

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

other names/site number VDHR # 121-0032

2. Location

street & number 230 33rd Street

not for publication N/A

city or town Newport News (Independent City)

vicinity N/A

state Virginia code VA county Newport News (Independent City)

code 700 zip code 23607

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain) _____

VLR 3/16/15
NRHP 6/2/15

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing		Non-contributing	
3	0	buildings	
1	0	sites	
0	1	structures	
0	0	objects	
4	1	Total	

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
—

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGIOUS: church
RELIGIOUS: church-related residence
DOMESTIC: secondary structure
FUNERARY: grave
LANDSCAPE: object

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGIOUS: church
RELIGIOUS: church-related residence
DOMESTIC: garage
FUNERARY: grave statuary
LALNDSCAPE: picnic shelter

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)
LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS:Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation BRICK
walls BRICK
roof SLATE SHINGLE
other Porch GRANITE
other Windows STAINED GLASS

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Section number 7 Continuation Sheet page 1

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record# _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

RELIGION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1916 - 1917

Significant Dates

1916-1917

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Carl Ruehrmund--Architect
-Contractor

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .67 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>372523</u>	<u>4093759</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Horner

organization Consultant

date 19 July 2004

street & number P.O. Box 7431

telephone 804-355-9460

city or town Richmond

state VA zip code 23221-0421

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Catholic Diocese of Richmond, Virginia

street & number 230 33rd Street

telephone (757) 245-4234

city or town Newport News

state Virginia zip code 23607

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 200137127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (10240018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032)
Newport News (Independent City), VA**

Section Number 7 **Page** 1

Summary Description:

Saint Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church, designed by the architect Carl Ruehrmund (1855-1927) and built in 1916-1917, is a 1½-story, brick, Classical Revival-style, longitudinal-plan church. The church complex is located in an urban setting in Newport News, Virginia. The church fronts northwest on 33rd Street with a grassed setback to the front, low concrete retaining walls along public sidewalks, and a chain link fence around the perimeter of the lot. The rectory is sited southwest of the church building with a landscaped prayer garden and open picnic shelter adjacent to the dwelling and a garage southwest of the dwelling. The church is in good condition. A new wooden altar was installed in 1972 and other interior changes have also been made since the church's completion in 1917. The most notable changes date to the period immediately following Vatican Council II. The impact of these liturgical changes affected Roman Catholic churches nationwide. There are two additional contributing buildings included in this nomination: A 1917 brick rectory located slightly southwest and adjacent to the church also facing on 33rd Street as well as the 1917 brick garage.

Inventory of Resources:

1. Main Church Building, 1916-1917, contributing building
2. Rectory, 1917, contributing building
3. Garage, 1917, contributing building
4. Prayer Garden, contributing site
5. Picnic Shelter, **non-contributing structure**

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Newport News (Independent City), VA**Section Number 7 Page 2 **Detailed Description:**

Saint Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church, designed by the architect Carl Ruehrmund (1855-1927) and built in 1916-1917, is a 1½-story, brick, longitudinal-plan church. The church is an excellent example of Classical Revival-style architecture typical of the American Renaissance, usually framed by the years 1876-1917. In architectural terms the American Renaissance was expressed in buildings with a clear relation to great works of the past through the use of domes, triumphal arches, the classical orders, colonnades, and temple fronts. In keeping with this tradition, the front of the church contains a pedimented portico with four fluted Corinthian columns. The church rests on a raised foundation with water table. Straight granite steps with a solid railing in front, rise from ground level to the four large fluted Roman Corinthian columns of the portico. There are two engaged piers with Corinthian capitals on each corner of the wall surface at the front of the portico.

The church narthax is entered through one of three double-leaf paneled wood doors with transoms and pedimented frames that open on the interior vestibule. Above the three doors are three arched, stained glass windows. Narrower arched stained glass windows decorated with keystones and separated by pilasters flank the front doors and span the sides of the building. A flat-roofed 1-bay extension is sited on either side of the pedimented portico. A full neoclassical entablature spans the cornice line. The vestibule contains a stair on its left and a restroom (previously the baptistery) on the right. One enters the sanctuary through one of three double-leaf paneled wood doors with shouldered architraves. At the end of the nave is a round apse (where the main altar used to be located) flanked by two altars with marble statues. An altar to the Virgin Mary is on the collect side and the Altar to Joseph is sited on the epistle side of the apse. Behind the altars are a storage room and sacristy.

The sanctuary contains marble wainscot, a coffered ceiling, modillion cornice, oak pews, Stations of the Cross, and statues of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Anthony of Padua. The balcony contains the organ and a choir changing room. Elaborate earth-toned stenciled panels and murals dress the interior of the sanctuary. Geometric and filigree designs are mixed throughout. This is most evident in the central recessed diamond ceiling panel. A unique modified Greek-key pattern is painted in the frieze board of the entablature below the coved ceiling. The elliptical rondels and bell flower chain filigree create lyre like scrollwork details in recessed pilaster panels. These designs are reminiscent of Fourth-style Roman wall paintings found in the House of the Vetii, Popeii. Angel's heads are incorporated in the Corinthian capitals of the pilasters. Recessed lights in the cove create the illusion of hidden light and the Stations of the Cross are supported on the wings of angles.

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Some painting details were lost over time. The apse was once decorated with elaborate geometric motifs and the recessed cove once hosted scrolls alternating with fleur-de-lis. These original stenciled details deteriorated over time and the congregation could not afford to have them restored. Fortunately the Roman inspired stenciling of the recessed ceiling panels as well as the ceiling of the apse with the mural of God and Trinity and the mural of St. Cecilia in the ceiling over the balcony remain intact. Additional murals include The Adoration, Jesus as Child with Holy Family, and an extremely intriguing Crucifixion that marries a full in-the-round painted plaster crucifixion with a two dimensional eclipse and the Ascension. The Crucifixion is on the southwest wall of the nave in a niche over the entry into the Winter Chapel. The Winter Chapel is sited along the southwest wall of the church acting as a hyphen joining the church and the rectory.

As with all Catholic churches following liturgical changes wrought by Vatican Council II the main altar and winter chapel were modified. Saint Vincent de Paul retained the reconciliation rooms largely unaltered in their original locations at the rear of the nave.

A door on the right side of the nave leads to the Winter chapel. The chapel contains arched stained-glass windows, dark-stained chair rail, and modillion cornice. A hall from the winter chapel leads to the rectory.

The rectory and garage, completed in 1917, also contribute to the historic character of the building complex. The rectory reflects the neoclassical design of the church. It is 2 ½ stories tall with a 1-bay portico containing a flat roof and upper-level balustrade. The building has a pyramidal hip roof with wide overhang. An open deck runs the width of the building on either side of the portico and is enclosed with a short wood balustrade containing straight pickets. The front door has stained-glass sidelights and transom. On either side of the front door is an engaged fluted pilaster. Each of the 9 over 1 wood windows on the first floor is capped with an inset brick arch and stone keystone. A stone belt course runs the perimeter at the bottom of the second-floor windows. A 5-sided, two-story bay is located at the west elevation. French doors from the parlor and dining room lead onto the bay's first level. This first level of the bay is actually an open porch with a short balustrade between brick posts similar to that on the front of the building. The house has working wood panel-and-louver shutters. The dormer windows have lattice muntins. There are 3 dormers on the front, 1 on the right side and 1 on the left side.

On the inside, the first floor of the rectory contains a central hall with open-string stair containing turned balusters. The parlor and dining room are on the right side of the hall. Three rooms suitable for offices are on the left side of the hall. The entry to the parlor from both the hall and dining room is characterized by the presence of fluted Tuscan

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columns and pilasters. A kitchen spans the rear of the building. The upstairs (with 5 bedrooms, 1 sitting room and 3 full baths) was originally used for the priests' and maids' apartments; they now are used for classrooms and storage. The housekeeper's room originally contained the back stair which has been removed. The rooms contain 1960s paneling and dropped ceilings. The side bay on this floor is an enclosed porch with jalousie windows. The stair to the attic level is open string with turned balusters.

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church is architecturally significant as one of the most prominent landmarks in downtown Newport News. The neoclassical design of the church is perfectly complemented by the Colonial Revival design of the rectory. Saint Vincent de Paul is unique. The building is a well preserved example of the types of churches constructed in the early twentieth century. More significantly this is a vital and growing inner-city Catholic congregation. The congregation is actively involved with the impoverished community. They provide hot meals, a free grocery, warm clothes and shelter. Members of the congregation travel as much as 120 miles round trip to attend services and volunteer their time. The congregation crosses all socio-economic and cultural boundaries ranging from state and local leaders to the homeless. The church continues to thrive and nurture this inner-city community at a time when the Catholic church is facing monumental challenges and most inner-city congregations are desperately struggling to survive.

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Summary Statement of Significance

St. Vincent de Paul Church is an excellent example of Classical Revival-style architecture typical of the American Renaissance, and is culturally significant as home to the oldest Roman Catholic Parish in Newport News, Virginia. The church is historically significant as one of the earliest congregations in Newport News with its establishment downtown in 1881 as a mission. Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church is locally significant because it parallels the history of the City of Newport News, Virginia. The church is socially significant for its establishment of two parochial schools in downtown Newport News that shaped leaders of the Catholic community. Saint Vincent de Paul is also significant for its association with Thomas Fortune Ryan and his wife, Ida Mary Barry Ryan. Ryan, a native Virginian, noted financier and patron of the arts, donated more than twenty million dollars to Roman Catholic causes throughout his life. Thomas Fortune Ryan and his wife, Ida Mary Berry Ryan, donated the original convent and girls school. Though the convent and girls' school were demolished, the Ryan's association with this church typifies the tradition of patronage so closely related to the American Renaissance. Saint Vincent de Paul is eligible for the National Register under criterion A as the earliest Roman Catholic Church in Newport News, Virginia. The church is also eligible under criterion A because the Ryan's gift of the church school and convent is representative of the monumental benefactions to churches and universities by the barons of American industry and finance at the turn of the 20th century. St. Vincent's is also eligible under criterion A on the local level due to its association with Father Lloyd Franklin Stephenson (b.1954-d.2004), the first African-American pastor of the parish. The church is also eligible under criterion C as an excellent example of the American Renaissance and the work of German trained architect Carl Ruehrmund.

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Historical Background

St. Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church was established as a mission in 1881 in downtown Newport News, Virginia. Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church is locally significant because it parallels the history of the City of Newport News. The church is also significant for its establishment of two parochial schools in downtown Newport News as well as its association with Thomas Fortune Ryan and his wife, Ida Mary Berry Ryan, who donated the original convent and girls' school. Though the convent and girls' school were demolished, the Ryans' association with this church typifies the tradition of patronage so closely related to the American Renaissance.

The history of Newport News, like that of Old Wythe and Hampton, has always been connected to the waterfront even though, for most of its history, the city was a rural agricultural region. Following the Civil War streetcars were common in larger urban areas. John S. Darling introduced them in Hampton in 1888 with the Hampton and Old Point Railway Company initially laid out to connect Hampton with Old Point. By 1890 additional track was laid to connect Hampton with Newport News and the Old Soldier's Home. On the end points of the streetcar line to Newport News was the shipyard operated by the owner of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, Collis P. Huntington. The shipyard and railroad provided large numbers of well-paid jobs for both skilled and unskilled labor. The success of the shipyard provided stable jobs which created a demand for housing and growth.

In 1881, the economy of the entire area, which was to later become the city of Newport News, was based primarily on farming and fishing; and depended on transportation by water. Mr. Collis P. Huntington's extension of the lines of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway to deep water at Hampton Roads marked the inception of Newport News both as a port and as an urban community. Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church parallels the history of the City of Newport News, Virginia when, in 1881, Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Lohman moved to Newport News from Richmond. The Lohman's met with thirty Catholics in their house at 201 23rd and organized them into Saint Vincent de Paul Parish. St. Vincent's was the third major religious denomination to become established in Newport News and the second Catholic Church on the Peninsula. By 1890 Newport News had her first rail lines and Saint Vincent's had its first resident pastor.

In 1881 St. Vincent de Paul Parish was organized in Newport News as a mission of the St. Mary's Star of the Sea church at Old Point Comfort. Charles E. Donahoe became

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the first resident pastor in 1890. Construction of the first church began on the east side of Washington Avenue between 33rd and 34th Streets in 1891. The 1-story frame building with gas lighting and gas-heated radiators was connected to a separate 1-story building on the north elevation. By 1887, a 2-story frame rectory had been added at the southeast corner of 34th Street and Washington Avenue.

In 1902 the church constructed a boys' school operated by the Xaverian Brothers at 35th Street and Virginia Avenue (Warwick Boulevard). A convent and girls' school at 34th and Virginia Avenue (Warwick Boulevard) were added to the church's holdings by 1903. The convent and girls' school were donated by Ida Mary Berry Ryan.

In May of 1916 a groundbreaking ceremony was held for construction of a new church and rectory on 33rd Street. The architect for the building was Carl Ruehrmund of Richmond. Ruehrmund, a native of Germany, had studied architecture and engineering at the Royal Academy of Architecture in Berlin before emigrating to the United States in 1881. On May 17, 1917, the first mass was celebrated in the new church. During World War I the old church and rectory were used by the Red Cross for relief services. By 1918, the buildings had been turned over to the Knights of Columbus. In 1929, the boys' school closed; students there were transferred to the girls' school. In December 1930 a new school was completed to add to the existing convent and school building at 34th and Virginia Avenue (Warwick Boulevard). The school later became known as Peninsula Catholic High School. During World War II, the evergreen hedge in front of the church was replaced with a chain link fence; the lamp posts in front of the church were removed and the railing on the front steps of the church was added. According to parishioners: "In 1945 a team of New York professionals conducted repairs and interior decorating." By 1946 the church had 2,000 communicants.

In 1968, as a result of Vatican policy changes, the pulpit, communion rail, winter chapel altar, and baptismal font were removed. The St. Vincent's and St. Alphonsus (located on Marshall Avenue) congregations merged in 1970. In 1972, the original main altar was removed and replaced with a wood altar. The 1970s renovations to the church included: replacing a number of the marble slabs on the side walls of the church; replacing the gutters with new copper gutters; replacing portions of the church roof; covering the rectory soffits with aluminum siding; waterproofing the masonry of the entire complex; and renovating the rectory kitchen (including removing the back stair). In the 1980s the baptistry at the right front corner of the church was modified into a restroom; the church's stained-glass windows were covered with Lexan; the 2nd-floor priest's apartment in the rectory was converted to classrooms; and the outdoor open-

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sided picnic pavilion was added. Today the rectory serves as offices, kitchen, and entertaining space on the first floor and classroom space on the second floor. In 1990 membership included 340 households.

St. Vincent de Paul Church built in 1916-1917 is historically significant as one of the earliest congregations in Newport News with its establishment downtown in 1881 as a mission. The church is also significant for its establishment of two parochial schools in downtown Newport News as well as its association with Thomas Fortune Ryan and his wife, Ida Mary Berry Ryan, who donated the original convent and girls' school. Though the convent and girls' school were demolished the Ryan's association with this church typifies the tradition of patronage so closely related to the American Renaissance. Saint Vincent de Paul stands alone as a testament to an earlier age. The church continues to thrive and nurture this inner-city community at a time when the catholic church is facing monumental challenges and most inner-city congregations are desperately struggling to survive.

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Geographic Information

Verbal Boundary Description

The property of Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church is identified on the enclosed tax parcel map copy for the City of Newport News as T.M. 30503(02)-32 and T.M. 30503(02)-27.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the following historic components of the Saint Vincent de Paul Parish: church, rectory and garage building which are identified as tax parcels 30503(02)-32 and 30503(02)-27.

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Section Number Photo List **Page** 11

Photographic Index

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Property: Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church; 121-0032
Location: Newport News (Independent City), Virginia
Photographer: Susan G. Horner
Date: 19 July 2004
Negatives filed: Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Negative Number: 21635

- 1 of 12 Interior Rear View: Center Aisle and Organ Detail
- 2 of 12 Interior View: Ceiling Detail with Light and Roman Inspired Decorative Elements
- 3 of 12 Interior Front View: Apse End with Altar
- 4 of 12 Interior View: Windows and Stations of the Cross Detail
- 5 of 12 Interior Collect Side Front View: Altar of the Virgin Mary
- 6 of 12 Interior Epistle Side Front View: Altar of Joseph
- 7 of 12 Interior Detail: Saint Vincent de Paul with Child (Nave)
- 8 of 12 Interior Detail: Saint Vincent de Paul with Child (Balcony)
- 9 of 12 Exterior View: Front View of Church from Northwest Corner
- 10 of 12 Exterior View: Church Complex
- 11 of 12 Exterior View: Front View of Rectory (Parish House)
- 12 of 12 Exterior View: Rear View from Northeast Corner

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**Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032)
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**CHRONOLOGY OF SAINT VINCENT de PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
AND PARISH
CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA**

- 1820 Original Diocese of Richmond established. Diocese boundaries included entire Commonwealth of Virginia and West Virginia.
(Saint Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church. Commemorating the Centennial of St. Vincent de Paul Church: Newport News, Virginia 1881-1981. Newport News, Virginia: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1981., 11)
- 1820 First Bishop, Right Reverend Patrick Kelly, DD, former President of Birchfield College, Ireland was posted to Virginia. Kelly resided in Norfolk.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 11)
- 1855 October 14
At the first Diocesan Synod Saint Vincent de Paul was chosen Patron Saint of the Diocese.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 12)
- 1855 ca Saint Mary, Star of the Sea, Fortress Monroe, Virginia was the original home of the Roman Catholic Church on the Peninsula.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 12)
- 1881 ca Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Lohmann, Sr. moved to Newport News from Richmond. With thirty Catholics they organized Saint Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church that same year.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 14)
- 1881 ca Saint Vincent de Paul became the second Roman Catholic Church on the Peninsula and third major religious denomination in Newport News, Virginia.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 14)
- 1881 ca Saint Vincent de Paul became a mission of Saint Mary's, Fort Monroe, under Father Thomas J. Murray; and later under Father Thomas J. Mercer; offering mass at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lohmann.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 14)
- 1881-1891 ca Fathers Francis X. McCarty and Richard A. Drake commuted to Newport News during the first ten years to minister to Saint Vincent de Paul parishioners.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 14)

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- 1890 March 30
Bishop Van de Vyver was petitioned by the parishioners for a permanent priest.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 16)
- 1890 April
Father Richard Drake was assigned to the mission.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 16)
- 1890 April 20
The first baptism was officiated by Father Richard Drake. The infant, Mary Hughes, was attended by parents Patrick and Catherine Hughes and sponsored by John Tighe and Mary Watson.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 16)
- 1890 ca Father Drake resided in Richmond, Virginia, and said Mass at Saint Vincent de Paul on the first and third Sundays of the month at Johnson's Hall, and later in the original Baptist Chapel which stood at the northwest corner of Washington Avenue and 30th Street.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 16)
- 1890 ca Reverend Charles E. Donahoe, a native of Richmond, Virginia, succeeded Father Drake becoming the mission's first resident pastor.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 16)
- 1891 February
Construction of the first church was begun on Washington Avenue near 34th Street.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 16)
- 1891 A Richmond, Virginia, firm was awarded the contract for construction of the church. Parishioners assisted with much of the physical labor.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 16)
- 1891 April 5
The first Mass was celebrated in the new church building.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 16)
- 1891 ca The Sanctuary Society, the first Parish organization, was organized with Mrs. Lohmann, Annie Hogan (sister of Mrs. Lohmann), Bessie French, and Mary Desmond as charter members.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 16)

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- 1891 October 31
The first Nuptial Mass was officiated by Father Charles E. Donahoe. Michael A. Hickey and Louise Heider were wed with Joseph Melvin and Theresa Motto as witnesses.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 16)
- 1891 ca First deaths were recorded.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 16)
- 1892 January 1
Saint Vincent de Paul hosted approximately 175 parishioners and the Williamsburg and Smithfield Missions hosted 12 parishioners.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 16)
- 1893 January 1
Saint Vincent de Paul hosted approximately 325 parishioners.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 17)
- 1893 The first choir was organized by Mr. A. E. Monge with Miss Ann O'Donohoe, of Pheobus, Virginia, as organist. Miss Mary Desmond succeeded Miss O'Donohoe.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 17)
- 1895 Summer
Construction began on the rectory. Prior to completion of the rectory Father Donahoe resided in a two-room cottage adjacent to the church and took meals with the Lohmanns.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 17)
- 1896 June 16
Newport News was incorporated as a city with a population in excess of 9,000.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 17)
- 1896 ca Charles W. Lohmann, Sr. was a member of the original Newport News City Council.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 17)
- 1897 September 27
The rectory was completed.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 17)
- 1900 Saint Vincent de Paul hosted approximately 1,000 parishioners with 25 parishioners in Smithfield and Williamsburg missions. One hundred children attended Sunday school in the parish, the Knights of Columbus (Council 511) and the Ladies Auxiliary of The Catholic Benevolent Association were organized.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 18)

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- 1902 ca Father Donahoe was succeeded by the Reverend Thomas J. Wilson and his assistant the Reverend Father Lawrence Kelly.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 18)
- 1902 ca The Xaverian Brothers open the Saint Vincent's Boys' Academy at 35th Street and Virginia Avenue (now Warwick Boulevard). First through seventh grade were offered with an optional commercial program in grades 8 and 9. Four to five Brothers routinely staffed the school.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 18)
- 1903 October 2
Four Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky arrived in in Newport News to establish a school for girls. Sister Charlotte (Superior); Sisters Frances, Agnes Sienna and Lorenza. Sister Mary de Paul, the music teacher, arrived later in the month bringing the number of Sisters to five.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 18)
- 1903 October 5
Saint Vincent de Paul School opened. The red brick school was a gift of Mrs. Thomas Fortune Ryan [Ida Mary Berry Ryan]. The Ryans were New York and Virginia philanthropists.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 18)
- 1903 One-hundred four girls enrolled in the school. Mrs. Harry King of Saint Vincent de Paul Parish was a member of the original class.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 18)
- 1903 Public school books were used until Catholic textbooks could be procured. Father Wilson donated books form the church library and with a borrowed \$60, the school library was started.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 18)
- 1904 The four Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky, moved into the convent building also donated by Mrs. Thomas Fortune Ryan.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 21)
- 1905 The Reverend Joseph Frioli succeeded Father Wilson. Reverend F. J. Lucke and Reverend John J. Massey served as assistants to Father Frioli.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 21)

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- 1905 The following additional parish organizations were established: The Solidity of the Blessed Virgin, The Holy Name Society--Senior and Junior, Saint Vincent de Paul Society, and The Mission Society.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 21)
- 1910 The Saint Vincent de Paul School held its first graduation. Graduates included Katherine Eakins, Anna Carvil and Anna G. Folan.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 21)
- 1912 The Reverend Thomas E. Waters temporarily succeeded Father Joseph Frioli.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 21)
- 1912 Father David Francis Coleman became the permanent Parish priest. Father Coleman was born in Petersburg, Virginia, on December 12, 1873. Coleman was ordained to the Priesthood upon completion of his ecclesiastical studies at St. Charles College and St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Maryland, August 14, 1898.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 21)
- 1916 May
Ground was broken for the Church and Rectory on 33rd Street, Newport News, Virginia.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 23)
- 1917 May 27
The first Mass in the new church was officiated by Father Coleman.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 23)
- 1917 May 27
The first baptism in the new church was officiated by Father John J. Massey. Baptized were infants Mary Jane Mecleod and Leonard Cornelius Richardson. Mecleod was attended by parents Alexander and Anna Boyle Mecleod and sponsored by Sarah and William Balmer. Richardson was attended by parents Henry H. and Elizabeth Roth Richardson and sponsored by Leonard Roth, Ann Healy and by proxy: Margaret Healy.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 23)
- 1917 May
May Procession took place at 5 p.m.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 23)
- 1917 June 3
The new Church was dedicated. Bishop O'Connell was present for the dedication and the Richmond Choir sang High Mass.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 23)

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- 1919 Father Leonard J. Koster succeeded Father John J. Massey.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 28)
- 1924 Father Francis J. Byrne succeeded Father Koster, serving from 1924-28.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 28)
- 1928 Father E. W. Johnson succeeded Father Koster, serving from 1928-33.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 28)
- 1929 June
Xaverian Brothers closed Saint Vincent's Boys' Academy.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 32)
- 1930 January
Bishop O'Connell authorized construction of a new Catholic school for boys and girls.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 32)
- 1931 January 4
The school, completed in December 1930, was dedicated by Bishop Andrew J. Brennan.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 32)
- 1932 December 16
Father Coleman expired. Coleman was the first priest to die in the City of Newport News.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 32)
- 1932 December 17
Newport News City Council met in Special Session to pass a "special ordinance" permitting interment of Father Coleman's remains alongside the Church and Rectory.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 33)
- 1932 December 20
Solemn High Requiem Mass was celebrated by Bishop Andrew James Brennan. Father James A. Brennan, of Richmond, delivered the eulogy. Music for the mass was provided by a priests' choir, directed by Father Francis J. Byrne, a former assistant to Father Coleman.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 34)
- 1933 January
Parish census shows three-hundred families as members; for a total of one-thousand parishioners.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 34)

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- 1933 January
The Reverend William A. Gill, Pastor, St. Mary's, Fort Monroe, Virginia became Pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul. Father Gill was a native of Goochland County, Virginia.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 36)
- 1933 October 14
The Reverend Carrol T. Dozier succeeded Father Widmer. Father Dozier was ordained in March 1937 and Saint Vincent de Paul was his first mission.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 36)
- 1941 August
Father Dozier was reassigned to Saint Joseph's, Petersburg, Virginia. The Reverend A. Preston Campbell was appointed Assistant Pastor.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 38)
- 1942 ca World War II caused an influx of military personnel to the port of embarkation in Newport News, Virginia. Sunday Mass was offered in the Coca Cola Building, 32nd Street and Huntington Avenue, to accommodate the large increase in military personnel. The additional mass supplemented the regularly scheduled four masses held at 6:00 a.m. (to accommodate the shipbuilders), 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 10:30 a.m.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 38)
- 1943 November 22
Investiture ceremony was held at Saint Vincent de Paul for Father Gill. Father Gill was invested as Domestic Prelate of the Papal Household, with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 38)
- 1949 September 22
Father John T. Cilinski succeeded Father Campbell as the Assistant Pastor and Director of the Home Bureau.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 41)
- 1951 January
Father John J. McMahon succeeded Father Campbell as Assistant Pastor and Director of the Home Bureau.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 41)

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- 1955 September
 Father Donfred Stockert succeeded Father McMahon as Assistant Pastor and Director of the Home Bureau.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 43)
- 1956 January 18
 Saint Vincent's Council of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women inaugurated by directive of the Bishop.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 43)
- 1959 July
 Father Paul T. Gaughan succeeded Father Stockert and assumed directorship of the Home Bureau.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 44)
- 1960 June
 Ownership of the school transfer to the Diocese. The name of the school was changed to Saint Vincent's Central High School to emphasize that it was a Peninsula facility rather than a parish facility. Saint Vincent's Parish retained use of the facility for religious education and parish functions.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 44)
- 1961 October 28
 Monsignor Gill expired. A Solemn High Requiem Mass was offered at Saint Vincent de Paul. Father Frank J. Hendrick, Associate Pastor, was appointed Administrator of the Parish.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 45)
- 1961 ca The original girls' school building and Sisters' convent building, both donated by Mrs. Thomas Fortune Ryan, were sold outside the parish. The buildings were subsequently demolished.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 46)
- 1962 May
 The Reverend Robert O. Hickman became Pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul. Father F. Allen Grant, Assistant.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 47)
- 1962 September
 Father Frank J. Ready was also assigned as Assistant and Director of the Home Bureau.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 47)

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- 1965 August
Father Don Michael Hanna was appointed Assistant and Director of the Home Bureau.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 47)
- 1966 Saint Vincent Central High School was renamed Peninsula Catholic High School.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 47)
- 1966 June
Father James M. Noto was appointed Assistant Pastor and succeeded Father Hanna as Director of the Home Bureau. Father Noto organized the Parish Council; committee chairmen were appointed. Lectors and cantors were added.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 47)
- 1966 December 11
Sunday, December 11, 1966, marked the 85th Anniversary of the founding of Saint Vincent de Paul parish and the 50th Anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone for the current church building. Mass of Gaudete with the Principal Concelebrant the Most Reverend John J. Russell Gaughan and concelebrants: Reverend John T. Cilinski, Reverend John J. McMahon, Reverend Paul T. Gaughan, Reverend Frank J. Hendrick and Homilist, Right Reverend Monsignor Francis J. Byrne, Master of Ceremonies, Reverend Thomas Shreve.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 49)
- 1968 August
St. Alphonsus to be merged with Saint Vincent de Paul; St. Alphonsus was established March, 19, 1944. Father Thomas B. Gunner, of the Redemptorist Fathers, formed St. Alphonsus with a group of zealous members of the Apostolate. The group met in a small frame house at the foot of Marshall Avenue, Newport News, Virginia.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 51)
- 1968 August
Bishop Russell implemented the recommendations of the Search Committee he had appointed. The committee recommended consolidation of the four Peninsula parishes into two units. Under the reorganization plan, St. Alphonsus would be merged with Saint Vincent de Paul, with the former operated as a mission.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 51)
- 1968 September 3
Father Edward L. Tobin succeeded Father Hickman. Father Tobin was the former Pastor of St. Joseph's, Buckroe Beach, Virginia. Father Joseph A. Slattery became Assistant Pastor.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 55)

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- 1968 October
Father Noto became Administrator pro-tem of the Parish.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 55)
- 1968 December 8
Father Thomas J. Quinlan was assigned to Saint Vincent de Paul to assist the two
existing priests with the increased responsibilities placed on the parish.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 55)
- 1968 Liturgical renovations, under the Vatican II guidelines, saw the removal of the pulpit, the
communion rail, the Winter Chapel altar and the Baptismal font. Initiation of the Folk
Mass was scheduled at 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning once a month.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 55)
- 1969 February
The inner-city Newport News denominations united to form the League of Downtown
Churches. Saint Vincent de Paul participated in the Palm Sunday procession which
has become a tradition.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 56)
- 1969 Saint Vincent's Elementary School was ordered closed at the completion of the 1968-
69 school year by the Diocesan School Board. The high school was to continue
operations.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 57)
- 1969 September
Father Frederick A Heckel succeeded Father Noto, assuming directorship of the Home
Bureau.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 58)
- 1970 August
Father Slattery took leave to resume study on doctorate in scriptural theology in Rome.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 58)
- 1970 Fall
Under the leadership of Father Quinlan, St. Alphonsus' congregation merged with Saint
Vincent de Paul. Former St. Alphonsus parishioners faithfully served as cantors,
lectors, ushers, eucharistic ministers, choir members, and teachers in religious
education.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 58)

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- 1971 Because of the shortage of priests, Saint Vincent de Paul received its first Pastoral Associate, Sister Virginia Bauer, S.C.N. Sister Virginia assisted with the Liturgy Committee, religious education, the catechumenate program, counselor to the youth, the summer program for children of the parish and inner-city, the elderly, and social development. In June 1977, Sister Virginia accepted a Diocesan assignment with the newly organized Southside Virginia Ministry.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 59)
- 1971 July 26
Father Heckel departed from the parish. The Catholic Home Bureau, administered by the current Associate Pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul, was intended to provide for parishioners as well as non-parishioners in times of need. With Father Heckel's departure from the parish, the Home Bureau ceased to be the responsibility of Saint Vincent de Paul.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 59)
- 1971 July
With the departure of Fathers Quinlan and Heckel, for the first time in its history, Saint Vincent de Paul was administered by an Order rather than the Diocesan Priests. Father James. J. Noonan was the first La Salette Pastor and Father Garry F. Vance, Associate Pastor. Father Noonan and Mr. Joseph Harney successfully negotiated the sale of the St. Alphonsus property. The proceeds were used to established a Trust Fund for the Inner-City Apostolate.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 61)
- 1972 March
The main altar was removed from the sanctuary. Father Vance, with help of the sexton, constructed the massive wood altar and benches in the church today. Gold fabric chairs were added to the sanctuary and Winter Chapel.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 61)
- 1973 Fathers Noonan and Vance completed an update of parish records. The Parish Profile disclosed a total of 1,441 souls in the parish, 1,000 of whom were regularly practicing Catholics. Twenty-three percent (23%) resided in the inner-city, forty percent (40%) in the "outer parish," and thirty-seven percent (37%) outside the parish limits.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 61)
- 1973 October 14
Eucharistic Ministers were implemented.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 61)

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- 1974 June 4
The Most Reverend Walter F. Sullivan was appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese succeeding Bishop Russell (retired on April 1973) as Ordinary of the Diocese.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 60)
- 1974 August
La Salette Father Salvatore A. Pignato was assigned to Saint Vincent's staff. Father Camillo A. Avitabile succeeded Father Noonan as Pastor. Father Avitabile, affectionately called Father "Sonny," directed the Social Action Center. The center was staffed with professionals on a volunteer basis.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 61)
- 1975 June
Father Ron Gagne was assigned to the parish to direct religious education and liturgy. The staff included Fathers Avitabile and Gagne, Sister Virginia Bauer (Pastoral Associate), with Father Pignato in residence.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 62)
- 1976 May
Bishop Sullivan announced his decision to have Saint Vincent re-staffed by Diocesan priests.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 62)
- 1976 May 13
Father John J. Dorgan, Principal of Norfolk Catholic High School, became Pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul and Director of the Social Action Center. Father Thomas Reardon, of Richmond, served as Associate Pastor until May 1977.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 64)
- 1979 October
Under the direction of Mr. Steven James, Saint Vincent's Gospel Choir was formed. James would later form the Children's Choir.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 69)
- 1980 August 16
Lloyd Franklin Stephenson (1954-2004) was ordained for the Catholic Diocese of Richmond at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, Virginia. Stephenson would eventually become part-time Pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul. Father Stephenson, born in Newport News, Virginia, and a member of St. Alphonsus, returned as the first African-American priest assigned to St. Vincent de Paul. Stephenson, with a special fondness for youth and, music brought new life to the inner-city congregation.
(St. Vincent de Paul, 70)

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2004 March 10
Father Lloyd Franklin Stephenson died.

2004 March 15
A Liturgy of the Resurrection was celebrated in Father Stephenson's honor at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, Virginia. The Liturgy was presided by The Most Reverend Walter F. Sullivan, D.D., Bishop Emeritus of Richmond.
(The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Liturgy of the Resurrection: Monday March 15, 2004. Richmond, Virginia: Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 2004.)

APPENDIX I
EXTENDED BACKGROUND ON THE AMERICAN RENAISSANCE 1876-1917

American civilization, facing the approaching Centennial and following the Civil War, was in a period of maturation. During this period America developed an economic, social, political and artistic sophistication equal to the extraordinary resources unleashed by the Western Expansion and the Industrial Revolution. This period of empire building illustrated by the Spanish American War, Teddy Roosevelt's Big Stick policy, the White Fleet, and the Panama Canal was characterized by the imperialistic appropriation of forms and symbols from other cultures.¹

In architectural terms the American Renaissance was expressed in buildings with a clear relation to great works of the past through the use of domes, triumphal arches, the classical orders, colonnades, and temple fronts. Architecture dominated the American Renaissance by giving substance and form to the dream of a great civilization through majestic public buildings such as Arthur Brown, Jr.'s San Francisco City Hall (1912-1915), George Post's Bank of Pittsburgh (1894) and McKim, Mead and White's Madison Square Presbyterian Church (1903-1906). For Ecole trained architects it was essential that the mass or volume of a building be reflected in the plan and elevation.²

For one architect and writer, Joy Wheeler Dow, this period of architectural development embraced all styles including local variations such as "American Georgian, Greek Revival, and Federal, that could be traced back to the Old World." Writing in 1904 he went on to say "we call Biltmore French Renaissance now; it will be American

¹ I relied on the following sources for information on the American Renaissance: R. L. Duffus, The American Renaissance (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1928); Richard Guy Wilson, Dianne H. Pilgrim, Richard N. Murray, The American Renaissance (New York: The Brooklyn Museum, 1979).

² Wilson, 28, 30.

Renaissance later on."³

Patronage was an essential element of the American Renaissance. Patrons supported the arts, scientific research, technological advancements, social and religious institutions. The so-called American "robber barons," such as the Astors, the Whitney's, the Morgan's and the Rockefeller's had been preceded by European merchant princes like the Medici.

³ As quoted in Wilson, 45.

APPENDIX II
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THOMAS FORTUNE RYAN

Thomas Fortune Ryan was born October 17, 1851 in Lovingston, Virginia and died November 23, 1928 in New York City.¹ As a patron of architecture his support was most notable in his Fifth Avenue villa: designed by Carrere and Hastings it included a Renaissance room as well as an Art Gallery to house what could not fit into the mansion proper.² He also made a one million dollar gift for the new facade of St. Jean de Baptiste, New York City, and contributed to the restoration and expansion of Oak Ridge, Lovingston, Virginia, as well as being the sole benefactor for the construction of the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Richmond.³

He was born in poverty and orphaned at the age of five. A Protestant and exposed to both Baptist and Presbyterian theological influences he converted to Catholicism by 1873.⁴ Throughout his life Ryan and his wife would donate more than twenty million dollars to Catholic causes. The total proposed donation for the Sacred Heart Cathedral, amounting to just under \$500,000, was of the same magnitude as J. P. Morgan's \$500,000 gift for the erection of St. John the Divine and J. J. Hill's million dollar donation for the Catholic theological seminary at St. Paul, Minnesota.⁵

Ryan arrived in New York at the age of twenty-two. Marrying Ida Mary Barry (1854-1917) provided Ryan the funds necessary to secure his own seat on the New York

¹ Lee Marmon, The Measure and Mirror of Men: Generations of the Oak Ridge Estate (Lynchburg, Virginia: Warwick House Publishers, 1992) 27.

² Marmon, 54-7.

³ Ryan purchased Oak Ridge in 1901 and made a contribution for the new facade of St. Jean de Baptiste in 1912. Marmon, 51.

⁴ Marmon, 25, 27, 51.

⁵ Commonwealth of Virginia, Virginia Landmarks Register, File No. 127-137, Item 8, Sheet 2; Joseph Alexander Amrhein, "The Sacred Heart Cathedral of Richmond, Virginia" (Thesis, University of Richmond, 1941-2), 8; Marmon, 24-58.

Stock Exchange in 1874.⁶ He developed interests in utilities, railroads, coke, coal, diamonds in the Belgian Congo, oil, rubber, and lead. At the time of his retirement he controlled utilities valued at \$1,500,000,000. William C. Whitney called Ryan "the most adroit, suave and noiseless man" American finance ever knew.⁷

⁶ Marmon, 33, 51.

⁷ Marmon, 24-58; VLR, Item 8, sheet 2; Encyclopaedia Britannica, 15th ed., s.v. "Thomas Fortune Ryan."

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 St. Vincent de Paul
 Catholic Church
 Newport News
 (Hampton City)
 1870
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