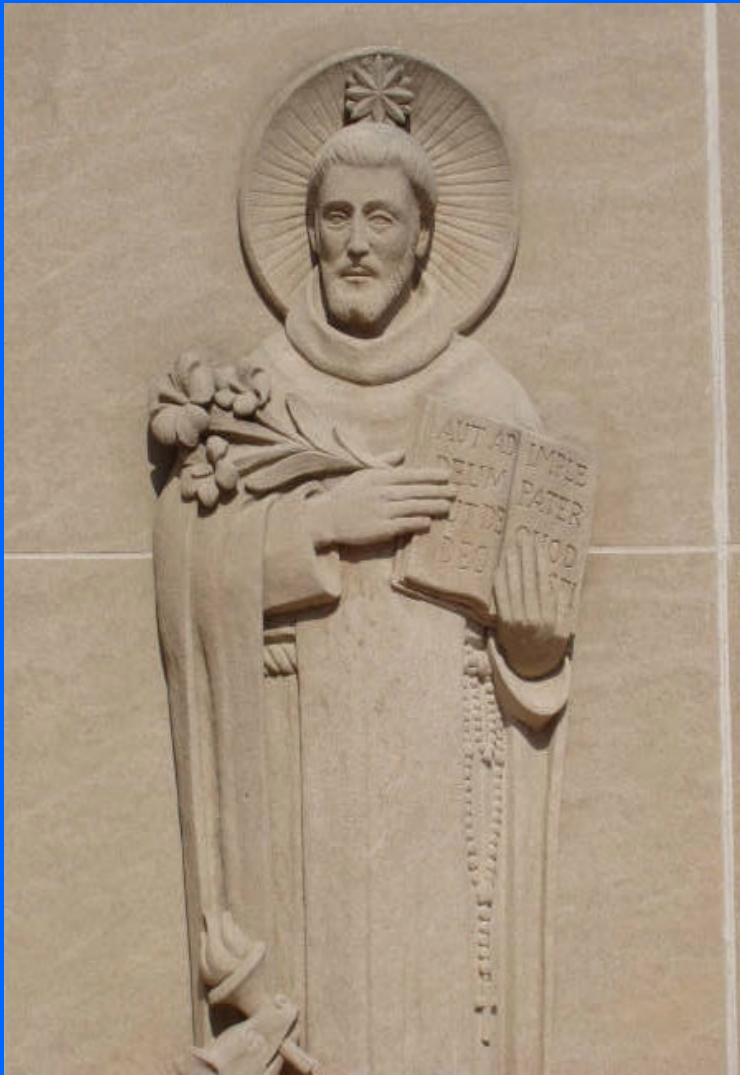


Our Heritage

Mount Saint Mary College

Bishop Dunn Memorial School



It all began 800 years ago when a man named Dominic Guzman began the Dominican Order in France.

Saint Dominic sent these sisters to preach and teach about God all over the world.



In 1883, a small group of brave Dominican sisters left their convent in Manhattan and traveled up the Hudson River to Newburgh on the steamer, *The Mary Powell*. Their mission was to open an elementary school for the children of Saint Mary's parish.



Soon the sisters' reputation for academic excellence became legendary. They had outgrown the existing buildings on the property, so they opened a new Academy in 1927 called Greater Mount Saint Mary. It served as a high school. A storehouse was rebuilt as the Casa San Jose and it served as the elementary school. Mount Saint Mary College opened in 1960.

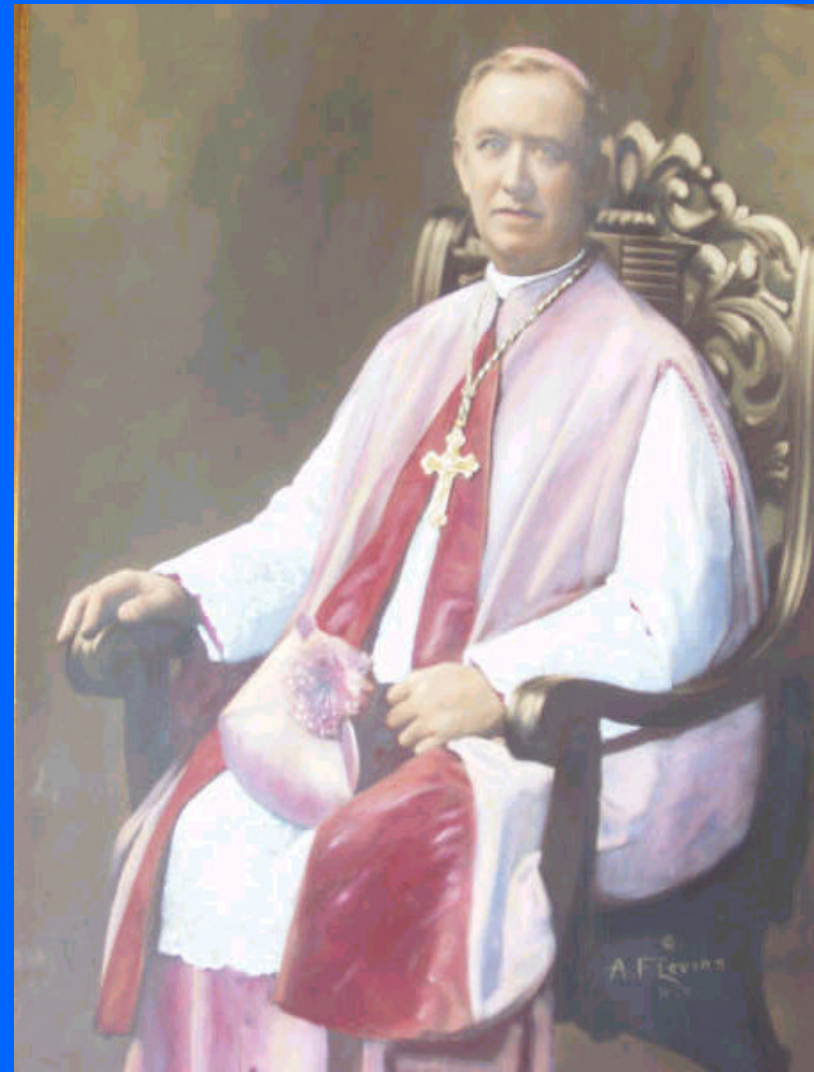


In 1950, the children attending the Casa San Jose moved into a new building named Bishop Dunn Memorial School after a benefactor and great friend to the sisters, Bishop John Joseph Dunn.

Who was Bishop Dunn?

Why is your school named after him?

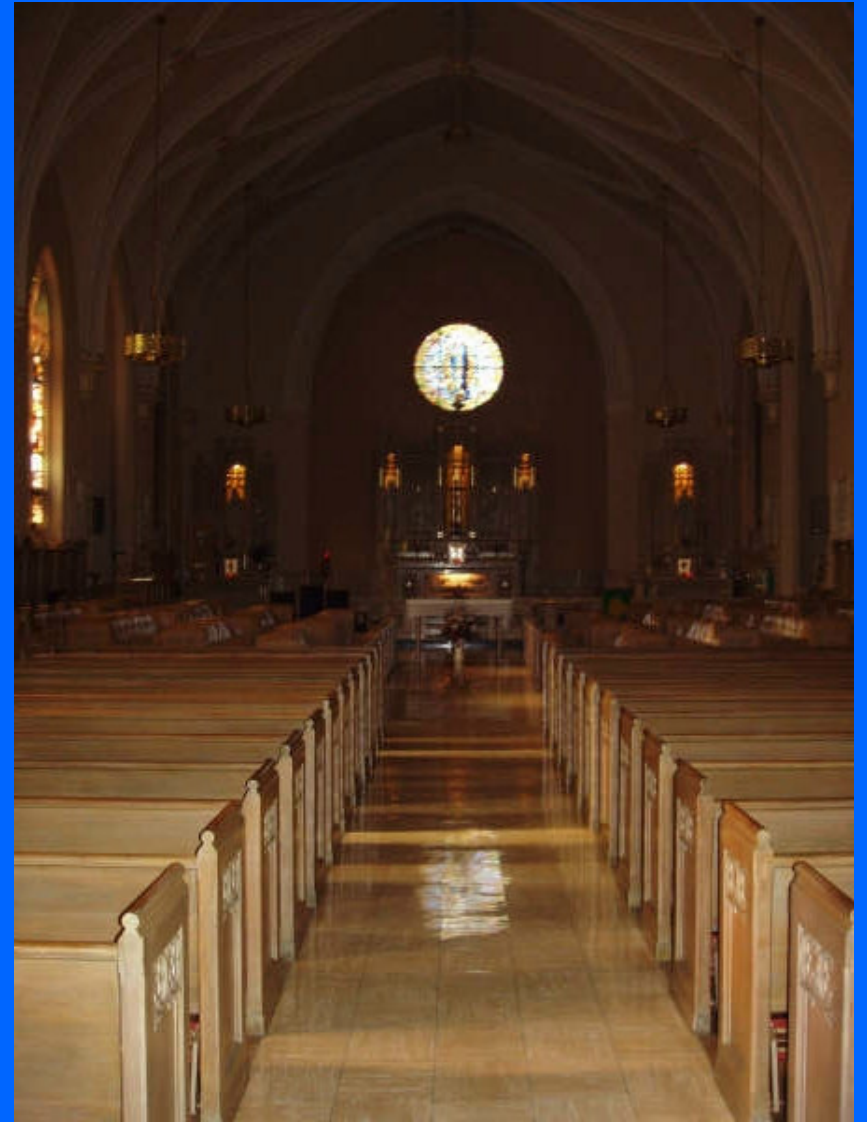
Here is a little review of his life. He was a great man, who was not only a prince of the Church, but also an outstanding citizen.



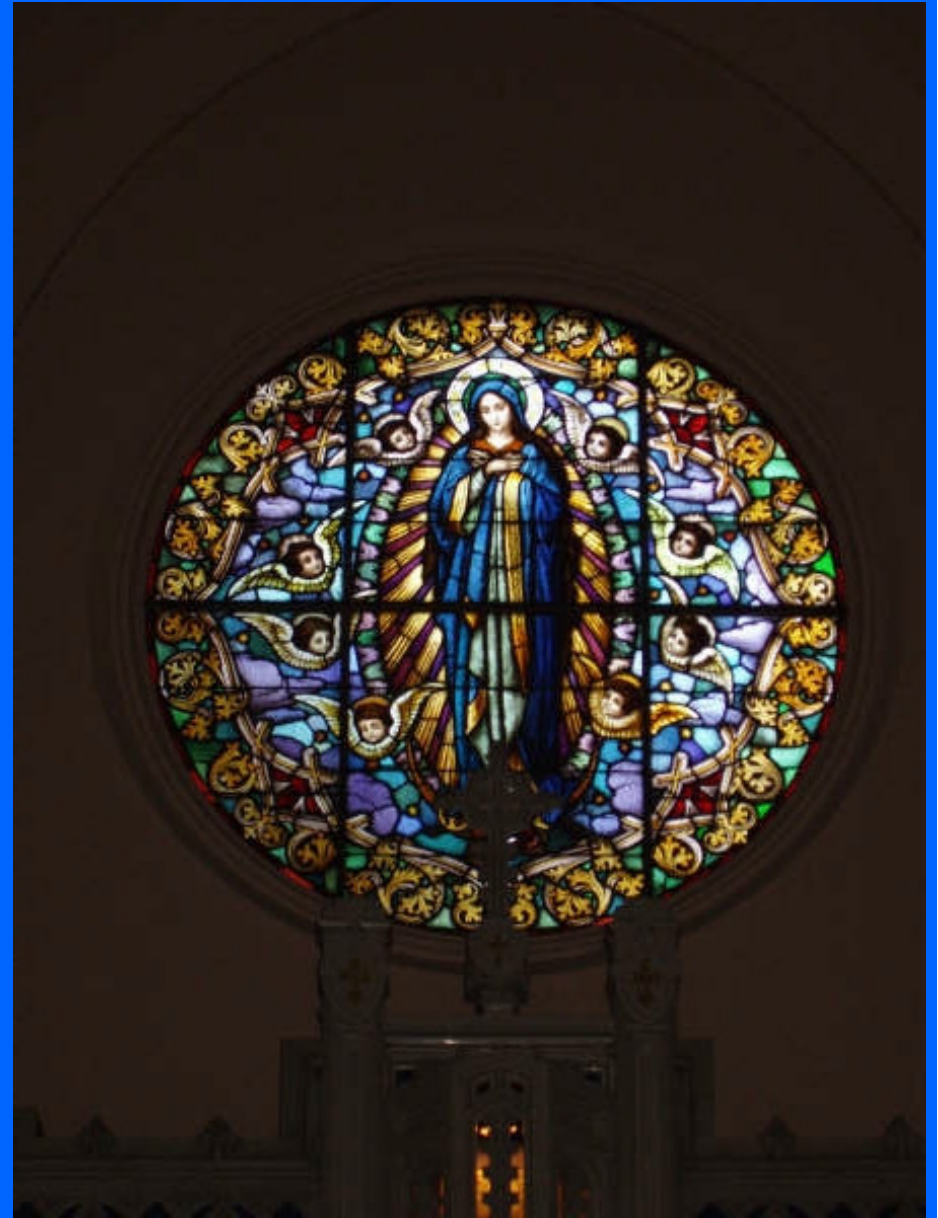


Bishop Dunn was born in New York City. As a boy, he attended his parish school and went on to St. Francis Xavier's College. He then went to the seminary and was ordained a priest at St. Patrick's Cathedral on May 30th, 1896.

Later, as Auxiliary Bishop of New York, he helped many people especially in the Foreign Missions. He loved the Mount and many children who went to school at Mount Saint Mary Academy received First Holy Communion and Confirmation from his hands. At one of the last Confirmations, he addressed the children with these words: “You will not be called upon to die for Christ, but to live for Him. Let His truths be evident in your acts, in your love of God and your fellow men, every day of your lives.”

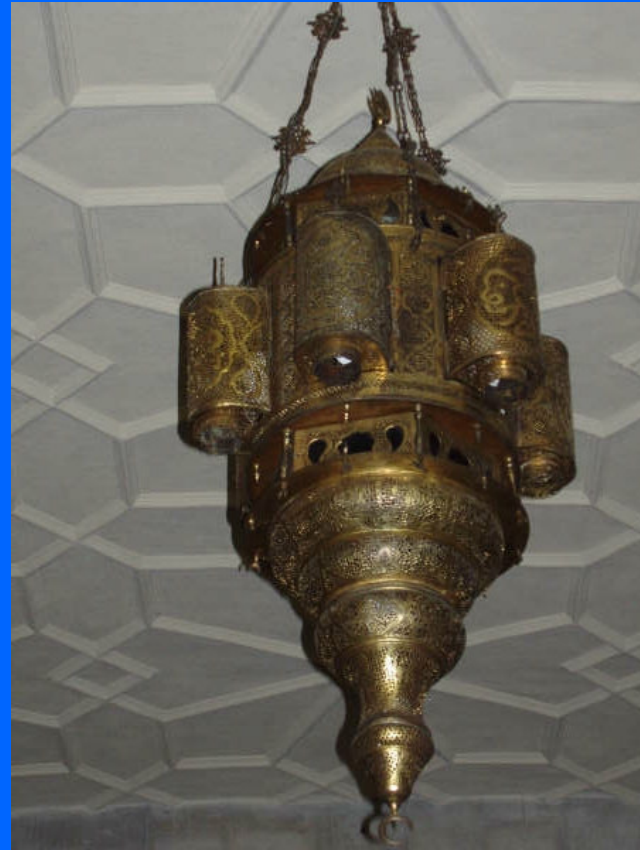


Many more occasions of his life could be brought to your attention, but here are a few very important things which we can see and which may be reminders of him during the time we attend this school in his memory. In the main chapel of the old high school, directly above the altar, is a Rose Window dedicated to our Lady and her Immaculate Conception. He donated that to the Sisters.





The Shrine of Our Lady to the left of the Main Altar is also his gift. The crucifix above the tabernacle was carved from an ivory tusk which had been given Bishop Dunn by natives of the Foreign Missions.



The hammered brass lamp in the vestibule of the main building was a gift to Bishop Dunn from the Catholic Armenians of New York, whom he helped a great deal when they first came to America.



The statue of Our Lady which stands outside the main building was taken from the front yard of Annunciation Rectory in New York City and given to us.

Bishop Dunn suffered a heart attack and died on the last day of August in 1933. He asked to be buried in the sister's cemetery at Mount Saint Mary College. His body is resting there now by the granite monument given in his memory by Cardinal Hayes, a close friend.



We are privileged to come to this institution of learning. This building is but a link in a chain that reaches from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast. Its foundations have been planted deep in the soil of our beloved land. Bishop Dunn would say to us, “Only those who serve God best are capable of serving their country best.”



May the spirit of Bishop Dunn hover over this building, protecting the children who attend school here, and watching their progress through life. Let us once in a while say a prayer for our benefactor and friend. Let us try to remember something of his full and generous life. Let us ask him to bless our school and all who are under its protecting wings.

