

The Year of St. Joseph

PROCLAIMED BY POPE FRANCIS
WITH THE APOSTOLIC LETTER
"PATRIS CORDE" ("WITH A FATHER'S HEART")

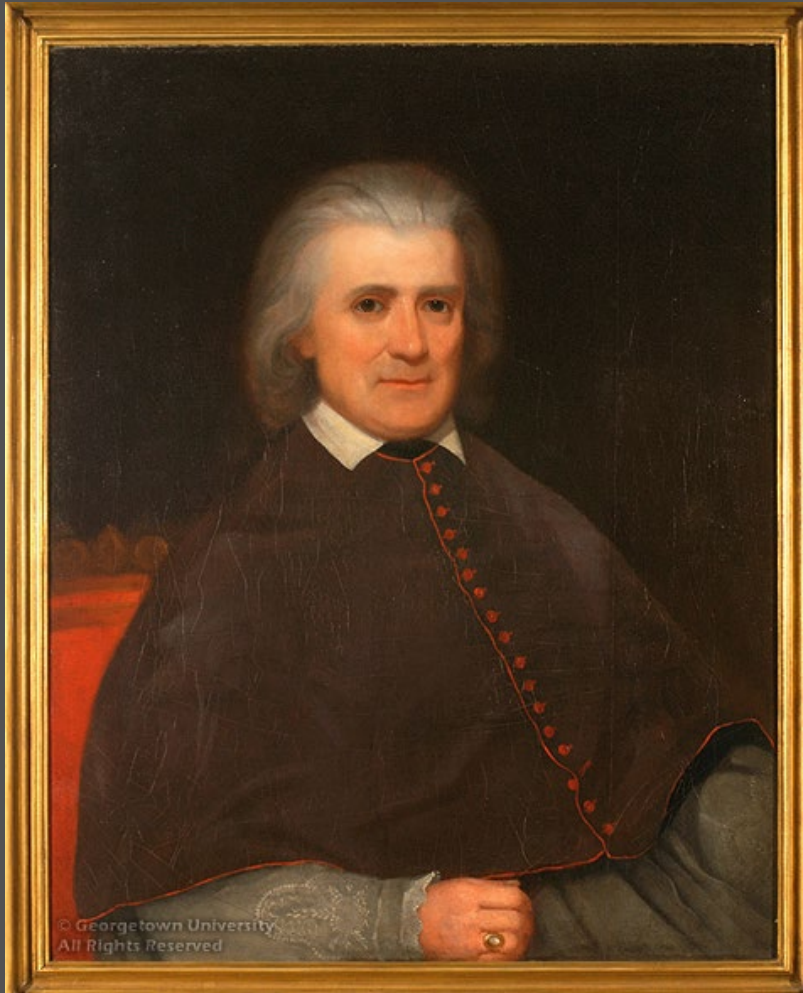
DECEMBER 8, 2020 – DECEMBER 8, 2021

CHURCHES AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE DEDICATED TO
THE PATRONAGE OF ST. JOSEPH

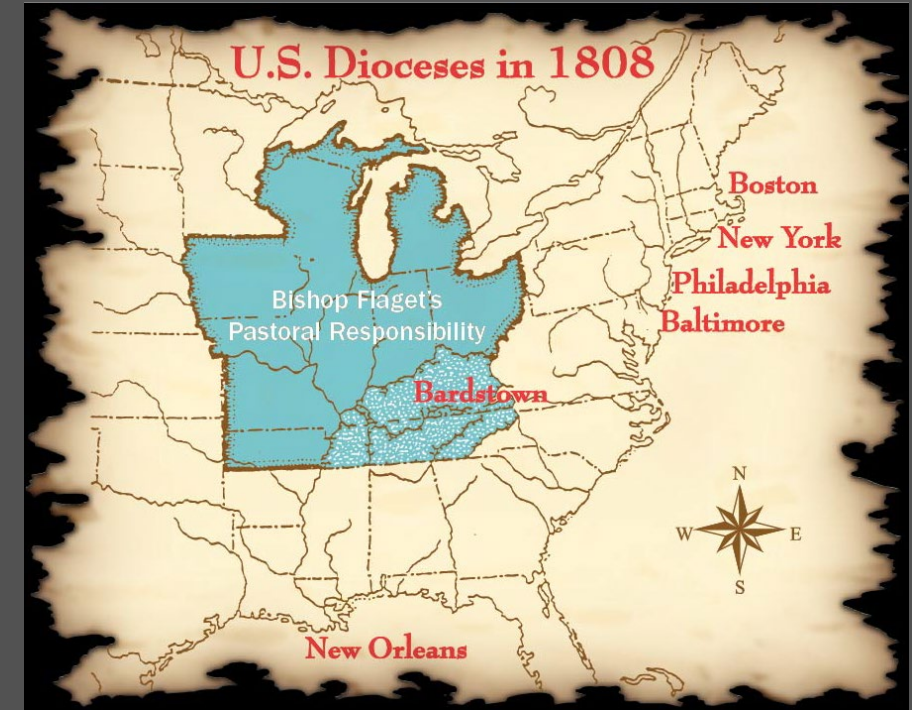


ARCHDIOCESE
OF LOUISVILLE

Creation of the Diocese of Bardstow



With the recommendation of John Carroll, Bishop of Baltimore, His Holiness Pope Pius VII created the Diocese of Bardstow on April 8, 1808, as well as Boston, New York and Philadelphia. The French Sulpician missionary priest, Benedict Joseph Flaget, was named the first Bishop of Bardstow with jurisdiction extending over the vast territory of the West and Northwest including what is today the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and the northern portion of Arkansas to the 35th degree north latitude.

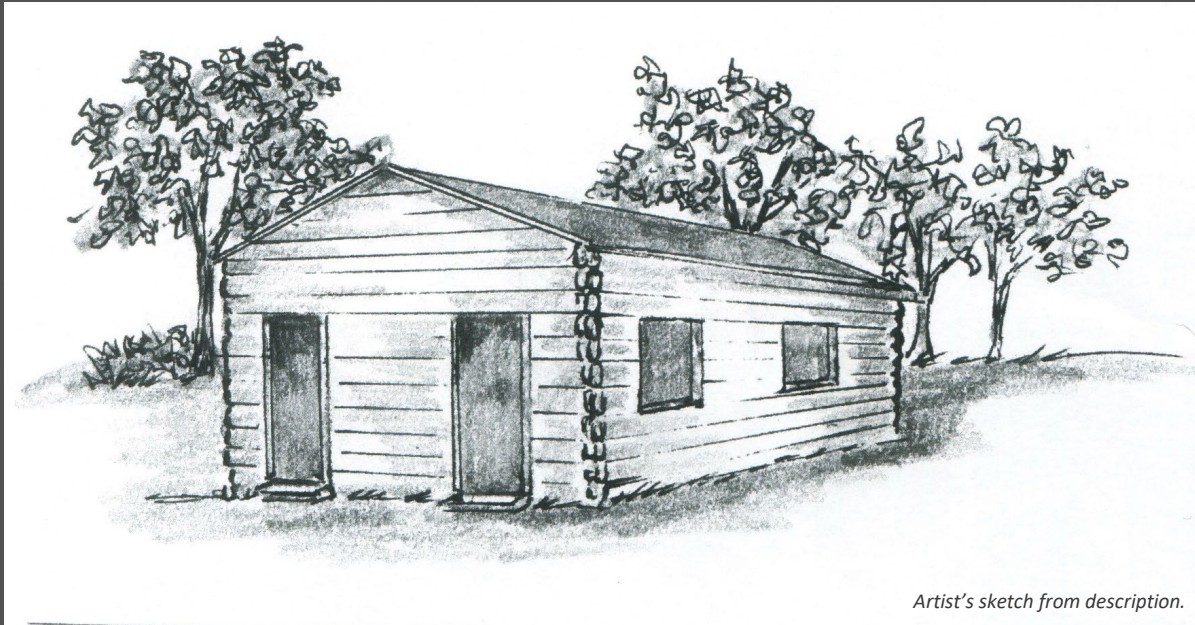


Bishop Flaget cherished a tender devotion to St. Joseph. He committed himself and all his spiritual children and friends to his patronage; frequently breathing the prayer: *"St. Joseph, my Patron, pray for all the friends who have thought [prayed for] of me."* *Flaget journal, March 19, 1812*

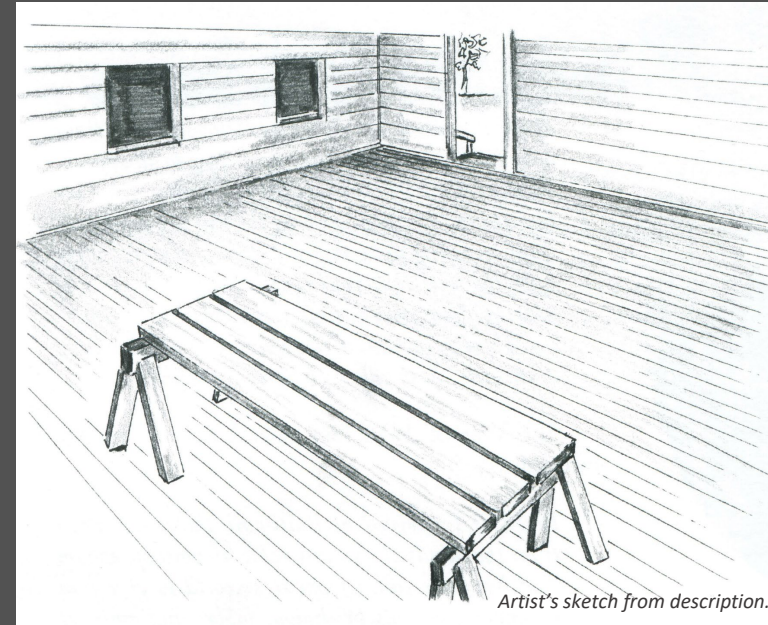
The "first" St. Joseph Church, Bardstown



The first St. Joseph Church in Bardstown, Kentucky was a log structure erected in 1798 in the northwest corner of what is now St. Joseph's Cemetery.



Artist's sketch from description.



Artist's sketch from description.

In an 1816 letter to the Bishop of Bordeaux Flaget described his arrival at Bardstown and his first "cathedral."

The Catholics of the town, very few in number, and those at some distance welcomed us. They knelt, kissed my ring, and asked my blessing. I was delighted with their candor and their faith.

After dinner I wanted to visit my cathedral. It was about ¼ league (3/4 of a mile) from the town. Picture to yourself, Monsignor, some beams 30 feet long and others 20 feet, placed on one another in a long quadrangle, 13 or 14 feet high on which is laid a bad roof. Add to this 3 doors, 4 small windows, and a very bad floor; then you will have an exact sketch of his edifice. Not a pulpit was there for announcing the Word of God; nor any plaster, not even over the altar; and the altar was made of 3 planks held together on two trestles. At this sight my heart was seized with grief. I thought that I was in Bethlehem; nevertheless, I sang there the "Te Deum," but with a tone much more filled for the "Libera," than for this hymn of joy.

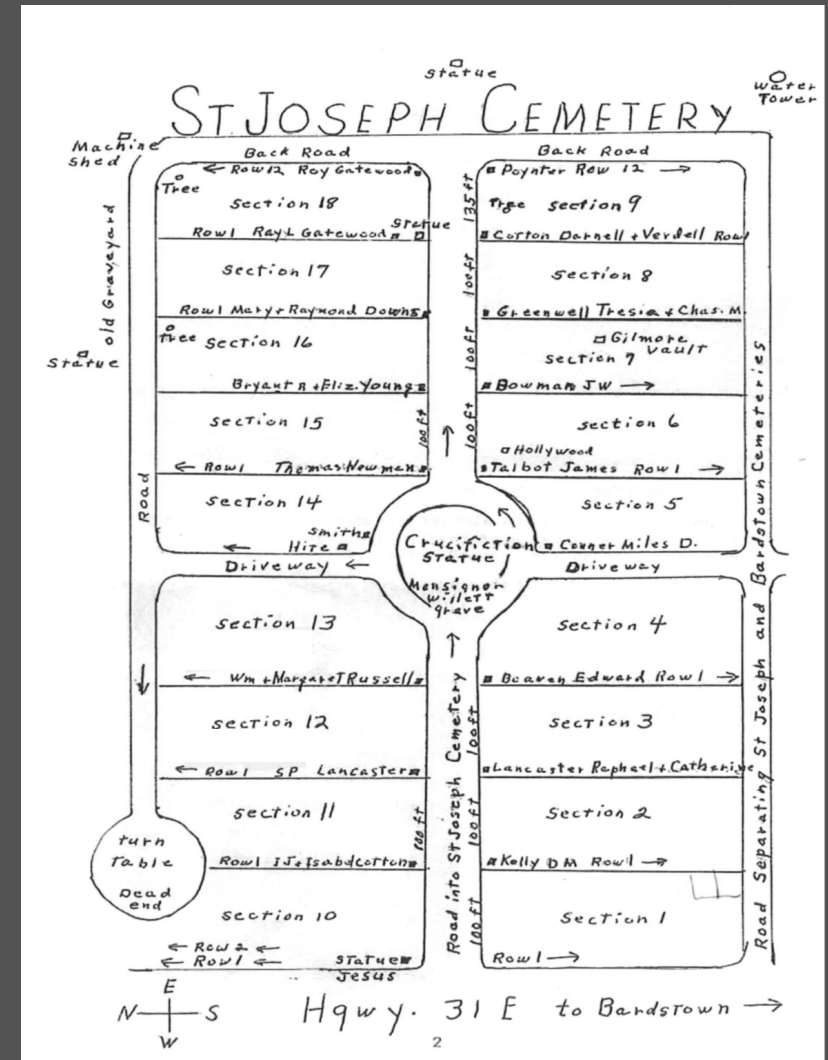
St. Joseph Cemetery, Bardstown



St. Joseph Cemetery was established in 1802 and is located adjacent to the Bardstown Cemetery near the intersection of US 31 E and Highway 245.



David Asher Photography



Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral, Bardstown



Bishop Flaget began constructing the first cathedral west of the Alleghenies on July 16, 1816 and it was dedicated on August 8, 1819. John Rogers, formerly of Baltimore, is credited with the design and construction. Raising this neo-classical church of impressive proportions (138' long x 64' wide, 60' high) was an amazing feat on the frontier. Limestone foundation blocks were quarried, and bricks were fabricated nearby. Kentucky's forests supplied timbers, sheathing, and shingles.

The portico, with monumental ionic-style columns, and the 140-foot steeple, supporting a Belgium-made bell (later recast), were completed in 1826. The present Seth Thomas steeple-clock was installed in 1911 and now is refitted with electric works. When erected, St. Joseph Cathedral was among the country's largest buildings, second only to the nation's Capitol.

In 1995, Bardstown was named a Titular See by the Vatican for its contributions to Catholic Church heritage in America. In 2001 Saint Pope John Paul II declared St. Joseph a minor Basilica.

The United States Congress Historic American Buildings Survey listed St. Joseph in 1934. The Kentucky Heritage Commission has designated it a state landmark.

Over 200 years old, St. Joseph's historic faith community is committed to dedicated service long into the future.



St. Joseph School, Bardstown



Opening in 1953, St. Joseph School in historic Bardstown is a vibrant, vital Catholic school that includes preschool, elementary, and middle school serving Nelson and surrounding counties. The mission of St. Joseph School, as an integral part of St. Joseph Parish, is to provide an environment of academic excellence for all students based on Catholic values and traditions. St. Joseph School is committed to help the students develop the spiritual, intellectual, physical, and emotional skills needed to become responsible citizens and lifelong learners. St. Joseph School was recently recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.



St. Joseph Church, Louisville (Butchertown)



St. Joseph, much like its patron saint, has never received much publicity in over 140 years of serving the community. But for long-time parishioners, the church and its towering steeples—the city’s tallest twin spires—have been the center of a section still referred to as “The Point” and “Butchertown.”

Established in 1866, St. Joseph served German-speaking families who worked in the numerous slaughterhouses and butcher shops situated around the stockyards. The Ursuline Sisters of Louisville staffed the school, which opened in the fall of 1866 with 236 students in grades one through eight. It educated St. Joseph’s children until 2003.

Franciscan Friars served St. Joseph from 1875 to 2002. This fast-growing parish continues to serve immigrants, now welcoming migrant Latino-Hispanics. Still the center of Butchertown, the thriving parish responds to the community’s changing needs.



St. Joseph's Home - Little Sisters of the Poor, Louisville



The Little Sisters of the Poor care for the needy elderly in a spirit of humble service passed down from our foundress, Jeanne Jugan. In 1868, the Little Sisters established the first U.S. Homes. Father Earnest Lelievre, a priest who dedicated his life work to our young Congregation, sailed to America in May, 1868. A mere 8 months later, the first Home of the Little Sisters was opened in Louisville, Kentucky. This Home at 622 South 10th Street was in operation from 1869 through 1977. The Home was finally closed due to severe structural problems. The Little Sisters were sorely missed in the Louisville community and with an outpouring of love, a group formed to raise funds to build a new Home and bring the Little Sisters back. The current Home was built in 1991 and the Little Sisters returned to Louisville. Since the beginning of our American Adventure, the Little Sisters' mission of care for the elderly poor has been generously supported by bishops, religious communities and countless generous citizens.



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR
ST. JOSEPH'S HOME

Every Little Sister of the Poor carries a statue of St. Joseph, their patron saint.

St. Joseph Children's Home, Louisville



The Louisville cholera epidemic of 1832 left many children orphaned and without support. Recognizing the grave need to care for these children, a local group of German-American Catholics formed St. Joseph Catholic Orphan Society in 1849.

The Society built its first home in 1850, but increasing numbers of children needing care prompted several locations before settling at the present site in Crescent Hill in 1885.

Notre Dame Sisters from Milwaukee administered the Home from 1865 – 1897. The Ursuline Sisters of Louisville became administrators and staffed the home from 1897 until 1972. Since then, St. Joe's continues to serve children, but under individual administrators hired by the Society's Board of Trustees.

St. Joseph Children's Home has evolved throughout the years to become a multi-faceted, child caring nonprofit organization licensed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky with the mission of "Giving Children a Home."



Discalced Carmelite Monastery of Mary Immaculate and Saint Joseph, Louisville



Five Discalced Carmelite nuns came to Louisville on April 30, 1930, as a foundation by the Carmelite Monastery in Philadelphia at the invitation of then-Bishop of Louisville John A. Floersh. After the Trappist Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani, Louisville's Discalced Carmelite Monastery of Mary Immaculate and Saint Joseph was the second contemplative community in the Diocese.

After establishing a temporary monastery in Old Louisville, growth within the community led to the building of a new monastery at 1740 Newburg Road designed by Louisville-based Thomas J. Nolan & Sons Architects. The Carmel Club was formed to help raise funds for the construction and the cornerstone was laid on December 10, 1950. The nuns moved in on July 29, 1952.



Although they lived a quiet, intense life of prayer within papal enclosure (according to which the nuns did not leave the monastery except for healthcare or exceptional circumstances, and the public was permitted only in the Chapel and extern area), the Discalced Carmelite nuns were well-known in the Louisville community. Daily Mass, vespers and benediction on Sundays, and an annual novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel were open to the public. The nuns were assisted by donations of many benefactors and worked to support themselves through sewing, and later, by the distribution of altar bread to most parishes in the Archdiocese and to churches in other diocese.

With special concern for the health of the nuns, the monastery was closed in 2015 and the remaining nuns were welcomed in other communities. The Discalced Carmelites of Louisville would continue their ministry of contemplative and apostolic prayer in a new context.



St. Joseph's Seminary & College, Bardstown



Under a charter granted by the State of Kentucky, Saint Joseph College was founded in 1819 by Bishop Flaget. With Rev. George Elder as the president, the first classes were held in the basement of the seminary, the present rectory, next to the Cathedral. In 1823 the west (chapel) wing was added to Spalding Hall. On January 23, 1837, all of Spalding Hall except the chapel wing was destroyed by fire.

Owing to the scarcity of diocesan priests to staff the college, the Jesuits of Missouri Province, headed by Reverend Peter Verhegan as the first superior, assumed control of the College in 1848. Flaget Hall was erected in 1852 providing more room for the growing college enrollment.

St. Joseph College continued to function until the Civil War. Classes were suspended, and students went home to fight for their country. The facilities of the college served as a military hospital for both the North and the South. During these troubled times, the Jesuits served as chaplains, and the Sisters of Charity as nurses.

In 1868, the Jesuits withdrew from the Diocese of Louisville, and Saint Joseph's continued as the diocesan seminary and college until 1889.



St. Joseph Infirmary - Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Louisville

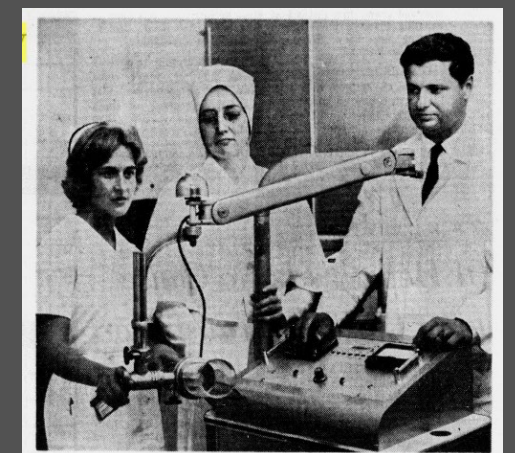
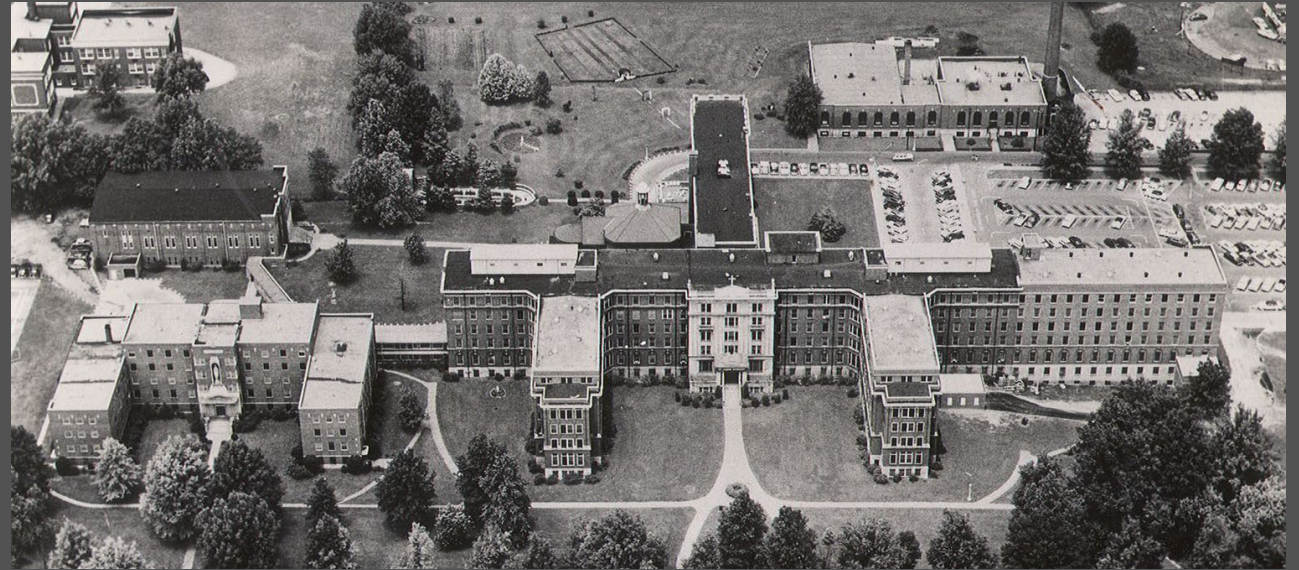


St. Joseph Infirmary had its origins in Louisville as St. Vincent Infirmary on Wenzel and Jefferson Streets where Mother Catherine Spalding had purchased a former tavern in 1836. Later, in 1853, the sisters expanded to Fourth St. and the hospital was renamed St. Joseph Infirmary.

St. Joseph School of Nursing began on March 31, 1919. The first students were eight Sisters of Charity of Nazareth.

To meet growing needs 19 acres were purchased on Eastern Parkway and Preston St. A ground-breaking ceremony was held in 1923 and the hospital was completed in 1926. At the time St. Joseph Infirmary was the largest private hospital in Kentucky.

Due to decreasing numbers of SCN nurses, lab technicians, administrators, etc., the SCN Community realized that it could no longer continue to operate St. Joseph Infirmary and it was sold in 1970 to Extendicare, INC.



St. Joseph Infirmary
FOUNDED 1836
CONDUCTED BY
SISTERS OF CHARITY OF NAZARETH
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

St. Joseph Preparatory School, Bardstown



After St. Joseph College closed in 1889, the remaining buildings housed the orphanage which had been located at St. Thomas near Bardstown.

In 1911, Saint Joseph's was re-opened, this time as a college preparatory school conducted by the Xaverian Brothers. In 1932, the name of the school was formally changed to Saint Joseph Preparatory School. An expanding enrollment necessitated the building of Xavier Hall in 1959 to house new classrooms, cafeteria, library, and school offices. Flaget Hall was transformed from classroom to dormitory.

Before it closed in 1968, St. Joe Prep was the only boarding school for young men and boys in Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee. Its legacy of discipline, education, religion, and athletics would come to be known far and wide.



St. Joseph Church, School and Cemetery, Raywick



St. Joseph Church was opened for divine service in March, 1908 and formally dedicated by Bishop McCloskey on August 8, 1908. The first pastor, was Fr. J.J. Neafsey. St. Joseph Cemetery was made possible with two separate parcels of land donated by Theodore Spalding and Elizabeth Spalding.

St. Joseph School opened under the pastorate of Fr. B.J. Wright in September 1920 with 40 students in two classrooms that were staffed by the Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph. A high school opened in 1924, but lasted only a few years. 120 students were registered in 1933. St. Joseph School educated children from the surrounding Rolling Fork area for 50 years and closed in 1970.

Due to parish consolidation throughout the Archdiocese of Louisville, St. Joseph was closed in 1995. The property is now operated by the non-profit organization, St. Joseph Catholic Community Heritage, Inc., keeping the genuine spirit of the local community alive and well.





Churches and Institutions formed under the Diocese of Bardstown or Diocese of Louisville

<u>Years Active</u>	<u>Church/Institution</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Present Diocese</u>
1859 - present	St. Joseph Church	Bowling Green	Diocese of Owensboro
1863 - present	St. Joseph Parochial School	Bowling Green	Diocese of Owensboro
1869 - present	St. Joseph Cemetery	Bowling Green	Diocese of Owensboro
1887 - present	St. Joseph Church	Mayfield	Diocese of Owensboro
before 1894 - present	St. Joseph Cemetery	Mayfield	Diocese of Owensboro
1871 - present	St. Joseph Church	Leitchfield	Diocese of Owensboro
1870 - present	St. Joseph Cemetery	Leitchfield	Diocese of Owensboro
1912 - present	St. Joseph Church	Central City	Diocese of Owensboro
1874 - present	Mount St. Joseph - Ursuline Sisters of Mt. St. Joseph Mount Saint Joseph Junior College for Women	Maple Mount	Diocese of Owensboro
1925 - present	St. Joseph Church	Owensboro	Diocese of Owensboro - Known today as Brescia University.
1845 - present	St. Joseph School	Camp Springs	Diocese of Covington
1851 - present	St. Joseph Church	Camp Springs	Diocese of Covington
<u>Now Closed</u>			
1871 - 1989	St. Joseph Church	Owensboro	Diocese of Owensboro - Known today as Sts. Joseph and Paul Church.
1874 - 1983	Mount Saint Joseph Academy	Maple Mount	Diocese of Owensboro
1897 - 2012	St. Joseph School	Mayfield	Diocese of Owensboro

Archbishop Joseph Edward Kurtz, D.D.

Archdiocese of Louisville



This presentation of churches and institutions in our local Church under the patronage of St. Joseph is dedicated to another “Joseph,” our own Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D., pastoral shepherd of the Archdiocese of Louisville.





ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

Archdiocese of Louisville Archives

Maloney Center

1200 S. Shelby St.

Louisville, KY 40202

archives@archlou.org

