

The View From The Bluff May 2018

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA



Father Timothy J. Sullivan
Ecclesiastical Superior
1840-1844, and, 1846-1865

Timothy J. Sullivan was born in County Cork, Ireland. Available records do not provide his birth date nor his arrival in Charleston. Thanks to items in the original United States Catholic Miscellany, however, we know that he attended the Diocesan Seminary in Charleston; was ordained by Bishop England on April 27, 1838, and, served as First Assistant Priest at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Charleston, from 1838 to 1863. Bishop England appointed him Ecclesiastical Superior of the OLM Community in the autumn of 1840. Father Sullivan continued in that office following Bishop England's death, April 11, 1842, until the arrival of Bishop Reynolds in April 1844. The two year interval between Bishops was a difficult one for the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. Sister M. Charles Curtin, then a young sister, wrote in her Annals: "The sisters were almost without a guide except for the assistance

afforded them by the gratuitous kindness of the Reverend T.J. Sullivan whom an all-ruling providence had raised up to assist them in the midst of difficulties."

CONVENT OF THE SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF MERCY,
Sister MARY PETER DE CHANTAL O'SULLIVAN, *Superioress.*
This Convent contains twenty sisters, and six novices. Rev. T. J. Sullivan, *Ecclesiastical Superior.* Rev. L. Fillion, *Chaplain.*

FEMALE ACADEMY OF THE SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF MERCY,
Charleston, S. C.
Number of boarders, 50. Number of externs, 60.
Terms of Board and Tuition.

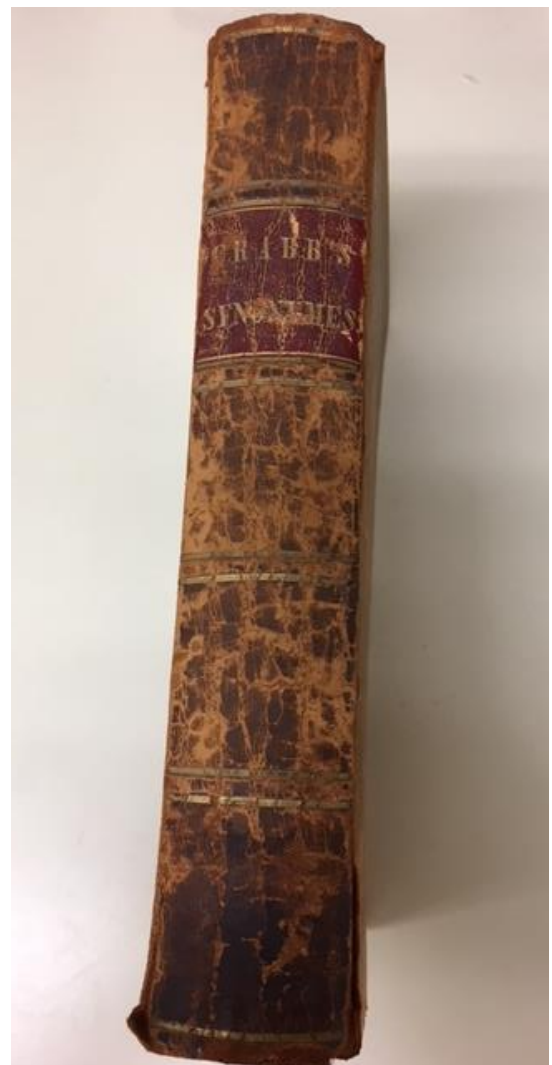
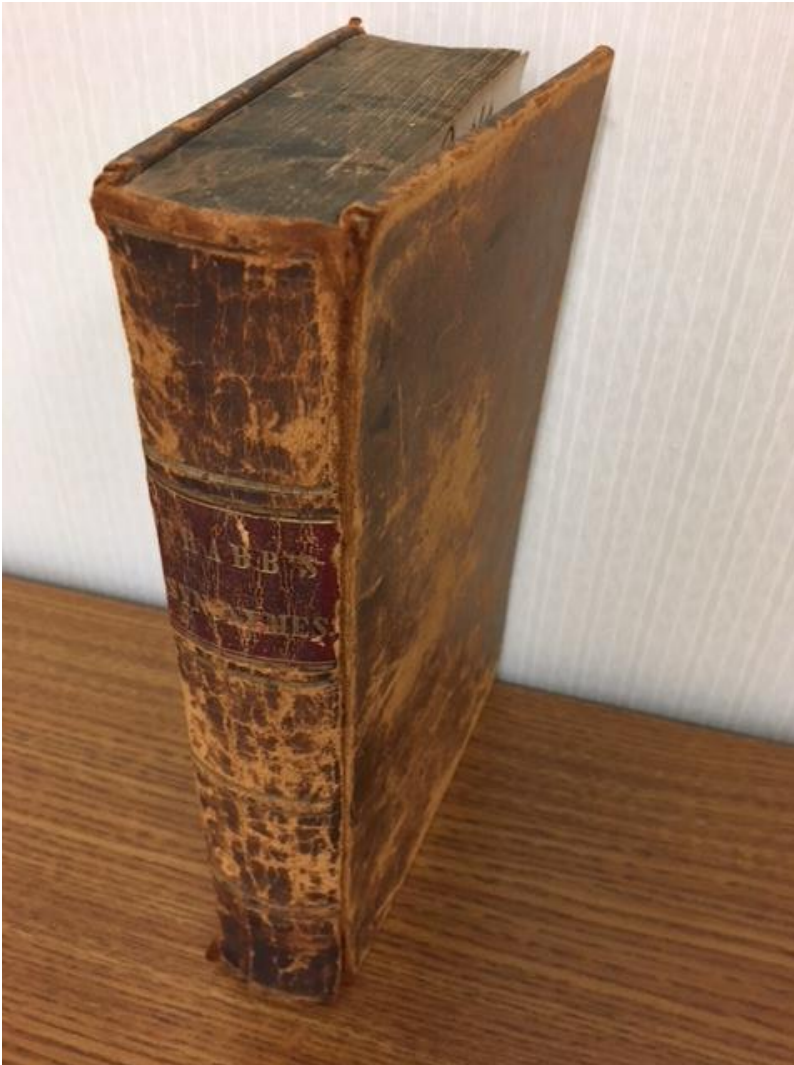
Board, including washing, bed and bedding, per quarter,	\$30 00
Tuition in any or all of the following branches, viz : Orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, history, rhetoric, composition, &c., per quarter.....	8 00
Board and Tuition—total per quarter.....	\$38 00

During the first two years of Bishop Reynolds' administration Father Sullivan was appointed Confessor to the OLM Community. However, in 1846, following the resignation of Father Jeremiah O'Neill as

Ecclesiastical Superior, Bishop Reynolds appointed Father Sullivan to that office in which he served until his death. In the Fall of 1863 he accompanied the Sisters, boarders and orphans who moved inland to Sumter, SC, during the bombardment of Charleston by Union Forces. Although we do not have a photo of Father Sullivan, Sister M. Charles Curtin's Annals contain the following description: "Father Sullivan was not a man of shining qualities, but he was all the priest, in spirit and in deed; respected by everyone for his sterling qualities and untiring, unflinching discharge of his ministerial duties. He was of medium stature, well-built, of grave, gentlemanly, and priestly appearance with features regular and not unpleasing. ... He was devoted to our institution, was the true friend of each and every member of our community and cherished our orphans. He took his meals at our own table, and, said Mass every morning until two days before his death. We saw for a few days before his death that he said Mass with a great struggle. He died alone in the night, but no doubt angels were there for his soul was precious in the eyes of God."

Father Sullivan died on July 28, 1865. When notifying Archbishop Spalding of Baltimore of Father Sullivan's death, Father John Moore said: "He was perhaps the best priest that was ever in this diocese. He was suffering very severely from asthma for the past fourteen years or so, and for three or four years back more especially. Nobody who was acquainted with his condition would have been surprised to hear of his death." Father Sullivan was waked in the convent chapel in Sumter.

The Catholics among the Union Officers there constituted themselves a guard of honor and sang his funeral Mass. According to Sister M. Charles Curtin, "A conquering hero could not have been buried with more respect."



Signed book given to Sister Teresa Barry by Rev. T. J. Sullivan in 1844. This artifact can be found in the Heritage Room.

Rev. J. G. Sullivan
Harper's Stereotype Edition.

Charleston S. C.

ENGLISH SYNONYMES,

April 16, 1844

WITH

COPIOUS ILLUSTRATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS,

DRAWN FROM THE BEST WRITERS.

A NEW EDITION ENLARGED.

BY GEORGE CRABB, M.A.

**AUTHOR OF THE UNIVERSAL TECHNOLOGICAL DICTIONARY, AND THE
UNIVERSAL HISTORICAL DICTIONARY.**

NEW-YORK:

PUBLISHED BY HARPER & BROTHERS,

NO. 82 CLIFF-STREET.

1844



Rev. Timothy Sullivan's tombstone, St. Lawrence Cemetery, Sumter, SC

**** If anyone can translate the tombstone, please send the translation to Sr. Carol.**

28 Mch 1864.
Rev. T. J. Sullivan
Brent

Rev T. J. Sullivan
28 March 1864

Sumter, Lord Friday 4 P.M.
At. Rev. Bishop:

I have a favor to ask you in
your leave, namely, to obtain from
the President a letter of trans-
mission for my friend, Mr. John
A. V. of this place. He has by
some efforts procured papers proving him
to be over 40 and consequently exempted
in the first call; these have been for-
warded to "Head Quarters", and he has
not, as yet, received an answer, but
then the "under 50" is just out, which
he cannot escape.

Mr. A. V. is the main pillar of
the Church, though rough and
unpolished, yet of the strongest
faith, the most devoted Catholic,
to Religion and its ministers, ^{most liberal} and
their support; A most generous bene-
factor of the destitute and orphan. He is
the only baker at Sumter. His leaving
here would knock up his business
completely; he has a young family,

Letter written
by Fr. T. J.
Sullivan to
Bishop Lynch
in 1864.
Source:
Charleston
Diocesan
Archives.

SEE NEXT
PAGE

and his wife is as incompetent
to conduct his business as his
youngest child. On every collec-
tion for religious or charitable
objects, he is invariably the ac-
tive agent. Many are willing
enough to contribute when called
upon; but very few trouble them-
selves about calling on others.
He is already half dead from
the fear of being obliged to leave,
as his present appearance shows.
If Genl. Beauregard could effect it
without delay, he would obtain
exemption in a moment; but
I believe, in this case, he has
no control whatever. I beg
you therefore to use your influence
in Richmond, obtain for us this
favor, and confer on us here as
fasting obligations.

Should you favor us with a visit
there will be a number ready
for confirmation.

I did not exactly understand,
nor do I yet, I forgot to mention it
what was meant by the depen-
dent "missionaries" of Charleston. I then
thought you might have given the
charge of a State to each of the
B. C. S. I do not know in whose
jurisdiction I am at present,
would you be kind enough to
inform me.

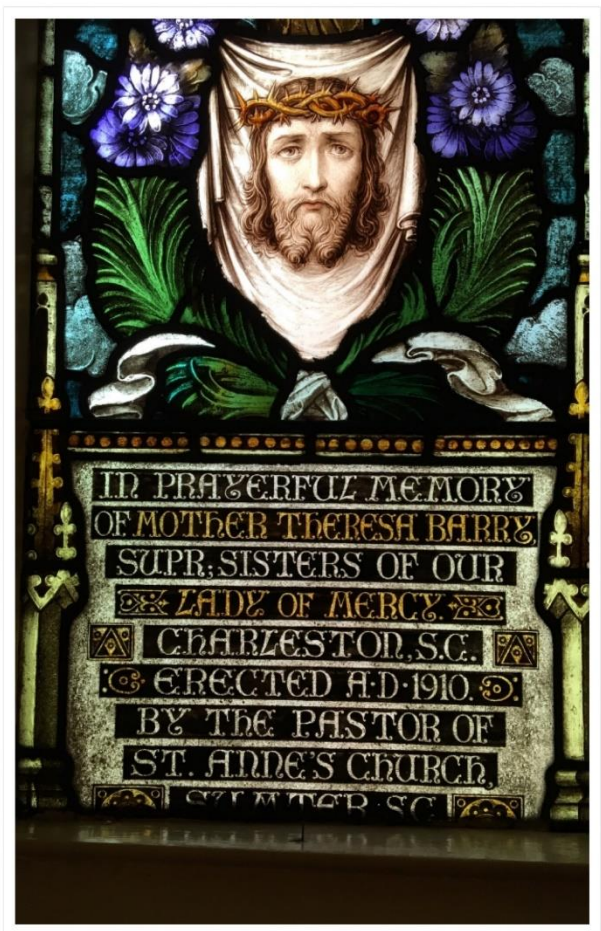
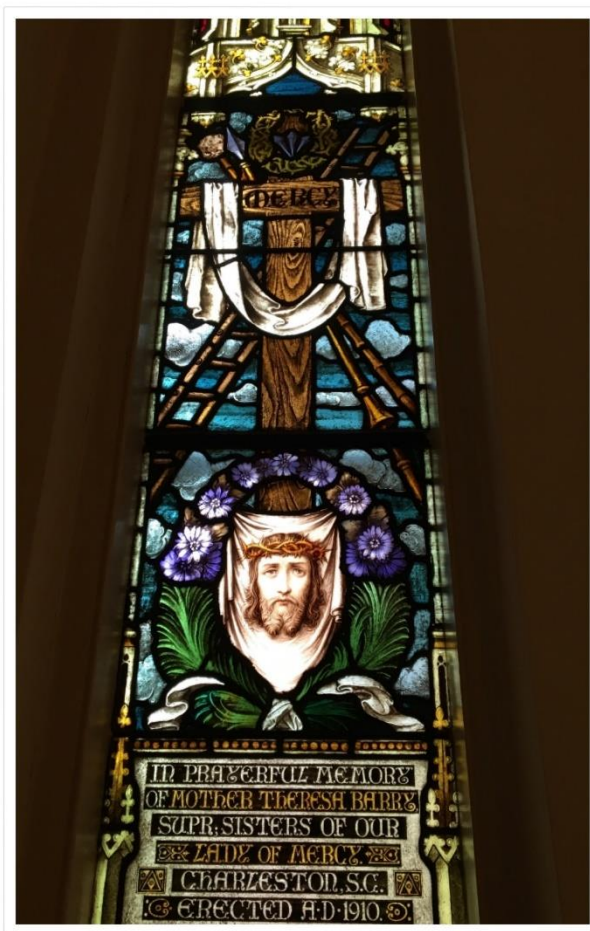
I remain,
At. Rev. Bishop,
Yours very respectfully, T. J. Sullivan

Sumter, Good Friday, 1864

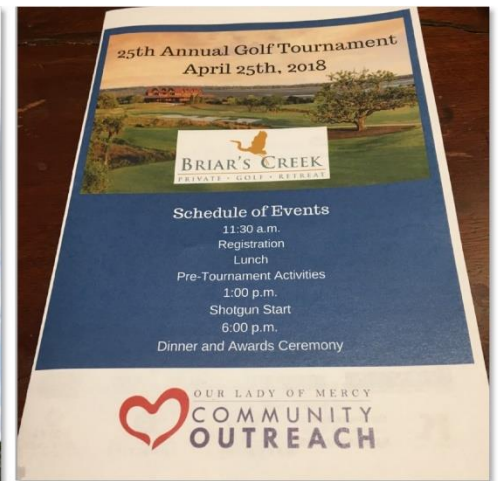
Right Reverend Bishop;

I have a favor to ask you before you leave, namely to obtain from the President or Secretary of War exemptions for my friend Mr. John O'Connor of this place. He has by some efforts procured papers proving him to be over 45 and consequently exempt from the first call; these have been forwarded to 'headquarters' and he has not as yet received an answer but then the 'under 50' is just out which he cannot escape. Mr. O'Connor is the main pillar of the Sumter Church, though rough and unpolished yet of the strongest faith, the most devoted Catholic to religion and to ministers, most liberal; a most generous benefactor of the Sisters and orphans. He is the only baker in Sumter. His leaving here would knock up his business completely; he has a young family and his wife is as incompetent to conduct his business as his youngest child. In every collection for religious or charitable objects he is invariably the active agent. Many are willing enough to contribute when called upon; but very few trouble themselves about calling on others. He is already half dead through fear of being obliged to leave as his present appearance shows. If General Beauregard could effect it Mother Theresa would obtain exemption in a moment; but I believe in this case he has no control whatever. I beg you therefore to use your influence in Richmond, obtain for us this favor and confer on us here a lasting obligation. Should you favor us with a visit there will be a number ready for confirmation. I did not exactly understand nor do I get (I forget to notice it) what you meant by the 'dependent missions of Charleston.' I thought you might have given the charge of a State to each of the VG's. I do not know in whose jurisdiction I am at present; would you be kind enough to inform me. Begging your blessings and prayers at this holy season

I remain,
Rt. Rev. Bishop,
Yours very respectfully and obedient
T. J. Sullivan

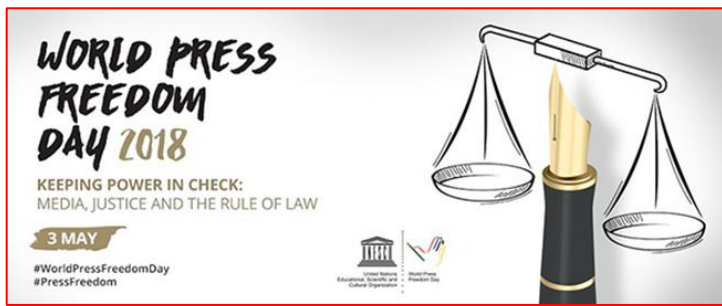


*Stained glass window in St. Anne's Church, Sumter
Dedicated to Mother Teresa Barry*



**The Sisters of Charity of OLM Sponsored Team having a great time at the
OLM Outreach Golf Tournament**

**Our team members are
Kevin Crosby, Becky Crichton, Kenny Crosby and Kevin Tawes.**



May 15,
International Day of Families

