(2014-2)

The Mulligan Family and Holy Cross

I am Sister Mary Mulligan. I entered the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 1949 and live here at St. Mary's. When I saw the theme this year, Life in Holy Cross, I thought it might be an appropriate time to share my family's history in Holy Cross. The Mulligans in the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.1

The Mulligan's originally were from County Cavan, Ireland. Edward Mulligan and his brothers Patrick and Philip arrived in Indiana in 1835 and settled in Mishawaka, Indiana.

Reverend Edward Sorin CSC must have been happy to find Mr. Edward Mulligan when he visited Mishawaka. The Mishawaka directory states that "Edward Mulligan was an iron moulder who came to Mishawaka when the blast furnace was first built. In 1836 he built his home at the corner of First and Spring Street and during the next twelve years the parlor table was frequently converted into an altar for the celebration of Mass... When the priest did not come to Mishawaka, the people went to the mission by the lake."2 The directory also indicated that Edward, Patrick, and Philip Mulligan appear as members of the Mishawaka St. Joseph Parish in 1849. Edward Mulligan and Mary Ann Gribbin were married by Father Sorin. The ceremony was the first one he witnessed at Notre Dame.3 Edward and Mary Anne always remained good friends of Father Sorin who in 1845 manifested his friendship by giving Mary Anne a tea set. This gift is

presently in the possession of my cousin, Sister Mary Anne Mulligan, a Sister of St. Joseph.4

A gift of a stained-glass window in the Basilica was later given in memory of the E.Mulligan family. It is located in the back of the Basilica on the left. 5 I got my information about the figures in the window from a booklet on the paintings and windows in the Basilica. The Saints represented in the window are Isidore, Sebastian, Louis IX, and Dominic. Isidore was a farmer from Madrid. The small window below shows Isidore burdened with family problems and, welcoming an angel who arrives in response to his faith to help him. Sebastian was a Roman officer martyred by being shot with arrows. Louis IX, King of France was a learned, just and brave monarch. He was a patron of Thomas Aquinas, a crusader for the Holy Places, an exemplary ruler, and a reformer of church structures. He acquired relics of Christ's Passion, particularly relics of the Crown of Thoms and nails which are in the monstrance he holds. The relics were brought from Constantinople to Paris in 1241. They were placed in a chapel made especially for them called Sainte Chapelle. The last figure shown is of St. Dominic, who was the founder of the Order of Preaching Brothers commonly called the Dominicans. Below there is a picture of Dominic receiving the Rosary.

The Mulligans had ten children, six boys, Lawrence, James, William, Francis, John, and Joseph and four girls, Mary Eliza, Bridget, Catherine, and Elizabeth. 6 The youngest girl, Elizabeth, died at the age of 18. The other girls joined the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross 7Mary Eliza born in 1844, entered the Congregation in 1875 and was given the name of Sister Mary of St. Alexis. Father Granger, who was also named an Alexis, gave a handwritten booklet to Sister Alexis with wonderful little quotes for her to use for her meditation and reflection. Father Granger's picture was on the front of the booklet but not his name so that had to be researched at Notre Dame. One of my relatives copied the booklet, which was fading, so that we would have a more permanent copy of the work. 8 Sister Alexis was the head cook for nineteen years at Notre Dame and twenty-five years at Sacred Heart Academy in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Her father in earlier days had said she was a born cook.

The second daughter to enter was Bridget born in 1848, and entered the Congregation in 1878. She was given the name Sister Mary Bernard. 9 Her sensitivity and gentleness made her a good candidate as a nurse, so even though she never had any formal training most of her time was spent tending the sick. First she tended the students at Notre Dame in the infirmary and also had a side occupation of helping at the Ave Maria Press from 1881 to 1894. Sister Bernard had other assignments at Mt. Carmel Hospital in Columbus, Ohio and in the infirmary for the students at St. Mary's Academy in Austin, Texas. Sister spent four more years at Mt. Carmel before going to Holy Cross Academy in Washington D.C.

When she finally returned to St. Mary's Mother Aquina sent her into South Bend to learn how to cane chairs, another skill that became a side occupation. She used her skill to help refurbish the chairs in the convent. She also did housework along with canning chairs until 1931 when she became a patient at the convent and where she later died in 1933.

Catherine, born in 1862, had a late start in religious life. 10 She stayed home with her mother, Mary Anne and also took care of the farm. But when this became too difficult for her, she asked her brother, James, to come from Colorado where all the brothers had moved, and to take her and the mother there. Mary Anne was reluctant to go as she wanted to be buried with her husband, Edward who had died in 1868 and is buried in the family plot in Cedar Grove Cemetery. Their daughter, Elizabeth who died in 1872 is also buried there. When Mary Anne was given the promise that her children would return her body to Notre Dame, for burial, she gave in and agreed to go to Denver. She and Catherine lived in a duplex next to James for four years. Mary Anne died, January 16, 1896. Her wishes were granted when she was transported back to Notre Dame where she was given a wonderful tribute in Sacred Heart Basilica and buried in Cedar Grove. Cemetery 11

Catherine then decided to become a Holy Cross Sister and entered the Congregation April 30, 1896 and was given the name Sister Mary Romula. She worked as prefect of the dormitories for the young children at St. Mary's then went to Sacred Heart Academy in Fort Wayne, Indiana to be housekeeper. Her three nieces, Mary, Helen and Cecilia, came there to school since elementary education in Leadville, Colorado was only to grade six.

Sister Romula went back to St. Mary's in 1924 and worked in the refectory and infirmary until she, herself, became a patient and died January 1, 1929. All three Sisters are buried next to each other in section 3 row 10 at Our Lady of Peace Cemetery here at St. Mary's.

The next generation of Sisters of the Holy Cross came from the James Edward Mulligan side of the family. A second window in the Sacred Heart Basilica in honor of that family is called the McCauley window after James' wife. It is located as the first window after the nave on the right as you enter the Basilica.12 The window shows four Christian women, Catherine, Solange, Elizabeth, and Clotilde. Catherine of Alexandria, a teacher and doctor in the first decade of the fourth century, was martyred by being tom apart on a wheel. The window depicts Angels bearing her up to heaven. Solange was a shepherdess living near Bourges, France. She lived a contemplative life. We see her praying in a cave. She was murdered when attacked by a nobleman in 880. Elizabeth of Hungary was the daughter of the King of Hungary and wife of the Count of Thuringia. When her husband died in a Crusade in 1227 she was encouraged to become a Third Order Franciscan. She spent the rest of her life doing what she loved; feeding the poor and setting up clinics for the needy. Clotilde was influential in French Christianity and in convincing her husband, King Clovis to become a Christian. She spent her final years as a contemplative at the Church of St. Martin of Tours.

James and Catherine had four children, Mary, Cecilia, Bernard, and Helen Rose. Mary and Helen Rose became Sisters of the Holy Cross.13,14

15 Mary Bernadette was the oldest child born July 20, 1883. She joined the Sisters of the Holy Cross on September 8, 1903 and took the name Coaina, which is an Algonquin Indian name for Catherine. Mary wanted a form of Catherine after her mother. Sister Coaina's assignments were varied but most of her ministry was teaching high school students. Her first missions were in the Midwest at St. Mary's School in Davenport, Iowa and at Holy Angels Academy in Logansport, Indiana. The remainder of her years teaching was in Texas and in the West. She received her BA degree in English and Latin from the University of Texas and later a master's degree in English from the University of Texas in Austin, Texas.

Sister Coaina was remembered for her kindness, understanding, and unswerving loyalty to Holy Cross. During the many years she was a superior she was known to have a keen sense of humor and an ability to counsel wisely and well. Because she was a compassionate person she carried the joys, as well as the sorrows, of many of the sisters in her understanding heart. Her last assignment was at St. Mary's Convent where she enthusiastically joined the prayer ministry. While at St. Mary's her hands were always busy with some fancy work or writing letters and in later years working crossword puzzles. Her final years were hard for her as she could not do all the things she always did.

What a joy it was that her sister, Sister Helen Rose came to St. Mary's at the same time in 1965 and lived next door to her. They laughed and visited with others who came to their room either to pray the rosary or just to visit. Her three nieces, Kathryn, Pat, and Mary, visited them every summer for fifteen years. After a final illness and time in the hospital Sister Coaina died at the age of 94 on August 25, 1977.

Sister Helen Rose born in 1890 became a Sister of the Holy Cross in 1916. 16 She came to the community full of talent in accounting as she had worked for her father, James, for some years before entering the community. A rhythm of gentleness, prayerfulness, and skillful artistry in medicine, music and art filled her life. An accomplished pianist, when she entered, Sister Helen Rose continued to use her talent in her hospital ministry by playing the organ at Benediction and all liturgical functions as well as playing the piano to entertain the Sisters. She continued to add to her accomplishments when she became a registered nurse graduating from Mount Carmel Hospital School of Nursing in Columbus, Ohio. Later she graduated as a medical technician from Sacred Heart Hospital School of Technology in Spokane, Washington. She was licensed nationally and was a member of several national professional societies. The last eighteen years Sister Helen Rose spent in the west were at St. Agnes Hospital in Fresno, California where she was the supervisor of the Clinical Laboratory. When the new laboratory was built at St. Agnes, a plaque in her honor was placed on the door.17

Sister Helen Rose was to live ten more years after her sister's death, first being a special nurse for the sisters who were in the hospital and secondly, by becoming the assistant to the visiting dentist. She spent hours crocheting baby outfits and blankets for the Holy Childhood Association and the gift shop. She loved to be in the Adoration Chapel which was on the second floor of the infirmary at the time. For twenty-two years it was her privilege to be in the chapel for adoration at noon. Since she spent many hours in the chapel sometimes her head would lean to one side in sleep, for her this was also a prayer. Even though she suffered much from scoliosis which bent her over and caused a lot of pain, Sister smiled all the time, as the radiance of Heaven came through the sparkle in her eyes 18 Sister Coaina and Sister Helen Rose are buried side by side in Our Lady of Peace Cemetery. When Sister Coaina died, Sister Helen Rose asked that a spot next to her sister be saved and her wish was granted.

The next generation of Holy Cross Religious came from Sisters Coaina and Helen Rose's brother Bernard's family. 19 Bernard and Elizabeth Brennan, (Lizzy) to every one, married after Bernard came back from the First World War. He intended to serve as a medic in the war but soon after arriving in France he was shot in the ear and in the leg and was promptly sent home. Both Bernard and Lizzy were born in Leadville, Colorado and had known each other since childhood. 20 Of their six children, two boys; Bernard and William and four girls; Kathryn, Patricia, Mary and Elizabeth, three of the girls became Holy Cross Sisters. The youngest, Elizabeth (Betty) was killed in an automobile accident at the age of nineteen. 21

Besides knowing their two aunts, the girls got acquainted with the Holy Cross Sisters when they attended St. Agnes School in Los Angeles since by this time the family had moved from Colorado to California. Kathryn was the oldest of the girls.22 Her desire to be a sister was in her heart from the time she was three years old. In Leadville Kathryn and her mother were walking down the street and some Sisters of Charity came by. Little Kathryn asked about them and her mother explained who they were and what they did. Kathryn said to her mother," That's what I want to do when I grow up." That desire never left her and she planned her whole life around fulfilling that desire. We, other girls, always knew what she wanted to do with her life. So even though she had a scholarship to University of Southern California, in Los Angeles, California, she chose to enter the Sister of the Holy Cross right out of high school on July 26, 1941. At her reception, February 2, 1942, she received the name of Sister Mary Bernita. Since she was in the Novitiate all during WWII, she fretted about the fact that she knew nothing about the war or what was going on in the country at that time. She was very interested in current affairs so she took every opportunity to educate herself in as many ways as she could. She earned a Masters in Chemistry in Spokane, Washington and another in Gerontology from University of Southern California. She took advantage of National Science Foundation grants to pursue her love of learning in geology at Notre Dame, Indiana. Her leadership ability found her in positions of responsibility in the community and in education. Whatever role she was asked to take she tried to fulfill it with generosity and with prayers to the Holy Spirit. Her ministry assignments took her to California, Utah, Idaho, and Arizona.

When she was asked to start a school at St. Pius Parish in Redwood City, California, she enthusiastically began with ordering all the furniture for the house and school. The pastor, Msgr. Michael Fitzimmon told her to buy the best quality materials as he wanted them to last. All of the house furniture was still in the convent when her sister, Sister Mary, became the principal of the school, years later. In Arizona, along with Sister Angela Marie Emrich, now deceased, Sister Bernita, now Sister Kathryn started an elementary non-graded school at St. Cyril's Parish in Tucson, Arizona. 23 The older children were so enthusiastic about learning they would arrive at seven in the morning to get going on their work. Parents were PALs (Parents Active in Learning Situations) who helped correct students' work. Some students finished three years of work in two. Some even tested out of the freshman year at the high school level. Unfortunately, when the Sisters had to leave Tucson in 1976, the next principal did not continue the program. During Sister Kathryn's twenty-five years on mission in Covina, California, she was the Outreach Coordinator for Sacred Heart Parish. The numerous programs she began continued even after she left the parish. Because of her leadership style, once she started a program she would train others to take over and she would work with and support them. Some of these services were feeding three to five hundred senior citizens a turkey dinner on Thanksgiving Day, creating a memorial service and dinner for those who lost loved ones during the month, delivering bread given by the bakery to the senior citizen centers each day, plus visiting the hospital to give Holy Communion to the patients.

The next Mulligan to enter Holy Cross was Patricia, (Pat) to most people.24 The last three girls had been sent to Holy Rosary Academy after an eviction notice was given the family in the summer of 1945. Housing shortages required that all the family split up and live in various locations. So since Sister Coaina was assigned to Holy Rosary Academy in Woodland, California, she suggested that the girls come up there to school. This idea appealed to the parents and the girls were reluctantly put on the train to attend school in Woodland, California. Pat would be a junior, Mary a sophomore, and Betty a seventh grader. Here the girls not only had a continuation of their acquaintance with Holy Cross Sisters but also a wonderful education. While there, Pat would say one day that she wanted to be a sister and the next day she changed her mind. This went on for quite awhile until her senior year when she finally made up her mind. In 1946 Pat entered the community and received the name of Sister Ann Catherine. It seems that Sister Coaina had a lot to do with the name as the former Sister Ann Catherine was a friend of hers and at one time had dressed little Patricia up in the habit. That Sister Ann Catherine died of cancer when she was forty years old.

When Pat, received the name Sister Ann Catherine, she never returned to her legal name, Patricia, because she loved her religious name. She was an artist as well as an educator. In the summers she attended the College of the Holy Names in Oakland, California where she would paint and craft pots .25 She had already graduated from St. Mary of the Wasatch in Salt Lake City, Utah, so art being her passion, she took art classes as often as she could.

Her many art pieces were given to relatives and friends. She and Sister Kathryn painted China even whole sets of dishes, cups, dessert plates etc. while in Covina, along with their sister-in-law, Anne. All of them produced wonderful pieces to be shared by all in the family at Christmas and birthday times. Sister Ann Catherine taught in many schools in the west mostly in fifth through eighth grade. Besides having a special gift in art she liked teaching math. So when finally she was no longer teaching full time in the grades she would tutor math students and teach art in the various classrooms. She lived with her sister, Sister Mary, in San Antonio, Texas in the La Risa Apartments for five years. There she recruited many people as Associates of Holy Cross and had a pinning celebration at which Brother Joseph Esparza, CSC also became an Associate of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. 26 The little apartment was a place of gathering for many festive occasions and for meals with the other Sisters who also lived in the La Risa Apartments. In July 1997, Sister Ann Catherine and Sister Mary moved to Covina, California to be with their sister, Sister Kathryn. The Sisters who had been living there had moved on to other ministries and Sister Kathryn was in need of others to live with her. So fortunately we other Mulligans were able to go there, Sister Mary to teach in the school next door and Sister Ann Catherine to continue her apostolate with past Associate friends.

The night the Olympics started on February 7, 1998, the same month and day as this year, Sister Ann Catherine was not feeling well and said she did not think she would stay for the opening ceremony and would sleep in on that Saturday. That night she did fall asleep and never woke up. When found the next morning she had a slight smile on her face. She is buried in St. Clare's Cemetery in Oxnard, California where many of our Sisters are buried. A plaque in memory of each sister who was not buried at St. Mary's is placed on the stone structure built at the entrance to the cemetery. So Sister Ann Catherine's name is on one of these plaques. Sister Mary Bernard Joseph was the name given to the next Mulligan to enter Holy Cross. 27 Mary was not eager to be a sister. Her plans were to get married and have lots of children. So after high school she was happy to leave Holy Rosary Academy and get on with her life. Being a religious was not one of her choices. Her father and her mother were not well and her grandmother was deaf and blind. Staying home was something she planned to do just like Sister Romula had done. However, God had other plans. One of the practices she had from childhood was to go to Mass every day. This was continued even after high school, so while she was working she attended Mass at a nearby church. God kept urging her to choose to go to the convent but she tried to ignore it saying to herself it was the influence of all the Sisters in her family. Finally, one day, February 2nd 1949, she told her mother that she thought she ought to write for her queries. Her mother said, "Well, I was wondering when you were going to make up your mind." Her parents always thought having their daughters as Holy Cross Sisters was a wonderful gift and a blessing on the family. That summer; Mary entered the community and received the name Sister Mary Bernard Joseph, after her father.

Oh, by the way, Mary bargained with God over this whole thing of joining the community praying, "If you want me to be a religious don't ever let me doubt." This grace was given in abundance. Sister Mary changed back to her legal name as this seemed a simpler solution for obtaining degrees and licenses, etc. It was while living in Oakland, California that Sister Mary received both her BA degree in Education and MA degree in History from the school nearby; the College of the Holy Names.

Her journey was varied as might be expected. She became a teacher for the elementary school system and decided to stick with it even when many others changed to other ministries. The question was, "Do you like what you are doing?" Since the answer was in the affirmative, Sister Mary continued on for sixty years either in the classroom or as principal and sometimes both principal and teacher, across the country in the states of California, Washington, Utah, Texas, and Indiana. Then when her sister, Sister Kathryn, fell ill with lung cancer, both decided that it was time to return to St. Mary's. Happily, they drove across the country visiting relatives as they went. They arrived the summer of 2007. Sister Kathryn was able to enjoy only four months at St. Mary's before she died. Sister Mary decided to continue teaching by substituting in the Catholic schools nearby.

She wished that the Mulligan's life in Holy Cross would continue in the next generation, however, that was not meant to be. All together from the first generation until now, the Mulligans have given their lives of prayer and service for 470 years and counting.28

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Family Pictures

Basilica of the Sacred Heart Theological Guide to Windows=

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Sister Ann Catherine's Painting

Sister Kathryn's China Painting

History paper written and presented by Sister Mary Mulligan, CSC (Sr. Bernard Joseph)

Date presented May 30, 2014 at St. Mary's Lillie O'Grady Center Notre Dame, Indiana

The Mulligan's in Holy Cross

Presented by Sister Mary Mulligan, CSC

Century of **Catholic** Faith in Mishawaka 1848-1948

o context, the two villages, the very first bridge to span the St. Joseph In 1838 St. Joseph Iron Works and Indiana City were united in a manicipality under the name of Mishawaka. It St. Mishawaka, and it show the City of won user played our in the neighborhood of Mishawaka, and the amases had to that drawn. The It St. Of the Original Control St. Mishawaka, and the amases had to that drawn. The It St. Or crusts showed the population of waka stationary, while that of South Bend Isad more than doubled itself.

The Germans Arrive

The Germans Arrive

The Genomic immigration to Mishawaka came in the 40% As farmers
Germans would be attracted to the rich lands of the valley and the surrounding
country in mechanics and arrivants they could find ready employment in the
neille and shops and factories that grew up assend the blast furrace. The
cerellent timble in which the country absunded brought workers in would
to lay the foundations of such industries as wagon builting, the making of
barrels, stares, and uses, of household and school furniture. The records preserved at Notre Dame show that between 1834 and 1847 the 10dy Cross
Enthers administered haptism at Mishawaka, but the complexion of the
names fast changed. To be sate, Patrick Mulligen shows up as a sponsor, but

BOOK OF MARRIAGES

MAY 1843 Edward Hulligan Mary Anne Gribben

In the year of Our Lord 1843, on the 12th day of May, the proclamation of banns having preceded on two successive Sundays at BighMasses of the parish in the church of Notre Base du Lac, a dispensation from the third proclamation have been ullowed(?), and no imper ment coming to light, I, the undersigned, pastur of this church of Bertrand, intercognited in this church Edward Mulligan, son of Patrick Bulligan, and Bary Anne Gribben, daughter of Peter Gribben, both of fretand, living in Hisbawaka, and their mutual consent having been obtained, united them in this present sarriage using the customery formula, in the presence of the known witnesses: Patrick Halligan, son of Patrick Mullican, from Ireland, Edward Dowling, Patrick Bellally and Samuel Lock (?) from the same region; after ward I blessed them according to the rice of Holy Mother Church.

> (signed) E. Sorin

JULY 1843 Joseph Perchka

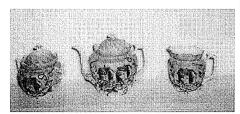
Susanna

July, no lawful impediment having come to light, I, the undersigned, paster of this church of Bertrand, interrogated Joseph Petchka, son of Peter Petchka, of the Potowationi tribe living in Pokugon and Suzanna, of the same place and tribe, and having obtained their autual consent united them in this present marriage, using the customary formula, in the presence of the known witnesses Roy. Theophilus Marivault of Notre Dame du Lac, and S. Salaon of South Bend, son of Salmon of Canadat afterward I blesses them according to the rite of Holy Hother Church.

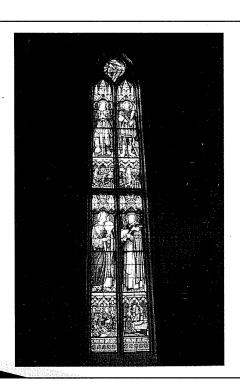
Father Edward Sorin's Marriage Ledger

Mary Anne Mulligan and Tea Set



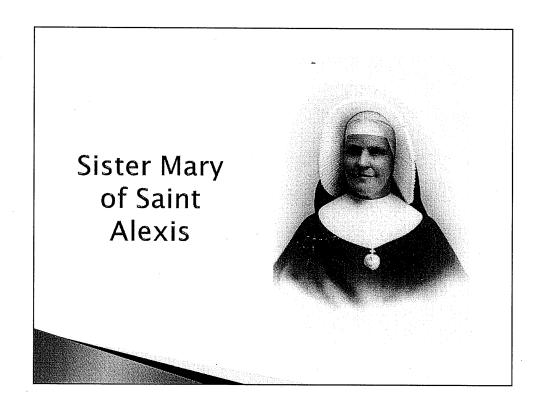


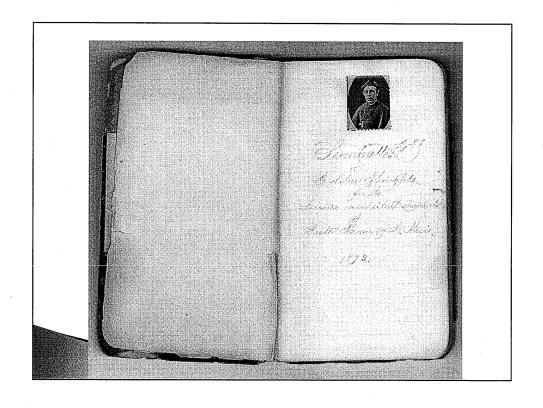
Gift of N.D. Stained Glass Window

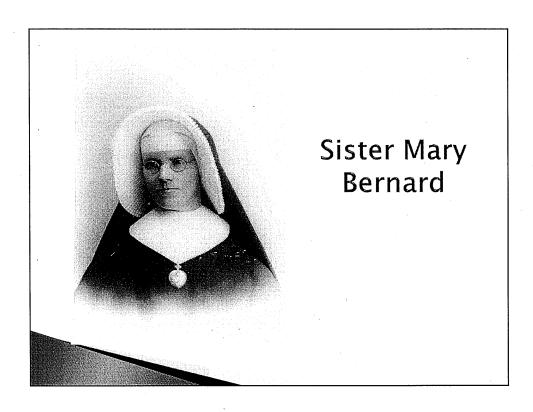


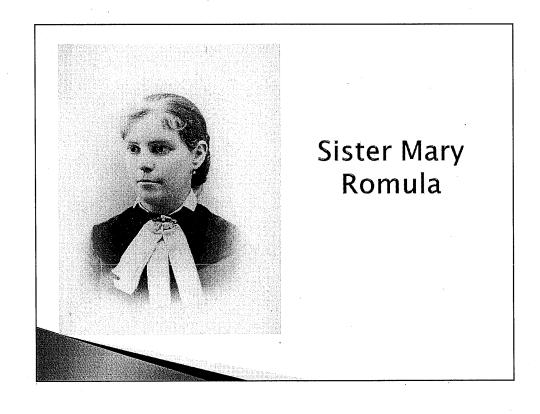
The Mulligan's had 10 children

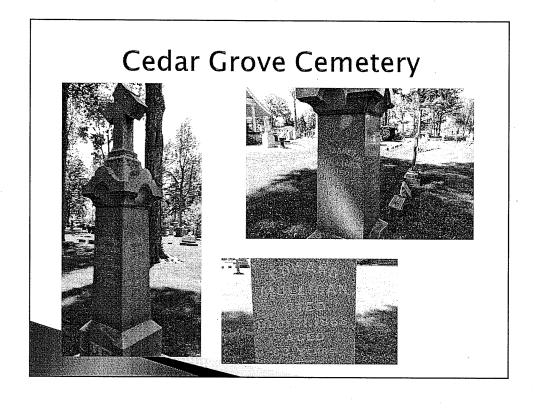
- Six Boys: Lawrence, James, William, Francis, John, Joseph
- Four Girls: Mary Eliza, Bridget, Catherine, Elizabeth

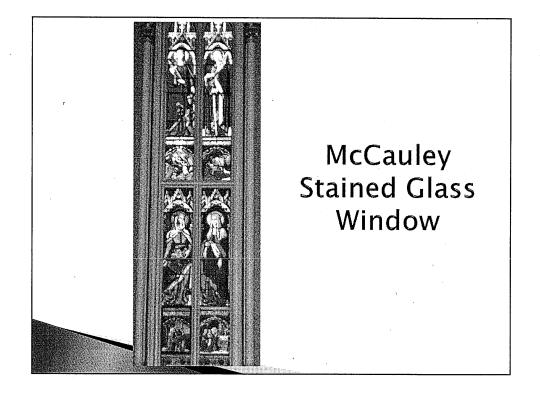








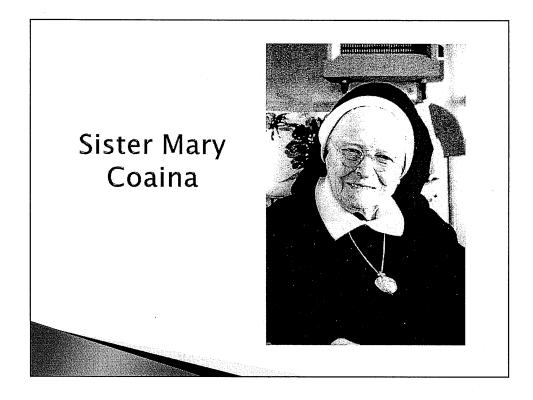


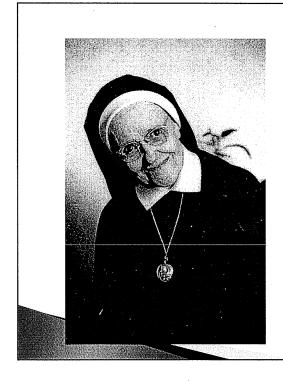


James and Catherine Mulligan

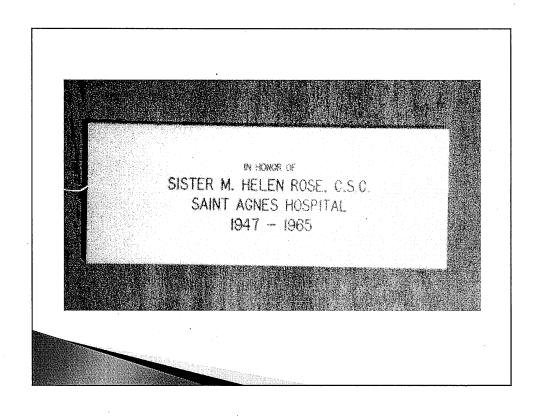
- ▶ 4 Children
- → One Son: Bernard
- Three daughters: Mary, Cecilia, Helen Rose,







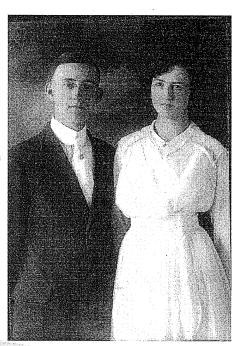
Sister Mary Helen Rose





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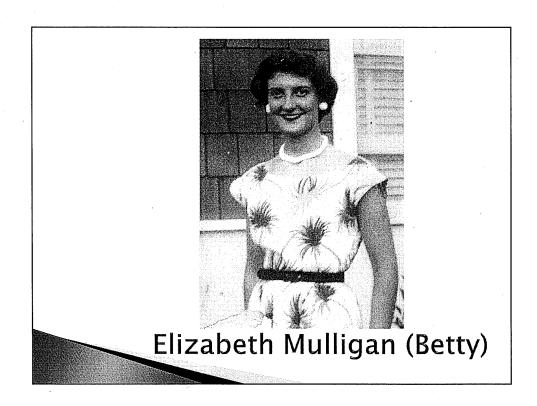
Bernard and Elizabeth(Lizzy)
Mulligan

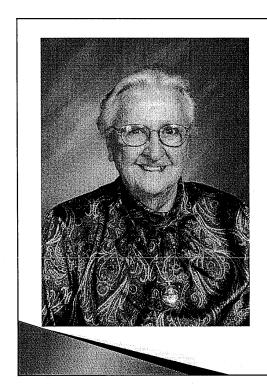


Bernard and Elizabeth(Lizzy) Mulligan

- ▶ Two sons: Bernard, William
- Four daughters: Kathryn, Patricia, Mary, Elizabeth

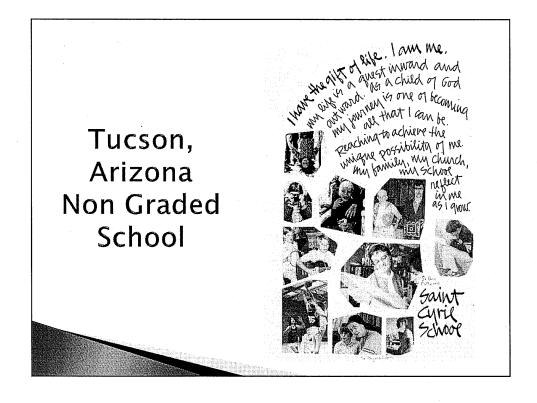
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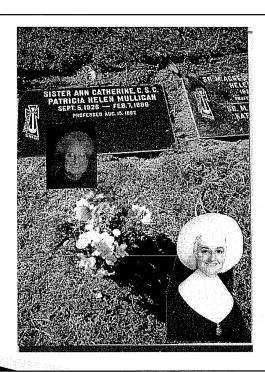


Sister Mary Bernita (Kathryn)

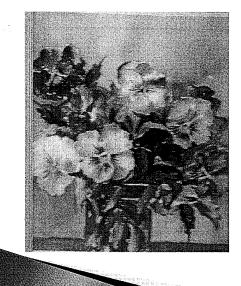
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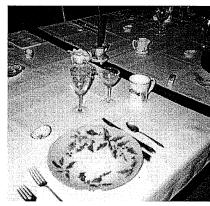


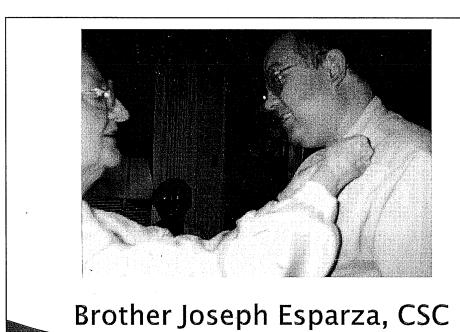
Sister Ann Catherine (Pat)











Sister Mary Bernard Joseph (Mary)



Thus far the Mulligan's have given their lives of prayer and service in the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross for 470 years and counting.

