

Sisters Of Saint Martha Play Major Role

Inspiring Record Of Community Service Here Since 1916

For many years the small province of Prince Edward Island has been famed throughout the length and breadth of North America as the "Isle of Vocations" by reason of the great number of priests and religious who have been sent into the vineyard—North, South, East and West. But it was not until 1916 that the Mother House of a religious community was established within its boundaries. Three orders of Sisters were very admirably carrying on different works of charity and education but new needs were arising and Right Reverend Henry J. O'Leary, D.D., then Bishop of Charlottetown, later Archbishop of Edmonton, decided that time was ripe to invite the young women of the Province to turn away from the lure of fields afar and to form a religious congregation devoted especially to the "Father's business" in Prince Edward Island.

He requested the Sisters of St. Martha of Antigonish to assist in founding a diocesan community like unto theirs. To digest a little—the connection between St. Martha and the life of an active community is seldom more neatly put than in the words of Most Reverend J. A. O'Sullivan, writing in one of his first circular letters when Bishop of Charlottetown: "...Sisters of St. Martha, whose name brings at once to mind those touching scenes of intimacy with our dear Saviour in ancient Bethany, where our Lord showed by his tears and miracles, the boundless love he had for those in misery and distress." The holy woman, Martha, was canonized indeed by Holy Writ for do we not read "Jesus loved Martha?"

maintained until the Sacred Heart Home was opened in 1925. The year 1925 was a momentous one in the life story of the Sisters of St. Martha of Prince Edward Island, for in that year the Grey Nuns of Quebec, who had labored in the Diocese so faithfully for forty-six years, were withdrawn from the orphanage and hospital, by decision of their Superiors in Quebec. These institutions were placed under the direction of the Sisters of St. Martha as was also the newly-opened Sacred Heart Home.

Only those who have experience in managing such activities can realize the responsibilities entailed—these too few religious pioneers had need, in truth, of unbounded generosity and infinite trust to take up unflinchingly the burden placed upon them in the inscrutable designs of Divine Providence—"I can do all things in Him who strengtheneth me" was their watchword.

For many years after 1925 the efforts and energies of the community were concentrated on greater efficiency in the works already assigned them rather than to the opening of new missions. At the cost of considerable sacrifice, the Sisters were given opportunities to improve their education and technical skills in the various phases of administrative, hospital and educational activities; in this they were inspired and aided by the example and assistance of their Mother Community in Antigonish as well as by that of other religious congregations, particularly those of the Maritimes.

Steps In Progress

In 1931 the opening of the Social Service Department in connection with the hospital was an interesting expansion of charitable endeavor. Religious Vacation Schools, inaugurated first at St. Peter's in 1936, enabled the Sisters to do much for the religious education of the lambs of the flock under the guidance of the pastors.

In 1942 a band of five Sisters extended the work of the Institute beyond the confines of the Province when they went to Kingston to co-operate in their own way with the work of the venerable Regopolis College by assuming some of the responsibility in the housekeeping, infirmary and dietary departments.

In the same year the Sisters began teaching in Glenaladale School (Tracadie Cross). The number of pupils have increased and the people are so anxious to retain the school that a new convent is being built to provide a home for them. The new two-room school is bright and well suited to its purpose and takes its place among the best of rural schools.

In 1944 the first steps were taken in founding the Western Hospital—the Hotel Albion Terrace, was purchased. The new, yet a roomy addition was built giving a total capacity of forty. The hospital is tastefully furnished and equipped with all the modern essentials for surgical, medical and obstetrical cases. It is a great credit to the people of this section who, recognizing the benefit such an institution would be to them, gave the undertaking generous support.

The Lennox Island Mission to which the Sisters were sent in 1948, on the invitation of the Federal Department of Indian Affairs, opened up a promising field of activity in work for the Indian population of the Diocese.

In 1949 St. Teresa's new two-roomed school was taken charge of by the Sisters; here the teachers rejoice in the completion of the sorely-needed Private Pavilion at the Charlottetown Hospital and anticipate the satisfaction of those in attendance when they see the patients enjoying its conveniences.

Reverend Mother M. Teresa is the present Superior General of the Sisters of St. Martha of Prince Edward Island. Her community is small in numbers compared with that of Sisterhoods who number in

the thousands; it is young in years compared with veteran societies who give their age in hundreds. But God does not despise small things; He will accept and bless the efforts of the Superiors and Sisters for the sanctification of souls and the well-being of humanity in their beloved Prince Edward Island.

Arrived Here

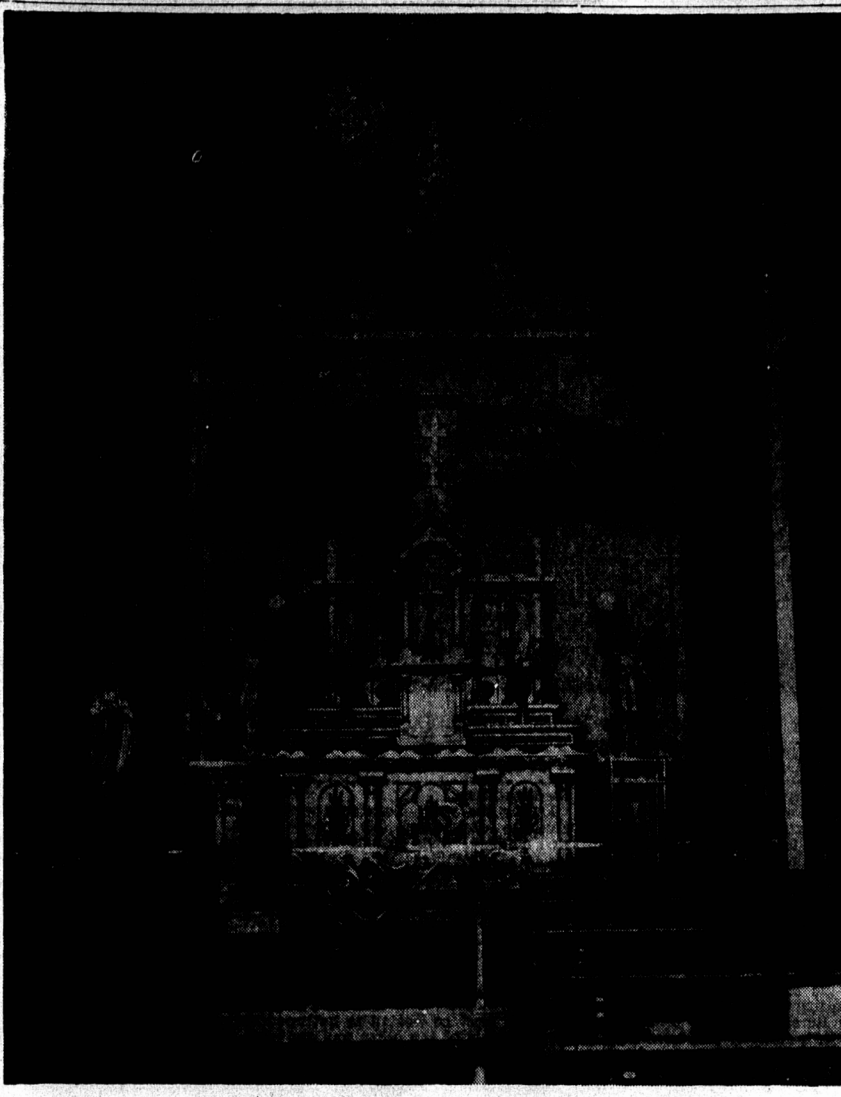
On July 17th, 1916, Reverend Mother M. Stanislaus with two religious companions and four Island novices, who had been received in the novitiate the previous year for preliminary training, came to Charlottetown, establishing the first Mother House and Novitiate in the convent attached to St. Dunstan's University. In this they followed the footsteps of the pioneers of the Antigonish Congregation who dwelt first in a house adjoining St. Francis Xavier University and paved the way for solid expansion in the future by their industry and self-abnegation in the meritorious services rendered the University.

Mother Stanislaus remained with the infant community five years, then she was recalled to Antigonish. She left Charlottetown happy to see her work assured of continuity by the ever-fatherly interest shown in it by Bishop Louis J. O'Leary. His first care on coming to Charlottetown as successor to his brother, transferred to Edmonton in 1920, was to draw up Constitutions for the Community in conformity with Church decrees.

In the year 1920, the founder-bishop had purchased, by means of a donation from a generous benefactress, the Long property on the Mount Edward Road, opposite St. Dunstan's University. The house was old but the site was considered incomparably excellent for a novitiate. The place was christened Mount St. Mary's. The house was enlarged the next year but as time went on more room was urgently needed and Bishop O'Sullivan allowed the Sisters to collect throughout the parishes for a new Mother House. Several legacies augmented the funds and a new brick building was being considered when war broke out in 1939, cancelling the plans. In 1948 a modest building program gave Mount St. Mary's a completely renovated house for the Novitiate and a new house for administration and Mother House.

Branching Out

The first branching out from the parent stem was in 1918 when the Sisters were called to take care of the domestic apartments of the Bishop's Residence; in 1921 another step was taken in the development of the founder's far-sighted cherished plans when the Sisters took charge of the school in Kinkora, a prosperous rural centre, thirty-five miles from Charlottetown. A small home for aged women known as the Hostel of St. Francis was opened in 1923 in the residence of the late Edward Kelly, near the Basilica, (now part of the Precious Blood Monastery). This house was



ALTAR—in the Chapel of the Charlottetown Hospital.

Fully Approved By College Of Surgeons

The Charlottetown Hospital is a fully approved hospital by the American College of Surgeons. No other organization on this continent has done more for hospitals than the American College of Surgeons. This splendid Association received its charter from the Federal Government of the United States in 1912, and has carried on its wonderful work in both North America and other places since that time.

A survey of hospitals in 1912 revealed a very alarming and undesirable state of affairs. The American College of Surgeons undertook the formidable task of remedying this serious situation and in the last thirty-eight years a wonderful change in hospital conditions have been made.

For many years it has been mandatory that every approved hospital must have a properly organized and qualified Board of Governors or Trustees. The Medical Staff must be well trained and properly qualified according to the standard of the College and now in Canada, according to the rigorous standards of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada established in 1931.

According to the same standard the nursing department must be fully qualified according to the Registered Nurses' Act of Prince Edward Island.

Every department of the hospital must be kept at the highest level. All equipment—x-ray, laboratory, medical, obstetrical—used in any way must be the most modern and the best. There must be ample bed space

for patients. Heating, ventilation, sterilization, sanitation must be carefully supervised. The kitchen department is most important especially at this period when fittingly selected diet must be arranged and prepared by a duly qualified Diетian.

The entire hospital must be a well organized and perfectly functioning machine. The main and indeed the final objective is the welfare of the patient.

Patients in a fully approved hospital are thus given a guarantee that they will be properly treated by a fully qualified staff, that they will have good nurses, good food, good care, and will have the benefit of the latest advances in every department of the Hospital. The death rate in this hospital is low and would be much lower if we could eliminate the many deaths of old people from 75 years up to the century mark.

This hospital has the advantage of being operated by the Sisters of St. Martha, unique in being a strictly Provincial organization. All those Sisters in charge are properly qualified in the departments which they head, and nursing and teaching is a life work with them, and this is ideal in attaining as near a standard of perfection as is possible.

It has been my privilege to be a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons for twenty-seven years, and a Governor of the College for those positions I have received an enormous amount of literature dealing with the gradual and remarkable improvement in hospital conditions on this continent for twenty-seven years. My life's first objective has been my profession, and the first and indispensable factor for the proper treatment and care of the patient is the hospital. My sincere thanks are due Divine Providence for a long career in my chosen vocation of medicine. I look back over forty years as a member of the staff of this hos-

pital with feelings of love for, and gratitude to great doctors, especially the late Doctor Peter Conroy and the late Doctor S.R. Jenkins, and to all the other Doctors, Sisters, Nurses, and others with whom I have associated for forty years. It has been the greatest satisfaction and inspiration to me to see the extraordinary improvement in all hospitals in this small but great Province as well as all over the continent.

The College of Surgeons sends an Inspector around every few years to visit all hospitals under their jurisdiction. On that inspection a decision is made as to whether the hospitals will remain on the approved list or not. It is a pleasure to say that all our hospitals in this Province, Sanatorium, and Falconwood, once having been approved, have maintained that high standard required by the College. This hospital today opening a new Pavilion, is the last word in hospital construction in this Country, and in many respects far in advance, and as we thank the American College of Surgeons for advice and guidance in reaching our present position, we can with perfect confidence and assurance say to our people in Prince Edward Island that when they enter this hospital as patients they will have the advantage of the best treatment possible with the newest and best equipment available.

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Offers Complete New Therapeutic X-Ray Department

(Doctor W. L. Macdonald)

Consistent with the policy of other departments of the Charlottetown Hospital, bringing the latest in techniques and treatment to the patient of this Province, it was announced at the last Board of Governors meeting that the X-ray department would be expanded and completely renovated to offer the very latest in both diagnostic and therapeutic X-ray techniques. The feature of this new department will be the latest type model deep X-ray therapy machine with a 250 KV. 15 MA type which offers the very highest voltage in general use for X-ray therapy in the treatment of disease.

With the addition of this new machine, which brings X-ray therapy in Prince Edward Island up to the high standards set in other parts of Canada, the treatment of cancer and allied conditions has been made a feature of the facilities of the Charlottetown Hospital. This department will occupy the whole suite which was formerly used as the Medical Records Department, Pharmacy storage and the older X-ray rooms together with splint room and storage departments so that the new remodelled set-up will include a suite of rooms which gives the most modern type of set-up to be had in any X-ray Department.

In keeping with all the other departments of the hospital the volume of work has increased tremendously in the X-ray Department during the past five years. With the addition of the new hydraulic table in 1945-46, with the recent addition of the new Centralinear

(Continued on Page 10, Col. 2)

The City Hospital And The Red Cross

In the wonderful work done during the last twenty years by the P.E.I. Division of the Canadian Red Cross in the treatment and cure of thousands of crippled and handicapped children in this Province, the City Hospital and the other hospitals in this Province, especially the three larger ones, have played a major role.

Ever since Doctor T.B. Acker of Halifax, Nova Scotia, that skillful and wonderful Crippled Children's Specialist, began his semi-annual and in later years many yearly visits on account of the Poliomyelitis epidemic, this hospital has co-operated in every possible way. About 650 children have been treated and cared for in the City Hospital by Doctor Acker and members of the medical staff. Very greatly reduced charges have been made by the hospital and in many cases there has been no hospital charge.

As a member of the Medical Staff of this hospital for forty years; as Chief of Staff for the last twenty years and as a member of the executive of the P.E.I. Division of the Canadian Red Cross Society for thirty years, eleven of which I had the great honor of being President, I was in a position of liaison agent between the Society and the Hospital. No friction or misunderstanding has ever occurred. The co-operation has been sincere and complete. The Society and the Hospital both work for a great and humane objective and now both have the satisfaction and comfort of knowing that they have been the means of salvaging thousands of cripples, both juvenile and adult and have cured them to the point when they are now able to maintain

themselves and become useful members of our citizenship. Surely a Christian can have no greater feeling of comfort and satisfaction than in knowing and realizing that he has been of great help in salvaging the physical life of a crippled child.

As a result of this wonderful co-operation between the Society and the hospital with the efficient medical staff and good Sisters and nurses, we can say with pardonable pride and with thanks also to the great work of Doctor Acker and the generous people who have supplied the money that P.E.I. stands ahead of all Canadian Provinces on a per capita basis as to the number and percentage of crippled and handicapped children treated. In this connection the eye, ear and nose specialists and the oculists and dentists have accomplished wonders.

In the past few years the Canadian Red Cross has led the world in the greatest life saving and peace time work that was ever done. I mean the great undertaking of supplying blood to every hospital in Canada and the plan is a wonderful success. Every doctor can testify as to lives saved by the Red Cross Blood Service which depends chiefly upon our great Canadian citizens who supply the blood. The City Hospital co-operates fully and completely in this life saving service although it was one of the few hospitals in this country that had a complete Blood Donor Service of its own for many years.

Those are some of the points illustrating affiliation and co-operation between the great Red Cross Society and the City Hospital.

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for their foresight and progressiveness in adding the new addition to the Hospital which now is completed with all modern facilities to cope with sickness of all kinds. With this new addition the City Hospital now is one of the most modern, and up-to-date Hospitals in Eastern Canada.

We had the privilege and pleasure of supplying the following floor-covering for corridors and rooms:—2180 sq. yards of Jasper Inlaid Linoleum; 4680 ft. of Cove Base

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