

# The View From The Bluff August 2019

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

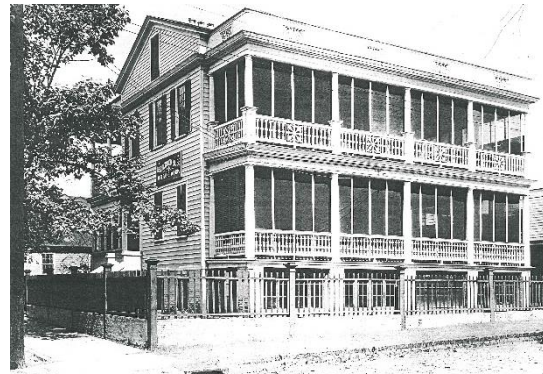
## I FOUND IT IN THE ARCHIVES

**Mother M. Benedicta Hummel**  
1913 – 1916



Catherine (Kate) Hummel was born in Charleston on May 29, 1861. She attended the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy prior to her entrance into the Community on January 29, 1878 at age 16. At her reception as a Novice on December 3, 1878 she was given the name Sr. M. Benedicta. Following her profession on March 25, 1882, Sr. Benedicta spent most of her life as a teacher in the OLM Academies in Charleston and Aiken, SC. She was elected Mother Superior of the Community in 1913 for a three year term.

In the autumn of 1914 Bishop Northrop sought Mother Benedicta's cooperation in establishing the District Nursing and Social Service Agency to provide home nursing care for the sick poor and a center where the needy would find assistance. Miss Mary McKenna, Superintendent of St. Francis Xavier Hospital supervised the entire program. With Mother Benedicta's support the OLMs on duty at St. Francis became an integral part of the program. Sister M. Michael Leary was placed in charge of the social service aspects of the program. A rented house at 90 Columbus Street, Charleston, became her headquarters. Originally called St. Francis Neighborhood House, people soon referred to it as "the Neighborhood House."



One of its chief purposes was to offer the largely immigrant population in the area opportunities to socialize and familiarize themselves with the American way of life. Sr. M. Michael, with the assistance of other OLMs and lay women organized a vacation school for children and classes in sewing, home nursing and cooking for older girls and young mothers.



In 1915 Father Joseph O'Brien, a newly ordained priest and graduate of the International Catholic University at Fribourg, Switzerland, sought to establish a Catholic High School in Charleston in honor of Bishop England and turned to Bishop England's Sisters for teachers. In response Mother Benedicta assigned (OLMs l-r) Sr. Ancilla Luney, Sr. Jane Frances Martin and Sr. Berchmans Crowley to the high school which opened on September 22, 1915. The following year Mother Benedicta assigned an additional OLM, Sr. Mechtilde Rogers to BEHS.

When her term as Mother Superior ended in July 1916, Sr. Benedicta returned to the classroom. She served as Directress of St. Angela Academy, Aiken, SC, from September 1916 until 1920. From 1921 to 1925 she was the Directress of OLM Academy, Charleston, and, from 1925 to 1930 she was again Directress of St. Angela Academy. Three years later, on August 30, 1933, Sr. Benedicta, age 72, died at St. Francis Xavier Hospital, Charleston, SC. She is buried in St. Lawrence Cemetery.



There are an estimated 370 million indigenous people in the world, living across 90 countries. They make up less than 5 per cent of the world's population, but account for 15 per cent of the poorest. They speak an overwhelming majority of the world's estimated 7,000 languages and represent 5,000 different cultures.

Indigenous peoples are inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment. They have retained social, cultural, economic and political characteristics that are distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live. Despite their cultural differences, indigenous peoples from around the world share common problems related to the protection of their rights as distinct peoples.

Indigenous peoples have sought recognition of their identities, way of life and their right to traditional lands, territories and natural resources for years, yet throughout history their rights have always been violated. Indigenous peoples

today, are arguably among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of people in the world. The international community now recognizes that special measures are required to protect their rights and maintain their distinct cultures and way of life.



August 12

**2019**  
**TRANSFORMING**  
**EDUCATION**

There are currently 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 and 24 in the world. This is the largest youth population ever. But 1 in 10 of the world's children live in conflict zones and 24 million of them are out of school. Political instability, labour market challenges and limited space for political and civic participation have led to increasing isolation of youth in societies.

12 August was first designated International Youth Day by the UN General Assembly in 1999, and serves as an annual celebration of the role of young women and men as essential partners in change, and an opportunity to raise awareness of challenges and problems facing the world's youth.

## 2019 Theme: "Transforming education"

This year's theme highlights efforts to make education more inclusive and accessible for all youth, including efforts by youth themselves. Rooted in [Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) – to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" – International Youth Day 2019 will examine how Governments, young people and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, as well as other stakeholders, are transforming education so that it becomes a powerful tool to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Inclusive and accessible education is crucial to achieving sustainable development and can play a role in the prevention of conflict. Indeed, education is a 'development multiplier' as it plays a pivotal role in accelerating progress across all [17 Sustainable Development Goals](#), be it poverty eradication, good health, gender equality, decent work and growth, reduced inequalities, action on climate or peaceful societies. Education should lead to relevant and effective learning outcomes, with the content of school curricula being fit for purpose, not only for the 4th industrial revolution and the future of work, but also for the opportunities – and challenges – that rapidly changing social contexts bring.

The crucial role that quality education plays in youth development is well recognized. In addition, comprehensive youth development benefits society-at-large. However, what is less known is the fact that young people themselves are active champions of inclusive and accessible education. Youth-led organizations, as well as individual youth, together with various stakeholders and Governments, are concretely transforming education so that it becomes a fundamental tool both for sustainable development and for the full inclusion of various social groups. For example, youth-led

organizations are transforming education via lobbying and advocacy, partnerships with educational institutions, the development of complementary training programs, etc.



August 21



**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF  
REMEMBRANCE OF AND TRIBUTE  
TO THE VICTIMS OF TERRORISM**

“I welcome the decision of the General Assembly to establish an International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. We must lift up the voices of victims and survivors of terrorist attacks, who consistently call for accountability and results. When we respect the human rights of victims and provide

them with support and information, we reduce the lasting damage done by terrorists to individuals, communities and societies.” — *UN Secretary-General, António Guterres*

## International Day Against Nuclear Tests August 29



Since nuclear weapons testing began on 16 July 1945, nearly 2,000 have taken place. In the early days of nuclear testing little consideration was given to its devastating effects on human life, let alone the dangers of nuclear fallout from atmospheric tests. Hindsight and history have shown us the terrifying and tragic effects of nuclear weapons testing, especially when controlled conditions go awry, and in light of the far more powerful and destructive nuclear weapons that exist today.

The human and environmental tragedies that are the result of nuclear testing are compelling reasons for the need to observe the International Day against Nuclear Tests – a day in which educational events, activities and messages aim to capture the world’s attention and underscore the need for unified efforts to prevent further nuclear weapons testing.

The international instrument to put an end to all forms of nuclear testing is the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), unfortunately, this has yet to enter into force.

Source: UN.org