

175 SISTER PROFILES:

Mother Mary Louise Meahan

S. Helen Danahy

The following passages from the Book of Proverbs (31:10-31) appropriately describe Mother Mary Louise Meahan, the Eleventh Superior of the Sisters of Charity - Halifax.

- *Who shall find a valiant woman:
she is worth far more than jewels.*
- *Advantage and not hurt she brings
all the days of her life.*
- *She does her work with eager spirit; with
what her efforts have earned, she plants
a vineyard.*
- *She holds out her hand to the poor and
opens her arms to the needy.*
- *She is clothed in strength and dignity,
and can laugh at the days to come.*
- *When she opens her mouth, she does
so wisely; on her tongue is kindly
instruction.*
- *Those who know her sing her praises.*
- *Many women have done admirable things,
but you surpass them all.*



Mother Mary Louise Meahan



CELEBRATING

175

YEARS OF JOYFUL WITNESS

1849 - 2024

- *Give her a share of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her at the city gates.*

Mother Mary Louise Meahan (Dorothy Mary Emma Meahan) was born in Bathurst, NB on December 18, 1873. She entered the Sisters of Charity-Halifax, in 1895 at the age of 22.

S. Mary Louise was an educator who taught in Reserve Mines, NS, St. Peter's and St. Margaret's Schools in Dorchester, MA as well as the Academy of the Assumption, Wellesley, MA.

In 1923, S. Mary Louise was called back from Massachusetts to Mount Saint Vincent Motherhouse to serve as Vicar General of the Congregation. She was elected as Mother General on August 7, 1926.

The re-election of Mother Mary Louise to a second and third term was made as an expression of loyalty and esteem from a grateful community. The permission of Pope Pius XI was necessary before a third term of office could be accepted.

She served as Mother General from 1926-1944, a period of 18 years!

During her three terms in office, Mother Mary Louise and her Council were responsible for the opening and expansion of 32 institutions (schools, hospitals, convents) in various provinces of Canada from east to west and in the United States: Massachusetts, Washington State and New York.

Worthy of note are: the Halifax Infirmary, generally regarded as one of the best and most up-to-date



**Pioneer Sisters at Seton Hospital, Jasper, AB, 1930
Sisters Marie Paula Herlihy, Mary Charles McDonald,
Mary Louise Meahan (Mother), Rose Francis McCall and M. Kieran McGann**

institutions of its kind at that time in Canada, and Mount Saint Vincent College. One final accomplishment was St. Brigid's Home for senior citizens in Quebec City, which was one of the first services of its kind to be established in North America. Under her direction, a splendid new building was erected at the Academy of Assumption in Wellesley

Hills. Her vision was responsible for the establishment of many new missions and to her also goes credit for a number of fine hospitals in the Canadian West.

Mother Mary Louise died on June 3, 1945, at the age of 72, not long after completing many years of Congregational service. Numerous



Golden Jubilee , Bathurst, NB
Mother Mary Louise, front row, fourth

messages of sympathy came from near and far-from clergy, laity, and friends in all walks of life.

Mother Mary Louise Meahan was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Halifax, beside the grave of her predecessor Mother Mary Berchmans Walsh. How beautiful that these two outstanding leaders, who worked so well together for the Sisters of Charity for so many years, now rest side by side in this holy place!

Life is not taken away; it is but changed (Preface: Mass for the Dead). **The good that Mother Mary Louise has done remains and will remain, in all the geographical areas touched by the charism of the Sisters of Charity - Halifax!**