



# The View From The Bluff

October  
2019

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA



Mother

Mary Baptist Eccleston

1928-1931

Mother Mary Baptist Eccleston, formerly Margaret Mary Eccleston, was born in County Meath, Ireland, in 1876. Community records do not provide any information concerning her arrival in the USA nor where her family settled. However, on July 19, 1893 her application for entrance into the Community, post-marked Fall River, MA, was approved by OLM Eccleston, then entered the Community her Reception on March the name, Sister Mary professed on March 25, entered St. Francis Community had Following graduation in Francis Xavier Hospital Superior of the OLM 15, 1928.



Council members. Miss seventeen years old, on August 21, 1893. At 31, 1894, she received Baptist, and was 1896. Six years later she Nursing School which the established in 1900. 1904 she served at St. until elected Mother Community on August



## AND EACH NEW SEASON BROUGHT NEW CLASSES . . . .

Class of 1918  
 Amelia Tanksley  
 Julia Howell  
 Annie McCants  
 Eula Agnes Kelly  
 Katherine E. Fickling  
 Alice Cecilia Matson

Class of 1919  
 Rose Flanagan  
 Pauline McCants

Class of 1920  
 Virginia Patterson

Class of 1922  
 Sister Mary Joseph O'Reilly  
 Myrtle Hook

Class of 1923  
 Dorothy Virginia Rowan  
 Annie Kulinski  
 Sister Mary Perpetua Riley  
 Lila Raybourne

Students always find time for relaxation and clowning — Saint Francis Xavier students are no exception! At the far left, are Miss Eva Walpole (Class of '03) and Miss Katherine McGrath (Class of '02).

The second picture shows Miss Lila Raybourne (Class of '23) and Miss Annie Kulinski (Class of '23) preparing for "A BIG CASE".



Class of 1927  
 Cornelia Ayer  
 Cecilia Donovan  
 Edith Traugott

Members of Classes of 1924, 1925 & 1926 (Left to Right) Front Row: Helen Leonard ('26), Vernice Raybourne, (unidentified), Bernardine Molony ('26), Beatrice Perry ('26), Elizabeth Hartnett, Sadie Butler. 2nd Row: Miriam Conlon ('26), Helen Nimner ('25), Rosalie Bennett ('26), Ida Rogers, Frances Cheney ('24), Agnes Dean ('24), Claire Sommer, ('24), Victoria Stevens, Sarah Pagnones.



3rd Row: Sister Barbara Baker, Sister Gertrude Tarmey ('16-'17), Sister Victoire Kirwin ('16-'17), Mr. Purcell, Engineer, Mr. Randolph Donovan, Maintenance Man, Everett Hurlong, Senior Medical Student, Reverend John Kelly, Chaplain, J. R. Chandler, Senior Medical Student, Sister Teresa Lynch, Sister Perpetua Riley ('23), Sister Mary Felicitas Dolan ('26), Sister Mary Michael Leary ('06), Sister Mary Baptist Eccleston ('04).

Class of 1928  
 Margaret Adams  
 Victoria Joseph  
 Leona Burnmaster

Four months after her election Mother M. Baptist and Council members decided to close the boarding and high school departments of St. Joseph's Academy in Sumter, SC, in view of the declining number of students in attendance. In response to Bishop Walsh's request Mother Baptist sent Sister Catherine Smith and Sister Mary Charles Gibson to Spartanburg, SC, to conduct a religious vacation school in July 1929. The school was so successful that the Bishop established religious vacation schools at Pinckney Colony, Beaufort, and at St. Joseph's, Sumter, the following summer. Encouraged by the success of the religious vacation schools Bishop Walsh asked Mother Baptist to Academy into a year-grade school was Joseph's became a Mary John Connell drive an automobile work. For the next Sumter travelled an weekly to provide children of the Camden Missions. In Baptist and her the celebration of the



convert St. Joseph's round mission center. The closed, and, old St. mission on wheels. Sister received permission to for the Sumter Mission twenty years the OLMs in average of 500 miles religious instruction to the Sumter, Florence and September 1929 Mother Council discussed plans for Community's Centennial.





MOTHER HOUSE OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY, CHARLESTON, S. C.

## A Century of Service

Sunday, December 8, 1929 was chosen as the date for the beginning of a three day celebration. The program began with Mass for the deceased members of the Community in the Motherhouse Chapel, Legare Street, at 7:00 AM. At 10:30 Bishop Michael Keyes of Savannah, GA, was the celebrant at a Pontifical Mass in the Cathedral at which the Bishop of Charleston, Emmet Walsh, gave the sermon. At 12:30 PM a luncheon for the clergy was held at the Fort Sumter Hotel. The day ended with a solemn Pontifical Benediction in the Motherhouse Chapel and with the unveiling of tablets to the memory of Bishop England and the Co-Foundresses Mother Mary Joseph O'Gorman, Mother Mary Martha O'Gorman and Mother Mary Teresa Barry. On Monday morning, December 9<sup>th</sup>, a Mass was celebrated in the Legare Street Chapel for the alumnae of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy. In the evening a reception was held in the Cathedral Hall. At 9:00 am on December 10<sup>th</sup> a Mass for the benefactors of the Community was celebrated in the Cathedral. The Mass was sung by the pupils of the Catholic schools. The celebration concluded that evening with a historical pageant at the Academy of Music in which the children of the Catholic Schools honored the Community's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

1829

1929

*The Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy  
Charleston, South Carolina  
request the honor of your presence  
at the  
Pontifical Mass  
Sunday, December eighth  
at  
half after ten o'clock  
in the  
Cathedral of St. John the Baptist  
in honor of  
The Hundredth Anniversary  
of the  
Foundation of their Community*

*Celebrant of the Mass The Right Reverend Michael E. Keyes, D.D.  
Bishop of Savannah  
Sermon The Right Reverend Emmet M. Walsh, D.D.  
Bishop of Charleston*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER EIGHTH  
7 A. M.

MASS IN THE CONVENT CHAPEL  
LEGARE STREET  
FOR THE DECEASED MEMBERS  
OF THE  
COMMUNITY

10:30 A. M.

PONTIFICAL MASS IN THE CATHEDRAL  
CELEBRANT:—THE RT. REV. MICHAEL E. KEYES, D.D.  
BISHOP OF SAVANNAH  
SERMON:—THE RT. REV. EMMET M. WALSH, D.D.  
BISHOP OF CHARLESTON

12:30 P. M.

LUNCHEON FOR THE CLERGY  
FORT SUMTER HOTEL

5:00 P. M.

SOLEMN PONTIFICAL BENEDECTION  
IN THE  
CONVENT CHAPEL

THE UNVEILING OF TABLETS  
TO THE MEMORY  
OF

THE RIGHT REVEREND JOHN ENGLAND  
AND THE  
CO-FOUNDRESSES

REVEREND MOTHER MARY JOSEPH O'GORMAN  
REVEREND MOTHER MARY MARTHA O'GORMAN  
REVEREND MOTHER MARY TERESA BARRY

MONDAY, DECEMBER NINTH  
9:00 A. M.

MASS IN THE CONVENT CHAPEL  
LEGARE STREET  
FOR THE MEMBERS  
OF  
THE ACADEMY ALUMNAE

8:00 P. M.

RECEPTION IN THE CATHEDRAL HALL

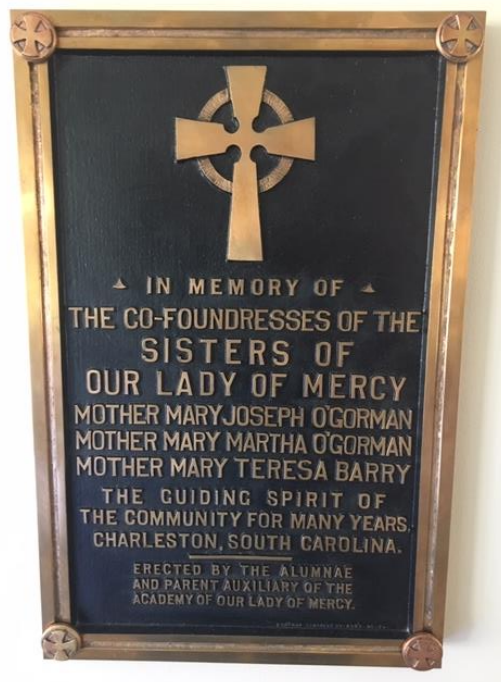
TUESDAY, DECEMBER TENTH  
9:00 A. M.

MASS IN THE CATHEDRAL FOR THE BENEFACTORS  
OF THE COMMUNITY

THIS MASS WILL BE SUNG BY THE PUPILS  
OF THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

8:00 P. M.

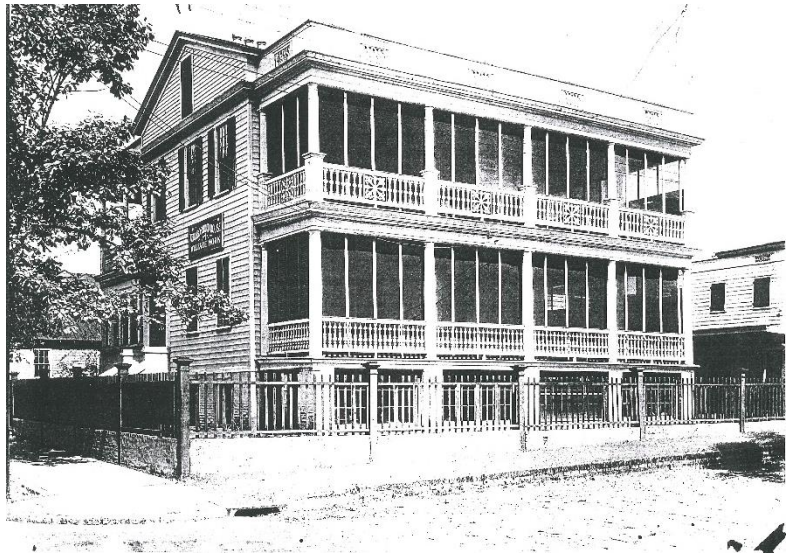
AN HISTORICAL PAGEANT  
AT THE  
ACADEMY OF MUSIC





Five months later, May 7, 1930, Mother Baptist and Council decided to close the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy due to the demand for teachers for the parochial schools and Bishop England High School.

On March 2, 1931 Mother Baptist informed the Council that she was going to Asheville, NC, for an indefinite period of time due to ill health. In her absence Bishop Walsh placed Sister M. Francis Robb, Mother Assistant, in charge of the Community until the next election for Mother Superior scheduled for August 29, 1931. On that occasion Sister M. Francis was elected Mother Superior. Upon returning from Asheville Sister M. Baptist joined the staff of the Neighborhood House. In her dissertation, *The Story of A Neighborhood House*, Sister M. Anthony Monahan, OLM, lists Sister M. Baptist as the Director of the facility from 1933 to 1952.



Sisters Evangelist McFadden (L) and Mary Baptist Eccleston (R) at the Neighborhood House

The Community Register states that Sister M. Baptist died on May 12, 1955 at St. Francis Xavier Hospital following a long illness. She is buried in Saint Lawrence Cemetery.





## Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach Celebrates 30 Years of Service!



Jakki Jefferson, Cynthia Puga, Alma Puga, Mario Puga, Sister Mary Joseph, Sister Carol, Ana Tovar, Rey Tovar, Jose Tovar, Dr. John Howard.

Cynthia and Rey were Yes, I Can! Program attendees, Alma and Ana are former employees, Mario and Jose have done volunteer work for the Outreach and the Sisters over the years.

Jakki and Dr. Howard employees.





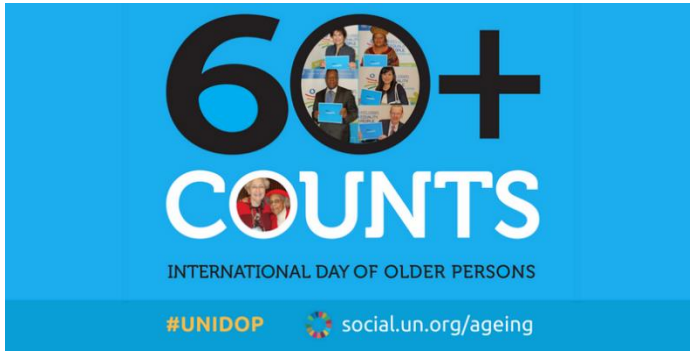
Top Left: Sister Carol with former Yes I Can Program Participant Mariela Alvarado-Luna who now works at the Wellness Center.

Top Right: Jackie Triplett, Sister Mary Joseph, Donnie Triplett (a participant in the first Yes, I Can! Program), Sister Carol

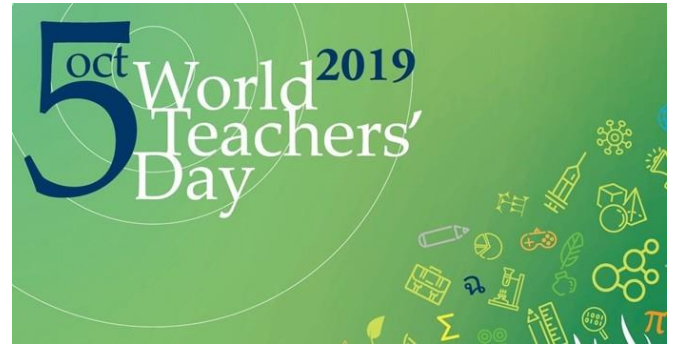
Bottom Left and Right: Attendees enjoying the great BBQ, chicken, and oysters! A great time was had by all!



October 1



The holiday is celebrated by raising awareness about issues affecting the elderly, such as senescence and elder abuse. It is also a day to appreciate the contributions that older people make to society.



World Teachers' Day aims to focus on "appreciating, assessing and improving the educators of the world" and to provide an opportunity to consider issues related to teachers and teaching.

October 11



The main aims of the day are to promote girl's empowerment and fulfilment of their human rights while also highlighting the challenges that girls all over the world face.



World Food Day is a day of action dedicated to tackling global hunger. People from around the world come together to declare their commitment to eradicate worldwide hunger from our lifetime. Celebrating the creation of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), events are organized in over 150 countries across the world, making it one of the most celebrated days of the UN calendar. These events promote worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and for the need to ensure food security and nutritious diets for all. The focus of the day is that food is a basic and fundamental human right. Yet, in a world of billions, over 820million people worldwide suffering chronic undernourishment, 60% women and almost five million children under the age of five die of malnutrition-related causes every day.

