

1849

March 25th

The festival of the Annunciation of the B. V. M. was the day appointed for the first communion, those preparing for the great Sacrament made a retreat of three days which terminated on the eve of the festival, the day appointed the Rev. father who in all zeal had been preparing them for the purpose administered the Sacrament of Baptism conditionally on 10 at 7 o'clock which care lasted until near 8 at which hour high mass was sung by the same Rev. Father who also gave an instruction on the occasion the number of communicants of first communions were 30. Mr. Kelly conducted the choir. The Chapel was crowded so as to oblige some to remain in the Sacristy.

In the afternoon, at 3 o'clock, they assembled for the renewal of the Baptismal promises. Their Rev. Father explained the subject; the renewal was followed by the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. He then distributed the first communion pictures and all retired, parents, friends, with joy which showed their interior gratitude to God and next to him their generous benefactor which they found and continue to find in their Spiritual friend and father Anwander. /36/

He announced to them that shortly after the most Rev. Archbishop would confer the Sacrament of confirmation in the Chapel, for purpose on the 13th of April the instructions commenced, and on the April 29th festival of the Patronage of St Joseph, the ceremony took place, the holy sacrifice of Mass commenced at 7 o'clock at the end of which all who were to be confirmed received communion with some others of the congregation, at half past eight the most Rev. Archbishop attended by the Rev. Fathers Anwander and Gillit entered the Sanctuary and knelt during the hymn of the Holy Ghost which was sung by the choir. His reverence then ascended the platform of the altar and address those assembled to receive the Holy Ghost with his usual mild and fatherly countenance words which were calculated to impress deep on the minds of all present the great benefit they were going to receive he then proceeded with the usual ceremony the number was 56. He afterwards gave a short exhortation said the prayers then retired, it was truly a day of Benediction and praise showing the fruits of the instructions which had commenced the 27th of Aug. 1848 for the colored congregation, no doubt every one prayed for at the same time that they admired the pains that had been taken by the Rev. Father through whom Almighty God bestowed those favours.

Rev father Gillit continued saying mass nearly every day during the Council until the festival of Pentecost on which day he sang high mass for the last time, during this time, Bishop Rappe said mass twice in our Chapel.

15th June

Friday, festival of the Sacred Heart those who made their first Communion last year renewed or their was a general communion in the Chapel on that day being one year all or nearly all were present, the Holy Sacrifice took place at 7 1/2 o'clock followed by the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

July 30th

Today, the annual examination took place, at 7 o'clock our Rev. Father said mass in the Chapel at 9 o'clock he descended to the study room accompanied by the Rev. father McGrain who after they had commenced by the usual prayer to the Holy Ghost proceeded to examine the different classes, several of the parents and friends were present at 3 o'clock p.m. after all

were assembled three of the pupils recited /37/ a French piece which they had committed to memory after which the distribution of premiums took place, the Rev. Father Anwander addressed a few words to them, at the end of which they sung a hymn which terminated that happy day for them which was a commencement of the vacation.

August 19th

Sunday, this day after the instruction and Benediction, given by Rev. Father Mc Grain, our Rev. father, commenced the retreat and gave the conference which he continued every morning after mass also in the evening after which he gave the benediction of the blessed sacrament; nearly every day we had mass in our chapel; the retreat terminated on the 24th inst with thanks to the Almighty for favoring us with that precious time, to be as it were more with him; and devoted to his service, also for giving us one to suggest us his holy will which he spared no pains, nor withheld his zeal during that time nor at present.

Sept 3d

The classes commenced the present day, mass was said at 8 o'clock the children sung during that time the Blessed Sacrament was exposed, there was a sufficient number of children for the first day at present)the 30th inst. (we have 74 pupils, which number is formed by 7 orphans, 10 boarder, 54 day scholars.

Oct 14th

Feast of St Benedict being one of the patronal festivals Rev. father Anwander sung high mass and after the gospel gave a moving instruction on panegyric on the occasion, there was a sufficient number of persons present, in the evening as usual the indefatigable father gave the instruction and benediction of the BS the Chapel was crowded, it was truly a happy day reminding us of our founder who also celebrated the festival with great solemnity.

This day being the one appointed for the election of the assistant superior at 10 o'clock the Vicar Rev. L. R. Deluol came to receive the votes. The ceremony as usual commenced with the Veni Creator after the votes the sisters were assembled and his reverence pronounced Sr Gertrude Thomas assistant Superior.

19th

Sarah C. Wilingmann one of the first children taken as orphan in the community desiring to join in the number of its members was admitted on the feast of St Benedict and took the candidate habit. /38/

Nov 5th

Today being the anniversary of the death of our Rev. Founder Father Joubert, we had a mass of requiem by Rev. Father Anwander, the mass was at seven o'clock being six years since his death.

Dec 1st

Sisters Mary and Rose, who for some years had not made any retreat being at the seminary, commenced a retreat of eight days to terminate for the Immaculate Conception, day on which the vows are renewed, the mass was at 6 ½ Oct. the BS was exposed the holy sacrifice was offered and the vows received by our Rev. Director who gave a very touching exhortation on the occasion, truly happy day for those who renew their consecration to God, the Rev. Father left for St James's Church soon after at 3 o'clock the community assembled in the Chapel

where prayers were said and hymns sung, we also terminated a novena in honour of the Immaculate Conception, we were making during the preceding eight days.

25th

We had today the happiness of having mass in our Chapel at 3 ½ o'clock said by our Rev. Director, at 3 o'clock he baptised Mr. Watts who took the name of Alphonse, he before made his profession of faith in a distinct, compose voice which denoted that the words came from the heart, after which the ordinary ceremony of baptism was performed, then mass commenced or rather the Rev. Father gave an exhortation or instruction on the solemnity of the festival, the Blessed Sacrament was exposed during mass at the end Benediction, although at such an early hour there was a profound silence, both in and outside of the Chapel, our Rev. Father went immediately to St James where he said his other two masses. Truly happy Daughters of Providence, for that Providential hand always supplies; nor did that Rev. fathers pious zeal end with the year for on new years day unexpectedly at 3 o'clock in the evening he came and gave Benediction of the B.S. he brought a Dove which was given to him as a present for the season, he gave the community wishing us according to St Francois de Sales to practice some virtues that are applied to the Dove. /39/

[en marge: Dove of Peace]