<u>Historical Background</u>: In 1865, the Passionist were invited to start their foundation. In 1868 St. Joseph's Monastery was dedicated.

Transcribed from *St. Joseph Monastery Chronicles 1865-1934* Passionist Historical Archives, 202.01 Box II Baltimore. St. Joseph's Monastery.
1918. [p. 205]

"Towards the end of September [1918], a virulent epidemic swept through the country. Medical authorities were of different opinions as to the nature of the disease. It was known as the Spanish influenza. But many doctors disagreed with this diagnosis. The disease found its way into this country through a Boston port where sailors infected with the disease were permitted to disembark without quarantine. It rapidly spread from city to city until it became a pandemic. Philadelphia had the highest death rate, then Baltimore. The disease raged here for a period of six weeks. The most deaths occurred during October. The approximate deaths in Baltimore was 3700. Most of the Brethren [Passionists] became ill and among the boys about one fourth of the number took the disease. All the cases were not serious. In the beginning of the epidemic the entire community – proceeded in procession through the Monastery and around the church reciting the Rosary and offering the prayers of the Ritual of pestilence. For two Sundays the churches of the city were closed by order of the Board of Health. A word of consideration for Brother Robert who came from Boston to nurse the sick of our [Passionist] community. Owing to his care and skill the disease was checked, and at no time were any of the sick in serious danger.

Please scroll down to see the Baltimore document (Copyright Passionist Historical Archives)

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(Should you find this information of interest Please consider sending these reflections on to those you know and join our sign up list at the Passionist Archives website www.passionistarchives.org If you wish to support our mission to educate the public on Passionist history please consider donating; large or small, it is of great assistance. May the Passion of Jesus Christ Be Always In Our Heart) https://passionistarchives.org/donations/