## 175 SISTER PROFILES: Sister Mary Pius Devine

## **Mary Flynn, Archivist**

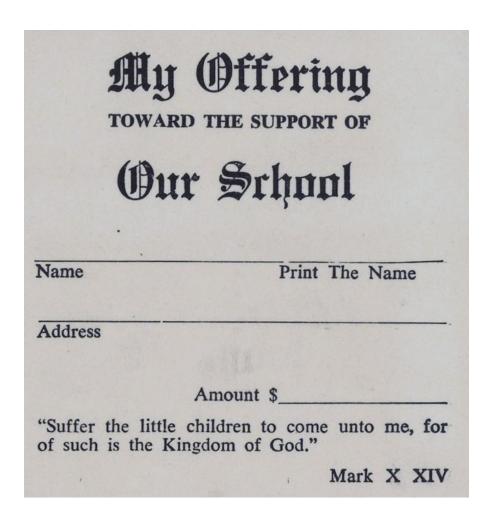


Did you know that there was a school in Halifax named after a teaching Sister? Sister Mary Pius Devine was a born and raised Haligonian who joined the community in 1875. From 1885 until 1909, she taught at Dutch Village School, renamed to Maryvale (sometimes spelled Maryville) School in 1900. In 1909, the students from Maryvale were sent to the newly constructed Oxford

Sisters of Charity

School and S. Mary Pius served as principal until she retired in 1927 to Mount Saint Vincent Motherhouse.





After five years of retirement, S. Mary Pius died in 1933 and 13 years later, she was honoured as the namesake of the new Sister Pius Memorial School. The new school was housed in three rooms in the basement of St. John the Baptist Church in Melville Cove and the Sisters taught grades 1, 2, and 3. Over the years, the school expanded and a six room

school building was constructed to house the growing student body. In July 1969, Sister Pius Memorial School, along with St. Pius X School, was taken over by the Halifax School Board and in 1972 the school was closed due to declining enrollment.