

*Grey Nuns' Provincial Administration*

10 PELHAM ROAD  
LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02173  
(617) 882-4700

HISTORY OF MOUNT ST. ANN

In 1889, Reverend Joseph Brouillet, Pastor of Notre Dame Church, invited the Sisters of Charity, Grey Nuns of Montreal, to establish a French-Canadian orphanage in Worcester. Three Sisters arrived from Canada in January, 1891. They lived with the original 25 orphans in two rented houses in South Worcester.

In 1892, a 160-acre farm on Granite Street was purchased and construction of a four-story building was started. Sister Anne Piche, first superior, and nine nuns moved to their new home in January, 1893. By then, there were 50 orphans in their care.

For the next 30 years, the orphanage prospered and grew. The farm was worked to produce vegetables, poultry, dairy products and pigs to feed the children whose number had grown to more than 250.

The buildings at the orphanage eventually succumbed to the ravages of the elements and of fire. In 1923, a new brick dormitory was built to conform with fire regulations.

In 1959, the director of Catholic Charities, the Reverend Timothy J. Harrington (now auxiliary bishop of the diocese) directed a change in the emphasis of the orphanage. New concepts and new approaches in child care were implemented. In 1966, "orphanage" was dropped from the name and the center became Mount St. Ann. In May, 1970, a new and modern facility was opened providing the children with as homelike an atmosphere as possible.

It is one thing to record the history of development and quite another to record the history of service offered by Mount St. Ann. From the very beginning of this charitable work, when purely custodial care was given to true orphans, to the present day when the emphasis is on rehabilitative care to a selective group of children deprived of normal home and family life, the Grey Nuns have counted on and been blessed with assistance from the diocese, lay organizations and dedicated individuals. The progress of Mount St. Ann could not be recorded were it not for the contribution of time, talents and money given by the community of Worcester.

To those who will come after them to carry on the Grey Nun commitment to excellence the Sisters leave a child care facility which in the words of the Mount St. Ann Bylaws is a "Roman Catholic Child Care Facility... (that) witnesses to the saving presence of Christ in His Church by being an extension of the love of Christ through nurturing and loving care of children, the poor and needy, by ministering to them with competence and dedication in the spirit of Blessed Marguerite d'Youville, Foundress of the Grey Nuns, who 'dearly loved Jesus Christ and the Poor.'"

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