Golden Jubilee

Dominican Sisters

CONGREGATION OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA

1900 - 1950

DECEMBER 8

ST. ROSE OF LIMA

Window over main altar in Chapel

Rosary Hill Home

The Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer

CONGREGATION OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA
SISTERS OF ST. DOMINIC

HIS HOLINESS POPE PIUS XII

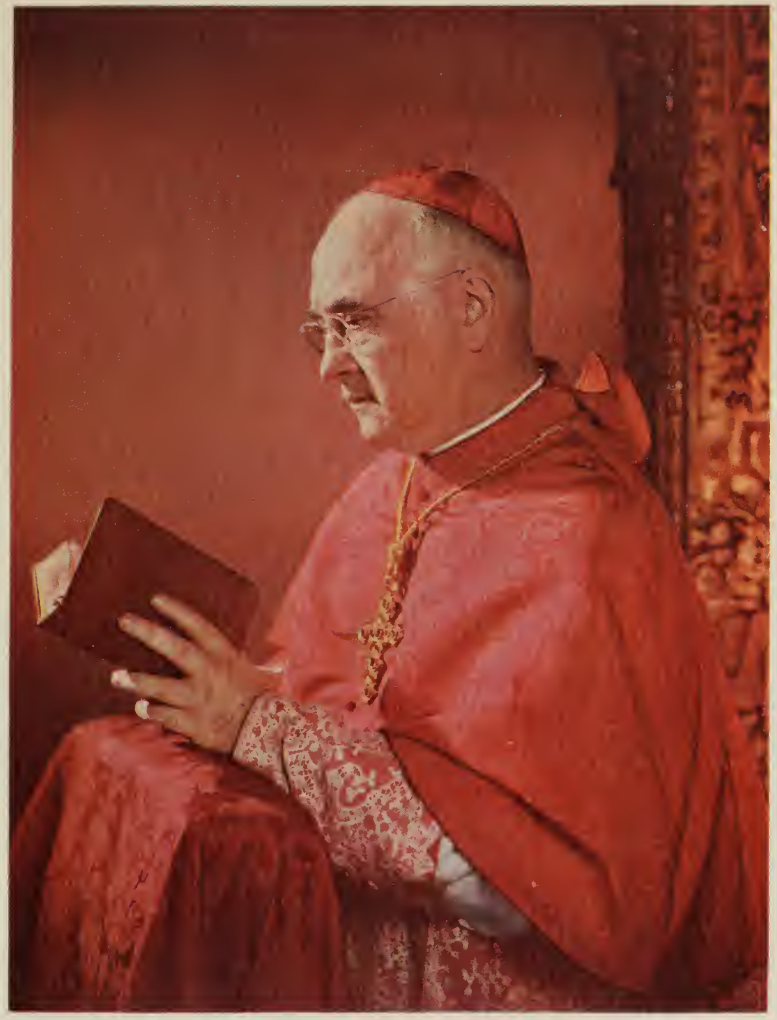
This Holy Year in the life of Mother Church marks also the Golden Anniversary of The Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer, those Sisters who dedicate their lives to Almighty God and devote their services to caring for some of the most pitiful of His children - the incurable, cancerous poor!

Fifty years ago, a great and noble woman began a great and noble work. With the title of Mother Alphonsa, Rose Hawthorne organized her little band of heroic workers to bring comfort to the bodies and souls of these needy hopeless and suffering. These Sisters overcame seemingly insurmountable physical demands and financial difficulties, for Mother Alphonsa's words, "If God wants this work to continue He will take care of it", were bulwarked by constant work and prayers for the victims of this dread disease.

This Report recounts not only Mother Alphonsa's struggles and successes but shows also the mighty harvest that can be gleaned from the smallest seedlings of Christly compassion and charity when combined with selfless actions and fearless faith.

+Francis Cardinal Spellman

June
Twenty-Seventh
Nineteen
Hundred
Fifty



HIS EMINENCE FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN
Our Ecclesiastical Superior

MOST REV. EMMANUEL SUAREZ, O. P.
Master General of the Dominican Order

ESTABLISHMENT

The eighth of December, 1950, marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer as a religious Congregation. Considering these years in retrospect our hearts are filled with gratitude to God who inspired the first little band of cancer nurses to take this important step—a step which has brought innumerable blessings and insured permanence to the Work. A tiny Chapel in St. Rose's Home at 426 Cherry Street, New York, was the cradle of the infant community; the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 1900, the day of its inception. It was on that great feast of the Blessed Virgin that the first three members received the holy Habit of the Order of Saint Dominic and pronounced their first vows. While it was not customary to be invested in the religious Habit and make profession at the same time, this singular privilege was granted them by Archbishop Corrigan, who called the trials undergone in the establishment of their Work a "long hard novitiate".

At the time the Servants of Relief became a Religious Congregation the Charity was in its fifth year. First there was the little three room flat, rented by Rose Hawthorne Lathrop at Number 1 Scammel Street on the lower East Side of New York. There she dispensed relief to the ill and destitute of the neighborhood and went out daily to care for the sick in their homes. While no needy person was refused, cancer sufferers were the special objects of her solicitude, and it was to aid them in particular that this gifted daughter of Nathaniel Hawthorne renounced a life of luxury and ease to devote herself to their welfare. She had found no class of sufferers so greatly in need of compassionate care—none

A MEMORABLE DAY—DEC. 8, 1900

so deplorably neglected. For the maintenance of her establishment she resolved to depend absolutely on the Providence of God and the generosity of the public. Not a penny would she accept from the patients, their relatives or friends.

IN LOVING HANDS

Within a month after settling on Scammel Street, Mrs. Lathrop received her first resident patient, a poor, forlorn woman with cancer of the face, whom she had met while training for her work in the New York Cancer Hospital. Having been pronounced incurable, Mrs. Watson was dismissed from the hospital, and Mrs. Lathrop often wondered what had become of her. One day a letter came, the writing scarcely legible; it was from Mrs. Watson, begging for a home.

Six months later four rooms were rented at 668 Water Street, and three patients accommodated. Soon four more rooms were added, and the number of sick mounted to seven. The directress besought our Lord to send kind-hearted women to join her. She also prayed for financial aid and made her wants known in the daily papers.

One of the first to respond to her pleas was Mr. J. Warren Greene, a non-Catholic attorney, whose wife had died of cancer. On his first visit to the Water Street tenement, this gentleman, a member of the firm of Arnold and Greene, was so impressed by the true Christian charity being dispensed there that he offered his legal services gratis. To this practical support, which he continued until his death, were added liberal donations, a deep sympathy for the sick and constant encouragement to those who nursed them. Other professional men also rendered invaluable services in these early years, among them, Doctor Miller of Gouverneur Street and Doctor John Grant Coyle, both of whom attended Mrs. Lathrop's sick people, even those living at a distance.

Another early friend, Mrs. Frances Moulton, was to be a benefactor of the Work for over forty years. Her first donation of two hundred dollars was accompanied by a

gracious letter, containing the words, "Your methods meet my most unqualified approval."

An old veteran, Patrick Burns, of the soldiers' home in Togus, Maine, enclosed his first gift of ten dollars in a sheet of paper bearing the single word, "Friend." His liberality for the next twelve years proved his fidelity to a promise to help the charity as long as he lived. In such good people was fulfilled one of Mrs. Lathrop's dearest wishes: "I should like to feel that the hearts of those who help the poor are warmed to them because they are Christ's poor."

On the twenty-fourth of March, 1898, the Charity was enriched by a gift of inestimable value when Miss Alice Huber came to join Mrs. Lathrop. In the natural order it would seem that cancer nursing was the occupation for which Miss Huber was least fitted. Her tastes as well as her education had been in the field of art, particularly that of portraiture. Although her father was a physician, nursing had always repelled her. Yet she loved God with her whole heart and for a long time had felt called to serve Him in a very special way. One day she confided to a friend, "When I find a work of perfect charity I will join it." A visit to 668 Water Street led to her discovery of that "perfect charity," and a short period of volunteer service convinced her that this was to be her life's work.

Together Mrs. Lathrop and Miss Huber toiled and nursed, and suffered, sometimes almost beyond endurance, yet always with a firm trust in God and a deep interior peace. Before long the sick poor in many parts of the city were depending on the ministrations of these women, who were known as Servants of Relief. For the most part, the people of the neighborhood were kind to them. A few, however, resented their presence and threw stones and refuse at them.

One day a young priest, Father Clement M. Thuente, O.P., of St. Vincent Ferrer's Church, came to thank them for caring for a parishioner of his. As he was leaving he

ALICE HUBER COMES TO STAY

THE FIRST ST. ROSE'S HOME
426 *Cherry St.*

noticed a small statue of St. Rose of Lima and, picking it up, exclaimed, "Oh, ladies, if you want to keep up this life and work you will need most special graces. Join the Third Order of Saint Dominic like Saint Rose. She did not live in a convent but went about caring for the sick as you are doing." They followed his advice and on September 14, 1899, were received by him as lay Tertiaries of the Dominican Order, Mrs. Lathrop taking the name of Sister Mary Alphonsa; Miss Huber, Sister Mary Rose; and Miss Cecilia Higley, who had recently joined them, Sister Mary Magdalen.

Meanwhile they secured their first real home—a three-story brick building at 426 Cherry Street. Over the door of the home was placed ,"St. Rose's Free Home for Incurable Cancer," and the quotation: "I was sick and you visited Me."

As time went on the new Tertiaries, though living a semi-religious life, longed to participate more fully in the blessings of the religious state. With that intention in mind Mrs. Lathrop and Miss Huber called on Archbishop Corrigan and asked permission to wear the full Dominican Habit. Not only did His Grace accede to their plea, but requested Father Thuente to give them the Habit and receive their first vows. Thus on December 8, 1900, there came into being a new religious Community, the Congregation of St. Rose of Lima.

During their formative years the Sisters were guided by "The Rule of St. Augustine and the Constitutions of the Third Order of St. Dominic," lent to them by the Dominican Sisters of St. Vincent Ferrer's Parish. Insofar as their duties permitted they followed the Rule strictly and set aside special periods for the recitation of the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin and other religious exercises. Although the third member of the

A POOR WOMAN FINDS RELIEF

original band found the life too difficult and withdrew, the new status of a religious Community gave incentive to others to join them. This was fortunate, for an opportunity soon arose to extend the work.

GROWTH

In the spring of 1901 some property at Sherman Park, (now Hawthorne, New York) was purchased for $28,000. The rambling old frame building, which had served in turn as a summer hotel and as a monastery for the French Dominican Fathers, now became the Motherhouse and Novitiate of the Congregation, as well as a Home for the cancer-afflicted. The Community was divided between the two Homes, Mother Alphonsa making her headquarters at the new foundation and Sister Rose assuming charge of the city Home.

The Feast of Corpus Christi, June 6th, marked the formal opening of Rosary Hill Home. The first contingent of patients, five in number, had come the previous day. Within two weeks six more arrived, among them the Home's first male patient, Mr. John Smith, of whom the record states: "He has only one friend, Mr. Dwyer, who brought him to us. He is absolutely penniless."

The first winter on Rosary Hill was a never-to-be-forgotten experience. The house was very much in need of repair, and there was little money. In fact, Mother Alphonsa had not a penny. Sister Rose had twenty dollars. Mother referred to the situation as "dark and tragic;" yet she did not think for a moment that God would not provide, for on similar occasions she had received help which seemed unmistakably divine. In this necessity, as always, the Sisters had recourse to prayer, and again their petiitons were heard. A friend sent two thousand dollars.

To enlist the sympathy of an ever-widening circle of benefactors during her early years at Rosary Hill, Mother Alphonsa published a pamphlet entitled *Christ's Poor*, the first number of which appeared in August, 1901. In this little magazine she told the subscribers frankly, yet enter-

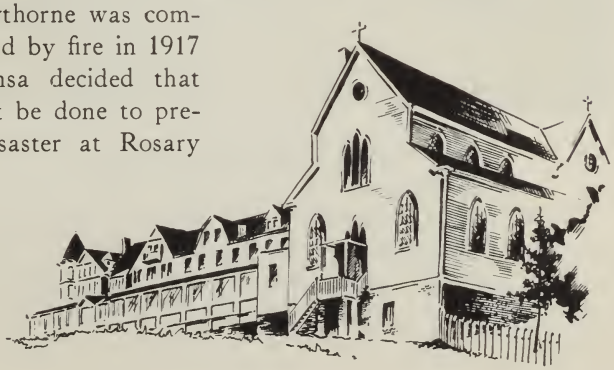
MOTHER M. ALPHONSA LATHROP, O. P.

tainingly, of all that concerned the two cancer homes and their "guests;" of the great-hearted charity of some people for their suffering fellowmen, of the neglect of others; and of the great need of many women to carry on and extend the work, even to every city. Unfortunately, lack of funds to meet the cost of publication, as well as the time and labor involved, necessitated the suspension of *Christ's Poor* in 1904.

The Paschal Season of 1906 brought a signal blessing to the Congregation of St. Rose of Lima when the diploma of affiliation with the Dominican Order was received from Rome. The Reverend Hyacinth M. Cormier, O.P., Master General, who sent the document, wrote to the Sisters: "You have Jesus in your midst in two ways, Jesus in the Sacrament in your Chapel and covered with wounds in the halls of the sick. Adore Him, bless Him, serve Him by a two-fold measure of reverence and love."

As the Congregation of St. Rose of Lima grew, so also did its sick family. The Cherry Street Home became so crowded that cots and morris chairs had to be utilized to take care of the overflow of patients. Hearing of their need for larger quarters, Mr. Edward J. Smith, a candy manufacturer, offered the Sisters $25,000 toward a new St. Rose's Home. Another benefactor, Mr. Cornelius F. Cronin, gave a like sum, which made possible the purchase of land at the corner of Front and Jackson Streets. Through a public appeal, the aid of others was enlisted so that on December 15, 1912, a modern, five-story building was blessed and opened.

Meanwhile, the Sisters in the country home prayed each day that their old clapboard dwelling would escape the fury of wind and storm and above all, fire. When Columbus College in Hawthorne was completely destroyed by fire in 1917 Mother Alphonsa decided that something must be done to prevent a like disaster at Rosary



OLD ROSARY HILL HOME

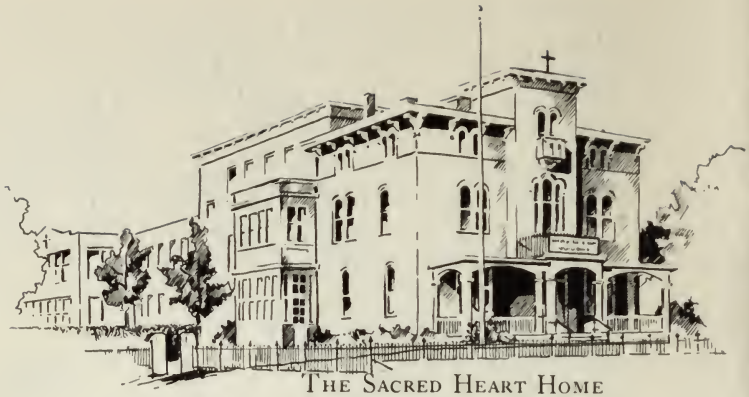
MOTHER M. ROSE HUBER, O. P.

Hill, so she began to beg for a fireproof hospital-home. The begging was to be done, she said, in that "calmly laborious manner in which a bird builds its nest." Laborious the task proved to be, but not calmly so, for difficulties of many kinds delayed operations until the plans for a large building had to be postponed. Instead, in 1924, a preliminary structure, St. Joseph's Annex, was erected for the most helpless patients.

Two years later sufficient funds had been raised to continue the building project and on the fourteenth of June, 1926, the first spadeful of earth was turned for the new fireproof Rosary Hill Home, which would house one hundred patients. All were elated, especially Mother Alphonsa, who had worked so hard to make this project possible. Often she envisioned the practical and convenient home of Spanish mission architecture, with its red tile roof, its "contrasting outlines of level one-story eaves, and high portions of tower" as a "gem in the landscape" as well as a safe haven for her poor, sick family. Her dream was realized but she did not live to see it, for on the ninth of July, 1926, she died in her sleep.

Those who knew and esteemed this devoted servant of the poor and afflicted were startled at the sudden closing of a life so worthy of admiration. Newspapers and periodicals all over the country paid tribute to her memory. Yet it remained for the members of her Community to appreciate at first hand her greatness of soul. To them she left a priceless legacy, a glorious example of sacrifice of self for the glory of God and the welfare of neighbor.

No one realized this more fully than Sister Mary Rose, her faithful co-laborer for twenty-eight years. Together they had worked in the greatest harmony for the common good. Together they had shared the joys and sorrows of the Charity's upbuilding. Among the many loving tributes Sister Rose wrote in memory of her deceased associate is the one on the bronze tablet at the entrance of the new home: "We who have completed this Home must bear in mind that she who laid the foundation stone braved many hardships and difficulties. We have only finished what she commenced and made secure. This is her last gift to the poor. May her name be held in everlasting remembrance."



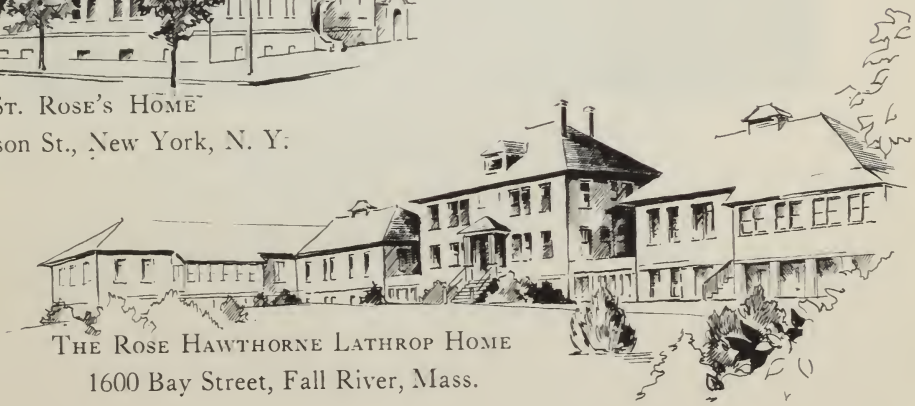
The Sacred Heart Home
4200 Old York Road
Philadelphia, Pa.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Home
760 Washington St., Atlanta, Ga.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Home
2076 St. Anthony Avenue
St. Paul, Minn.

Rosary Hill Home, Motherhouse and Novitiate
Hawthorne, N. Y.

St. Rose's Home
71 Jackson St., New York, N. Y.



The Rose Hawthorne Lathrop Home
1600 Bay Street, Fall River, Mass.

MOTHER M. PASCHAL FLANNIGAN, O. P.

EXPANSION

At a General Chapter held at Rosary Hill Home on the 25th of August, 1926, Sister Mary Rose Huber was unanimously elected Mother General of the Congregation. In her new duties Mother Rose manifested the same sterling qualities which had characterized her entire religious life—fidelity to duty, steadfastness of purpose and deep spirituality. Like her predecessor, she had perfect trust in God and confidence in the charitable public, which enabled her to face the future without fear. Under her leadership the work made steady progress. Her first important duty was to obtain approval of the Rule and Constitutions for the Congregation. This was granted on the feast of the Ascension, 1927.

The following October the new home was ready for occupancy. It was both fireproof and of fine artistic beauty. Into this home, which would welcome within its portals destitute cancer sufferers of every race and creed and color, had gone not only cold steel and tile and concrete, but long years of labor and prayer, and the pulsating love of compassionate hearts for their stricken fellowmen. Rich and poor, well and ill alike, had helped to make it possible. A crippled friend had sent twenty dollars, saved little by little over many years. A working woman had given her entire savings to furnish two rooms. When reminded that she might need the money she replied, "I will trust in God." Within three years a fireproof Chapel and convent were added to the home.

In the interim a new foundation had been made in Philadelphia, The Sacred Heart Home. This Home, situated at the corner of Old York Road and Hunting Park Avenue, was dedicated by His Eminence, Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, on April 27, 1930. Apparently the whole of Pennsylvania needed such a home, for applications came from various parts of the State. One of the first patients was an extremely ill man who had been living alone in an unheated cabin in the mountain district. Made comfortable for the first time in months, he exclaimed the morning after his arrival, "It must be a dream."

Three more foundations were established in Mother Rose's lifetime: the Rose Hawthorne Lathrop Home, Fall River, Massachusetts, in 1932; Our Lady of Perpetual Help Home, Atlanta, Georgia, in 1939; and Our Lady of Good Counsel Home, St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1941. In each foundation the Sisters met with whole-hearted cooperation on the part of the diocesan authorities as well as the general public.

Within a year after the opening of the St. Paul Home Mother Rose was called to her eternal reward. She died on September 30, 1942, at the age of eighty, after spending forty-four years as a Servant of Relief. In contrast to the widespread notices of Mother Alphonsa's death, the passing of Mother Rose was scarcely noted. Yet it was as she herself would have wished. She had never sought honors in her life, nor had she received them. It was enough for her to know that to the best of her ability she had fulfilled the will of God.

On November 17, 1942, the Superiors and Delegates from the various Homes assembled at the Motherhouse to choose a successor to Mother Rose. The voting resulted in the election of Mother Mary Paschal, a member of the Congregation for thirty-two years. The new Mother General said she felt wholly incapable of assuming the task, but was assured by the priest who presided that the Holy Ghost, Who had signified that she take up the charge, would enable her to accomplish it. He also pointed out that she would be a strong link connecting the past with the present and future, and that her long association with the foundresses would be an asset in carrying on the traditions of the Order.

While Mother Alphonsa's chief work was the founding and building up of the Charity, and that of Mother Rose, its expansion, the special objective of the third Mother General was to strengthen the edifice their long years of labor had effected. During Mother Paschal's administration World War II was in progress, yet each Home, despite wartime scarcity, was able to care for its full quota of patients. Moreover, the generosity of kind-hearted friends made it possible to provide them with delicacies as well as the necessities of life. When one considers maintenance alone for six such institutions without any assured source of income and that,

not for a day or a month, but over a period of years, one is forced to acknowledge the all-loving Providence of God. Imbued with a spirit of gratitude, Mother Paschal thought that a special tribute of honor should be paid to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Whose constant solicitude was so manifest. Therefore, she directed that an Enthronement of the Sacred Heart take place with an appropriate ceremony in each of the Houses of the Congregation. Throughout the six years of her term of office, Mother Paschal bore the burden of ill health in addition to the responsibilities which her position entailed. In December, 1948, she returned to St. Rose's Home, where she had given more than thirty years of devoted service. Here she died on September 16, 1949.

It is the cherished hope of Mother Mary Siena, the present Mother General, to extend the Work of the Congregation to other parts of the country. This can only be accomplished when a sufficient number of young women, with hearts afire with love of God, generously sacrifice all that the world holds dear to devote their lives to the sublime mission of nursing the cancer afflicted. Many requests for foundations have been received, and undoubtedly every important city in the United States would welcome a home for its destitute cancer sufferers. Surely in this great country of ours there are many who would gladly embrace this Christ-like Work were they cognizant not only of its need but of its deep consolations. May we ask our friends to join us in begging God to inspire many young women to serve Him as Servants of Relief in the Congregation of St. Rose of Lima.

OUR GUESTS

The Sisters are often asked the secret of their success in keeping the patients satisfied and happy, in spite of the hopelessness and at times the long-drawn-out course of their disease. Freedom from fear and worry are contributing factors in the contentment of these sick people—fear of not being able to meet hospital or doctor bills, and anxiety about family difficulties, which distance to a great extent removes.

As to the attitude of the patients toward each other, their common bond of affliction seems to instill into them a spirit of sympathy and brotherly love which is most edifying. An incident in the Atlanta Home is but one of many like occurrences. In the men's ward all but two had frequent visitors. On Christmas Eve a patient handed the Sister a dollar, remarking as he did so, "We fellows chipped in. Take this and get a Christmas present for those two men." "And how about yourselves?" she inquired, knowing how poor they were in worldly goods. "Oh, don't worry about us, Sister, we have friends, but they haven't anyone." Little did he know that just out of sight there was an abundance of gifts for all.

Visitors sometimes exclaim, "Why, some of these people do not look poor at all!" This is quite true, but were the inquirers to know the facts in each case they would have to admit that the patients were not enjoying the hospitality of a free home without sufficient reason. One does not have to advertise poverty by being clad in ragged garments; nor do the cancer patients have to forego nice clothes because they are ill and destitute. Clothing of fine quality for both men and women has always been provided for the Homes and seldom at the expense of the Sisters. True, the abject poverty prevalent in the earlier years of the Charity is not often encountered at the present day because of improved living conditions. However, there are still no adequate provisions for those who cannot afford to pay nurses, even if they were available. Nor are there hospitals to keep patients indefinitely when they have been pronounced incurable. If people with means find it difficult to obtain hospitalization for cancer patients for any length of time, how much more desperate is the plight of those whose resources have been drained to the utmost.

CHRISTMAS GIVING

Furthermore, in these days cancer sufferers are sometimes found in shacks, hardly fit for human habitation. Two such patients came to Rosary Hill

Home within a few days of each other in the summer of 1946. The first, an old lady with advanced cancer of the face, had been dressing her frightful lesion with newspapers. The second, an eighty-year-old woman, likewise a victim of face cancer, was recommended by a priest, Rector of a house of studies not far from her miserable dwelling. She had been living in such a state of neglect that the Board of Health warned her to improve hygienic conditions. Hearing of her plight, the priest enlisted the aid of his seminarians and undertook to provide more healthful surroundings. Like many another, she clung to her home, poor as it was. Finally, weakened by the progress of the disease, the priest prevailed upon her to accept the hospitality of the Sisters.

A BIT OF GOSSIP AMONG FRIENDS

Throughout the years the Homes have sheltered young and old, saint and sinner, those of various faiths and some professing no faith at all. With few exceptions they have found through their affliction and the patient acceptance of sufferings a gateway to heaven. It was edifying but not surprising to hear an eighty-two-year-old man reply one day when asked about his condition: "I feel terrible, Sister, but don't worry about me. My life has been spent in clean, honest living and God has been very good to me. Who am I to complain when I think of Him Who suffered for me."

That cancer is no respecter of age has been proved over and over again. "Grannie" had passed the century mark before cancer attacked her. Enfeebled and very ill, she was received into the home at the age of one hundred and three and succumbed six weeks after admittance.

Irene, on the other hand, was pronounced a victim of the disease in her teens, and strangely enough, she was the third member of her family to develop cancer. Her parents, both strong and vigorous, were heartbroken as one child after another was stricken. Irene was placed in the care of the most competent specialists, but to no avail. When medical science

had exhausted its resources, she was sent to Rosary Hill for terminal care. With head and face swathed in bandages, she aroused compassion in all who beheld her. In fact, she was so pitiful that one day a priest who had just given a conference to the Sisters exclaimed on seeing her, "Why should I come up here to talk to you Sisters when you have the crucifixion right here before you!"

Linda was much younger. She entered the Sacred Heart Home when a tiny mite of one year, and by her winning ways won the hearts of all. Her little world seemed a pleasant one, for she was invariably smiling and happy. She was an only child and her parents had been told that hers was a hopeless case and she would hardly live beyond five years. At first they came to see her often, but when another child was born visits to little Linda became few and far between and finally ceased altogether. But Linda found a foster-mother in Ann Marie, a fifteen-year-old patient, who had been in the Home for several years.

Ann Marie's stay was to be a long one. She was a victim of skin cancer and because of it, though intelligent and capable, she would not be happy or accepted in the outside world. She often longed for a normal life, but humiliating experiences in her few brief contacts with the public had taught her the futility of her hopes. With the coming of Linda her whole world changed. Always eager to help the Sisters, she now took over the task of entertaining Linda until the two became almost inseparable. Patiently she taught her tiny pupil until at the age of four Linda was as bright a child as could be found, and happy as the day is long. As for Ann Marie, she became the replica of a contented young mother.

Another patient, a former gardener, recaptured a zest for life in raising choice plants in the greenhouse. The magnificence of his blooms at all seasons is a marvel to everyone. When asked the secret of his success with flowers, he invariably answers, "You must love them. Of course," he will add, "you must give them plenty of care too."

THE TWO BECAME ALMOST INSEPARABLE

Frank's hobby was gardening of a different type. Each year the fruits of his labor appeaerd in the most peculiar places—on the well-kept lawn, the gravel path, almost anywhere but in the garden. Remonstrances were of no avail, but more definite measures were taken when huge sunflowers sprung up, as if by magic, in a plot of choice evergreens at the main entrance of the Home.

Many of the patients are unaware of the hopelessness of their malady, or even the nature of it, and strange to say some, after months and even years of confinement without improvement, cling to the hope of returning home cured. Others are given the impression that they are going to a convalescent home to build up their strength after an operation. "Dannie" was one of these. His improvement was remarkable and as the days passed he became so well satisfied with his environment that he hoped to become an employee when fully recovered. But one day, after hearing some of his fellow-patients freely discuss their ailment "Dannie" decided the place held too great a hazard for him. Without delay he found the Sister in charge and exclaimed, "You'd better hurry up and cure me, Sister, or I'll have cancer like a lot of these fellows!"

Should anyone think that the life of a Servant of Relief is a constant round of monotonous duties, any member of the Congregation could quickly dispel that idea. Her day is made up of frequent interludes of prayer as well as labor and recreation, and the diversity of character she daily encounters adds color and variety to a life which might otherwise be prosaic. Scarcely a day passes without some unlooked-for incident, humorous, pathetic, uplifting or entirely unexpected.

"YOU MUST LOVE THEM."

Perhaps the most unexpected event in one Sister's experience was the day on which she opened the trunk of a meek-looking woman who had just arrived and found its sole contents to be three guns—all loaded!

In recent years extensive studies have been made and

millions of dollars have been spent in cancer research, but as yet no cure has been found for cancer in its advanced stages. It is to be hoped that soon a cure may be found. When that day dawns, no one will rejoice more than those who nurse the cancer-afflicted poor, unless it be the sufferers themselves. In the meantime, the Sisters will continue to offer them a free home until death calls them. If the time ever comes when cancer is finally eradicated, the Sisters can concentrate their attention on an objective of Mother Alphonsa's as quoted from *Christ's Poor*: "Other diseases in the incurable stage among destitute persons of both sexes will be attended to when the members of the Community become sufficiently numerous to extend the Work."

A FAVORITE PASTIME

THE FUTURE

The Sisters of today consider it fortunate that Father Thuente, inspired by the Spirit of God, invited their foundresses to affiliate with the illustrious Order of St. Dominic. Although Mother Alphonsa and Mother Rose have completed their earthly span, their spirit lives on in the Work built up by their long years of labor and sacrifice.

The Dominican Sisters of the Congregation of St. Rose of Lima retain the title by which they were first known, the Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer. All the Homes are incorporated under that title in their respective states.

The Charity would not be successful without the constant cooperation of the public. While legacies have been a source of great help, other donations, large and small, and from all classes, have been no less sustaining and have given permanent courage to those who place their confidence in the

Providence of God and the liberality of His people. This also includes the liberality of those who have given in a spiritual way, for the Sisters have always felt the potency of prayer and the stimulus of encouragement to be effective aids in their work of mercy.

LULU MAE GOES VISITING

The Homes of the Servants of Relief are not endowed; nor do they receive aid from City or State. They are supported by the hourly mercy of the public. Our homes are free to poor, incurable cancer patients, of any race, creed or color. A doctor's diagnosis only is required of the poor.

In a true Dominican spirit, the hidden work of the Sisters in receiving and caring for the poor without any payment has been matched by the secret donations that have made the Charity possible. The patients are the guests equally of those benefactors who seek no advertising in this life for their love of neighbor. Hospitalization today is so organized that it cannot reach beyond the acute cases. The chronic incurable, afflicted with poverty, stares desperately at the world. Light suffuses his soul in the Homes inaugurated in 1896 by Rose Hawthorne Lathrop, and consecrated by her in 1900 as Mother Alphonsa, O.P.

The following words, written by Mother Alphonsa many years ago, could well be repeated by the Sisters of today: "The workers of the Charity have exclaimed joyfully to each other over the tone of the notes received from persons responding with various aid. The cordial, enthusiastic approval and their solicitude of the sick poor have shown a high quality of mercy that has refreshed our souls, as brave martial strains refresh the heart. We thank the public both for money and courage."

As if to echo her words this most recent letter, sent to us from Euorpe, gives assurance that God will provide the ways and means to continue the Charity. "I have been ill

for six months, and although I may gain a little in warm weather, it is only the best hope, and I am evidently embarked on the last voyage, be it long or short. Therefore, I want to send you my small contribution for the fiftieth anniversary at once, for delays are dangerous at 82! It is nearly 50 years since I first knew of your work, and as I was in great grief at the knowledge that my dearest friend was stricken with cancer, I felt the keenest interest in Mother Alphonsa's work. What a grain of mustard seed she sowed, alone and only armed with faith, hope and charity, and what an almost miraculous growth it has produced. You may not hear from me again—but also you may, but I know I shall have your, and the sisters', prayers, and you know that my interest after nearly half a century will not fail."

This letter recalls an earlier communication from Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain) to Mother Alphonsa: "I am glad in the prosperous issue of your work, and glad to know that this prosperity will continue, and be permanent—a thing which I do know, for that endowment is banked where it cannot fail until pity fails in the hearts of men, and that will never be."

In presenting this report of the fifty years past, we are confident that the years before us will be rich in the harvest of the Lord, laying up in Heaven for Servant and Benefactor alike the "treasure where rust and moth do not consume and thieves do not break through and steal." Where the treasure is, there is the heart also.

"We have joined ourselves so entirely to the poor that when we speak of the destitute we speak also of ourselves."

—Mother Alphonsa

STATISTICS OF

THE SERVANTS OF RELIEF FOR INCURABLE

CANCER

1900—December 8—1950

Patients cared for		25,121
Male	10,811	
Female	14,310	
White	22,832	
Colored	2,289	
Catholic	14,571	
Protestant	9,915	
Hebrew	424	
Greek Orthodox	95	
Quaker	10	
Mormon	2	
Mohammedan	2	
No religion	102	
Hospital Days		3,542,539

FORM OF BEQUEST

I give and bequeath to The Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer (incorporated under the laws of the State of) the Sum of _____

"Amen, I say to you, as long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me."

—Matthew, 25:40.

The costs of this Report have been contributed by friends of the Sisters.