



THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH
of St. Augustine, Florida
WELCOME YOU
To their
150th Anniversary Celebration
Of serving the "*dear neighbor*" in Florida
SEPTEMBER 2, 1866



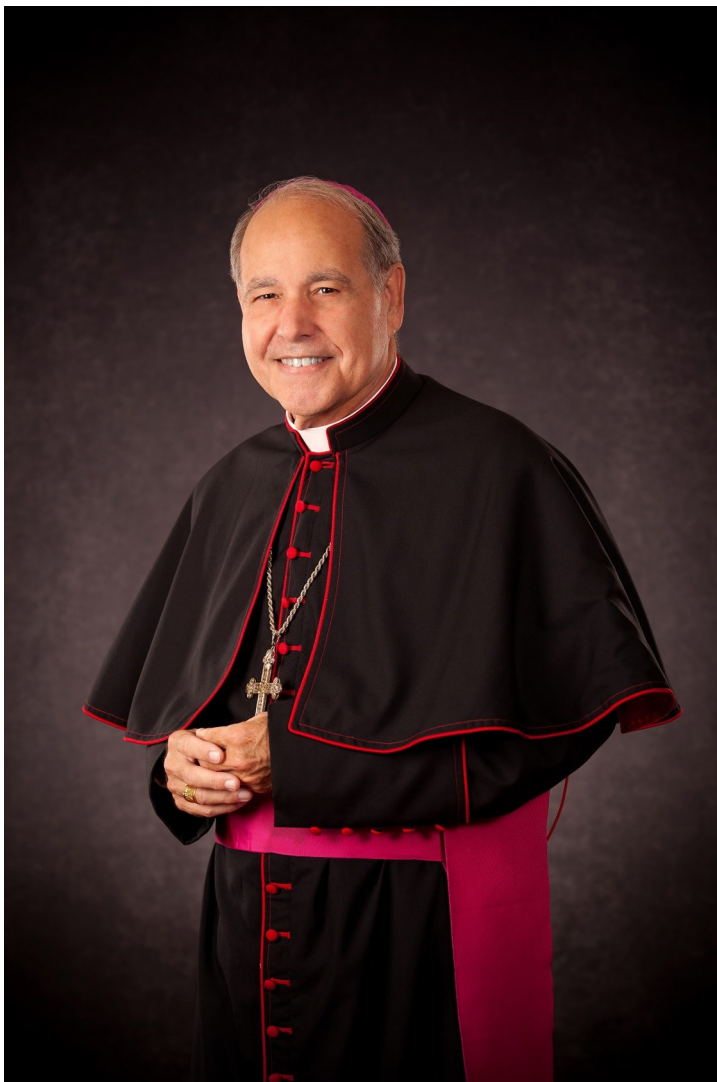
THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA
OF SAINT AUGUSTINE,
ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 3, 2016



HIS HOLINESS
Pope Francis



HIS EXCELLENCY
Most Reverend Thomas J. Wenski
Archbishop of Miami



HIS EXCELLENCY
Most Reverend Felipe J. Estévez
Bishop of St. Augustine



DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Office of the Bishop

September 3, 2016

Memorial of St. Gregory the Great

Dear Sisters of St. Joseph,

As we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the first sisters' arrival in Florida, we pause to honor your attentiveness to the Holy Spirit and the abundant fruit this has borne in your lives. Your 150 years of ministry to the People of God in the Diocese of St. Augustine and the entire State of Florida is a treasured gift and cause for amazement.

On behalf of the priests, religious and the multitude of men, women and children you have befriended and served, I express my deep gratitude. How blessed we are to have been the beneficiaries of your generous yes to the Lord's invitation to give of yourselves totally to His service.

As your mission statement states, "the Sisters of St. Joseph are women who, seized by God's love, work in collaboration with others to bring union and reconciliation to our world, *"that all may be one"* (John 17:21)." Truly, these words have become a lively reality, visible in each one of you.

As your bishop, I am grateful for the many years of faithful service to the people of Florida in every aspect of ministry, especially your great desire to educate children, youth and adults with a remarkable tenderness for our "dear neighbor".

May the Lord grant many more grace filled years of service and joy for the Sisters of St. Joseph.

With gratitude, I am

Sincerely yours,

Most Reverend Felipe J. Estévez, S.T.D.

Bishop of St. Augustine



Mother Sidonie Rascle, SSI

Mother Superior

1866

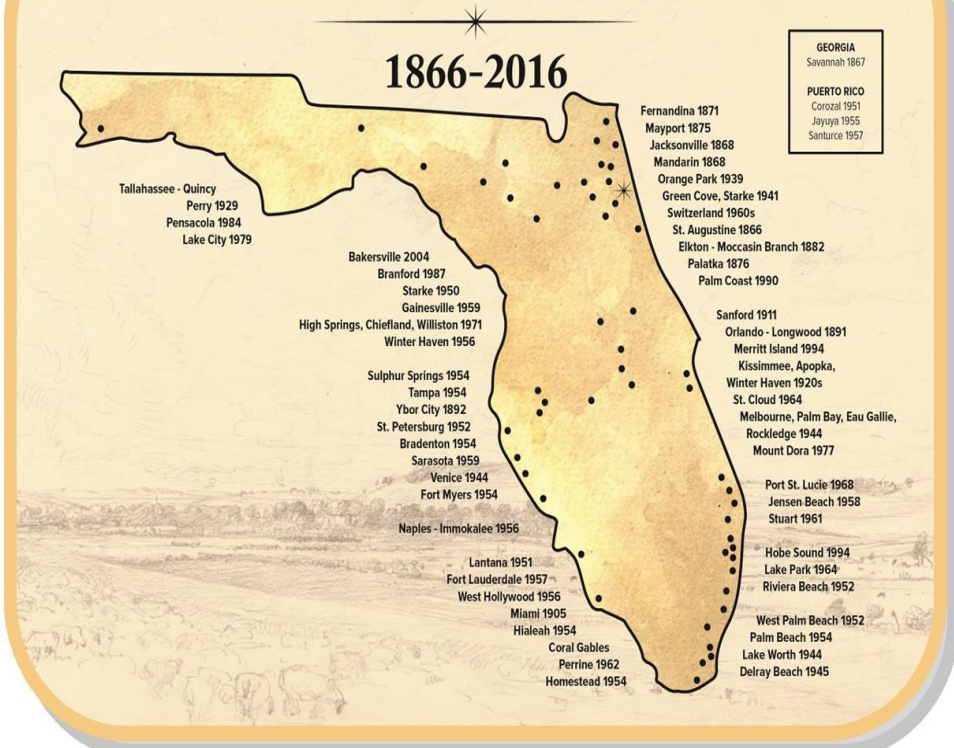


Sister Jane Stoecker, SSI
General Superior
2016



MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Missions of The Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine



“Never do anything that contradicts the pursuit of holiness.”

Maxim # 44

Father Jean-Pierre Medaille, SJ
Founder of the Sisters of St. Joseph

Le Puy, France 1650



ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS IN ATTENDANCE

Most Rev. Thomas J. Wenski, D.D.
Archbishop of Miami
Metropolitan of the Province of Miami

Most Rev. Felipe J. Estévez, S.T.D., D.D.
Bishop of St. Augustine

Most Rev. John J. Snyder, D.D.
Bishop Emeritus of St. Augustine

Most Rev. John Noonan, D.D.
Bishop of Orlando

Most Rev. Frank Dewane, D.D.
Bishop of Venice in Florida

Most Rev. Peter Baldacchino, D.D.
Auxiliary Bishop of Miami

Most Rev. Robert Baker, S.T.D., D.D.
Bishop of Birmingham

Most Rev. Victor Galeone, D.D.
Bishop Emeritus of St. Augustine





PRINCIPAL CELEBRANT AND HOMILIST

Most Rev. Thomas J. Wenski
Archbishop of Miami
Metropolitan of the Province of Miami

PRINCIPAL CONCELEBRANTS

Most Rev. Felipe J. Estévez, S.T.D., D.D.
Bishop of St. Augustine

Most Rev. John Noonan, D.D.
Bishop of Orlando

Most Rev. Robert Baker, S.T.D., D.D.
Bishop of Birmingham

Most Rev. Peter Baldacchino, D.D.
Auxiliary Bishop of Miami

Most Rev. Victor Galeone, D.D.
Bishop Emeritus of St. Augustine

Most Rev. John J. Snyder, D.D.
Bishop Emeritus of St. Augustine

Very Rev. Thomas S. Willis
Rector, Cathedral Basilica
of Saint Augustine

Rev. Fr. Michael Houle, C.V.
Pastor, St. Paul Church
Jacksonville Beach

Rev. Fr. James Boddie
Pastor, Christ the King Church
Jacksonville

Rev. Fr. Michael J. McNally, Ph.D.
Pastor, St. Mark the Evangelist Church
Ft. Pierce

"Be nothing to yourself and be utterly given to God and to the neighbor"

Maxim #39



DEACON ASSISTANTS TO HIS EXCELLENCY

Deacon Charles Kanaszka, Jr.

Deacon Scott Conway

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Rev. Father Lawrence Peck

LECTORS

Sister Stephanie Flynn, SSJ

Sister Rosa Lopez, SSJ

GIFT BEARERS

Sister Catherine Bitzer, SSJ

Sister Aurelia Wurmnest, SSJ

Cheryl Sansone

Rae Schwecke

ALTAR SERVERS

From the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Augustine

*"Fulfill all the duties of the great and true love of God;
and you will fulfill the rest"*

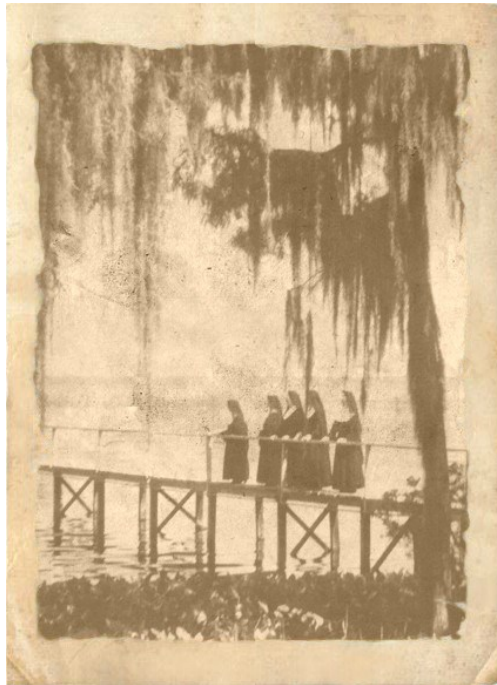
Maxim #23



A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FL

The first eight Sisters of St. Joseph from Le Puy arrived in Florida on September 2, 1866. In this turbulent period after the Civil War there were thousands of freed slaves without education and religion. The Sisters came to St. Augustine in answer to the challenging request of Bishop Augustin Verot to educate and evangelize.

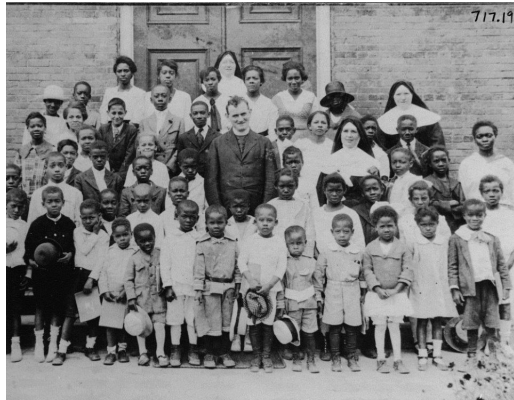
Though the early French Sisters experienced many financial hardships, they used their lace making skills to help support themselves. They sold French lace to northern visitors and gave music and French lessons to several Northerners who resided in St. Augustine during the winter months.





Over 100 missions have been opened throughout the state of Florida beginning with the first class of African-American children in 1867. In 1898, with funds provided by St. Katharine Drexel, the Sisters of St. Joseph began teaching African-American students at St. Benedict the Moor School in Lincolnville. Three Sisters, in 1916, were arrested for teaching black students during a time when segregation was prominent. St. Benedict the Moor School remained open until 1968 when Florida schools were integrated.

St. Benedict the Moor
School,
St. Augustine, Circa 1940's



These extraordinary and courageous women were called by God to share a common cause and respond to the impulse of the Spirit. The Sisters ministered in elementary and secondary schools, schools for children who were mentally and physically challenged, orphanages, homes for unwed mothers, homes for the aged and infirm, catechetical missions for the migrant populations, and hospitals for the sick. Much of the Florida Catholic school system is a product of the good works of the Sisters.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

With grateful hearts, the Sisters of St. Joseph express their gratitude to all those who have contributed to the joy of this occasion.

*"Live with the Lord on the cross. Die to pleasure and to vanity.
Live only for God and die completely to self." Maxim 44*

Members of the 150th Anniversary Steering Committee

Most Reverend Felipe J. Estévez , Honorary Chair;

Very Rev. Thomas Willis, Working Chair;

Sister Jane Stoecker, SSJ, Sister Diane Couture, SSJ, Sister Carolyn Tucker, SSJ,
Michael Boylan, Sheriff David Shoar, Mary Harms, Becky Hesson, Yvonne Spillers;

Ernie Bono, Advisor to the Committee,

Jeanette Ghioto, director of Mission Advancement

St. Augustine *Legacy of Faith* Premier Event Volunteer Committee, the Staff of the Cathedral, Dr. Bernie Sans, Director of Music; the Choir of the Cathedral Basilica and Shannon McKay, Accompanist/Organ



St. Joseph Academy, Jacksonville, 1885



Come Join us in our Mission



Tallahassee

Jacksonville



Formation
Community



St. Augustine



Orlando



Miami



Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine, Florida

1866 ~ 2016

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