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.

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...
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