



THE VIEW FROM THE BLUFF APRIL 2018

SIXTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Father Thomas Murphy
Ecclesiastical Superior
1836 – 1840



Thomas Murphy was born on November 30, 1806 in County Carlow, Ireland. He began his studies for the priesthood there before transferring to the Diocese of Charleston. He completed his studies in the Diocesan Seminary in Charleston and was ordained in 1836. In May of that year Bishop England appointed Father Murphy as Ecclesiastical Superior, Confessor and Chaplain to the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. That summer he presided at the examination of boarders and day pupils and purchased at his own expense the awards given to the most deserving. According to an account of the early history of the Community "he endeared himself to all by his kind and unrelenting attention to the various duties which devolved on him." During the cholera and strangers' fever epidemic which raged in Charleston from August to November 1836 Father Murphy attended the sick and dying. Mother Benedicta Datty, who contracted the disease while caring for its victims, received the last sacrament from Father Murphy shortly before her death on October 3, 1836. In February 1837 Father Murphy accompanied Bishop England to Haiti. By 1838 Fr. Murphy was

caring for its victims, received the last sacrament from Father Murphy shortly before her death on October 3, 1836. In February 1837 Father Murphy accompanied Bishop England to Haiti. By 1838 Fr. Murphy was

stationed in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Whether he continued to serve as OLM Ecclesiastical Superior and/or when that responsibility ended is not clear. In 1845 Bishop Aloysius Reynolds, Bishop England's successor, appointed Father Murphy as Pastor of the recently formed parish of St. Thomas the Apostle in Wilmington, NC, where he remained until his death.



In the Fall of 1862 a yellow fever epidemic ravaged Wilmington. Father Murphy wrote Bishop Lynch asking for Sisters to assist in caring for the fever patients. The OLM Council voted to send Mother Teresa Barry, Sisters Augustine Kent, Peter Sullivan and Patrick Collins to Wilmington. Bishop Lynch assigned Father James Corcoran to accompany them. By the second week in November all those who had gone from Charleston in late September returned. Father Murphy, worn out by attending the sick and dying, never regained his former strength. He died the following year on August 18, 1863. He was interred in the crypt of St. Thomas, where his remains rest to this day.

In his history, Catholicity in the Carolinas and Georgia, Father J. J. O'Connell describes Father Murphy as follows: "He was a man of comely appearance, with regular, handsome features, hair originally black, and above medium height. His face was candid and open; his dress was neat, grave and clerical, and his manners polished. His acquaintance was courted by the most distinguished people. Religion was the basis of his character and lent an additional charm to a disposition naturally gentle and conciliatory. He was a ripe scholar, a graceful and fascinating public speaker." In his sermon at Father Murphy's funeral, Bishop Lynch, after noting Father Murphy's amiable disposition, concluded: "In his breast he possessed a woman's heart."

The parish history started at the beginning of the nineteenth century when Bishop John England (1786-1842) from Charleston made regular visits to Wilmington celebrating Mass in private homes and sometimes in Protestant churches to a small group of believers. On New Year's Day 1845 England's successor, Ignatius Aloysius Reynolds founded the official parish. The community flourished and Father Thomas Murphy (1806-1855) was appointed the first full-time priest in 1845. Two years later he organized construction of the Gothic Revival style Church of Saint Thomas the Apostle at 208 Dock Street.

In 1868, James Gibbons (1834-1921), took up residence as Vicar-Apostolic of North Carolina and the church was designated a Pro-cathedral. He brought the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy to Wilmington in 1869. Their first convent was at the corner of 2nd and Nun Streets. He bought property on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Ann Street. A convent and school were built on the property. They were later torn down to make way for the new church.



World Earth Day, April Twenty Second, Twenty Eighteen

What is Earth Day, and what is it meant to accomplish?

Close to 48 years ago, on 22 April 1970, millions of people took to the streets to protest the negative impacts of 150 years of industrial development.

In the US and around the world, smog was becoming deadly and evidence was growing that pollution led to developmental delays in children. Biodiversity was in decline as a result of the heavy use of pesticides and other pollutants.

The global ecological awareness was growing, and the US Congress and President Nixon responded quickly. In July of the same year, they created the Environmental Protection Agency, and robust environmental laws such as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, among many.

One billion people

Earth Day is now a global event each year, and we believe that more than 1 billion people in 192 countries now take part in what is the largest civic-focused day of action in the world.

It is a day of political action and civic participation. People march, sign petitions, meet with their elected officials, plant trees, clean up their towns and roads. Corporations and governments use it to make pledges and announce sustainability measures. Faith leaders, including Pope Francis, connect Earth Day with protecting God's greatest creations, humans, biodiversity and the planet that we all live on.

Earth Day Network, the organization that leads Earth Day worldwide, announced that Earth Day 2018 will focus on mobilizing the world to End Plastic Pollution, including creating support for a global effort to eliminate single-use plastics along with global regulation for the disposal of plastics. EDN will educate millions of people about the health and other risks associated with the use and disposal of plastics, including pollution of our oceans, water, and wildlife, and about the growing body of evidence that decomposing plastics are creating serious global problems.

From poisoning and injuring marine life to the ubiquitous presence of plastics in our food to disrupting human hormones and causing major life-threatening diseases and early puberty, the exponential growth of plastics is threatening our planet's survival. EDN has built a multi-year campaign to **End Plastic Pollution**. Their goals include ending single-use plastics, promoting alternatives to fossil fuel-based materials, promoting 100 percent recycling of plastics, corporate and government accountability and changing human behavior concerning plastics.

EDN's End Plastic Pollution campaign includes four major components:

- Leading a grassroots movement to support the adoption of a global framework to regulate plastic pollution;
- Educating, mobilizing and activating citizens across the globe to demand that governments and corporations control and clean up plastic pollution;
- Educating people worldwide to take personal responsibility for plastic pollution by choosing to reject, reduce, reuse and recycle plastics, and
- Promoting local government regulatory and other efforts to tackle plastic pollution.

Earth Day Network will leverage the platform of Earth Day and the growing interest in the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day in 2020 as a catalyst for global action.

If you have recently walked down city streets, in the country side, or even along a beach on a remote island, you might notice something in common: plastics. Plastics are some of the most commonly littered items in the world and they are drowning our planet. Is this a real problem, you might ask? Plastics have come to clutter almost every landscape, but they are so useful and have made our lives much easier. We can carry our purchases from the store, stay dry in the rain, store things easily and securely, and preserve perishable food. Plastics are present in furniture, construction materials, cars, appliances, electronics and countless other things. Plastics are everywhere, even in our homes. Just look closely in your refrigerator!

PLASTIC POLLUTION: The invention of plastic in 1907 was considered a breakthrough. Plastic products soon became omnipresent in our daily lives. For many years, we only perceived the benefits of plastic and knew little of the damaging consequences for human health, natural ecosystems and the climate. Plastics are a problem mostly due to their un-biodegradable nature, the materials used for plastic production (hydrocarbon molecules—derived from the refining of oil and natural gas), and the challenges behind properly discarding them.

Plastic Pollution in the Ocean: Decades of poor waste management policies that saw and continue to see plastic waste being dumped directly into the ocean have led to an international pollution crisis that threatens each of the world's oceans. Did you know that around the globe there are five massive patches of marine plastic? These huge concentrations of plastic debris cover large swaths of the ocean; the one between California and Hawaii is the size of the state of Texas. Sea creatures eat or get ensnared in plastic debris and can be killed or maimed. Plastic that is consumed by marine organisms, as well as the toxins they absorb from the water, accumulate up the food chain making seafood potentially dangerous for humans as well. Scientists predict that if nothing changes in our plastic consumption habits, by 2050 there will be more plastic in the oceans than there are fish (by weight). We all need to work together to solve this problem and save the oceans for future generations. This is a problem that impacts all of us. Every human on Earth relies on the oceans to survive in some way or another. Use this toolkit to learn how to reduce your impact on plastic pollution in the ocean and help to remove the massive amounts of plastic waste already in the environment.

Why is plastic so harmful to marine life? Do you know why marine life is so disproportionately impacted by plastic pollution? It's because it can cause harm to them in so many different ways. Many marine organisms can't distinguish common plastic items from food. Animals who eat plastic often starve because they can't digest the plastic and it fills their stomachs, preventing them from eating real food. Birds and other larger animals often become trapped or ensnared in plastic bags, fishing line, and other debris. Sea turtles specifically are highly susceptible. They both mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, and frequently are trapped in plastic debris, restricting their growth and movement. Plastic never fully degrades, over time it breaks into smaller and smaller pieces. Eventually it becomes small enough to enter the bloodstream of marine organisms. Since the organisms cannot ever digest or process the plastic, it remains present until the organism is eaten. This passes all the plastic on to its predator, which is usually fish. If that fish is caught, then the plastics will be passed on to whichever human consumes it. According to a study by Plymouth University, one third of the fish caught in the UK had plastic inside. The effect of eating these plastic contaminated fish is for the most part unknown, but the risk was substantial enough to warrant a warning of increased risk to human health and safety by the European Food Safety Authority in 2016.

Reduce: It's time for you to start cutting out that plastic. This Plastic Pollution Primer and Action Toolkit is full of tips and guides for how to minimize your consumption of plastic. The most important step we can take to limit the amount of plastic pollution that makes its way into our oceans is to reduce the amount of plastic we consume in the first place. While recycling plastic waste is important, it is not nearly enough. You may be lulled into thinking it is ok to consume plastic products because you plan to recycle them. Unfortunately, recycling is far from perfect, many plastics can't be efficiently recycled and will end up in the landfill regardless of which bin they were put in. Some localities lack the infrastructure to sort and recycle plastics. For this reason, it is much more important to focus on reducing your own level of plastic consumption. As consumers, we can't only be responsible for what happens to products at the end of their lifecycle, we have to be responsible for which products we purchase in the first place. Through reducing your plastic consumption, you will directly and actively reduce the amount of plastic that makes it into the environment. The next two sections will talk about two specific ways you can reduce your consumption, refusing plastic products, and reusing items to extend their lifecycle and keep them out of the landfill. When considering anything you may purchase, ask yourself these two questions: • Do I need it? • Can I use something else?

Many plastic products you may frequently use are generally unnecessary – do you really need a straw to drink a glass of water? It is important to only consume what you need, especially when it comes to plastics. Many of the most commonly disposed of plastic products have viable alternatives. Always ask yourself if you can get the same product without consuming plastic before you buy something.

Refuse: Do you ever wonder why water at a restaurant always comes with a straw? Do you ever marvel at how many plastic shopping bags grocery stores will wrap around your purchases? If you are conscious of the harm that plastic is having on the planet it should astound you how often we are offered free items of disposable plastic in our daily lives. As conscious campaigners against plastic pollution, it is important, whenever possible, to refuse plastic. Much of the most frequently discarded plastic items, with the shortest lifecycles, are those given to us for free. Plastic straws, grocery bags, plastic utensils, plates, and cups are all frequently given away with other purchases. All you have to do to eliminate this source of plastic pollution is to simply refuse to accept these items. Refusing these giveaways in your everyday life will have a large impact on your overall plastic pollution footprint. If you can't outright refuse something, there is almost always a non-plastic alternative. Until around the middle of the 20th century, widespread use of plastics was not the reality. While plastic products have brought a certain level of convenience, there were already alternative

products at the advent of plastics. Now, 70 years in the future, modern technology has created a host of new products that make most common plastic products obsolete. With a little preparation and planning, you can easily, refuse plastics. a. When you order a drink at a restaurant, you can tell the waiter that you don't want a straw. If you know you need a straw, you can purchase a metal or wood/paper based straw and bring that with you. You could also go a step further and ask the restaurant to stop providing plastic straws or to only provide straws to customers when requested. b. Plastic bags are one of the biggest sources of plastic pollution. Refusing the plastic shopping bags given away at retailers and grocery stores is easy. If you need a bag to carry your purchases, bring reusable canvas bags instead. And buy cloth or mesh bags to carry fresh produce to the cashier. c. Take a little extra time while doing your shopping, select products without plastic packaging and always be sure to avoid or even boycott products that are excessively wrapped in plastic (for example fresh produce). d. When you go clothes shopping, it is best to avoid fabrics with plastic microfibers such as nylon and polyester. Or check ways to collect the fibers in your dishwasher.

Reuse: The next step we encourage you to take as part of your reduction of plastic consumption is to reuse.

One of the main drivers of the massive plastic pollution problem is the incredibly brief life cycle many of these products have. A majority of the items we use one single time before disposal are plastic. This leads to unnecessary waste for low usability. Selecting products that are designed for multiple uses and making sure nothing gets thrown away before its usefulness is spent is another effective way to drastically reduce one's plastic pollution footprint. You can get creative and reuse items for secondary purposes. You can also purchase specialty items that replace single use plastics and can safely be used again and again. Some of the ways you can reuse in your daily life:

- o You can buy reusable mesh bags that replace the plastic bags you use for bulk produce at the grocery store.
- o You can purchase canvas shopping bags and leave them in your car for anytime you go shopping.
- o Get a reusable water bottle instead of buying plastic ones and throwing them out.
- o There are reusable wax lined bags and wraps that effectively replace single use sandwich bags.
- o When you finally decide to get rid of old clothes, toys, furniture, or electronics, donate them rather than throwing them away.
- o Use dishes, glasses, and metal silverware instead of their plastic counterparts.
- o Many food containers from restaurants are durable enough to be reused for kitchen storage.



EVERY EFFORT COUNTS



Source: Sisters of Charity of Nazareth newsletter
"The Journey", Vol. 1 2018



Members of the Charity Federation recently began ministry in Holmes County, Mississippi, where Sisters Paula Merrill and Margaret Held were nurse practitioners before their deaths. Standing L-R Sister Madeline Kavanaugh, DC and Sister Mary Walz, DC. Seated L-R Sister Mary Beth Kubera, DC, Provincial Councillor and Sister Sheila Conley, SC-Halifax. Sisters Madeline, Mary and Sheila responded to the call put out to the Sisters in the Charity Federation to consider ministry in Holmes County. Sister Sheila will be working with the job training program in the county. Sister Madeline will be working in prison ministry in an effort to set up a re-entry program for prisoners and the Diocesan Faith in Action Team. Sister Mary is a licensed social worker and is doing outreach from the Lexington clinic where Sisters Paula and Margaret ministered. Let's keep these sisters in our prayers.

weaving together unstoppable charity

Assembly of the Whole • Sisters of Charity Federation • June 13-16, 2019

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Outcome for the Federation Assembly of the Whole

Experience the grace and power of the Charity mission/charism, and recognize and share concrete expressions of our future full of hope.

March 2018

Vol. 1, No. 1

We welcome you to the first newsletter for the *Federation Assembly of the Whole*!

In 2017, an invitation was sent to all members of the Sisters of Charity Federation to assist in planning the first *Federation Assembly of the Whole*! This committee was formed from those who responded to the invitation. Throughout this past year we met via Zoom conferences. A face to face meeting was held in Chicago February 8 – 10, 2018.

We are very happy to announce the following exciting news and please save the dates for our first invitation to the gathering of the *Assembly of the Whole*!

WHEN: June 13 – 16, 2019

WHERE: Crowne Plaza Chicago Hotel and Conference Center
(Near Chicago O'Hare Airport)

WHY: *Weaving Together Unstoppable Charity*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Sister Peggy O'Neill

Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth (Convent Station). Sister Peggy spoke at the 400th Vincentian Family Symposium in Rome in October 2017.

FACILITATOR: Sister Pat Kozak, CSJ

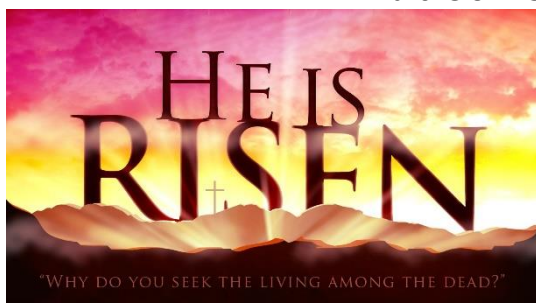
Committees were identified that will help with the success of the Assembly. Stay tuned for more information on Sister Peggy and how you can serve on the committees that will be formed!

We will send a newsletter immediately following each meeting. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 21, 2018.

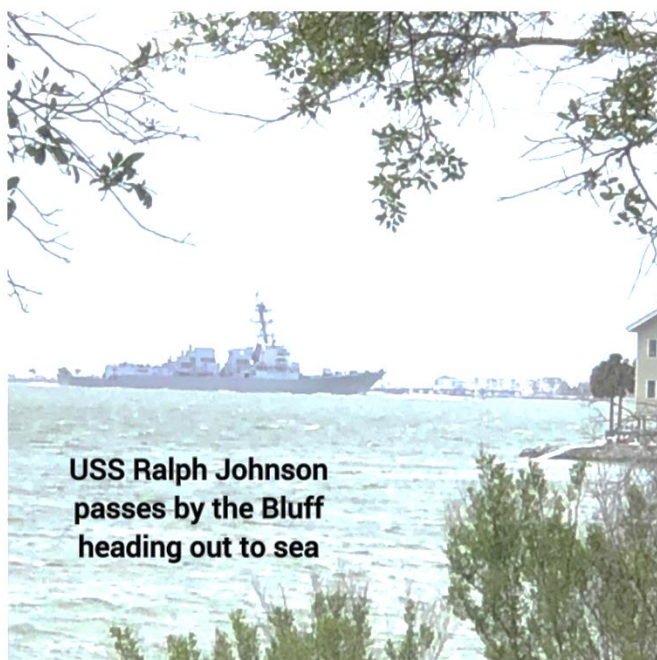


Front Row (left to right) S. Grace Hartzog, S. Ellen Dauwer, S. Maryanne Ruzzo, S. Kathleen Mary Connelly.
Second Row (left to right) Maureen Russell, S. Eileen Haynes, S. Nancy Gerth, S. Evelyn Williams, S. Mary Beth Kubera, S. Pat Kozak, and S. Andrea Koverman.
Not Pictured: S. Adella Armentrout and S. Vickie Perkins

More information will be forthcoming in future issues of the View. This Assembly is open to all Sisters and Partners in Charity (Associates). Save the date!!



Some candid shots from around the Motherhouse



**USS Ralph Johnson
passes by the Bluff
heading out to sea**



**Friends from Johns
Island and Hollywood
take up the walkway
to Wampler Drive.**



A Tea Party was held on Maria Hall to thank Patricia Soell for her kindness to our OLM Sisters. Sisters Mary Thomas, Carmelita and Maureen enjoyed the party.



Sister Rosemary Boyd, Ann Mitchum, Partner In Charity, and Sister Mary Thomas Neal enjoying art class.



Sister Maureen Tzinieris practicing for Liturgy.



Sister Ann Billard packing up for the move to the Motherhouse.



The altar rail gate from 68 Legare Street was found in the storage shed when it was being cleared out recently. It will be cleaned off and put on display in the near future.

Sr. Anne Francis Campbell has been giving many tours of our Heritage Room!

