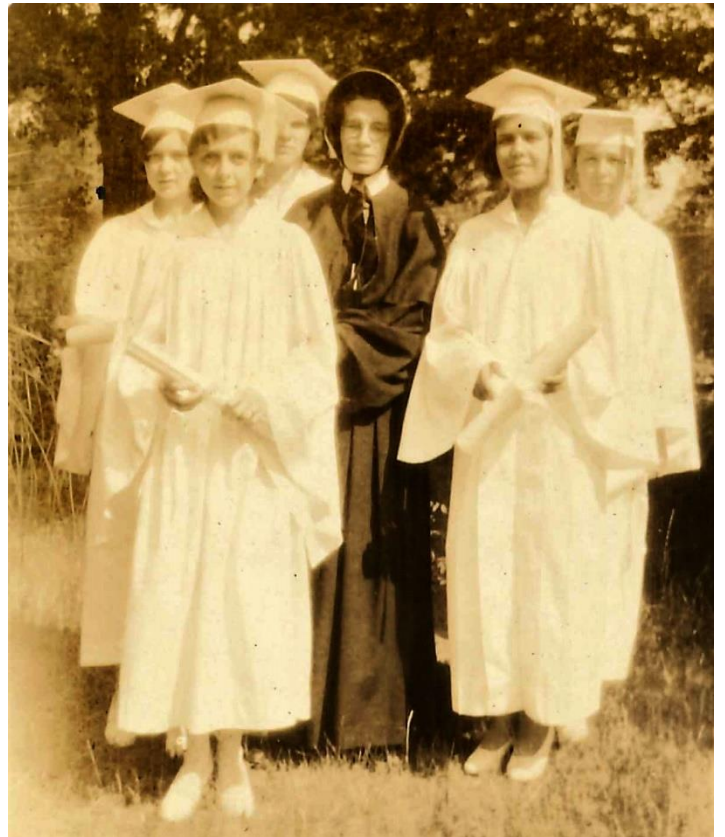


Saint Angela Academy 1953-1988





*1918 SAA Faculty*



*Sr. Loretto Reynolds, Principal with  
1931 Graduates. Future Sr. Roberta  
Bridgeman second on the left.*



*Students and Sisters circa 1920*



*This picture was labeled  
"Wash Day" 1931*





*OLM Sisters and other Sisters attending the dedication of Saint Angela Academy in 1939.*



*Mother Mary Bernard Campbell, far right, was Principal from 1940-1946*





*Sr. Berenice McGregor with Kindergarten Class*



*Sr. Genevieve Cross, typing class, 1946*



*Sr. Regina Bergin sewing class, 1940s*



*Sr. Miriam Beall at the SAA Grotto  
Principal 1949-1955*

*The future Sr. Maureen Tzinieris second from left  
Class of 1950*



*The future Sr. Stella Maris Craven, far left, York  
Street dining room, 1950*



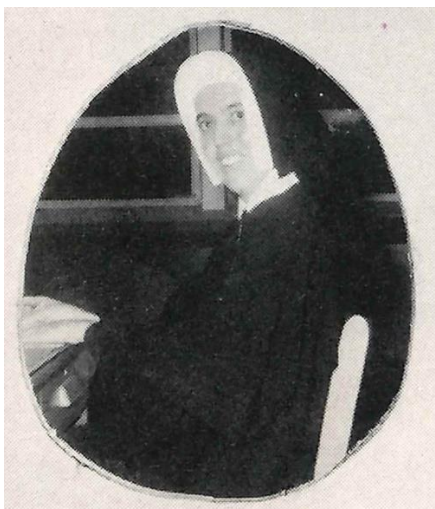


Students moved from York Street to Berrie Road in 1951. Sr. Marie Amelia Ferillo standing by the bus door, the future Sr. Stella Maris Carven to her left. The future Sr. Jean Marie O'Shea first girl on left.



Sisters Rosemary Boyd, Ignatia Gavaghan, Mary Albert Greer, deNeri Faase, Mary William Pinckney, Loyola Gaffney, Marie Daniel Hummel celebrating the Silver Jubilee of Sr. deNeri at the SAA convent.





*Sr. Bridget Sullivan taught  
Civics and Latin 1960*



*Sr. Alice Joseph Brady, Principal  
1972-1979*



*Sr. Marcella Zwingmann  
teaching French 1970  
Principal 1970-1973*



*Sr. Alice Joseph Brady SAA Principal and Sr.  
Rosemary Boyd Principal St. Mary Help of  
Christians School sitting by the desk of  
Mother Teresa Barry.  
The desk is now in our Heritage Room.*





*Sr. Ignatia Gavaghan, typing class, 1971*



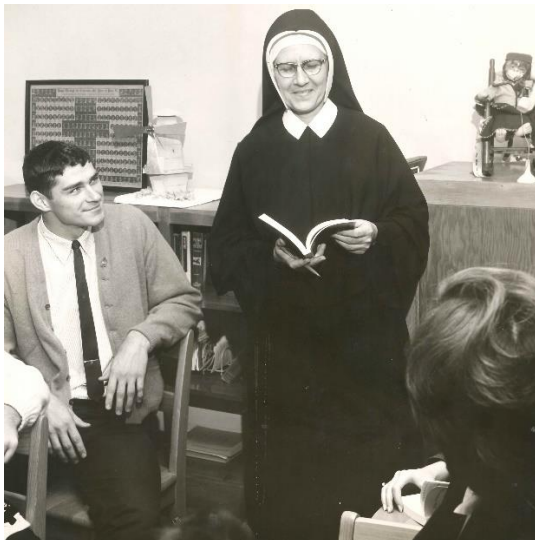
*Sr. Mary Joseph Ritter teaching Religion  
1979*



*Sisters Mary Agnes Edwards, Alice Joseph Brady,  
Clement Fine, Rosemary Boyd, Ignatia  
Gavaghan, Mary Louise Tharin, Mary Albert  
Greer, deNeri Faase in the Berrie Road Convent*



*Sr. Mary Thomas Neal, 1980*



*Sr. de Neri Faase, Principal 1955-1958*



*Sr. Mary Cyril Murray  
Principal 1979-1986*





*Saint Angela Academy 1984 Class AA State Volleyball Champions coached by the future Sr. Mary Carol Wentworth*



*Sr. Donna Lareau, Religion teacher and Sr. Ann Billard, Office Manager 1983*



*SAA closed in 1988. Sr. Veronica Janas, Principal, with teachers and the last student body.*



*Students attending SAA 1904-1906. In 1906, under the Ursulines, there were two graduates. In 1907 under the OLMs there were two graduates. This picture is all of the '04-'06 attendees wearing their SAA school uniforms.*



### Sr. Maureen Tzinieris

I went to St. Angela "gratis". Even though in high school and public school, I had thoughts about being a religious. The Sisters at St. Mary's must have thought so, too. So through their efforts, it was made possible that I would go to SAA and perhaps save my vocation. So I went in my junior year. The house and school were on York Street. I continued to play basketball. We had to walk to Fermata to practice which was about a mile away. Sisters Genevieve, Regina and de Neri taught me. Sister Berenice was there, too. I graduated in 1950. I think there were five of us-one was a boy. I entered the OLMs in 1951.

### Sr. Rosemary Boyd

*I was a teacher at St. Angela Academy for the first time from 1960-1970. I was assigned there to teach Latin I and II as Sister Regina was retiring. I loved those ten teaching years. Our faculty was excellent and our students were a joy to teach. Around 1964 St. Angela was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Our sports teams, basketball and football, were fun to watch and cheer for. I believe the boys' basketball team won a championship title during that time.*

### Sr. Stella Maris Craven

I attended St. Angela as a boarder for my high school Junior and Senior years. This was due to the strong urging of Sr. Miriam who felt that I had a religious vocation and by boarding there I would get to know the Sisters and be able to attend Mass every day. At that time St. Angela was located on York Street. It was a lovely big white house and the older boarders were assigned two to a bedroom. There was a schedule which we had to follow each day. After our school classes we went to sewing class presided over by Sr. Regina. Study Hall was held in the afternoons and again in the evening. We had a short break before sewing class when we could purchase snacks from the "Candy Kitchen", a small white building in the backyard which was operated by Sr. Berenice. Breakfast and supper were held in the large dining room. At lunch time each day Sally, our cook, would put a large tray of peanut butter sandwiches and sometimes an apple on the porch railing and ring a bell for the boarders to get their lunch. Those of us who played basketball walked from the school to the Fermata gym which had belonged to a private girls school and was located across from the Berrie Road property. On Saturdays we went to the movies at the Patricia or Rosemary theaters with the older girls in charge. I remember this as being pure torture as the Saturday movie was usually a cowboy movie or Superman and the "Great Metropolis". Our weekends were fairly free otherwise.

In the middle of my senior year we moved to the residence on Berrie Road but continued to attend classes at the school on York Street. We were transported by bus each day. The move was made while we were on Christmas vacation but for several weeks prior to this time the house had to be occupied to satisfy insurance policies. Several Sisters and a few girls would go each night. I went several times with Sr. de Neri. We had a great time exploring the big empty house in the dark hoping that what we found in the kitchen cabinet was really sugar that could be used in our tea. Sr. de Neri was very creative and could be most entertaining.

I also taught at St. Angela for one year. I was in charge of the girl boarders and taught about 12 students in one small room in the new school building next to the residence. I had to teach 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade subjects as students in the class were scattered among these grade levels. I think I spent the year trying to figure out how to do this and I am sure that in this effort some students were demoted and others advanced. I also was assigned to tutor a senior student after school in Algebra in order for him to graduate. Sr. de Neri was principal and superior during this time and again we had some interesting times together trying to keep the boarders under intense supervision.

We had a large number of Cuban students as boarders during my time as a student and as teacher. This was during the time of the political upheaval in the 1950's. We also had a number of non-Catholics as boarders and boys and girls as day students.



### *Sister Mary Joseph Ritter*

*As a Religion teacher at Saint Angela for one year, I taught Church History and appreciated the many faith traditions. The Seniors adopted a student in a poor African school and gave generously to her education. I enjoyed walking around the lovely grounds and fondly remember Reatha and her family-our wonderful cook!*

### Sister Donna Lareau

Living and ministering in Aiken was a delightful experience for me. Aiken is a beautiful city. I learned much about the horse racing lifestyle. Many of the faculty became my friends and I enjoyed teaching with them. They were knowledgeable and we had wonderful conversations at lunch.

I found the students I taught to be interested in learning about the Catholic faith, its history and its concern of social justice. They challenged me and they made me a better teacher. Most of them worked after school and weekends to make their education possible. I was always struck by their willingness to work hard to insure they would get a good education. As a student body they were willing to put on horseshows to help keep the school able to pay its bills.

Sr. Cyril and I attended many (if not all) of the athletic events. Oftentimes the directions we were given to a particular ballfield or gym were incomplete or inaccurate. We would roll the windows down in the car, sit still until we could hear cheering off in the distance—then we headed that way and found the field!

### Sister Carol Wentworth

I was a lay teacher/coach/athletic director at Saint Angela during school years 1982-1985. In 1983 I was fortunate enough to be coaching a group of volleyball players willing to work very hard to reach their goal of a State Championship. Saint Angela Academy did go on to win the 1983-84 Class AA State Volleyball Championship adding another great trophy to the SAA trophy case. I believe one of the players on that team bought the trophy when school items were being sold when the school closed in 1988. The basketball teams struggled to compete against bigger and more talented teams....but they sure did try hard! I left Saint Angela Academy in 1985 to enter the OLM Community.



## Sister Ann Billard

St. Angela Academy 1980-1986

Rohr: *Midlife years . . . where all the seeds are planted for later sprouting. (Rohr newsletter 5/12/17)*

The period of 1980 to 1986 were midlife years for me. Many memories, images, people, challenges and opportunities surface and come before me as I reflect on this time of my life. So many seeds planted only to sprout in later years.

The first memory and image that comes back to me is the day I arrived in Aiken. Sr. Rosemary drove Sr. Clement and me to Aiken in the old black Ford station wagon with no air conditioning on one very hot day. Upon arrival, I learned that summer heat was normal and there was little air-conditioning in the Convent and none in the school. Hot summers were the norm. Thank God, air conditioning improved over the next few years.

Sr. Mary Louise is in many of the images that surface. One of the images that comes back to me is a night we were watching TV in the community room when Sr. Mary Louise saw a mouse run across the floor. She quickly stood on the chair telling Sr. Donna and I to get it. None of us had seen her move so quickly. The little mouse went down the elevator shaft before we could get off our chairs. In addition, Sr. Mary Louise was known for her pralines and soup during the winter months and often called down to the school to come up and get soup for the staff who enjoyed a hot lunch.

Sr. Clement often shared what she had learned from nature. She once shared with me that nature's resilience could be ours when experiencing life's hurts. Pointing to a flower that had been stepped on, she remarked that we are like that flower. We can recover when stepped on.

Serving as Bookkeeper/Secretary in the school provided so many opportunities to plant new seeds for my journey. Probably the most memorable times were the fundraising projects, especially selling *World Finest®* chocolate bunnies at Easter time. The challenge of motivating high school students to sell for a particular project tapped into creative aspects of myself I did not know possible. These times were exciting as I watched students exceed expectations of *World Finest* sales representatives.

The faculty at St. Angela Academy were lifesavers many a day. Laughter was often experienced in the faculty lounge. Supporting one another through the challenges of high school activities bonded us. Suppers out on a Friday night before a football game or basketball game brought balance to all of our lives.

Adapting to environmental challenges, learning from older sisters, finding creative ways to raise funds and motivate high school students, interacting with parents and faculty throughout the years provided opportunities to till soil and plant seeds only to sprout later on. Today these seeds, planted in mid-life, have come together in a garden of Transformative Aging programs.

Each of the students, faculty, parents and sisters have all contributed to who I am today. As the seeds sprout from the challenges and opportunities experienced in Aiken, I look back and find myself being grateful for my years at St. Angela Academy.





The following letter was written in 2005 to Ralph Maloney, the keeper of the SAA alumni website, by the owners of the property where Saint Angela Academy once stood:

*We thought you might be interested to see a few pictures of our home on the former site of St. Angela Academy. These photos were taken earlier this month, about six months after we moved here. The home and barn are completely surrounded by a two-acre paddock which extends from Rye Patch on the east side to Ridgeley Hall on the west side. We live here with our two horses, four dogs, three cats and three birds.*

*We purchased the property in the fall of 2003, about four years after the school had been razed. Our objective in 2004 was to build a home and barn in the style and tradition of other winter colony homes on Berrie Road. We hope we have accomplished that. We have used the original entrances that were used by the school. All trees still alive and standing were preserved. As you can see in one of the photos attached, we have kept and continue to maintain the St. Angela monument out of respect for the past.*

*We live here year 'round. We feel the vibrations of the property's past, reflecting the caring and goodness of the students and teachers present here before us. We consider ourselves custodians of the property, and try to maintain it to our highest vision. We use no herbicides, insecticides or fertilizers, preferring to use nature's bounty of sun and water. Hopefully, we can serve as a visible reminder to our friends, visitors and passersby of how to treat the land and one's animals to live in harmony with nature. We love the cardinals, blue birds and hummingbirds which grace our flowers every day. Horse-drawn carriages continue to frequent Berrie Road on the way to/from Hitchcock Woods. Could this be Paradise?*

*Not infrequently someone will stop to take a photo of the St. Angela monument, or stop us on our way to Hitchcock Woods to compliment and thank us for what we have done here. Frequently, these are former students and teachers, while some have no such connection but must be attracted to the serenity and beauty of the place.*

*You are welcome to share all or part of this message and photos with St. Angela alumni/ae and/or place them on the St. Angela web site. We are honored to be here. We hope you are pleased with what we have done.*





## HEALTH & WELLNESS CORNER



**Forest bathing** is the practice of taking a short, leisurely visit to a forest for health benefits. The practice originated in Japan where it is called *shinrin-yoku* (森林浴). These gentle walks support well-being through sensory immersion in forests and other naturally healing environments. Since we live in a forest why not give it a try!



The exhalations of the forest are medicine. We breathe them in, as we have been built over aeons to do. Oak trees have one kind of medicine. Fragrant pines at mid day have another. The middle-sized herbs of the shady places offer their own healing powers. We breathe in, We breathe out, an exchange as ancient as time.



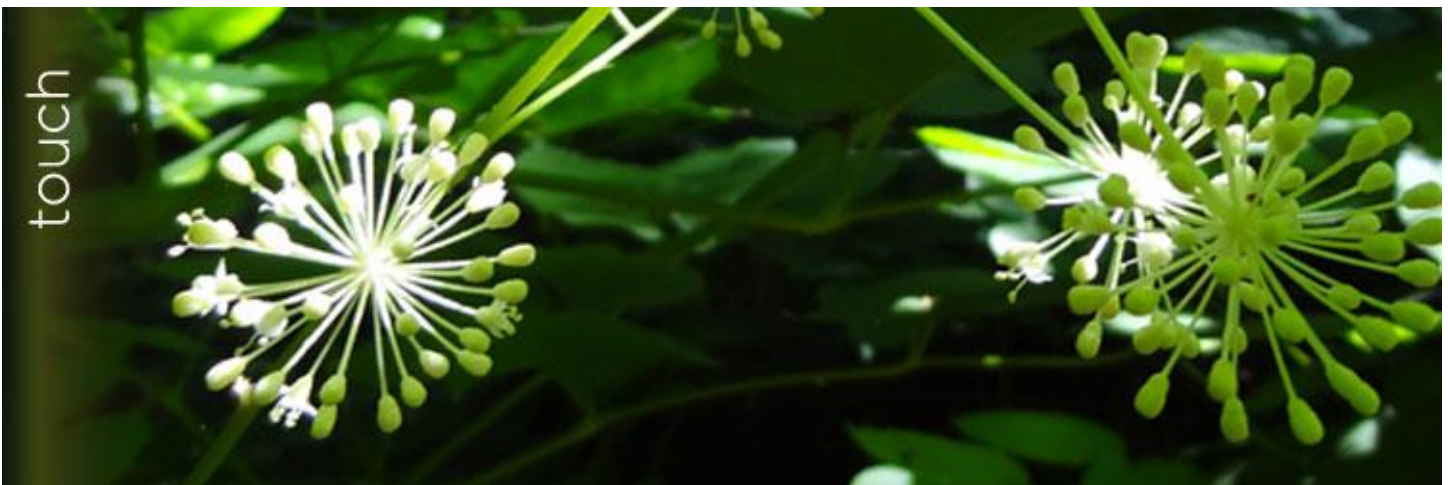
Take the time to look in a relaxed way at a single thing for a long moment. Then you will see it-- that detail that was there all along, and that always in the past you have missed. Look longer; let the play of shadow and light come in to you of their own generous accord.

*"Green is a lot of different colors!" --a six year old, after visiting a tree*





In an unhurried way, allow your feet to wander. Shinrin-yoku is not about exercise. It is not about hurry. It is about being alive in all your senses and trusting that the forest and other landscapes upon which you wander hold something good for you. *"Something hidden...go and find it! Go and look behind the ranges. Something lost behind the ranges. Lost, and waiting for you. Go!" --Kipling*



Shinrin Yoku invites you to use your sense of touch to explore the world or nature. What does the texture of bark feel like? How is an Oak tree different from a Bay tree? Remember the feeling of mud between your toes? Of cold creek water running over your bare feet? How does the wind of the East caress your skin? Does it differ from the wind of the West? The air of morning holds in its dew the memory of night. *Touch is an important component of our contact with nature. But if you don't know the local plants well it can be hazardous. A knowledgeable guide will help you recognize what to avoid, and where it is safe and beneficial to pursue your curiosity.*





Our ears are exquisitely tuned to the constant chorus of wild places. The waters, the movement of the trees high above in the breeze, the constant gossip of birds, the humming of insects, the chuff of a nearby squirrel; we know these sounds. Walk quietly, like a fox let them in.



What if the land actually loves humans? What if it needs us? As our species evolved with all other species in an interdependent dance, a long ceremony of mutuality, each of us bound by invisible threads within a vast web of interdependence? If this is the way of things, then does it not make sense that the land needs us? Come to it ready to invite its gifts. Speak to it; let it know what you need. Listen; let it whisper its medicine. SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA



"Partner In Charity"  
Marion Molony  
O'Brien entered into  
eternal rest on  
Wednesday, May 3,  
2017, at the age of  
95. May she rest in  
peace.



Sr. Mary Joseph and Council paid a visit to the grave of Mother Teresa Barry on the anniversary of her death, May 18. They each left a rose after a prayer seeking guidance for the future.