

THE VIEW FROM THE BLUFF MARCH 2019

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA



Mother M. Paul Harris

Mother M. Paul Harris, formerly Eliza Harris, was born in Ireland in 1823. Our records do not contain information about her family or life prior to her entrance into the Community on September 24, 1845 at age 22.

Paul on August 22, 1846, and, was professed in March 1849. During the yellow fever epidemic in Charleston in the fall of 1852 she was assigned to assist patients in St. Mary's Relief Hospital established by Rev. Patrick Lynch in a section of the unopened Roper Hospital. The facility ceased to exist when the epidemic subsided. The following year, 1853, she was among the OLMs sent to staff the Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Columbia, SC. She was serving as Assistant Superior there when she was elected Mother Superior of the OLM Community on March 1, 1856.

The most significant development during Mother M. Paul's two years as Mother Superior was her



attempt to amalgamate the OLM Community with the Sister of Mercy in New York City, a branch of the Sisters of Mercy founded by Mother Catherine McAuley in Ireland. Apparently, she wrote to the Superior of the New York

Community about the possibility of uniting the two communities. In August of 1857 Mother Agnes O'Connor of the New York Community invited Mother Paul to New York to discuss the possibilities. In November 1857 Mother Paul and Sister Mary Joseph Kent arrived at St. Catherine's Convent in NYC. They remained there for two

SISTER MARY PAULA HARRIS

months studying the rules and customs of Mother McAuley's Sisters of Mercy. Following their return to Charleston on January 2, 1858 they informed the OLM Council Members of the conditions under which the two Communities could be united. Although the Council accepted the conditions, Rev. Patrick Lynch, then the Administrator of the Diocese, notified Mother Paul that he could not approve their action. Among his reasons he noted that the conditions made no provision for sisters unwilling to enter the new institute or for those who might not be accepted. When Mother Paul learned that the proposed amalgamation was not possible, she resigned as Mother Superior and left the OLM Community. She entered the Sisters of Mercy in New York on January 18, 1858 and was professed as Sister Mary Paula on May 31, 1860.

During the Civil War Sister M. Paula and five other Sisters of Mercy of the

New York Community took charge of a military hospital at Beaufort, North Carolina. (Hammond Hospital) After the War Sister Paula was sent from New York City to establish a convent in Greenbush, now Rensseler, New York.



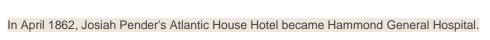
In 1868 the Greenbush Community became

independent of the Mercy Community in New York City. In 1869 the Community established St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, NY. Sister Paula, first Superintendent of the hospital, held that post for thirteen years retiring in 1882.

Hammond Hospital former

Atlantic House Hotel

Upon Sister Paula's death in 1901 at age 77, Bishop Thomas Burke preached the eulogy and noted, "The parishioners wept as for a beloved relative."



In her 1991 book *The Atlantic Hotel*, Virginia Pou Doughton wrote, "When the hotel was taken over by the Federal troops, according to Doughton, the War Department requested seven Sisters of Mercy chosen from St. Catherine's Convent in New York. They were ordered to proceed to Beaufort and were accompanied by physician Dr. John Upham. At the time of their arrival there were many sick

and wounded soldiers in the hotel. "The conditions were deplorable; blood and filth covered the whole structure." The Sisters were soon put in charge, getting rid of the barefoot overseer whose "hair was matted and his scraggly beard stained with tobacco juice....constantly sitting in a wheelbarrow near the door...with a huge bunch of keys dangling from his belt." The Sisters "performed miracles in cleaning up this filthy, foul-smelling, vermin-ridden building into the clean and sanitary Hammond Hospital. The hospital closed in the fall of 1862."



In 1869 four Sisters of Mercy founded St. Peter's Hospital in downtown Albany, NY, on November 1. They had journeyed to Albany from New York City in 1863 and arrived with 80 cents in total, but they began their mission in Rensselaer, NY. The first hospital was financed thanks to a very generous donation of \$15,000 from the family of Peter Cagger, an attorney who had died. The hospital is named for him.

SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF MERCY COUNCIL MINUTES CONCERNING THE ELECTION OF SISTER PAUL HARRIS AS MOTHER SUPERIOR ON MARCH 1, 1856.

House of our Lady of Mercy Charleston March ! 1856

We the undersigned levely certify that at an
Election held this day for Superiors, Reasure,
and Procurating attached the Rey S. & Sullward, Eccleseastical Superior, absisted by the Rey S. & Sullward, Ecclepresided, the votes being correctly counted in our frebence and found to correspond with the meanboar
of profession dioters, the following were duly elected:

I dister m. Paul Superiors

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House of Our Lady of Mercy, Charleston, March! as is seen on the opposite page, an Election for mother Superiorefs, Freasurer, and Procurating, was held this day, at which the Cev. It Sullwan Ecclesiastical Superior, assisted by the Rev. J. A. Corcoran J.D., pleside de I wing to the inclemency of the weather, some of the Listers not being able to go to the Chapel, the Election was held, by dispensation, in the Community Room. All the professed members (19) were present; the votes from the Columbia House (5) wered received. The Ecclesiastical Superior Laving in worked the light of the A. Thost by the Veni Sancte Spiritus Le made a short address to the Community then directed the members to proceed to vote In Superiness; after which the Community Laving retired into the sext room, the votes were counted by the Eec Superior the affeitant Clerg man, the Superioress and les afsestant, and found to be correct, in all 24; the Channes were then called out and taken when it was found that Sister In. Paulo, now in Columbia, lad a majo nity and was therefore, Elected Superiorefs; the Com munity were then called in, and the result was announced to them; and they were directed

to proceed next to the election of heasurer. which was conducted in the same manner as for Superioress, and resulted in the alection of Fister In. De Sales; and then for Procuration, When dister his Patrick was elected. The Eccle sinstical Superior Laving amounted to the Community the final result, every thing being done exactly according to Rules, made a Hort address to the outgoing officers, and also to the newly elected present; the new Superines being still in Columbia. He Community then adjourned to the Chapel, were there was given Benediction of the Blefsed Sacrament after which the Te Deum was sung by the Choir. The Community then returned to the harlow to congratulate the newly Elected, gute the Kifs of peace", and to feel how Good and how pleasant it is for brethren to divelle together in wenty. the enjoyment of the good things prepared In the occasion, was postponed to the Hollowing Gunday, when the mother Superiores will will arrived; then the cake to bus hother" shall be disposed of.



March International Days at the United Nations

MARCH 1



Organizations like the United Nations (UN) actively promote the day with various activities to celebrate everyone's right to live a full life with dignity regardless of age, gender, sexuality, nationality, ethnicity, skin color, height, weight, profession, education, and beliefs.

Many countries have laws against discrimination but it's still a problem in all layers of society in every country in the world. Many countries have and still use discrimination as a way of governing.

The symbol for Zero Discrimination Day is the butterfly, widely used by people to share their stories and photos as a way to end discrimination and work towards positive transformation.

<u>March 8</u>



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 2019 theme **Think equal, build smart, innovate for change** focuses on innovative ways in which we can advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, particularly in the areas of social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure.



The General Assembly of the United Nations in its <u>resolution</u> 66/281 of 12 July 2012 proclaimed 20 March the International Day of Happiness recognizing the relevance of happiness and well-being as universal goals and aspirations in the lives of human beings around the world and the importance of their recognition in public policy objectives. It also recognized the need for a more inclusive, equitable and balanced approach to economic growth that promotes sustainable development, poverty eradication, happiness and the well-being of all peoples.

The resolution was initiated by Bhutan, a country which recognized the value of national happiness over national income since the early 1970s and famously adopted the goal of Gross National Happiness over Gross National Product.



Held every year on 21 March, World Poetry Day celebrates one of humanity's most treasured forms of cultural and linguistic expression and identity. Practiced throughout history – in every culture and on every continent – poetry speaks to our common humanity and our shared values, transforming the simplest of poems into a powerful catalyst for dialogue and peace.

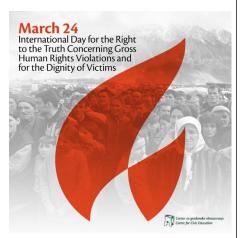
World Poetry Day is the occasion to honor poets, revive oral traditions of poetry recitals, promote the reading, writing and teaching of poetry, foster the convergence between poetry and other arts such as theatre, dance, music and painting, and raise the visibility of poetry in the media. As poetry continues to bring people together across continents, all are invited to join in.



2019 Leaving no one behind

Sustainable Development Goal 6 is crystal clear: water for all by 2030. By definition, this means leaving no one behind. But today, billions of people are still living without safe water – their households, schools, workplaces, farms and factories struggling to survive and thrive. Marginalized groups – women, children, refugees, indigenous peoples, disabled people and many others – are often overlooked, and sometimes face discrimination, as they try to access and manage the safe water they need.

This World Water Day is about tackling the water crisis by addressing the reasons why so many people are being left behind.



The right to the truth is often invoked in the context of gross violations of human rights and grave breaches of humanitarian law. The relatives of victims of summary executions, enforced disappearance, missing persons, abducted children, torture, require to know what happened to them. The right to the truth implies knowing the full and complete truth as to the events that transpired, their specific circumstances, and who participated in them, including knowing the circumstances in which the violations took place, as well as the reasons for them.

Each year, on 24 March, the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed.

This annual observance pays tribute to the memory of Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero, who was murdered on 24 March 1980. Monsignor Romero was actively engaged in denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador.

The purpose of the Day is to:

- Honour the memory of victims of gross and systematic human rights violations and promote the importance of the right to truth and justice;
- Pay tribute to those who have devoted their lives to, and lost their lives in, the struggle to promote and protect human rights for all;
- Recognize, in particular, the important work and values of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, of El Salvador, who was assasinated on 24 March 1980, after denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable populations and defending the principles of protecting lives, promoting human dignity and opposition to all forms of violence.

March 26



The transatlantic slave trade was the largest forced migration in history, and undeniably one of the most inhumane. The extensive exodus of Africans spread to many areas of the world over a 400-year period and was unprecedented in the annals of recorded human history.

As a direct result of the transatlantic slave trade, the greatest movement of Africans was to the Americas — with 96 per cent of the captives from the African coasts arriving on cramped slave ships at ports in South America and the Caribbean Islands.

From 1501 to 1830, four Africans crossed the Atlantic for every one European, making the demographics of the Americas in that era more of an extension of the African diaspora than a European one. The legacy of this migration is still evident today, with large populations of people of African descent living throughout the Americas.



Mickey Bakst was awarded the Love Your neighbor Award at the OLM Outreach Auction held on February 24. He poses with his wife, Sister Mary Joseph, Sister Carol, and the director of the Neighborhood House, Deborah LaRoche.









Photos supplied by OLM Outreach



The Academy of Our Lady of Mercy 1830-1929



1916 Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Legare Street, Charleston, SC

The Academy of Our Lady of Mercy began soon after the establishment of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. Over the years the Academy was located in many different locations in Charleston.

1830-1832 Friend Street (now Legare Street)

1832-1841 Beaufain Street, one door West of Coming Street

1841-1870 Queen Street, OLM Motherhouse and the Girls' Orphanage was also located on the property

1871-1901 The Russell House, Meeting Street

1901-1906 203 Calhoun Street

1906-1909 54 George Street

1909-1929 68 Legare Street which also was the OLM Motherhouse

SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES.

THE SISTER OF MURCY,

Beaufain-Street. one door West of Cummin-Street.
TERMS.

Board, Tuition, Washing and Mending, &c. \$100 per ann. Payable Quarterly in advance.

DAY SCHOLARS.

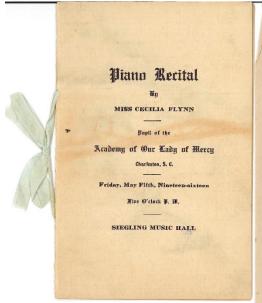
No. 1. Spelling and Reading, per quarter, \$3	00	
No 2. Reading and Writing, do.	00	
No. 3. Arithmetic, English Grammar, Geography,		
with the Use of Maps and Globes. History,		
plain Sewing, Marking and Needle Work, 87	00	
Franch artes	00	
Stationary at the request of Parents, do	00	
Ten or twelve Reardens com be	00	
Ten or twelve Boarders may be accommodated.		

The Catholic Children are examined in their Catechism every morning, and receive public instructions every Tuesday evening at 5 o'clock, and every Saturday morning at 10 o'clock.—No interference with the religious opinions of other denominations

July 5.

Advertisement for the Academy
United States Catholic Miscellany
September 20, 1834

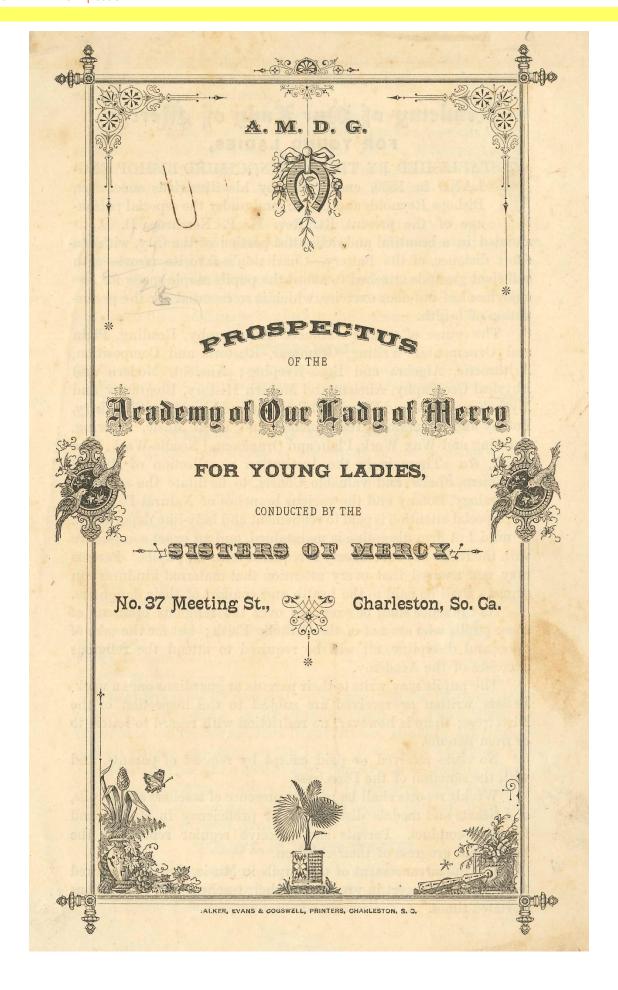
Prayer before studies, OLM Archives



Music was an important part of the curriculum.







Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, for young ladies,

LAND in 1830, encouraged by his illustrious successors, Bishops Reynolds and Lynch, and under the especial patronage of the present Rt. Rev. H. P. Northrop, D. D., is situated in a beautiful and delightful portion of the City, within a short distance of the Battery—Charleston's favorite resort—with sufficient grounds attached to afford the pupils ample space for the enjoyment of out-door exercise, which is so essential for the preservation of health.

The course of studies embraces Orthography, Reading, Plain and Ornamental Writing, Grammar, Rhetoric and Composition, Arithmetic, Algebra and Book-Keeping; Ancient, Modern and Physical Geography, Ancient and Modern History, Biography and Mythology, Moral and Natural Philosophy and Literature, Chemistry, Botany and Mineralogy, Instrumental and Vocal Music, Drawing, Painting and Wax Work, Plain and Ornamental Needle-Work, Lace Work, &c. There is in the Institution a collection of Mineral Specimens, Shells, and valuable Charts, to facilitate the study of Mineralogy, Botany and the various branches of Natural History.

Special attention is paid to refinement and lady-like deportment. A mild but firm discipline is maintained, and an exact compliance with the Rules of the Academy is required from the pupils. Parents may rest assured that every attention that maternal kindness can suggest, shall be paid to the health and comfort of their daughters.

No influence shall be exercised over the religious opinions of those pupils who are not of the Catholic Faith; but for the sake of order and discipline, all will be required to attend the religious exercises of the Academy.

The pupils may write to their parents or guardians once a week. Letters written or received are subject to the inspection of the Directress; there is however, no restriction with regard to letters to or from parents.

No visits received or paid except by request of parents, and with the sanction of the Directress.

Weekly reports shall be read in presence of teachers and pupils, and tickets and medals distributed for proficiency in studies and for good conduct. Parents shall receive regular reports of the health and progress of their children.

For the advancement of the pupils in Music, they are required to perform in concert in presence of their teachers and companions at stated times. The pupils are trained to habits of order and industry, and receive instructions in domestic economy. They are also taught plain sewing and fancy work.

The Scholastic year commences the first of September, and ends the last week in June. It is divided into two sessions of five months each; the first commences on the the first of September, the second on the first of February. The Commencement Exercises, which take place towards the end of June, terminate the Scholastic Year.

Graduates who have passed creditably through the Course of Studies, receive a gold medal for proficiency in studies, and a crown for exemplary conduct.

Pupils are received at any time during the Scholastic Year, and are charged from the date of their entrance, but it will tend greatly to their advantage to enter at the opening of the Scholastic term

TERMS

--- TERMS FOR DAY PUPILS-

Tuition in English, per Quarter of Ten Weeks, payable in advance, Primary Division...... \$ 6.00 Intermediate Division 10.00 Senior Division...... Graduating Fee..... Tuition in French, per Quarter 5.00 German, Spanish and Italian, at Professor's charges. Drawing, and Painting in Water Colors, each..... Painting on Silk or Velvet..... 5.00 Painting in Oils..... Instrumental Music and use of Piano..... Lessons on Organ and use of Organ..... 15.00 Wax Work

Boarders must be provided with a good supply of comfortable clothing. One dozen Pocket-Handkerchiefs, six pairs Hose, six changes of underclothing, four Night Dresses, Towels, Soap, Brushes and all articles necessary for the Toilet. Two pairs of Shoes, One pair of Over-Shoes, one pair Light Slippers, one Dressing Gown, two warm Balmoral Underskirts for Winter, two light Balmorals for Summer. Sacque and Cloak for Winter. Parasol, Work-box, furnished with Scissors, Needles, &c.

French Decorative Art.....

TABLE SERVICE.

One Silver or plated Fork, Silver or plated Goblet, one Teaspoon, one Dessert Spoon, one Knife, six Doilies, one Doily-Ring. Articles of every kind must be marked.

Young Girl's Needlepoint Sampler a Notable Addition to Russell House Collection

HCF has acquired a 19th century needlework sampler, rendered by a young girl named Elizabeth Malone, with funds donated by Deadwyler Antiques and Spalding Nix Fine Art & Antiques. This work contributes to the foundation's notable collection of Charleston needlework.

After a minor cleaning and framing, the sampler will be placed on display in the rear exhibition room of the Nathaniel Russell House, where the occupation of the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy is interpreted. The Sisters of Charity purchased the Russell House in 1870. A year later, the Catholic order located their school, the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, within this historic structure. In addition to history, music, reading, and science, girls were taught the art of "Drawing, Painting, and Wax Work, Plain and Ornamental Needle-Work, Lace Work, &c." Samplers such as this example were rendered as a part of a young lady's common course of study.

With the two clues that little Elizabeth provided, her name and the place where she stitched her sampler, curator Brandy Culp has uncovered the story of a young Irish girl and her family in the 1860s. Born circa 1857, Elizabeth was the daughter of Patrick and Ellen Malone, who immigrated to America from Ireland. Elizabeth's father was a drayman, or wagon driver. According to the 1860 *Charleston Directory*, the family rented a room in the building at the northeast corner of Reid and America Streets. Patrick Malone disappeared from public record during the Civil War, suggesting that he died. He likely left his wife and children in a precarious financial situation, as Ellen at some point placed her two daughters, Anne and Elizabeth, in the orphanage operated by the Sisters of Charity of **Our Lady of Mercy.**

Based on evidence provided by the sampler, Elizabeth also attended the Sisters' Academy, which was operated independently of the orphanage.

In 1869, the girls were returned to the custody of their mother. It is unknown if Anne and Elizabeth, also referred to as Bridget in the Sisters' records, ended their studies at the academy after leaving the orphanage. Unfortunately, attendance records for the academy from the 1860s and 1870s are not extant. Elizabeth may have completed this needlework prior to the Sisters' occupation of the Russell House or immediately after the opening of the academy at 51 Meeting Street. Regardless, students of the academy, such as Elizabeth Malone, commonly stitched these samplers during their tenure at the Russell House.



Source: Historic Charleston Foundation

The Academy of our Lady of Mercy, Charleston, S. C.

To the Editor of the Daily News :

Some few years have clapsed since we were accustemed to witness the annual examinations and distributions of this excellent Academy. The bright day of crowns and premiums has been for a while obscured; like a bec-hive, rudely invaded, the hum of the class-rooms was reduced to silence; but the fire of literary ambition and education was not extinguished; the love of letters, even among the gentler sex, was not dead, but sleepeth.

The good Sisters of our "Lady of Mercy" aecommodated themselves to the events that have
lately harassed the nation: they exchanged the
more agreeable duties of the academy for the
toils of the hospital; instead of the smiles of
young ladies, they became familiar with the
wounds and the means of wounded soldiers. Like
the good Samaritan, they enquired not whether
the sufferers were from the North or the South;
whether they were Jew or Gentile, Christian or
Infidel, Catholic or Protestant. They were, indeed, "Sisters of Mercy" to all. They treated all,
alike, as brothers, and without distinction.

When peace succeeded war, the hospitals in due time were closed. The wounded soldiers, now well or convalescent, blessed their benefactors, and sought their respective homes. But the good Sisters, at this time, had no home to enter—their convent was a ruin, shattered by shells and cannon balls.

Through the timely consideration of General Sickles, and the kindness of private friends, the essential repairs have been made, and the Sisters are again under their own roof. But alas! their ruined schools are still unbuilt. In this privation, they were compelled to turn their convent into a temporary Academy, and their class-rooms, though insufficient, resound again with the recitation of pupils—and their progress in music and song.

Last Friday, August 2d, was to teachers and pupils a memorable day. It was the close of the Academic year—the pay day of talents and studies. The large parlor of the convent was used as a salle, in which all the young ladies were scated. It was, however, a cause for regret, that the parents and the public could not be scated, and therefore could not be invited to witness the successful and brilliant display of talents, and cultivation.

The very Rev. Dr. BERMINGHAM, who presided and distributed the premiums, was the only gentleman present, and was surprised at such progress. Cold indeed would be the finature, and stoic the man who could withhold (admiration, or be stinty in lauding such general excellence.

But where the least proficiency might be expected, it was manifest, and in a remarkable degree, in the three French classes which made their debut. The articulation was distinct, and the pronunciation, which is the criterion of the language, was unusually pure. Had you not seen the young ladies, and the bright little girls, you might fancy you heard a pronunciation, with which many in Charleston have been familiar in Paris.

Though it may seem amiss to particularize among competitors of such general excellence, still it is but justice to mention, among the young ladies, Miss Black, Miss Pelzer, Misspharrett, Miss Leby, Miss Thompson; and, among the little girls, Miss Chazal, Miss O'Nell, Miss Petit, Miss Amar, Miss Duffy—a neice, I am told, of Rev. Father Crooman. I heard her name mentioned as "a brilliant little creature."

But there are so many brilliants here, of necessity omitted, in the higher and lower classes, that these who are named must look sharp to hold their places, else those who are only a very little behind may courtesy and pass them—at the next examination.

Charleston Daily News 07 Dec 1868 The Crib at Bethlehem.—It is the intention of the Sisters at the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Queen-street, to get up another allegorical representation of this scene, so tenderly described in Sacred Writ. They commenced yesterday the incipient arrangements, and will endeavor this season to make the embodiment of the ideal as good as the one of last year, and indeed somewhat better. We have no doubt that it will prove highly successful, and create as great an interest as the former one, which was visited by upwards of two thousand persons, who acknowledged, in unequivocal terms, its decided merits.

Charleston Daily News, 28 Nov 1868

DESIRABLE ACQUISITION, &c.—The piece of property adjoining the Academy of our Lady of Mercy, Queen-street, has been purchased by the Sisters. When they get the old school house repaired and painted, and their premises extended, the appearance of the academy will be materially improved.

o7 Dec 1868 Charleston Daily News

CATHOLIC SCHOOL-HOUSE.—The school-house on the premises of the Academy of our Lady of Mercy, Queen street, which was so badly injured by shells during the war, is being repaired by Mr. J. Kenny. It will be completed in about a month.

22 Jul 1871 Charleston Daily News









Partners In Charity Planning Meeting held in February

