



THE VIEW FROM THE BLUFF

APRIL 2021

NINTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

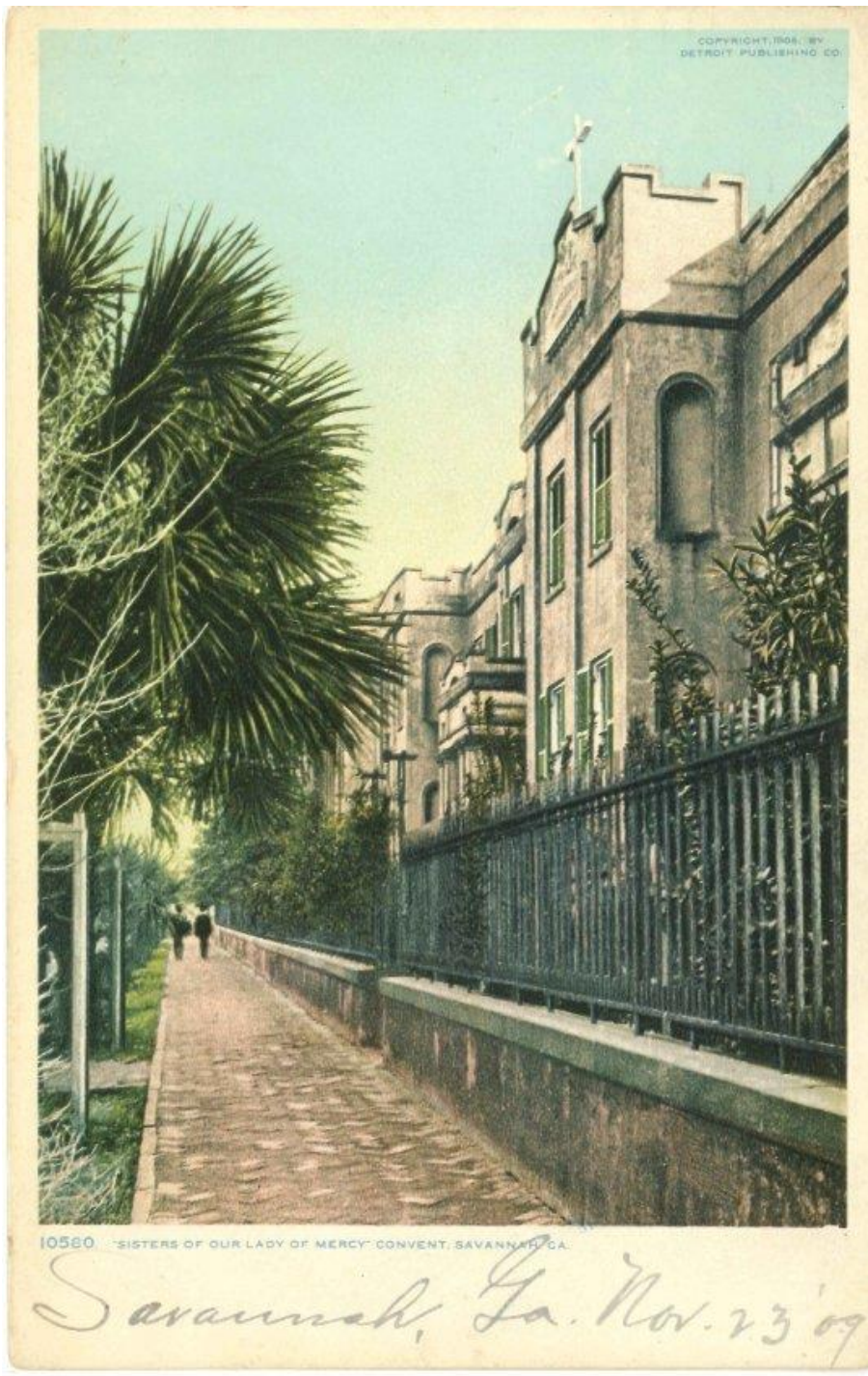
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA



Sister M. Aloysius McKenna

**MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT**

Sister M. Aloysius, formerly Catherine McKenna, was born in Ireland. Our records do not mention her arrival in the USA, but, state that she had been living in Baltimore, Md, for some years before Bishop John England visited the City in 1829. Evidently, the Bishop met her at some point during his visit and interested her in becoming a member of the Sisters of Our lady of Mercy. She entered the Community in December 1830 at age 27, the 7th member of the newly founded religious congregation. She received the name Sr. M. Aloysius at her Reception and made annual vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience for the first time in January 1832. Three years later Bishop England appointed her to the OLM Council to assist Mother Benedicta Datty. Following Mother Benedicta's death in 1836, the Bishop appointed Sister Aloysius as Assistant to Mother Magdalen Bartley. A year later, on January 25, 1838 Bishop England appointed Sister M. Aloysius Mother Superior of the OLM Community. In March 1838 she also was appointed to superintend a hospital established by the Brotherhood of San Marino during a yellow fever epidemic, and, attended fever victims in Augusta, Georgia during an epidemic there in September and October 1839. The Bishop reappointed her Mother Superior in 1840. She was in charge of the Community when they moved into their new Motherhouse on Queen Street in February 1841 and when Bishop England died. On April 9, 1842, Mother Aloysius and sisters visited the dying Bishop. To them he said: "You know what I would say, if I could. Fulfill your obligations". Each received the sign of a special blessing and retired. Two days later, April 11, 1842, Bishop England died.



Mother Aloysius, with the assistance of the Reverend Timothy J. Sullivan, whom Bishop England had appointed Ecclesiastical Superior of the OLM Community in 1841, governed the Community during the two years between Bishop England's death and the arrival of Bishop Ignatius Reynolds in April 1844. Shortly thereafter, during the first election of Community Officers, Sister Teresa Barry was elected Mother Superior. A year later, in April 1845, Bishop Reynolds permitted the Community to open a branch establishment in Savannah, Georgia. On December 28, 1845, Sister M. Aloysius McKenna became a member of the Savannah Community. Two years later, on July 7, 1847, following a vote by the Sisters in Savannah including Sister Aloysius McKenna, the Savannah Community became an independent Community of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. Sister Aloysius served on the Georgia Missions until her death on November 24, 1863.



SAVANNAH [GA] REPUBLICAN, November 25, 1863, p. 2, c. 3 Death of a Sister of Mercy. Sister Aloysius, an aged and useful Sister of Mercy, died at the Academy of St. Vincent de Paul, in this city, yesterday, after a brief illness. Her funeral will take place this forenoon at the Church of St. John the Baptist.

[More interesting historical information from Savannah](#)

Savannah's Catholic Cemetery served as the encampment area for some General Sherman's troops after the surrender of the city on November 23, 1864. Sherman ordered fortifications to be built, a project which removed cemetery fences, leaving it

open to vandalism and theft. During this time many graves were desecrated by troops. The Sisters of Mercy, with the assistance of local women, rescued the remains of two bishops, two priests, and four sisters. It was only in 1867, after Bishop Augustin Verot urged President Andrew Johnson and Edwin M. Stanton (Secretary of War) to restore the Cemetery to its former state, that they were reinterred. **Source: diosav.org/cemeteries**

St. Vincent's Academy was founded on June 23, 1845, when Father Jeremiah Francis O'Neill brought six Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy from Charleston, South Carolina, to educate Savannah's young women in the finest tradition of a Catholic educational institution.

St. Vincent's opened on the corner of Abercorn and Liberty Streets in Savannah as a private school and orphanage, with boarding facilities added a few years later. The early curriculum included Penmanship (both plain and ornamental), Astronomy, Composition of Fiction, Sacred and Profane History, Ancient Geography, Chronology, Mythology, and Embroidery.

The early history of St. Vincent's is intertwined with that of Savannah and the South. During the Civil War, eight year-old Maggie Davis, whose father Jefferson Davis was President of the Confederate States of America, became a student at St. Vincent's. Her brother also came to the convent daily to recite his lessons.

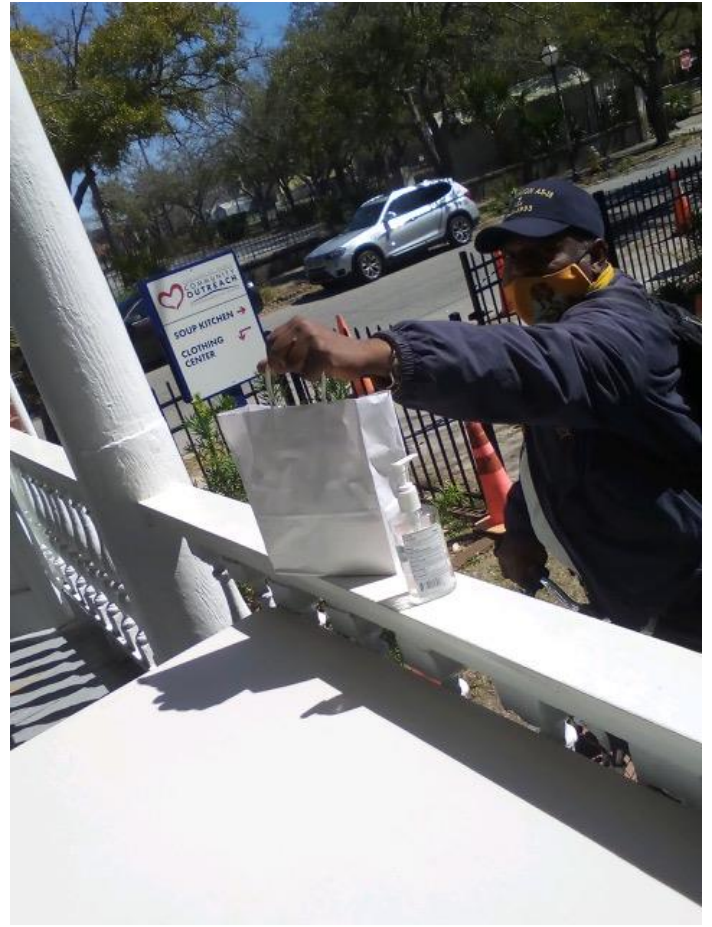
In 1919, St. Vincent's became exclusively dedicated to educating young women of high school age, offering a program centered on academics and values to prepare them for active, effective roles in the societies of their times. From the antebellum period to the present, St. Vincent's has met the challenge of producing intellectual, responsible and compassionate women. Thousands of alumnae have made and continue to make significant personal and professional contributions to the world. Source: St. Vincent's Academy website



NATIONAL CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

National Catholic Sisters Week 2021 was held March 8-12. The Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy accepted the challenge of our LCWR Region IV to participate in a project having to do with food insecurity. We packaged 100 Grab & Go Lunches for the Neighborhood House Lunch Program which included making 200 sandwiches.

Our Lady of Mercy Outreach had a drive thru food and dental supply distribution and served over 250 families! Sister Carol volunteered at the Outreach in the preparation of the food bags.



Sandwich making, delivery and pickup! Vonceil was very happy.

Sister Carol at OLM Outreach



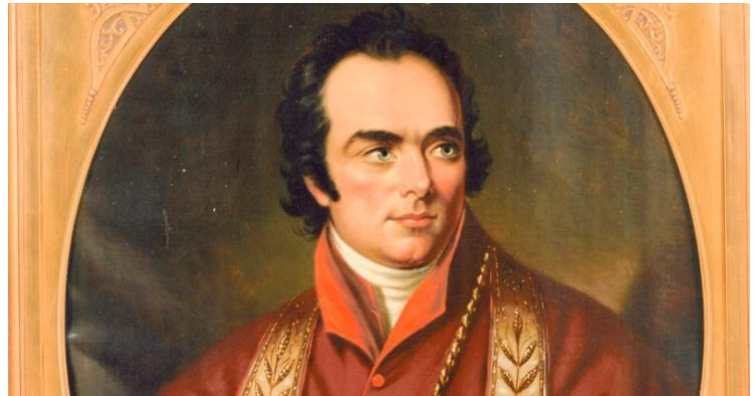
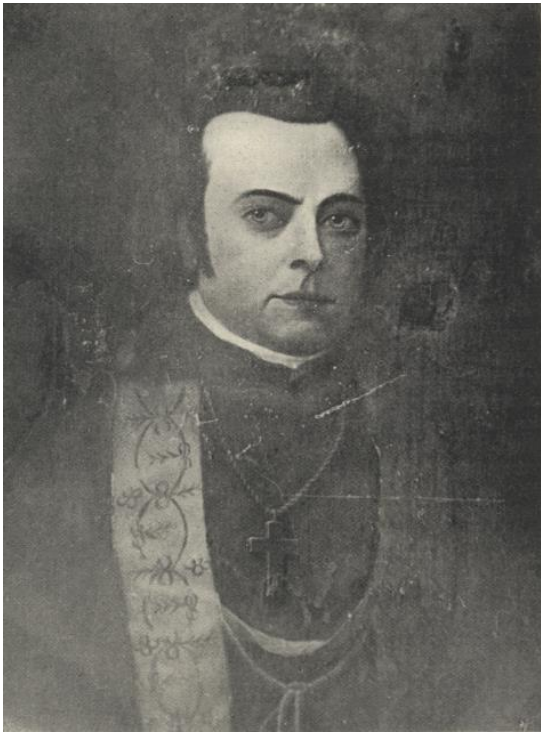


OLM Outreach Executive Director Ericka Plater and many volunteers distributed food on a cold, rainy day.

Apostolic Blessing given to the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy! Bishop Guglielmone presented Sister Mary Joseph with the Blessing from Pope Francis on the occasion of the 190th Anniversary of our founding. The presentation was previously postponed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The presentation took place at the end of the liturgy on the Feast of the Annunciation which is also the Congregation's Devotional Renewal of Vows Day.



April 11th, 1842 - The Death of Bishop John England



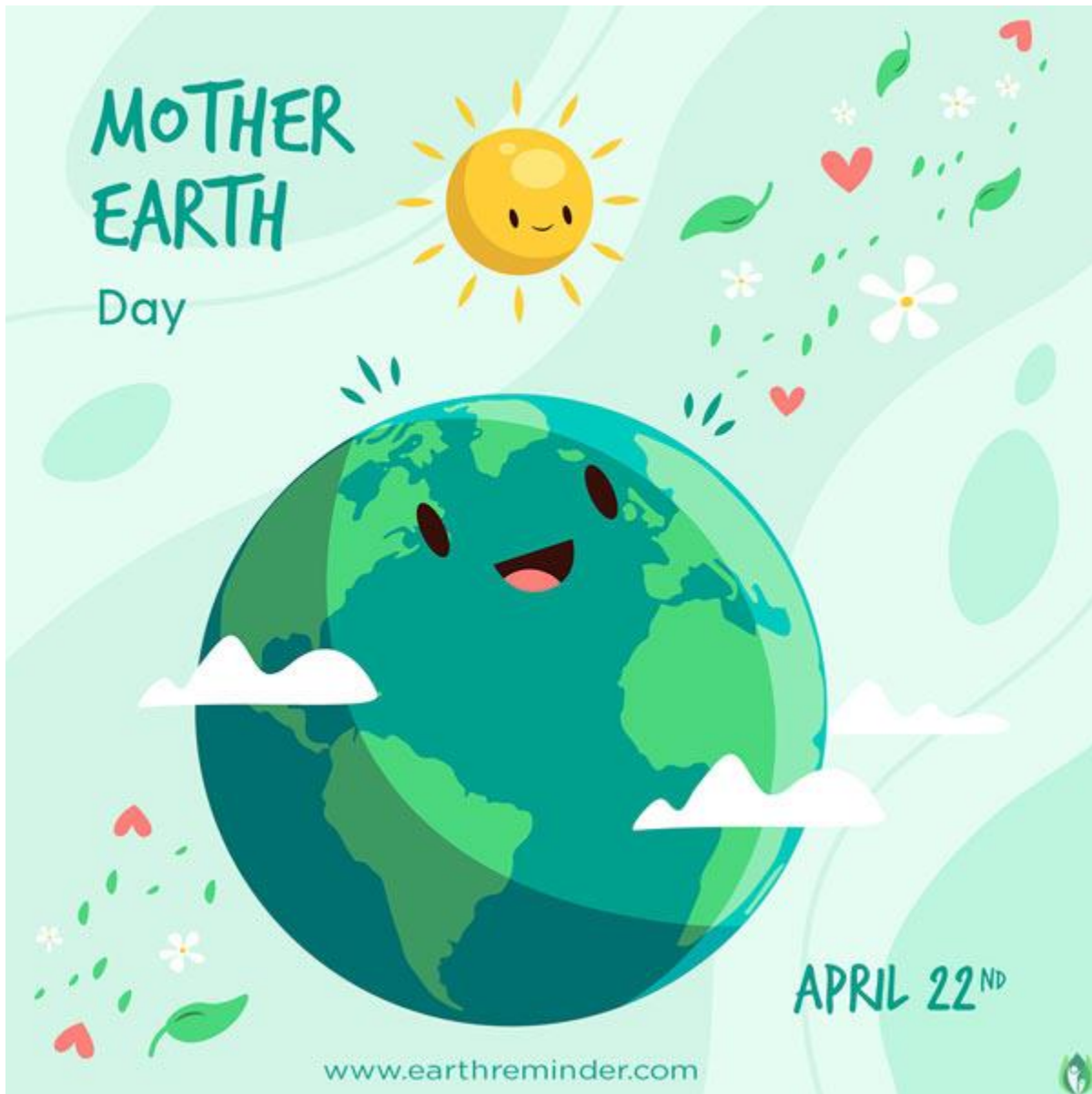
This year marks the 179th Anniversary of the death of our Founder, Bishop John England. The pictures show him at various ages-from a young priest in Cork to his time as the Bishop of Charleston.

Prayer of John England

Blessed Jesus, I devote and consecrate myself to your honor and service in whatsoever way it shall please you to dispose of me. Direct my Superiors to point out that path whither you wish me to go and give me the grace to obey.

Holy Virgin, Mother of my Savior, I place myself under your special patronage; obtain for me from your Son all the graces which my weakness stands in need of. Protect me in life and defend me in death.

Written by John England on June 9, 1808 in Carlow, Ireland.



Earth Day 2021 is an annual event celebrated globally to support environmental protection. The day is celebrated on 22nd April every year. Originated in 1970, the event is now coordinated and celebrated internationally by the Earth Day Network in more than 193 countries across the globe.

Today, Earth Day is widely recognized as **THE LARGEST SECULAR OBSERVANCE** in the world, marked by more than a billion people every year as a day of action.

The OLMs and Staff will once again sweep the beach on Earth Day!





The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said." ~ Matthew 28:5-6

 Happy Easter 