

# August 14, 2016

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**"Teaching is a beautiful job, as it allows you to see the growth day by day of people entrusted to your care. It is a little like being parents, at least spiritually. It is a great responsibility. Teaching is a serious commitment, that only a mature and balanced person can undertake. A commitment of this type may bring apprehension, but remember that no teacher is ever alone; his or her work is shared with other colleagues and with all the education community to which they belong.**

**[When reflecting on the commandment to love your neighbor,] "we can ask ourselves: who is a teacher's neighbor? The neighbors are your students! It is with them that a teacher passes the day. The students seek guidance, orientation, answers — and first of all, good questions!"**

*—Pope Francis*

## CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH

6300 McKenna Drive, Mobile, Alabama 36608

Email: [Church@CorpusChristiParish.com](mailto:Church@CorpusChristiParish.com) • Website: [www.CorpusChristiParish.com](http://www.CorpusChristiParish.com)

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Parish Office: 342-1852 • Fax 342-6313  
School Office: 342-5474, ext. 1 • Fax 380-0325  
Rel. Ed. Office: 342-5474, ext. 7 • Fax 380-0325  
Full-Day Care: 342-2424 • Fax 343-3119  
Youth Ministry: 342-1852 • Fax 342-6313

### PASTORAL STAFF

Very Rev. James F. Zoghby, V.F., Pastor  
Rev. John S. Boudreaux, Associate Pastor  
Deacon Arthur W. Robbins, Deacon  
Sr. Donna Cooper, R.S.M., Visitation Chaplain  
Mrs. Kristy F. Martin, School Principal  
Mrs. Diane M. Stoyka, Parish Catechetical Leader  
Mrs. Judi B. Ankiewicz, R.C.I.A. Coordinator  
Mr. Peter J. Stoyka, Youth Ministry Director  
Mr. C. Clinton Doolittle, Music Director  
Mr. Thomas C. McKee, Gym Manager

### TO REGISTER AS A MEMBER OF THE PARISH

Please fill out a Census Form. Census Forms are available in the church vestibule and parish office.

### COMMUNITY CENTER RENTALS & SERVICES

For rental information and kitchen services, please call the parish office at 342-1852 or 342-1420.

### SUNDAY MASSES

Vigil: 5:30 p.m. Saturday  
Morning: 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

### WEEKDAY MASSES

6:30 a.m.: Monday through Friday  
8:15 a.m.: Monday through Saturday

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. and by request, particularly after the 6:30 & 8:15 a.m. weekday Masses.

### BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, ANOINTING OF SICK

Please call the parish office (342-1852) or information and scheduling baptism, marriage, anointing of sick.

### ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (R.C.I.A.)

Please see published schedule for specific dates and times, or call the parish office (342-1852).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL (C.C.D.)** Grades K–12, Sundays during school year, 10:05-10:55 a.m. in school bldgs.

**SCHOOL**, *SACS-accredited* for Grades 3K through 8. Special preschool program for 6-week-old infants to 2-year olds, Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please call the school office, 342-5474, ext. 1 for info.

## TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### **Not a Holy Day of Obligation This Year**

The August 15<sup>th</sup> Solemnity of the Assumption is **NOT** a holy day of obligation whenever August 15th occurs on Saturday or Monday. The Masses will be on Monday, Aug. 15, only, at 6:30 & 8:15 a.m.

### **Next Sunday at the 11 a.m. Mass**

We will introduce & welcome our new school principal

**Mrs. Kristy F. Martin**

*Reception after Mass.*

### **CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

#### **Opening Day of School**

Wednesday, Aug. 17. Noon dismissal.

### **Sunday School Registration & Parent Meeting**

**Sunday, Aug. 21, at 10:05 a.m. in the Adult Ed. Room**

**Important Note: 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders and 9<sup>th</sup> Graders will need to bring a copy of their baptismal certificate.**

**Student Registration Forms and Volunteer Forms**

are also available online at

[www.CorpusChristiParish.com/Church](http://www.CorpusChristiParish.com/Church):

Click the "**Sunday School (CCD)**" tab in the left column on the church homepage.

**Info:** Diane Stoyka, [dianestoyka@yahoo.com](mailto:dianestoyka@yahoo.com).

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**K of C Installation Ceremony for 2016-17 Officers Sat., Aug. 27 after 5:30 Mass.** After the Ceremony, the Knights will host a family-friendly dinner of Jambalaya, Hot Dogs, refreshments.

**Interested in becoming a Knight?** As a Knight, you have the opportunity to strengthen your parish, give back to your community and grow in your faith in joining the Corpus Christi Council of K of C.

**Coats for Kids:** The Knights are planning to do a Smoked Chicken sale to raise money for the Coats for Kids program., which allows councils across North America to purchase new winter coats for children in low-income families at a discount and distribute them to the many needy children throughout the U.S. & Canada who go without a coat each winter. Last year, 1,625 K of C councils distributed 79,320 coats to children in need throughout the U.S. and Canada.

**Next K of C Meeting:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues., Sept. 13, 7 p.m., the Parish House

**Contact:** Grand Knight, Cosmo Comiskey, 508-0547.

### **Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

Poor Box, Food, Clothing donations and "In-Need" Drop Box at the SVDP table in the vestibule. Join the Society of St. Vincent de Paul by attending a meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed., 6:30 p.m., Community Ctr., Conf. Rm. **To seek help, call 432-5173; leave name & phone no.**

### **AA — Alanon — OA — CODA**

**AA:** Sun., 7 p.m., and Wed., 7 p.m., Cougar Den.

**Alanon:** Sun., 7 p.m., and Wed., 7 p.m., Arts & Sciences Bldg.

**OA:** Sat., 9 a.m., Arts & Sciences Bldg.

**CODA:** Tues., 6:45 p.m., Arts & Sciences Bldg.

### **Widowed Persons' Support Group**

For information call parishioner Glen Porter at 666-8977.

### **Jazz Brunch – Resumes Sept. 11**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month, 12 noon to 1 p.m.

**\$10.25 for Adults • \$4.25 for Children (Age 12 & under)**

### **Wednesday Night Dinner – Resumes August 24**

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Banquet Hall

**\$9.25 for Adults • \$4.25 for Children (Age 12 & under)**

### **Women of Mary**

**Resumes August 24**

**Wednesdays, 7 to 8 p.m. Room 3 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Community Center)**

All women are welcome to meet for prayer, reading the Gospel, and discussion.

**Info:** Sr. Deborah Kennedy, R.S.M., 753-4872.

### **Men of St. Joseph**

**Tuesdays, 7 to 8 a.m. in the Family Room**

**Also Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. in the Parish House**

All men are welcome to meet for prayer, reading the Gospel, and discussion.

**Info:** Damian Bell, 639-2522 or 367-4486 or [Damian@rockbwm.com](mailto:Damian@rockbwm.com).

**Wed Evening Info:** Walter Bracewell, 599-1650 or [walter.bracewell@gmail.com](mailto:walter.bracewell@gmail.com)

**Tuesday Night Bible Study** – 7-8:30 p.m. in Parish House (except 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues, school library. **Info:** Dave Burchette, 367-6660

**Thursday Women's Bible Study** – Aug., 18, 9:15 am In church sacristy. **Info:** Penny Claiborne [claiborneps@gmail.com](mailto:claiborneps@gmail.com).

### **Corpus Christi Booster Club**

**For all students in Corpus Christi School or Sunday School**

**Registrations must be made only online**

at [www.ccsboosterclub.com](http://www.ccsboosterclub.com).

For Football, Soccer, Volleyball – **Registration closes today, Aug. 14.**

**For Superstar Soccer – Register now at [www.ccsboosterclub.com](http://www.ccsboosterclub.com)**

For Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade students in CC School & Sunday School.

Practice dates: Sept. 11, 18, 25. Game dates: Oct. 2, 9, 16.

**Info:** [superstars@ccsboosterclub.com](mailto:superstars@ccsboosterclub.com).

**General info:** [info@ccsboosterclub.com](mailto:info@ccsboosterclub.com). **Go Cougars!**

**FIRST COLLECTION TODAY:** Tithing offerings.

**SECOND COLLECTION TODAY:** Corpus Christi Building Fund.

**CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA COLLECTION:** \$1,402.37

**AUG. 7<sup>TH</sup> BUILDING FUND ONLINE & COLLECTION:** \$2,460.50

**AUG. 7<sup>TH</sup> TITHING ONLINE & COLLECTION:** \$37,994.78

✙ **Thank You and God Bless You** ✙



### **To set up Online Giving:**

Please go to [www.CorpusChristiParish.com](http://www.CorpusChristiParish.com); click "Church"; then click the green Online Giving icon on the left side of the church's homepage. You can make a one-time contribution or set up a recurring withdrawal from a checking, saving or credit card account to tithing or building fund, school annual fund or other special collection. **Info:** 800-348-2886, ext 4, or 342-1852.

**To receive Offering Envelopes:** Notify the parish office at 342-1852 or at [Church@CorpusChristiParish.com](mailto:Church@CorpusChristiParish.com).

## St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

1774-1821

**Foundress of the Catholic  
School System**

Born Elizabeth Ann Bayley in New York City, Elizabeth's father was a physician and professor at what is now Columbia University. Her mother, and later, her stepmother, were staunch Episcopalians who instilled in her an appreciation of prayer and the Scriptures, and from an early age, she manifested an unusual concern for the poor.

In 1794 Elizabeth married William Seton, with whom she had five children. She plunged into social work, and in 1797, she helped found the Society for the Relief of Poor Widows with Small Children.

In 1803, her husband's business failed and he contracted tuberculosis. Seeking medical help in Italy, they stayed with Catholic friends there. But William died. Elizabeth returned to New York City, and in spite of stern opposition from her Episcopalian friends, she became a Catholic on March 4, 1805.

Abandoned by her friends and relatives, Elizabeth was invited by the president of St. Mary's College in Baltimore to found a school for girls in that city. The school prospered, and the bishop permitted Elizabeth and two other women to make religious profession and to wear a religious habit. Provisions were made for Elizabeth to continue raising her children.

In 1809, Elizabeth moved her young community to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she adopted as a rule of life an adaptation of the rule observed by the Daughters of Charity, founded by St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac. By 1818, in addition to their first school, the sisters had established two orphanages and another school.

Although she did not neglect the ministry to the poor, and especially to African-Americans, she actually laid the foundation for what became the American parochial school system. She trained teachers and prepared textbooks for use in the schools. She also opened orphanages in Philadelphia and New York City.

She died at Emmitsburg on January 4, 1821, at age 46. She was beatified by Pope John XXIII in 1963, and was canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1975.



## St. John Neumann

1811-1860

**Organized Catholic  
School System**

Born in what is now the Czech Republic, John Neumann, at an early age, entered the seminary.

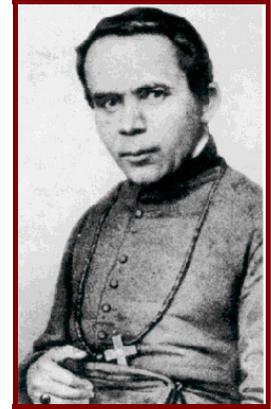
Because of a surplus of priests in Bohemia, he went to the United States where he was ordained in 1836, and in 1840 he joined the newly-established branch of the Redemptorists in Pittsburgh and became the first Redemptorist to take his vows in the United States. He did missionary work in upstate New York, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia, and in 1847, he was named superior of the American Redemptorists.

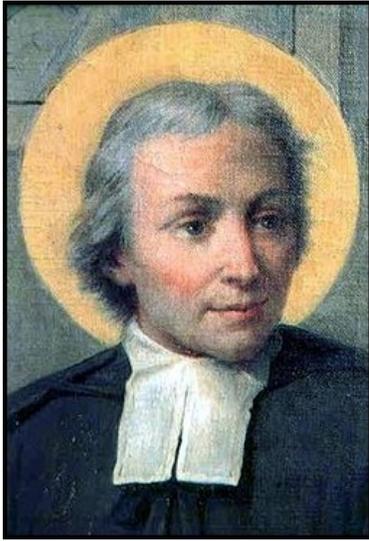
In 1852, he was consecrated the 4<sup>th</sup> bishop of Philadelphia. He now had an opportunity to make great inroads into what had become his passion: the education of poor German, French, Irish, Scottish, African and Native Americans. He reorganized the diocese, opened 80 new churches and nearly 100 schools and brought in many religious orders of priests and nuns to staff them. At the first national council of Catholic bishops, he helped to map out a plan of Catholic education for the whole United States.

When he became bishop, he spoke 12 languages, able to address his people in their own language. He was renowned for his charity, pastoral work and preaching.

Despite his holiness, he endured opposition from both within and without the Church. As bishop of Philadelphia, he was never accepted by many wealthy and influential Catholics because of his appearance and "lack of polish." He was very short, rather homely, had a thick Bohemian accent, and was quiet – not one to charm a crowd. He also endured the arrogance of his auxiliary bishop who was a "clerical climber," well-connected to Rome. John knew of the "conspiracy" against him, but bore it patiently, even offering to resign as bishop. He also faced opposition from the "Know-Nothings," a political group determined to deprive immigrants and Catholics of their civil rights. They burned convents and schools.

John Neumann was canonized in 1977 by Pope Paul VI, becoming the first American male saint and the first American bishop to be canonized a saint.





## **St. John Baptist de la Salle**

**1651-1719**

**Education Reformer**

**Founder of the Christian Brothers**

St. John Baptist de la Salle is credited for many innovations in education – things that we take for granted today:

- The idea of universal education – education for everyone, not just for the wealthy elite.
- John insisted that teachers presented their lessons in the vernacular – the language of their students (French). Up until then, lessons (primarily for the rich elite) were presented in Latin. As democracy spread throughout the world, so did the use of the vernacular in education.
- John’s teachers taught the children in age-level groups, like the grade levels we have today. Before, students were generally taught one-on-one by a tutor.
- John’s schools also helped their students to learn a trade so they could support themselves and a family after they completed their education.
- John is also credited with opening the first training college for teachers in the history of education.
- His schools included 30 minutes of Christian instruction each day and 90 minutes on Sunday.
- John promoted extensive use of the blackboard!

John was born into a wealthy family in Rheims, France in 1651. He was only eleven when he decided to become a priest. He received the best education and with his family connections, everyone believed that he

would become an important person in the Church, perhaps even a bishop. He was ordained to the priesthood at the age of 27, and was assigned to the cathedral in Rheims.

One day, he met Arian Nyel, a man from another part of France who had opened four schools for poor boys. In those days, only wealthy children could afford an education. Mr. Nyel convinced John that he must establish schools for poor boys in Rheims. Though the work was extremely distasteful to him at first, he became more involved in working with the deprived youths.

When he became convinced that this was his divinely appointed mission, John threw himself wholeheartedly into the work, left home and family, abandoned his position at the cathedral, gave away his fortune (\$500,000) and reduced himself to the level of the poor to whom he devoted his entire life.

Soon he formed a religious community called the “Brothers of the Christian School.” The Order is now called “The Christian Brothers.” The community was the first religious order established to educate the poor and was the first order that didn’t include ordained priests but only religious brothers. To ensure that his order confined itself solely to the work of teaching, he laid down the rule that no brother would become a priest and that no priest could join the order. This rule is still observed today. The community grew and achieved great success in educating boys of poor families.

Yet, even in his success, John did not escape experiencing many trials. His wealthy family opposed his work. And his enterprise met with opposition from Church authorities who resisted his new form of religious life: a community of lay brothers conducting free schools. In 1702, he was deposed for a time as head of the Christian brothers by Cardinal de Noailles.

**John was also opposed by the “Jansenists,” clergy whose moral rigidity and pessimism about the human condition he resisted vehemently all his life. The Jansenists taught that only the very pious could hope to get to heaven, that most people in the Church were not worthy of the sacraments and were not in a state of grace and therefore should not go to Communion. But John taught: “We take communion not because we are holy, but in order to become so. Union with Jesus in communion makes us able to share in his holiness.”**

The educational establishment resented his insistence on education for all, including those who could not pay. In those days, France had only two classes of people: the very poor and the very rich. Education was for the rich and noble, and primarily for males, and quite beyond the dreams of the great mass of people. As a result, John's schools were raided by authorities and shut down; lawsuits were brought against him, and for a time he was forbidden to open schools in the Paris area.

In spite of many difficulties the schools spread and flourished. At one point, when the Christian Brothers were opposed and suppressed, their order was reduced to 20 active members. However, when the ban was lifted by Napoleon I in 1799, the community sprang back to life. During the 1800s, there was another setback: 1,285 establishments were closed by legislative decree in France. However, the Brothers had established themselves in many other countries in Europe and North and South America. Their first school in the United States was founded in 1846. Currently, about 6,000 Brothers and 75,000 lay and religious colleagues serve as teachers and counselors to 900,000 students in over 1,000 educational institutions in 84 countries.

John Baptist de la Salle died in 1719 on Good Friday, only weeks before his 68<sup>th</sup> birthday. Six years after his death, the Christian Brothers' community was officially recognized by Pope Benedict XIII, and its rule was approved. He was canonized in 1900. He was proclaimed Patron Saint of Teachers by Pope Pius XII.

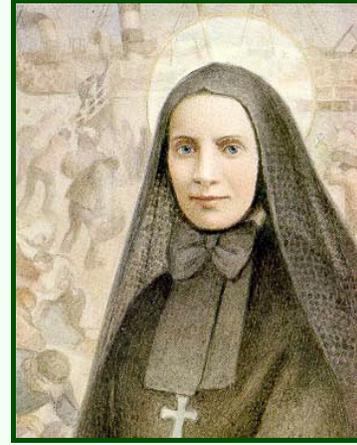
**You should learn to recognize Jesus beneath the rags of the poor children you have to teach. Adore Him in their person.**

**It is your duty to teach an awareness of social justice to your students.**

**If you are a true lover of Christ you will take every possible means to instill His love in the hearts of your students whom you train to be His disciples.**

**Because you are called to serve in a world that prefers to be served, do not be surprised when you are not esteemed, but know that God counts on you.**

—St. John Baptist de la Salle



## **St. Frances Xavier Cabrini**

**1850-1917**

**Patroness of Immigrants**

**First U.S. Citizen To Be Canonized a Saint**

In childhood in Italy, Frances Cabrini desired to be a missionary, and fantasized about going to China. When she was 19, both of her parents died, and she began charitable work at the Providence Orphanage. In 1877, she made her vows there and took the religious habit.

Despite her dream to be a missionary in China, Frances, at the urging of Pope Leo XIII, went west instead of east. She traveled with six sisters to New York City to work with the thousands of Italian immigrants there.

When she arrived in New York, the house intended to be her first orphanage in the United States was not available, and the archbishop told her to return to Italy. But, instead, she became all the more determined to establish that orphanage. And she succeeded.

She eventually became a U.S. citizen, and in 35 years she founded 67 institutions, traveling all over the United States (from New York to New Orleans), South America, Europe – caring for the poor, the abandoned, the uneducated, the sick. Seeing a great need among Italian immigrants who were losing their faith, she organized schools and adult education classes.

As a child, she was always frightened of water and was unable to overcome her fear of drowning. Yet, despite those fears, she traveled across the Atlantic more than 30 times. She died of malaria in her own Columbus Hospital in Chicago on December 22, 1917 and was canonized by Pope Pius XII on July 7, 1946. Her body lies in the chapel of Cabrini Memorial High School in upper Manhattan.



# St. Katherine Drexel

## American Saint

1858-1955

If your father is an international banker and you ride in a private railroad car, you are not likely to be drawn into a life of voluntary poverty. But if your stepmother opens your home to the poor three days each week and your father spends half an hour each evening in prayer, it is not impossible that you devote your life to the poor and give away millions of dollars. Katharine Drexel did that.

She was born in Philadelphia in 1858. She had an excellent education and traveled widely. As a rich girl, she had a grand debut into society. But when she nursed her stepmother through a three-year terminal illness, she saw that all the Drexel money could not buy safety from pain or death, and her life took a profound turn.

As a young girl, traveling with her family in their private railroad car through the Dakotas, Katherine became concerned with the plight of the "Indians" (native Americans) and she was appalled when she read Helen Hunt's account in *A Century of Dishonor*. On a European tour, she met Pope Leo XIII and asked him to send missionaries to Wyoming for her friend Bishop James O'Connor to help the "Indians." The pope replied, "Why don't you become a missionary?" This surprised her, and she began to consider new possibilities.

Back home, she visited the Dakotas, met the Sioux leader Red Cloud and began her systematic aid to Indian missions. Then, in the south, she also became concerned for the plight of the Americans of African descent.

As the sole surviving member of her family, she inherited her entire family fortune. She could easily have married. But after much discussion with Bishop O'Connor, she decided to give her life and all of her fortune to serve others who were poor and in need. She wrote in 1889 that the feast of St. Joseph brought her the grace to give the remainder of my life to the Native and African Americans. Newspaper headlines about her decision screamed, "Gives Up Seven Million!"

No longer traveling in a private railroad car, she always took the cheapest fare, riding coach, and carrying her lunch in

a little brown paper bag.

After three and a half years of training with the Sisters of Mercy, she founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. In 1894 she opened a mission school in Santa Fe. Its success quickly led to the founding of numerous other schools by her Order. By 1942 she had a system of Catholic schools for African Americans in 13 states, plus 40 mission centers and 23 rural schools, and she established 50 missions for Native Americans in 16 states. Segregationists harassed her work throughout.

Two saints met when she was advised by Mother Cabrini (who was another foundress of a religious order of Sisters). Mother Cabrini gave Katherine helpful advice about dealing with "church politics" in order to get her Order's Rule approved in Rome. Katharine received the approval in 1913. Her crowning achievement was the founding of Xavier University in New Orleans in 1915, the first university in the United States for African Americans.

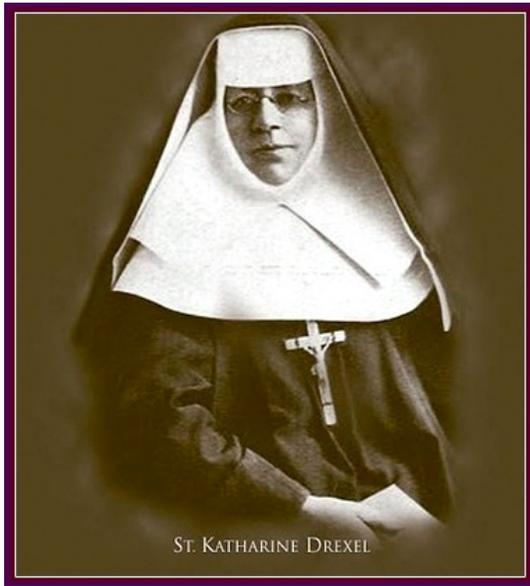
At 77, she suffered a heart attack and was forced to retire. Apparently her life was over. But now came almost 20 years of quiet, intense prayer from a small room overlooking the sanctuary. Small notebooks and slips of paper record her various prayers, ceaseless aspirations and meditations. She died at 96 and was canonized in 2000 by Pope John Paul II.

Some information from *Saint of the Day*, American Catholic

## Corpus Christi Connection!

A now deceased parishioner of Corpus Christi, Helen Gorman, was a young student nurse in Philadelphia when Mother Katharine had to be hospitalized. The hospital where she was admitted was one which was owned and operated by Mother Katherine's own religious Order. When the Sisters were going to put her in a private room, Mother Katherine objected, and she insisted that they give her the least expensive bed — a bed in one of the wards. The Sisters put her in a ward where all of the other 4 or 5 beds were empty so that she would still have a room to herself. When Mother Katherine would periodically ask, "Where are the other patients for this room?" her Sisters would say that they didn't have patients for those beds yet, but when they got more patients for those beds they would be placed in that ward. Mother Katherine also objected when the Sisters wanted to assign a private-duty nurse to care for her in the ward. She insisted that she would be treated like all of the other patients and would be taken care of by the regular nurses on duty for that floor. Helen Gorman recalled that the Sisters put a chair just outside Mother Katherine's ward, and instructed Helen to sit there without letting Mother Katherine know she was there; and whenever she could see that Mother Katherine needed assistance, Helen was to go into the room as though she was the regular-duty nurse just making her routine rounds.

We are grateful that our parishioner, Helen Gorman (who died in 2005 at the age of 91), was able to give to us at Corpus Christi in Mobile a special and inspirational account about Katherine Drexel from Helen's own personal experience when Helen, as a young student nurse in Philadelphia, was assigned to care for St. Katherine Drexel.



## Trouble All Over

In 1913, the Georgia Legislature, hoping to stop the Blessed Sacrament Sisters from teaching at a Macon school, tried to pass a law that would have prohibited white teachers from teaching black students.

In 1922 in Beaumont, Texas, a sign was posted by local Klansmen on the door of a church where the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament had opened a school. "We want an end of services here," the note read, followed by offensive statements against the Sisters and those they were serving. The note ended with, "Suppress it [your services] in one week or flogging with tar and feathers will follow." A few days later, a violent thunderstorm ripped through Beaumont, destroying the headquarters of the KKK, killing two of its members. The Sisters were never threatened again!

In 1915, when Mother Katherine purchased an abandoned university building to open Xavier Preparatory School in New Orleans, vandals smashed every window. In the late 1920s, when Mother Katherine found property in New Orleans for expanding Xavier University, she used a third party as a purchasing agent to keep the transaction from falling through. When the handsome campus was dedicated in October 1932, a priest gazed upon the expensive Indiana limestone buildings and remarked in Latin: "What a waste!" Mother Katherine never heard the remark. The woman who had spent \$656,000 for the land and new buildings watched the dedication ceremony from a third-floor window, far away from the dignitaries' platform.

From an article in *The Clarion Herald*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and in *St. Anthony Messenger* magazine, published by the Franciscans.

***Mother Katharine told her Sisters:***

**"Resolve to manifest our Mission generously and with no half-hearted, timorous dread of the opinions of Church and men.**

**"You have no time to occupy your thoughts with consideration of what others will think.**

**"Your business is simply, 'What will my Father in heaven think?'"**

## St. Katharine In Louisiana

St. Katharine Drexel is a saint with particular significance to south Louisiana, especially the Diocese of Lafayette. She visited the diocese several times in the 1920s during the episcopacy of the late Bishop Jules B. Jeanmard, first Bishop of Lafayette. Together they selected sites for rural schools for African American children, places where there were no schools for them.



In colonial times, during the 1700s, when the area of Louisiana was under French or Spanish rule, government regulations required that people who were held in slavery should be baptized and given Catholic religious instruction. This was in contrast to Protestant areas where people in slavery were forbidden to receive religious instruction.

By the time Louisiana became part of the United States (with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803), the religious traditions of Catholicism were well established among African Americans in South Louisiana, and after the Civil War, many of them continued their affiliation with the Catholic Church.

Mother Katharine, in her time, with the support of Bishop Jeanmard, proceeded to establish some 40 rural schools for African American children all over South Louisiana, in areas now included in the Dioceses of Lafayette, Baton Rouge, and the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Mother Katherine knew that all people are the beloved children of the same God, and brothers and sisters to one another. And she was determined that the best way to spread this truth was to provide schools.

From an article in the *Acadiana Catholic*