



THE VIEW FROM THE BLUFF

FEBRUARY 2020

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA



From the Archives

Mother Mary Bernard Campbell
1937-1940 and 1952-1958



Mother Mary Bernard, formerly Margaret Campbell, was born on March 25, 1897 in County Donegal, Ireland. The sixth child of William and Sarah Mohan Campbell, she, her four sisters and two brothers grew up on the family farm located in the countryside surrounding Donegal Town. Upon completing her elementary education in the local National School, she attended St. Brigid's Missionary School in Callan, County Kilkenny, Ireland. She planned to enter a religious Community serving in China upon graduation. However, that possibility did not materialize. Instead, when a request arrived from Bishop William T. Russell of Charleston, SC, asking for volunteers for the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, she accepted the invitation, crossed the Atlantic by herself, and entered the Community on March 10, 1920. Mother M. Stanislaus Hanley greeted her warmly saying "Here is our new Sr. Mary Bernard." Sr. M. Bernard Sheehan, to whom Mother Stanislaus referred, died ten days later. Miss Campbell received the name on November 6, 1920 and was professed on September 24, 1922. Prior to her election as Mother Superior Sr. Mary Bernard taught in St. Joseph's parochial school and Bishop England High School in Charleston. During summers she attended the Catholic University in Washington, DC, and Marywood College in Scranton, Pennsylvania, from which she received

an AB degree in 1929. Simultaneously, she served as Treasurer General of the Community from 1932 to 1935, and, as Mother Assistant from 1935 until elected Mother Superior on August 23, 1937.



St. Catherine's Kindergarten 1944

Kindergarten children in the morning, and, visited the Sumter Missions in the afternoons. Old St. Joseph's was taken over for parish activities in November 1937. The following year the OLM Council approved Bishop Walsh's request asking the Community to operate a small infirmary in York, SC. On May 28, 1938 Mother Bernard accompanied by Sr. M. Martha Woodruff and Sr. Felicitas Dolan arrived in York. Before the week was out, Divine Saviour Hospital was born. During the summer of 1938 work began to replace the old frame school building housing St. Angela Academy with a new two story brick building. The new building was ready for classes in September 1938. Bishop Emmet Walsh presided at the pontifical Mass and dedication of the new school building on January 8, 1939. The following year, on August 17, 1940, Sister Francis Robb was elected Mother Superior. For the next

Shortly before Mother Bernard's election the OLM Community acquired the spacious colonial home and grounds in Sumter which Mr. Neil O'Donnell bequeathed to them.

The terms of his will stipulated that the property be used as an orphanage or educational institution and called St. Catherine's in memory of Mrs. O'Donnell.

Mother Bernard chose to open a kindergarten on the property. On September 10, 1937 the Sisters missioned in Sumter moved from old St. Joseph's Academy to St. Catherine's. They taught the



Divine Saviour Hospital, 1939



six years Sr. Mary Bernard served as Local Superior and Principal of St. Angela Academy in Aiken, SC. She was elected Procuratrix of the Community in 1946, and, Secretary General in 1949. During these years she also taught physics, chemistry and math at Bishop England High School.

On June 16, 1952 Sister Mary Bernard was again elected Mother Superior and re-elected for another three year term on June 14, 1955. Several significant developments occurred during her six years in office. Early on the Community sold the property on York Street in Aiken to St. Mary Help of Christians parish and moved St. Angela Academy to a new school building on Berrie Road. In 1954 Mother M. Bernard agreed to provide three OLMs to staff St. Anne's grade school in Sumter, SC, while continuing to operate St. Catherine's Kindergarten. In response to a request from the Pastor of St. Michael's Parish in Gibbstown, NJ, the Community sent Sisters Alphonsus,

Caroline and Maureen to staff their parish school. The following year Mother M. Bernard accepted a proposal from Bishop Ahr of Trenton, NJ, whereby our Community relinquished the Hightstown Mission to the Victory Noll Sisters, and, opened Our Lady of Mt. Virgin parochial school in Middlesex, NJ, in September 1955. Two years



later, in response to a request from Msgr. Richard Madden, the Community assigned three OLMs to staff St. Andrew's Parish school in Myrtle Beach, SC. For many years the General Council had discussed the possibility of relocating the Novitiate. In 1957 Bishop John J. Russell gave Mother M. Bernard permission to build a facility to serve as a Novitiate, provide offices for the Mother General, Secretary General, and General Treasurer and house the aging and disabled members of the Community. Construction began in September 1957 on the 23 acres of land on James Island which the Community had purchased in 1946. It was nearly completed when Mother Mary Bernard's term in office ended on June 14, 1958.

Following her term as Mother Superior Sister Mary Bernard served as Elementary School Supervisor for the Catholic Diocese of Charleston for six years. In 1964 she was appointed Principal of Our Lady of Mount Virgin School in New Jersey. Four years later she returned to South Carolina and taught part-time at Immaculate Conception School in Charleston from 1971-72, and, at St. Mary, Help of

Christians School in Aiken, SC from 1973 to 1975. In later years she volunteered as a visitor in the Pastoral Care Department of St. Francis Xavier Hospital in Charleston. Sister Mary Bernard died at the Motherhouse on James Island on August 4, 1991 and is buried in Holy Cross Cemetery.





Why Add a Leap Day?

Leap days are needed to keep our calendar in alignment with the Earth's revolutions around the Sun.

It takes the Earth approximately 365.242189 days – or 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 45 seconds – to circle once around the Sun. This is called a tropical year.

Without an extra, or intercalary, day on February 29 nearly every four years, we would lose almost six hours every year. After only 100 years, a calendar without leap years would be off by approximately 24 days in relation to fixed seasonal days such as the vernal equinox or the winter solstice.

Caesar Introduced Leap Years

Roman general Julius Caesar implemented the first leap day in his Julian Calendar, which he introduced in 45 BCE. A leap day was added **every** four years. At the time, leap day was February 24, and February was the last month of the year.

Too Many Leap Years

However, adding a leap day every four years was too often and eventually, in 1582, Pope Gregory XIII introduced the Gregorian Calendar. This calendar, which we still use today, has a more precise formula for calculation of leap years, also known as bissextile years. Source: TimeandDate.com

