

Dear Members of the Cathedral Parish,

I write to you with sad news. After 195 years of faithful service in the Quaker Hill neighborhood, the Daughters of Charity will no longer be sending Sisters to our parish. This summer Sister Mary Ellen and Sister JoAnne will be remissioned to other convents.

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1829, my predecessor, Father George Carrell wrote to Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's Sisters of Charity in Emmitsburg requesting their help for the children whose parents had been killed in explosions at the local gunpowder mills. The image behind this message is a photo of his letter, which he closed: "If this cannot be, I will then continue to supplicate the God of Heaven to send his angels to watch over our poor children." Father Carrell's prayers were answered. On April 14, 1830, three Sisters of Charity began the new orphanage in Wilmington.

Since then, many Daughters of Charity have served in the Cathedral Parish, our Saint Peter Cathedral School, and various social ministries, always devoted to serving the poor and marginalized. Besides their devoted service, we have been blessed by their witness to Christ and by their friendship with us.

The decision to conclude their ministry in Wilmington was made by the Daughters of Charity Province—the Visitatrix and her council of advisors. It was not a hasty decision, but the reality is that with a decreasing number of sisters; they find themselves spread too thinly. As a result, they are leaving fourteen parishes and ministries this summer; sadly, we are one of them. At this time, there are no plans for what will happen with our convent building. The ideal would be for another community of Sisters to come in, but that would take some time and lots of conversations. I will keep you updated as any possibility develops.

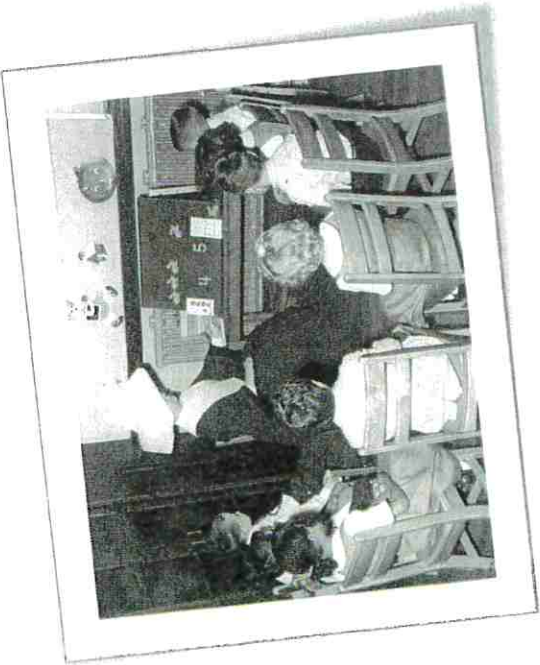
I do invite you to join Bishop Koenig on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 11 am for a Mass of Thanksgiving for the presence and ministry the Daughters have provided in Wilmington these many years. We are hoping that Sisters previously stationed here will be able to join us. Then, after the Mass, a luncheon will be held in the school gymnasium. Please see the invitation on the reverse of this letter and plan to join us on May 13<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime and in the few months we have before Sister Mary Ellen and Sister JoAnne are remissioned, please join me in thanking them for their tireless service and for all they do to serve the Lord and his people here in Wilmington.

*God bless you!*  
*Father McQuaide*

*Cathedral of Saint Peter  
Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>*

*Mass at 11 am*

*Luncheon to follow  
in School Gymnasium*



# MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR 195 YEARS OF DEDICATED MINISTRY AND PRESENCE OF THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY IN THE DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON



*RSVP by May 5<sup>th</sup>  
DowntownCatholic.com/RSVP*

