1850

Jan 20th

Festival of the Holy Name of Jesus Rev. father Anwander being absent on mission, father Neumann gave the instruction at 4 o'clock as usual it was on Extreme-Unction; there has been several baptisms since the commencement of the year, on the 1st of February Henrietta Gibbs was baptised and took the name of Elizabeth, and on the 15th entered the house as candidate.

March 9th

Today being the feast of St Frances our holy Patron, the very Rev. Father Bernard, Provincial, sung high mass in our Chapel at 7 o'clock and Rev. father Anwander Supr. gave a sermon on the occasion, after mass the forementioned father, after giving his blessing and saying some words of edification and encouragement, to the sisters assembled proposed to our Rev. father that their many occupations demanded them at home they both left for St Alphonsus. On the same day the candidate before named received the habit destined for one who seeks an office.

April 7th

This day being appointed for the first communion, after a retreat of three days, for those who were for the first time to receive holy communion, the Rev. father Anwander gave instructions twice a day, prayers were said as general in retreats. Accordingly, on the day already mentioned at 7 ¹/₄ o'clock baptism was conferred by forementioned father, to six who were also to join those who were shortly to partake of the sacrament, the number was 40. The high mass was sung by our Rev. father who gave a very touching exhortation on the occasion. During mass the Blessed sacrament was exposed there were a great number of communicants at 3 o'clock they assembled to renew their baptismal promises at which that indefatigable father gave them a long instruction which ceremony terminated by their giving their candles and flowers to the blessed Virgin at 4 1/2 o'clock the most Rev. Archbishop came to administer the Sacrament of confirmation, he knelt whilst the choir sang the Veni Creator, he then ascended the platform of the altar and expressed this pleasure in seeing the persons of color assembled, he then extended his hands and called on the holy Spirit with his seven fold gifts after seating himself he commenced the ceremony as usual there were from 50 to 60 persons confirmed after saying the prayer he retired the Te Deum was commenced but was not terminated as some of the singers were called on to get the Bishop's blessing. /40/

April 21st

Blessing of house

Festival of the Patronage of St Joseph, one of the patronal festivals of the community, we had solemn benediction of the B.S. at the usual hour after which, the Rev. Superior proceeded to bless the new building attended by 2 of the boys of the sanctuary with lights followed by the two sextons, and some of the distinguished male members of the congregation (then the sisters). There was great piety pictured on the countenances of the attendants on the occasion.

May 12th

Today, our Rev. Father being in retreat, Rev. Father Newmann gave the instruction and Benediction at 4 o'clock as usual.

30th [en marge: 1st acc of reception] The great festival of Corpus Christi our Rev. father, notwithstanding his many occupations gave the Benediction of the blessed sacrament at 4 o'clock in the evening in our Chapel.

June 7th

Happy festival of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Anniversary of the first communion made in our Chapel in the year 1848. June 30th this day then was a day of general communion, the mass of exposition was held at 7 o'clock said by the Rev. father and Superior T. Anwander he first blessed the habit for one of the candidates who was on this day to receive it and enter her novitiate, after mass and benediction the candidate presented herself at the altar where the Rev. Superior said some prayers, then he seated himself at the epistle end of the altar, where he gave an impressive edifying exhortation addressed to the candidate, at the same time every one had full permission to take their share. At the end the Veni Creator was sung then the Rev. father asked the candidate what she wished, she made the reply of wishing to join the community then her hair was cut a little by the Rev. Sup he then gave her the habit she retired with the assistants to be clothed with it, she was then conducted back to the altar where she received the belt and Rosary and became Sister Mary Alphonsa. The ceremony was terminated by her making a prostration to be blessed virgin. Thus ended the imposing ceremony and memorable festival of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

On this day, our Rev. Father said mass in this Chapel at 7 o'clock after which, he with the teachers of the boys at the head of a number of boys and girls of both schools, with other persons, went out on a picnic a little out of the city where they spent the day in innocent /41/ amusement, thankful to their Rev. Benefactor for the pleasure he afforded them.

July 29

We commence today our vacation consequently the examination took place at 8 ½ o'clock, our Rev. Superior offered the holy sacrifice of mass at 7 o'clock, and at the appointed hour (above mentioned, he accompanied by Rev. father Rumpher Supr. and entered the apartment prepared for the occasion, the Spirit Creator was sang by the pupils after which Rev. father Anwander Supr. commenced the examination, Rev. F. Rumpher asked several questions. They commenced by catechism, and then the other classes in order. In the afternoon at 3 o'clock, they returned accompanied by father for the purpose of giving the reward or premiums to those who during the year had merited it by their diligence in their studies. It terminated after 4 o'clock by the singing of a hymn that appeared to have no end as the first verse was repeated often.

August 11th

We had the happiness on this day to commence our annual retreat given and attended to for us by our Rev. father and Director whose indefatigable zeal led to give us conference morning and evening and to offer every morning the holy sacrifice in our Chapel also benediction of the BS every evening on the Assumption Rev. Father Huitt said mass and at 4 o'clock Sara Willigman who since November had taken the candidate habit received that of novice. The ceremony was imposing, particularly the instruction The Rev. Superior proved with all force the advantages of a religious life and the means of persevering, her name is now Sr Theresa Catharine, there were a great number of persons present, as our retreat was not to terminate until the next evening, we had recess until seven o'clock when we again entered on our happy retreat which we ended on the 16th after benediction and one of our Rev. S. Director's fine conferences.

Sept 13th

Today we celebrate the feast of St Benedict one of our patronal Saints, our Rev. father and Director sung high mass in the chapel at eight o'clock and after the gospel he gave a sermon on the occasion after mass benediction of the blessed sacrament, shortly after that indefatigable father left for St James; to return in the afternoon accordingly at 4 o'clock the instruction took place and our Rev. Father gave way to his fervour and zeal on the virtues of St Benedict. We can here say that out of his mouth we could judge the sentiments of his heart, towards that saint and that prejudice finds no place /42/ by him; after the instruction two of the Rev. Fathers came to assist at the ceremony we had solemn benediction such as we have not had since the death of our Rev. Founder, thus ended the happy feast of St Benedict, which afforded happiness to all the inmates of St Frances or rather to the daughters of Divine Providence.

Dec 25th

The holy sacrifice of mass with exposition and benediction of the BS was offered up by Rev. Father Anwander on this happy festival of the Birth of our Saviour, at 3 o'clock and as sermon on the occasion, there were a great number of persons assisted.