



The View From The Bluff

November 2020

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

**I FOUND IT IN
THE ARCHIVES**

Sister M. Chrysostom Monaghan
and

Sister M. Isidore Sowers



Lizzie Monaghan, the future Sister M. Chrysostom, was born in Montreal, Canada, in 1867. The archives does not have a record of when or why she arrived in the USA or of her life prior to her

entrance into the OLM Community on December 3, 1892. She was received on July 15, 1893 and professed on August 15, 1895. Following her profession Sr. Chrysostom spent several years working in the parochial schools in Charleston. However, on August 6, 1908 she was assigned to St. Joseph's Academy, Sumter, SC, where she remained through 1916. She is credited with establishing and





teaching in the Commercial Department of St. Joseph's during her eight years there. In September 1917 she was transferred to St. Francis Xavier Hospital, Charleston, where she provided secretarial assistance for the next four years. On September 6, 1921 Sr. Chrysostom was assigned to the City Orphanage on Queen Street where she served as teacher and friend of the orphans as well as teaching in St. Joseph's

Parochial School. Sister Chrysostom died in St. Francis Xavier Hospital on November 5, 1925. Her obituary stated, "Until two weeks before her death, she held to her task of leading the little ones to the Savior. While the bleak winds of November wail around us let us pray that her greeting from the Master was: Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." She is buried in St. Lawrence Cemetery, Charleston.



Sister Isidore, the former Elizabeth Sowers, was born on September 21, 1869 in Greenville, SC. Later her parents, John Sidney and Amanda Sowers, moved the family to Salisbury, NC. Here Elizabeth was taught her religion by the famous Catholic writer, Christian Reid, to whom she



always felt deeply indebted. Following a move to Columbia, SC, Elizabeth, her parents, and several siblings were received into the Catholic Church. On February 1, 1901, Elizabeth entered the OLM Community in Charleston, SC. At her reception she became Sister Isidore and was professed on October 20, 1902. The first twenty-one years of her religious life were spent in Saint Joseph Academy, Sumter, SC. Here she endeared herself to her students by her unselfish labors in their behalf, particularly in the fields of music and art. During this period of her religious life, she attended the Summer Sessions of the Catholic University, Washington, DC. Sister Isidore was elected and served as General Secretary and Treasurer of the OLM Community from 1926 to 1929. In September 1929 she was appointed Director of the City Orphanage Asylum which the OLM Community operated. Three years later, in September 1932, Sister Isidore was assigned to assist Sister M. Evangelist with the welfare work at the Neighborhood House in Charleston.



THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

However, she was forced to relinquish this post after a few weeks on account of sickness. She then became a patient at St. Francis Xavier Hospital in Charleston where she remained until her death on November 24, 1933. Her obituary stated, "Sister Isidore was gentle and retiring, but she was an

indefatigable worker. Her truly Christian principles and boundless charity was a source of edification to all who came in contact with her." Sister Isidore is buried in St. Lawrence Cemetery, Charleston.





School Sisters of Notre Dame

Collaborative Communications

320 East Ripa Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63125

October 14, 2020

Dear Sister,

With the recent increase of protests and violence in our country, a need for peace is emerging for the remaining days before election day. This letter is an invitation to join the School Sisters of Notre Dame in a collaborative day of prayer on November 3. We believe there is an urgent need in our country as the political discourse continues to incite and divide us. With you and your congregation, we would like to promote unity, through prayer, for peace on Election Day.

We have tried to keep this simple. Please choose an hour on November 3 for your congregation to pray specifically for peace in our country, for the safety of all poll workers and the safety of those who are voting on the day. We encourage you to invite your sisters, associates, family, friends and ministry partners to join you in prayer throughout the day to continue building this community of peace and unity. As women religious, we pray for urgent needs throughout the world; let us be a visible sign of that gift which has been entrusted to us.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sister Debra M. Sciano
SSND Provincial
Central Pacific Province

Sister Charmaine Krohe
SSND Provincial
Atlantic-Midwest Province

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY WILL BE PARTICIPATING FROM 4:30-5:30 PM FROM OUR CHAPEL. WE INVITE ALL PARTNERS IN CHARITY, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS TO JOIN US FROM YOUR HOMES AT THIS TIME.

