

A calm and undisturbed
mind and heart
are the life and health
of the body

Proverbs 14:30

The View From The Bluff

October 2020

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

I FOUND IT IN THE ARCHIVES

Sister Ignatius Clark

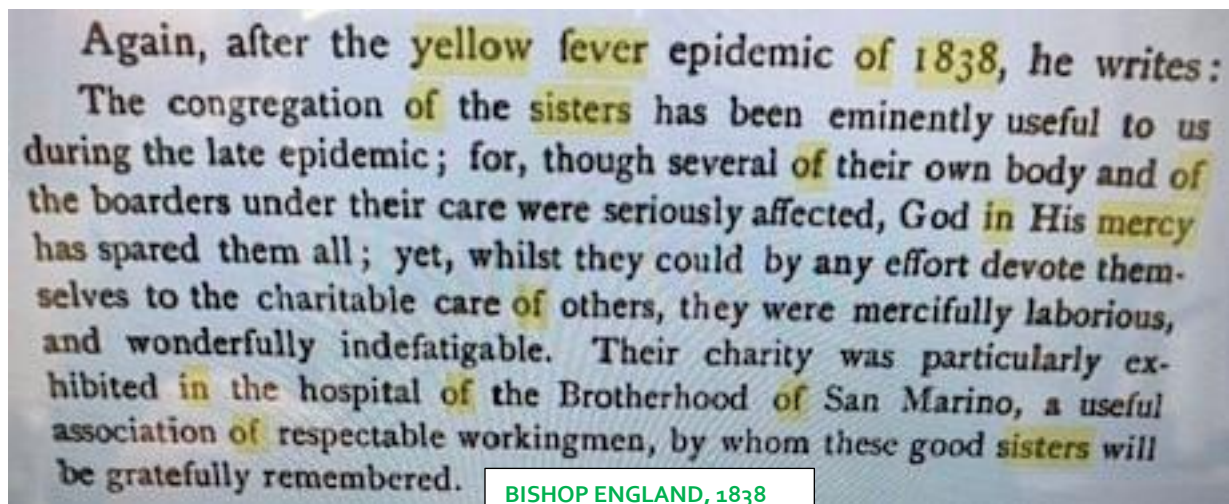


The OLM Community Register lists twenty-four-year-old Ellen Clark as the 8th member of Bishop England's Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. Born in County Cavan, Ireland, Ellen was living in Baltimore, Maryland, prior to her entrance in December 1830. She likely met Bishop England when he visited Baltimore in 1829. At her Reception she became Sister M. Ignatius and was professed in January 1832. Not much is known of her first years as an OLM. However, the

The institute of the Sisters of our Lady of Mercy has during the year made great progress towards perfect organization, and fully exhibited its eminent utility, not only in the education of children placed in their schools, upon whose improvement the sisters bestow the most laborious and successful attention, but they have protected and cherished the orphan, they have consoled the afflicted, they have nursed the sick, they have cheered the dying, and proved themselves worthy of the patronage which they have chosen. Their own privations are not trifling, their dwelling is inadequate. By the zeal of one attached to their institute, a few friends have contributed a sum as the commencement of a fund to procure for them a permanent and appropriate residence. I know of no institution in the diocese which better deserves to be sustained.

record does note that she was among those appointed by Bishop England to work in the temporary hospital he established in Charleston to care for victims of the yellow fever epidemic. The hospital, located on Queen Street, remained in

BISHOP ENGLAND,
NOVEMBER 5, 1835



existence from 1838 to 1841. The records also list Sister M. Ignatius as “in charge of the orphans” when the Community moved into the new four story brick convent which opened on Queen Street

in February 1841 and served as the Motherhouse and Girls’ Orphanage until 1901. The next mention of Sister M. Ignatius in the records states that she was one of five OLMs sent to Columbia, SC, in 1854 to open a boarding and day school for girls called the Academy of the Immaculate Conception. Apparently, she remained in Columbia for the next four years. Shortly after the Reverend Patrick Lynch’s Consecration as Bishop of Charleston, the OLMs were brought back from Columbia to Charleston to take care of a proposed Boys’ Orphanage. Ursuline Nuns were placed in charge of the Academy in Columbia. The Boys’ Orphanage was located on Queen Street and burned to the ground in the destructive fire which swept Charleston on the night of December 11, 1861. A week after the fire, on December 19, 1861, Mother Teresa Barry and five OLMs left Charleston bound for White Sulphur Springs, Virginia, to open and staff a Confederate Military Hospital there. Sister M. Ignatius was among those chosen for this mission and, apparently, remained in Virginia throughout the war. The records state that the Sisters who had served in Montgomery White Sulphur Springs, VA, returned to Charleston on July 9, 1865. However, they do not indicate where Sister Ignatius spent the next five years. The Census of 1870 for Sumter, SC, lists Ignatius Clark as one of the OLMs living at St. Joseph’s Academy there. However, we do not know how long she remained in Sumter. When she died on October 24, 1875, she was a resident at the Motherhouse on Queen Street, Charleston. Sister M. Ignatius is buried in St. Lawrence Cemetery, Charleston.



Sister Mechtilde Rogers

Laura Virginia Rogers, the future Sister M. Mechtilde, was born in Camden, N.J., to Elizabeth and William Rogers. Her birthdate is not recorded though it was probably in 1866. A convert to the Catholic faith, she was baptized on June 11, 1899 in the Church of the Gesu, Philadelphia, PA. She entered the OLM Community on September 7, 1902 at age 37, was received on April 13, 1903, and professed on April 24, 1905. Prior to her entrance into the Community she had taught in the public schools of Pennsylvania. Sister M. Mechtilde spent most of her life as an OLM in the classroom. During her Novitiate she taught in the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy,

Charleston. From 1908 through 1913 she was assigned to Saint Joseph's Academy, Sumter, SC. In 1914 and 1915 she taught students in St. Angela Academy, Aiken, SC. In September 1916 she was one of the first three OLMs assigned to the recently opened Bishop England High School in Charleston. In May 1917 Sister Mechtilde was elected General Secretary/Treasurer of the OLM Community and served in that office through 1920 while simultaneously teaching at BEHS. In



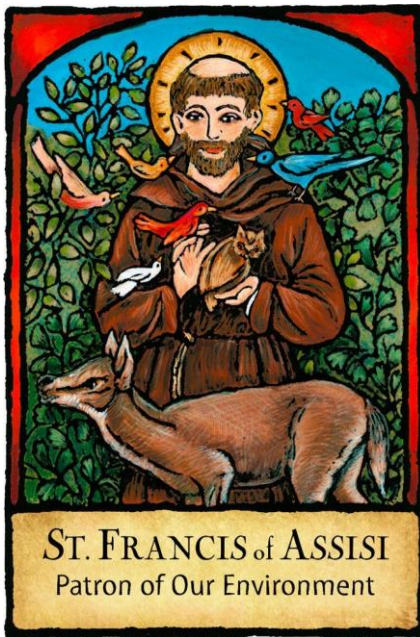
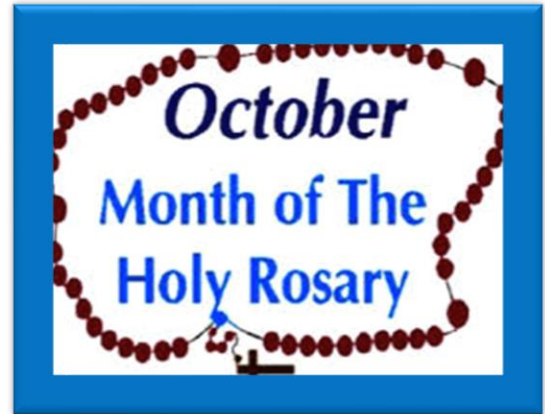
1920 she was assigned to Mine Creek, SC, and opened St. William's School there. At the request of Msgr. Joseph O'Brien Sister Mechtilde returned to BEHS in 1921 where she taught math until 1929. Sister Mechtilde received her bachelor of science degree from Marywood College, Scranton, PA. After an illness of several months she died on October 11, 1935 in St. Francis Xavier Hospital, Charleston. Sister Mechtilde is buried in Saint Lawrence Cemetery.

Class of 1919 -- L-R Sister Mechtilde Rogers, Sister Jane Francis Martin, Sister M. Berchmans Crowley



BE students, faculty, OLM Sisters 1916

203 Calhoun Street



The Season of Creation 2020 ends on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.



As Catholics, we are called to:

- uphold life and the dignity of each human person
- support families and future generations
- love the poor and vulnerable
- advocate for basic rights and a just economy
- be in solidarity with all, as one human family
- care for all of God's creation

Grounded in our Catholic Tradition, now is the time to protect the earth for our children and grandchildren.

PRAY to hear God's call to live our faith for the common good, knowing that everything is interconnected.

LEARN how the climate crisis is a profound moral issue greatly affecting the poor and vulnerable.

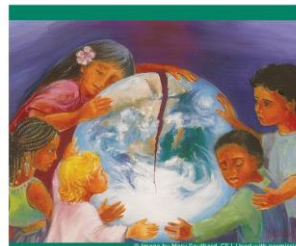
TELL your local and national leaders to protect creation.

Praise be to you, our Lord, God of all Creation!

Learn more!

usccb.org/environment
wearesaltandlight.org/cst101
catholicclimatecovenant.org

Please recycle



**PROTECT LIFE.
 PRESERVE THAT WHICH
 SUSTAINS LIFE.
 CARE FOR
 OUR COMMON HOME.**

POPE FRANCIS, *Laudato Si'*