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## Postcards from the Past: Perryville, Missouri

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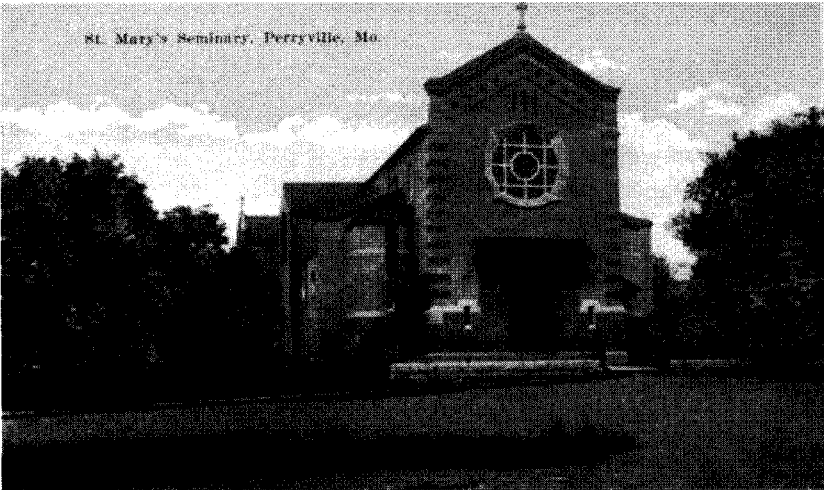
## Postcards from the Past

*Editor's Note: The **Vincentian Heritage** introduces a new regularly occurring feature, **Postcards from the Past**. This section of the journal will be used to exhibit small collections of postcards and other images from years past, grouped about a particular theme relating to the Vincentian Family. We hope it proves of historical interest to you, our readers. The Heritage welcomes contributions. Should you have a collection of images you feel might be of interest, please contact us at the address listed inside the front cover of the journal. The second in our series focuses on Perryville, Missouri, and features a collection of late nineteenth, turn-of-the early twentieth century postcards.*

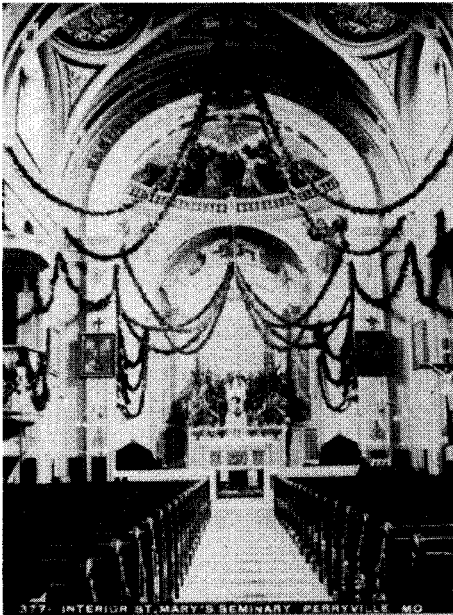
### - Perryville, Missouri -

The history of the Congregation of the Mission in the United States, and the Midwest Province in particular, is deeply intertwined with that of the town of Perryville, Missouri. Led by Joseph Rosati Vincentians first arrived in Perryville, then known as the Barrens Settlement, on 2 October 1818, ushering the way for Bishop Louis William Dubourg and the expansion of the mission west. 2 October was soon recognized as the founding date of Saint Mary's Seminary. The first building constructed on this site was a small log cabin [pictured], now preserved under cover of a stone shelter and made a memorial to Bishop Rosati. By 1827 the first stone was placed and construction began on Saint Mary's of the Barrens Church [also pictured], which was ultimately completed and consecrated by October of 1837. The facade was replaced in 1913, which included the addition of a bell tower, and the interior has been renovated several times over the years. From 1818 until 1964 the seminary church, before being separated with the building of St. Vincent de Paul Parish Church, also served as the parish church. The seminary of Saint Mary's of the Barrens received its official charter from the state of Missouri in 1823, making it the oldest institution of higher learning west of the Mississippi. Although closed in 1863, the seminary was re-opened in 1888 and the campus continued to grow, exemplified by the building of residences to accommodate the student population. Also included on the grounds was the Grotto of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal [pictured], built by seminarians during the First World War and completed in 1920. Further illustrating the town's importance to Vincentian history, following the creation of an American province of the Congregation of the Mission in 1835, with numbers continuing to grow, the province divided in 1888 into an East-

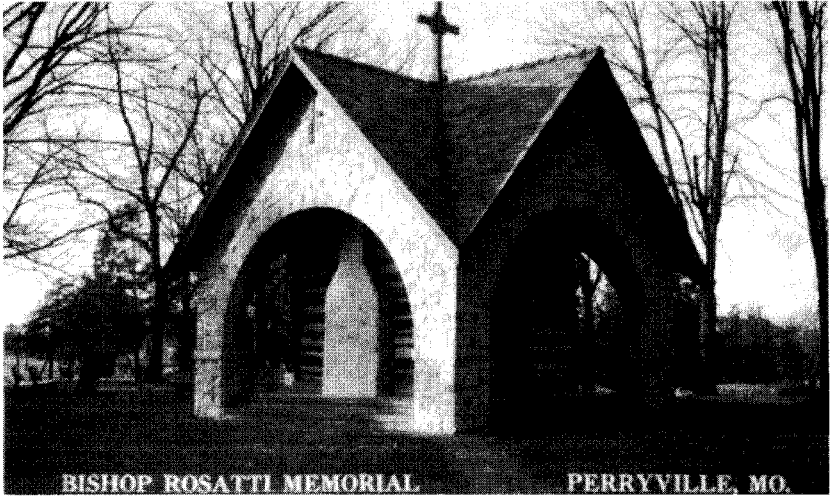
ern province headquartered in Philadelphia and a Western province based in Perryville, Missouri. Today the town still serves as home to Saint Mary's of the Barrens, St. Vincent de Paul Parish Church and the Miraculous Medal Association.



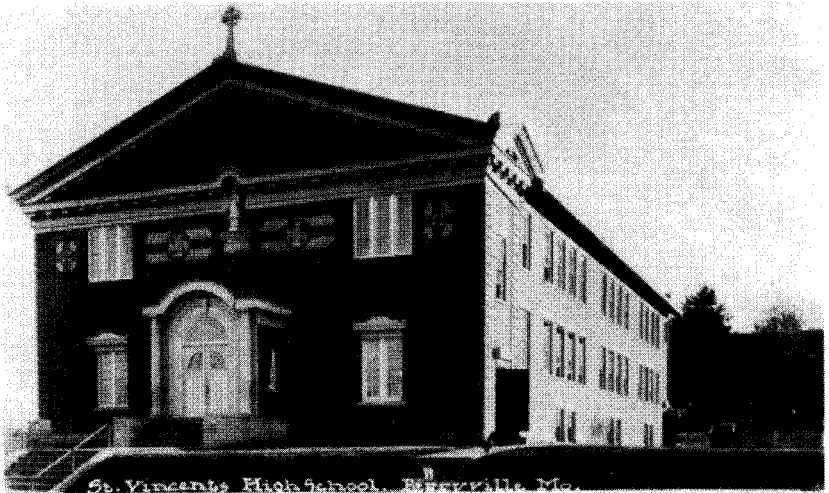
The exterior of Saint Mary's of the Barrens Church, Perryville, Missouri. Originally published by DeLassus' Drug Store.  
*Vincentiana Collection, DePaul University Special Collections, Chicago, Illinois*



The interior of Saint Mary's of the Barrens Church, Perryville, Missouri. Originally published by Merciers Drug Store.  
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The Bishop Rosatti Memorial, Perryville, Missouri.  
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Saint Vincent's High School, Perryville, Missouri.  
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Residence of Vincentian Scholastics, Saint Mary's Seminary, Perryville, Missouri.  
*Vincentiana Collection, DePaul University Special Collections, Chicago, Illinois*



Hand colored postcard. The Grotto of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal,  
Saint Mary's Seminary, Perryville, Missouri.  
*Vincentiana Collection, DePaul University Special Collections, Chicago, Illinois*