

A Moment In Time



***Celebrating 130th Anniversary of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters
1894 ~ 2024***

Radiating the Mystery of God's Love

There are moments in time in the history of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters where we recognize God's love and goodness in people and in events unfolding and pause to give thanks to the Giver of all gifts. It is with humble hearts that we celebrate in gratitude the awesome gifting from our God. We pray that we may radiate with joy, the unfolding of the mystery of God's love in our daily lives.

Mother Veronica Grzedowska and her companions embarked on American soil in New York Harbor on October 16, 1894 after their 10 day voyage from Bremen on the steamship EMS. Not knowing the language in this new land, they were given all the necessary assistance by the steamship agent. With little money in her purse, Mother Veronica purchased a crucifix and a statue of the Sacred Heart on the threshold of the new world. The cross and the Sacred Heart were a synthesis of the life of Mother Veronica and her work. The monument of Jesus with the words of "In Hoc Signo Vinces," translated as "In this sign you shall conquer" on the cross in his hands before the convent's main entrance is a reminder of Mother Veronica's spirit. In the shadow of the cross she was to plant the seed of her new community whose full growth her bodily eyes were never to see.

Under The Shadow of the Almighty

A Moment In Time



Celebrating the 130th Anniversary of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters 1894 – 2024 Radiating the Mystery God's Love

God's goodness was so evident in the early life of the congregation with the generosity of people who gave their services to the sisters. A great friend and benefactor was **Very Reverend George Borneman**, pastor of St. Paul's in Reading, a man of great vision, keen social interests. His great apostolic soul discerned the future possibilities for the spread of God's kingdom through the community. He was Mother Veronica's chief advisor and fatherly protector during all those years. In August 24, 1905, Monsignor Borneman gifted the sisters with a ten acre parcel of land. On the first of September of the same year, Mother Veronica bought five adjoining acres from the owners Monsignor Borneman and Mr. Owen paying the purchase value of \$1500. in cash. It was on this plot that Mother Veronica had Sacred Heart Convent built. The convent was planned according to the suggestions of Mother Veronica and Mother Frances, but the supervision of the building was carried out by Monsignor Borneman. Mother Veronica placed her complete trust in his fatherly protection and Monsignor Borneman served her faithfully. The dedication ceremony of the convent was carried out on the feast of Saint Clare on August 12, 1907 by Monsignor .Borneman to whom the community owed so much.

Under the Shadow of the Almighty

