

Sisters of Mercy St. Paul's Orphanage St. Gabriel's Orphanage.

In 1875 with the efforts of Rev. Bishop O'Reilly the **St. Paul's Orphanage** was build. The '**Sisters of Mercy**' were put in charge of the newly opened Catholic Orphan Asylum located at 34 High Street with adjoining buildings between High St. and Houchin Ave. It took on many names during the late 1800s including St. Paul's Orphanage, Sisters of Mercy Orphans' Home, St. Paul's Orphan Asylum, Sisters of Mercy Orphanage, Diocesan Catholic Orphan Asylum, the Catholic Orphanage, and St. Gabriel's Orphanage.

Between 1903-2-1 & 1903-2-13 without any media fanfare, the name changed from **St. Paul's Orphanage to St. Gabriel's Orphanage**. All newspaper articles referred to the orphanage as St. Gabriel's Orphanage after that time frame.

The **Sisters of Mercy** are also well known for overseeing the **Nazareth Boys' Home**. (See news clips at end of this document.) They were also found running an orphanage in Georgia about 1875.

<http://mcauleynazareth.org/page8.php>

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McAuley Nazareth Home for Boys
A HAVEN FOR HOPE AND STRENGTH FOR TROUBLED YOUTH SINCE 1901.

The McAuley Nazareth Home for Boys, or Nazareth as it is known, had its start in Worcester, Massachusetts as an orphanage for boys opened by the Sisters of Mercy in 1865 in response to the high mortality rates of young parents in the area. At its height, the Sisters cared for up to 90 youth. In 1901, the Sisters acquired the Kent Farm in neighboring Leicester, and the Nazareth Home was established in its new location outside of the city. The Sisters incorporated Nazareth in 1967 and renamed it the McAuley Nazareth Home for Boys, Inc. in dedication to their foundress, Mother Catherine McAuley, for her life-long dedication to and compassion for the poor and forgotten. Nazareth transitioned from an orphanage in the 1950s and early 1960s to a milieu treatment center serving troubled youth and their families. This continues to be the heart of Nazareth's work to this day.



Mother Catherine McAuley

Nazareth is affiliated with the Catholic Diocese of Worcester with Bishop Robert J. McManus as corporator sole. Nazareth's current lay staff carry on the Sisters' mission and tradition of mercy; to serve, not to be served. Several Sisters, though retired, still serve on the Board of Directors – former Executive Director Sr. Janet Ballentine, former Executive Director Sr. Mary Barry, and nurse Sr. Carol Kell. Monsignor Edmond Tinsley, who gave a lifetime of devotion to Nazareth cultivating its transition from orphanage to treatment center, passed away in September 2015.



Monsignor Edmond Tinsley

The organization is headed by Executive Director, Kim Paré, who is supported by two (2) Program Directors, a Director of Education, a Director of Finance & Development, a Plant/Facilities Manager and two (2) Administrative Assistants. Other staff include an Assistant Program Director, four full-time Social Workers, thirty-eight Child Care Workers & Supervisors, two (2) Special Education Teachers, a Registered Nurse, a janitor and a maintenance staff, as well as a chef.

The five-acre property is situated in a rural setting, surrounded by preservation lands that are part of the Kettlebrook Reservoir System, and only one to two miles from Routes 9, 56, & 122. There are outdoor play areas, a vegetable & flower garden, an in-ground pool, and a full-size gymnasium; all which provide ample space for activity, learning, and play. The grounds are occupied by and shared with Archway Inc., a residential program for youth & adults with developmental delays. A large, handicap-accessible administration building includes office space, therapy rooms, classrooms, a small library and a main kitchen. There are four residences attached to the administration building, one houses Archway's Ellen's Place Program and the other three residences, with a twenty-eight-bed capacity, house the youth residing at Nazareth.

KENT HOMESTEAD IN LEICESTER PURCHASED BY SISTERS OF MERCY

The Sisters of Mercy, who have charge of the orphans on High Street, have about completed negotiations for the purchase from Register of Deeds Daniel Kent of the old D. Waldo Kent homestead in Leicester, the place to be used in the future as a summer home for the orphans under the care of the sisters. The deal has been carried through by Cornelius Maher & Son, and the deed transferring the property will be recorded in a few days.

The negotiations have been pending for a long time, but it was not until Sunday that the sisters were finally given permission by Bishop Thomas D. Beaven of Springfield to purchase the property. After the dedication exercises at St. Joseph's Church, Sunday, the bishop was driven to the homestead on Mulberry Street, and he made a careful personal inspection of the property, which he found admirably adapted to the use it was intended for. With his approval, there was nothing left but to close the bargain, and yesterday a bond was put up to close the deal, as soon as the details can be arranged.

The property includes 53 acres of land, a well preserved dwelling house of ample proportions, and the usual outbuildings that go with a well kept farm. The place has been the homestead of the Kents for many years. The price paid for it is not given, but it is understood to be about \$10,000.

The Sisters of Mercy have been looking for such a place for several years, because the little children in their care need a change of air during the heated term in summer. There are now over 90 children in the orphanage, and they are badly cramped for room. In fact, the city quarters are to be enlarged to-day, and now they will look for a

It is the intention to take the children to their new summer home in relays and give them a couple of weeks each in the pure country air. The sisters have been promised financial assistance by friends of the orphanage when they were ready to take the step made yesterday, and now they will look for a fulfilment of those promises.

ORPHANS' SUMMER HOME OPEN FOR INSPECTION

The committee in charge of the festival to be held next month, in behalf of the Sisters of Mercy, invites all interested in the orphanage to visit the recently purchased home at Leicester tomorrow and Monday. To get to the home take a Leicester car and get off at Mannville Street, just below St. Joseph's Church, Leicester. From this point it is a short walk to the house, where there will be a committee ready to show visitors over the building.

1901-08-31_6 Worcester Daily Spy

ORPHANS WILL HAVE A PICNIC AT LEICESTER

The children of St. Gabriel's Orphanage on High Street will have a picnic to Nazareth, the home of the Sisters of Mercy, in Lancaster, tomorrow. Members of the Infant of Prague Society of St. Paul's Church and other friends of the orphans will have them in charge and give them a good time all day. The party will go by electric cars and will leave about 9 a. m.

1903-07-07_5 Worcester Daily Spy

—The annual outing of the children of St. Paul's Orphanage will be at the Kent Farm, Leicester, Thursday. The party will include 150 children, in charge of Mrs. Mary Crane, assisted by the Ladies Auxiliary of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

1901-07-24_5 Worcester Daily Spy

TWO STATUES DEDICATED

Bishop Thomas D. Beaven Consecrates Statues of Mary of Lourdes and Barnadette at the Home of the Sisters of Mercy

BISHOP OF VERMONT
WAS ALSO PRESENT

Procession Marched From the Home to the Grotto Where the Impressive Ceremonies Took Place — The Attendance Was Large

—Special to The Spy.

Leicester, May 1.—The two statues of Mary of Lourdes, and of Barnadette, were dedicated at the home of Sisters of Mercy at Leicester by the Rt. Rev. T. D. Beaven of Springfield, bishop of this diocese, at 10.30 o'clock this morning.

The home at Leicester is a branch of the St. Gabriel home on High Street, Worcester.

More than 150 people from Cherry Valley, Leicester and Worcester witnessed the ceremony, and the procession of Sisters of Mercy, priests and inmates of the home.

The exercises of today called together many of the prominent clergymen and laymen from about Worcester County, who are interested in the establishment of a home for unfortunate children.

The procession was formed in the large yard opposite the home. It was led by a cross bearer, followed by two candle bearers, ten boys in neat suits of gray and 30 girls dressed in white gowns represented the orphans.

The children were followed by 11 sisters. Then came Bishop Beaven, followed by Bishop Michuard of Burlington, Vt., the Very Rev. J. T. Madden, V. G., of Webster, the Rev. J. F. Hanselman, S. J., of Holy Cross College, the Rev. W. H. Goggan of St. Paul's Church, Worcester, Rev. D. T. McGillicuddy of St. Stephen's Church, Worcester, and the Rev. J. F. Redican of Leicester.

On the way to the Grotto of Lourdes at Nazareth the boys and girls sang, The Litany of the Blessed Virgin.

After the blessing of the entrance, the walk and the Grotto of Lourdes, the procession started back to the home, singing a recessional.

When they arrived at the house they sang a song to Our Lady of Lourdes. The Grotto of Lourdes at Nazareth is situated in the northeastern part of the grounds at the corner of Mulberry and Silvester Streets.

Dinner was served at 12 o'clock. At 2.30 p. m. the children of the home gave an entertainment which consisted of songs, recitations and a drama. At the close of the entertainment a chosen chorus sang "Many Happy Returns of the Day."

PRINCIPALS ARE OUT OF THE RECEPTION PLAN

The committee that was appointed by the supervising principals of the public schools to make arrangements for the mayor's reception to the school children at City Hall has stepped down and out and all further arrangements will have to be made by the mayor himself. The principals do not care to work against the School Committee which elects them and the School Committee has decreed that no children below the ninth grade shall be allowed to visit City Hall according to the original program. The mayor says they will all come if they want to. And there is the hitch. The supervising principals have thrown up their job as they will not take any chances of incurring the displeasure of the School Committee.

Richard H. Mooney, principal of Quinsigamond School, who acted as secretary of the committee, and who was requested by the mayor to make arrangements for the reception of the children of the private and parochial schools, has received acceptances of the invitations from the sisters in charge of the orphanage on High Street and from the sisters in charge of St. John's parochial schools. He has turned them over to the mayor.

ORPHANS PICNICKED AT THE NAZARETH HOUSE

The children of St. Gabriel's Orphanage on High Street had an outing at the Nazareth Home in Leicester yesterday. The Infant of Prague Society was in charge. The special committee consisted of Mrs. E. F. Murphy, Mrs. Goggin, Miss S. Walsh, Mrs. O. J. Carroll, Mrs. Dennis Lynch, Mrs. M. Fitzgibbon. Two electric cars were chartered and the party, numbering about 100, left the City Hall at 9 a. m. A noon lunch was eaten. After the usual picnic pleasures the return trip was made at 5.15 p. m.

1902-07-25_10 Worcester Daily Spy

10,000 AT SHRINE IN NAZARETH TODAY

Annual Pilgrimage to the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, Cherry Valley, Attended by Hundreds of Catholics From Worcester and Surrounding Towns—All Pay Homage to the Blessed Lady on Occasion of Feast of Assumption

(Special Correspondence to THE GAZETTE)

CHERRY VALLEY, Aug. 15.—The annual pilgrimage to the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes at Nazareth, Manville street, was today. It is estimated that approximately 10,000 people made the pilgrimage. Special street cars were detailed from the Gates Lape barn, Worcester, to bring Worcester worshippers here. Autos and trucks brought hundreds from all over Worcester county and for miles outside: Manville street, from Main street to the grotto, was a living stream of pilgrims from 6 a. m. to 6 p. m. today.

Priests and nuns of many different

1923-08-15_2-1 Evening Gazette

Priests and nuns of many different parishes were in that procession this morning. Music was by Crosby's band of Worcester. Today is the Feast of the Assumption, and all are paying homage to the Blessed Lady. The pilgrimage to the shrine has now become one which, in Catholic circles, attracts country-wide attention. Years ago few beside Worcester county Catholics made the pilgrimage. Later Catholics from many different parts of the state, and at the 21st annual pilgrimage, today, people came from many different states, as far away, in fact, as California.

More than three quarters of the people who made the pilgrimage walked the entire distance, while the aged and infirm, unable to make the long trip on foot, were conveyed in machines. During the entire march there is utter silence, with the exceptions of the chanting of the hymns and the strains of music.

The grotto is at Nazareth, of which the nuns at St. Gabriel's orphanage on High street is a branch.

The procession wended its way slowly from St. Joseph's church to Manville and Main streets, thence down Manville street for a distance of over a mile to Nazareth, the local Catholic orphanage. Upon arrival at the grotto, which is a representation of the original Grotto of Our Lady at Lourdes, a mass was celebrated by the Rev. Bernard A. Kerrigan of Florence, a former youth of this town. He was assisted by Rev. William C. McCaughan, Rev. M. A. K. Kelly, Rev. John M. Kenney of St. Anne's church, Worcester. Rev. Andrew Sullivan was master of ceremonies. The annual sermon was delivered by Rev. Charles L. O'Brien, S. J., of Philadelphia, to the thousands seated on the clearing about the Grotto of Nazareth.

1923-08-15_2-2
Evening Gazette

The list of patrons and patronesses for the concert to be presented at the North High school auditorium Feb 26 in aid of the St Gabriel Orphanage, which is conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, will be announced shortly.

Owing to the fact that the Christmas bazar which was planned was not held and the fact that the Sisters are in need of immediate assistance for their work in caring for the orphans, it was decided to start the campaign for \$8000 immediately and this project has the assistance of many leading Catholic men and women of the city. Rev John D McGann pastor of St.

1930-02-19_13-1
Evening Gazette

Paul's church, is honorary chairman of the committee in charge
The new building at the orphans' home at Nazareth, Leicester, which is being constructed for the accommodation of the children has been necessitated by the increase in numbers at the orphanage. There are now 70 boys located there under the care of the

1930-02-19_13-1
Evening_Gazette

Sisters of Mercy. The Holy Cross instrumental club and Philharmonic orchestra will assist
The program for the concert will be announced shortly.

1930-02-19_13-2
Evening_Gazette