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The first Catholic cemetery of New Haven was a part of Christ's church lot, near the corner of York street and Davenport avenue. Here the Catholics of New Haven were interred until 1851. On June 28th, of this year, Mr. Bernard O'Reilly purchased from Mr. Gerard Hallock, at one time editor of the New York *Journal of Commerce*, a parcel of land near the "West Bridge," avowing it as the intention to dispose of it in small lots. The "small lots" proved to be cemetery lots, to the chagrin of Mr. Hallock, who was noted for his hostility to the Catholic church. This tract of land was blessed as St. Bernard's cemetery on September 1, 1851. In 1858 an additional tract of eighteen acres was purchased, which, with a small piece of land secured in August, 1876, made a cemetery of about twenty-five acres. On November 22, 1887, the deeds to the Bronson farm were conveyed to Rev. John Russell, who had purchased it for cemetery purposes in the name of the corporation. This tract of land contains fifty-two acres and lies southwest of the city and town boundary line in the town of Orange, and the price asked was \$10,000. On June 22, 1888, the new cemetery received the name of St. Lawrence's cemetery; it was solemnly blessed on Sunday, October 4, 1890, by Bishop McMahon, Rev. B. W. Bray preaching the discourse.

In the summer of 1851 the Rev. Edward J. O'Brien¹ became the pastor of St. Mary's in succession to the Rev. Philip O'Reilly. He had as assistants the Rev. Bernard Tevin, Rev. John Sheridan, who had been commissioned to build St. Patrick's church, and Rev. Matthew Hart. On April 18, 1858, Bishop McFarland visited St. Mary's church and administered the sacrament of Confirmation to over 300 persons.

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" T. Synnott, Bridgeport.

" Patrick J. O'Dwyer, Ansonia.

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" Dr. McGlynn, St. Stephen's church, New York.

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" H. Brady, Naugatuck.

" E. Gaffney, Thomaston.

The sermon was preached by Right Rev. Bishop Lynch, Charleston, S. C. Taking his text from Hebrews xiii. 10, the preacher began by complimenting the people of the parish on the beauty of their church and the generosity and faith they had manifested in building it. All had done their part—their late pastor who had the courage to begin the work, and the younger man, his successor, to whom he had transferred the task of completing it. All had contributed of their means. The widow had given her mite, and the little children what they could bring. The day was a joyful one for them now that they took possession of a church which was more beautiful than any other in the diocese. The preacher then said that sacrifice was the crowning act of all true religion, and had been so from the earliest times. Prayers could be and were shared by others than God, but to Him alone could sacrifice be offered. Sacrifice was the distinctive mark of the Church, and therefore from the earliest ages, in the Catacombs, in the far East, every church had its altar. Though nothing could add to the dignity of that sacrifice, which was the same under the dome of St. Peter's as in the rude chapel of the poor missionary, it was nevertheless fitting that beautiful churches should be built. In an eloquent passage, the preacher spoke of the myriad stars that adorned the heavens, and were to us as we gazed upon them lamps of lights; so to the saints and angels in paradise looking upon the world, foul and dark with sin and evil, the churches appeared like stars amid the blackness.

In the evening, Right Rev. Bishop Lynch was celebrant at the vesper service. The Rev. Dr. McGlynn, of New York, was the preacher. His text was the following: "Truly this is the house of God and the gate of heaven."

After the erection of the church, the work of completing St. Francis' Orphan Asylum devolved upon Father Murphy. He had charge also of St. Bernard's cemetery. "But while his youthful energy was laughing at the heat of the fray, and while great and delicately manipulated real estate transactions were on his hands, there came the great financial panic. The sources of the church's income almost dried up. His ability was of no avail. His eyes lost their lustre and his cheeks paled. Night and day for some years longer he struggled with the frightful incumbrance of debt, then about \$165,000."

Father Murphy died on May 19, 1879. The impressive funeral services were held in St. Mary's church on the 21st. The officiating clergymen were: Rev. Father Lynch, of Thorndike, Mass., celebrant; Rev. Fathers O'Keefe,

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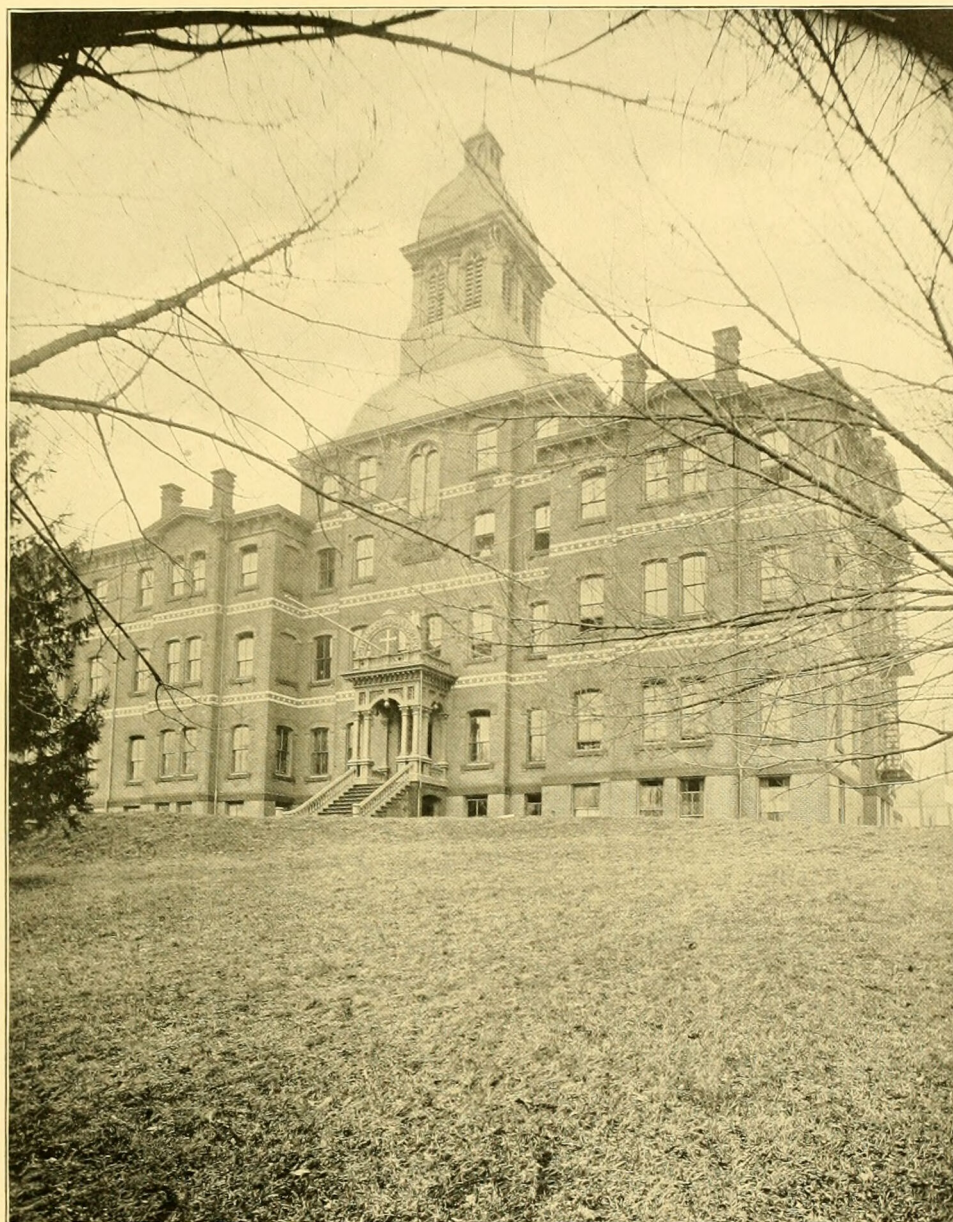
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HISTORY.

The institution whose property, objects, officers, work, etc., are thus narrated had its beginning on Friday, May 12, 1852. On that day, four Sisters of Mercy from Providence, R. I., arrived at New Haven. The Rev. Edward J. O'Brien, pastor of old St. Mary's parish, New Haven, had concluded arrangements with the Right Rev. Bishop O'Reilly and Rev. Mother Xavier Warde, Superior of the Convent of Mercy, Providence, to establish a convent of the order in his parish, and having accompanied the Sisters from Providence to New Haven, conducted them to their new home.

The building first occupied by the Sisters of Mercy, who were the first of any religious sisterhood to settle in the Elm City, was a handsome brick private residence, with brownstone trimmings and imposing entrance, situated near Broad street, on George, convenient to St. Mary's church and school. It was in this temporary convent that on May 12, 1852, the very day of the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy in New Haven, two little orphan girls put in an appearance. They had come to live in this new convent home, where they were kindly welcomed, as the Sisters themselves had been welcomed but a short hour before.

The nucleus of the first Catholic orphan asylum in the City of Elms thus formed, the Catholic orphan children, pending the erection of St. Mary's new convent, directly north of and adjoining old St. Mary's church, on Church street, were, for about two years, cared for, under the direction of Father O'Brien, by the Sisters of Mercy, till they and their little charges, in 1854, vacated the George street house, and removed into the new St. Mary's Orphan Asylum, on Church street, the convent and the asylum both being in the one new brick building.

There, in the heart of the city, the asylum existed as a private parochial institution until the year 1864.

The location of the convent and asylum on Church street, a very busy portion of the city, though the best that could then be selected, was found in the course of time to be ill-adapted to the purposes of a growing institution. The Sisters' work becoming daily more extensive, they needed the spacious rooms of the convent; the number of orphan girls was steadily increasing, and the accommodations grew so limited that a new site for the asylum became a pressing necessity.

Accordingly, on the 6th of April, 1864, the land together with all the buildings thereon, on which the asylum now stands, running 300 feet east on Whitney avenue, 300 feet west on Prospect street, and 1,900 feet south on Highland street, was purchased from the Hon. Thomas H. Bond, by Rev. E. J. O'Brien and Rev. Matthew Hart, for the sum of \$19,500. The cottage which stood on the grounds was enlarged, and the building made ready for the use of the orphans. The institution was now called, "The St. Francis Orphan Asylum of New Haven," in honor of Rt. Rev. Francis P. McFarland, D.D. In the administration of Bishop

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In this noblest of charities—the care, protection and education of the poor orphan—St. Francis' Orphan Asylum is a splendid monument to the Catholics of Connecticut, as well as a beautiful memorial of the grateful and generous people who, without distinction of religion, as friends of its little helpless ones, have their names associated with a great work, and whose countless deeds of true charity are written by angelic instead of human pen.

The first resident chaplain of the asylum was the Rev. James Hilary Harding, who entered upon the discharge of his duties on January 6, 1878. During his period of service here, Father Harding had the spiritual charge also of the jail and of "Springside Home." Father Harding was a native of Kilkenny, Ireland, and was born in 1812. His early education was obtained in his native town, and after a period of study and travel in France, came to this country, where he completed his theological studies at Villanova College, near Philadelphia. Thenceforth he labored in the archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa, until, having obtained the requisite permission, he became affiliated with the diocese of Hartford.

Among the works that absorbed most of the time and all of the fortune of Father Harding was the construction of the Protectory for wayward boys on Fair Haven Heights. The corner-stone of the building was laid by Bishop McMahon on June 12, 1881. The site of the Protectory was purchased in April, 1879, from Francis Donnelly and a Mr. Shipman, and comprised three acres. The building, however, was never completed. Father Harding died at the asylum on May 25, 1889, in the seventy-seventh year of his age. His remains rest in the priests' lot, St. Bernard's cemetery, New Haven. The funeral services were held at St. Mary's church, where a Pontifical Mass of Requiem was celebrated by Bishop McMahon, assisted by the following clergymen: Assistant priest, Rev. John Furlong; deacons of honor, Revs. John Cooney and M. McKeon; deacon, Rev. M. A. Tierney; sub-deacon, Rev. F. O'Keefe. The panegyric was preached by Rev. W. J. Slocum.

The successor of Father Harding as chaplain of the asylum was the Rev. John Francis Corcoran, who is still in charge, and is also the treasurer of the corporation. Father Corcoran had been an assistant for nearly six years to Very Rev. James Hughes, V. G., Hartford, when, at the urgent request of Bishop McMahon, he gave up the parochial work of the ministry to assume that of the chaplaincy of the asylum. Father Corcoran began his successful career in this field of sacerdotal zeal on October 9, 1889. The new south addition was erected and dedicated during Father Corcoran's tenure of office, on June 7, 1897. The new chapel, school rooms, chaplain's apartments, and dormitories for the Sisters and children are in this addition, which cost \$50,000.

The first regular attending physician was Charles A. Gallagher, M.D. He held this position until his death, which occurred on May 9, 1878. Dr. Gallagher's successor is the present attendant physician, Matthew Charles O'Connor, M.D.

The principal benefactors of St. Francis' Orphan Asylum were Philip Marett and the Hon. James Edward English, formerly Governor of Connecticut.

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