



# Heritage Happenings

Archives Office  
September 2021

Lest We Forget...



## Veil Change History Corrected!

Previously this archivist thought it was the advent of cars that influenced the change in veil in 1929. Heads could not turn side to side enough to see sideways plus the width and height didn't fit easily into a car. In cataloguing letters of past Mother Superiors, Mother Inez wrote the following to the Sisters dated July 9, 1929: *My dear sisters, On the occasion of our right Reverend Bishop's first visit to us in 1916 he expressed a wish that we would change our veils to a simple black veil. Many times since he has asked when we can see our way to do so. The bishops and many of the priests for whom we work have expressed a preference for a more simple veil.*

*Our work and the present demands on educational religious communities require our going out in public much more than was required even fifteen or twenty years ago. Religious modesty urges us to dress as inconspicuously as possible. All active religious communities are trying to get to simplicity in garb. Some have already changed...It is likely to be required soon. We want to look neat, inconspicuous, and virgin like. The fantastic shapes and sizes assumed by some, make the adoption of a veil which will be uniform in appearance a real necessity. We are sending you a sample veil and coif. If you have a real objection, you may write me at once. Faithfully yours in Christ. Inez* On August 6, 1929, the Feast of the Transfiguration veils were changed. It would not change again until 1966. Sister Redempta Bobb models the new look!

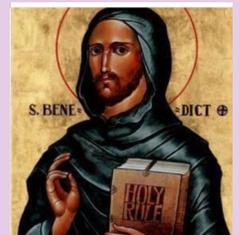


## Crucifix Update!!



In the last Heritage Happenings—June, the question was raised by a member of ACWR regarding whether a cross she was appraising was a profession cross or not...and sent an image. Jennifer Gerth responded: *"One of our Sisters said it was a Happy Death Crucifix". I did a Google search which brought up the term "St. Benedict Crucifix." The Franciscan Sisters of the Poor wore them on a cord under their wool scapular. Jesus was worn almost smooth on some of them-I think some of the Sisters would hold/rub the Crucifix while they prayed. Some are stamped Germany, some Italy, some are larger than others-I think it just depended on the supplier. "*

In our archive crucifixes, this cross was labeled "Placed in the hands of a dying Sister" and appears to be similar to the description of "The Cross of a Happy Death". Saint Benedict Medal is often seen at the center of a Crucifix, behind the head of Christ. Saint Benedict is the patron saint of a happy death, notably because of the circumstances of his own death. Six days prior to his death, he requested that his grave (sepulchre) be opened. Very soon after that, he became ill and began to decline. On the sixth day, he asked to be carried to his oratory, where he received Holy Communion. Then, being supported by his brothers, he lifted his hands up to heaven and passed away. He left this world honoring the one who he most honored, certainly the circumstances of a most happy death.



**Does anyone remember if this was an early practice in our Community?** In a card written January 1966, Sr. Lucy, writing about Sr. Mary Andrew Flatley, notes: "too weak too even hold the crucifix". **Do you have any memories related to this practice?** Now the Sister holds a rosary wrapped in her hand.



A photo, a hidden letter, a list of items from the past becomes another revelation of what life must have been like in 1949 and how it compares to gardening today.

This 1949 aerial view of the convent was taken when the tennis court was just being added to the east edge. What is more interesting is the vast amount of land that was used for gardening at that time. Almost everything east and south of the convent from peony row all the way back beyond the far west edge of the barn was planted up. That summer in June there were 20 new novices and 12 newly professed young Sisters to help work the gardens....a major difference from the three Sisters who presently enjoy growing fresh vegetables to place before us and delight our taste buds: Sister Dolores Herrmann, Sister Anne Turba, and Sister Elaine Turba.



1. Green Beans-26 bu. / 598 lbs.
2. Yellow Beans- 20 bu. /460 lbs.
3. Beets—14 bushels / 700 lbs.
4. Cabbage—100 lbs.
5. Cantaloupe—600
6. Carrots — 100 bu. / 4500 lbs.
7. Corn: 6500 ears
8. Cucumbers: 16 bu. / 1120 lbs.
9. Endive: 8 bushels
- 10.Lettuce: 44 bushels
- 11.Onions: 150 lbs
- 12.Parsnips: 4 bushels / 200 lbs.
- 13.Parsley: 6 bunches
- 14.Rutabaga: 4 bushels / 200 lbs.
- 15.Squash-butternut: 666 lbs.
- 16.Squash-zucchini: 100 lbs.
- 17.Tomatoes: 2600 lbs
- 18.Raspberries: 175 pints
- 19.Strawberries: 200 pints
- 20.Radishes: Lost
- 21.Broccoli: Lost
- 22.Pumpkins: Lost

A more exciting and revealing document recently found was a list from 1976 titled "Convent Garden" that included the vegetable, quantity, weight, price / lb etc. (and the cost of gas: 50 cents a gallon!!!). Here is a list of the 17 different vegetables that were produced that summer. At that time there were approximately 50 Junior Sisters who would be home for the summer and be able to help in the gardens.



Then there are all those Sisters who might not work in the garden but who were/are available to help process all those goodies: snip the beans, husk the corn, pit the cherries, prepare the lettuce, etc.



1. Look at all that corn being husked!!
  2. Sister Mary Christine tending the raspberry bushes. Yummmmmm!!
  3. Snipping beans front upper lawn...St. Francis statue in background.
  4. Novices Sr. Julia Crubel, Clotilda, and Avita picking cherries in 1928!!
- We are so very blessed!!!***

