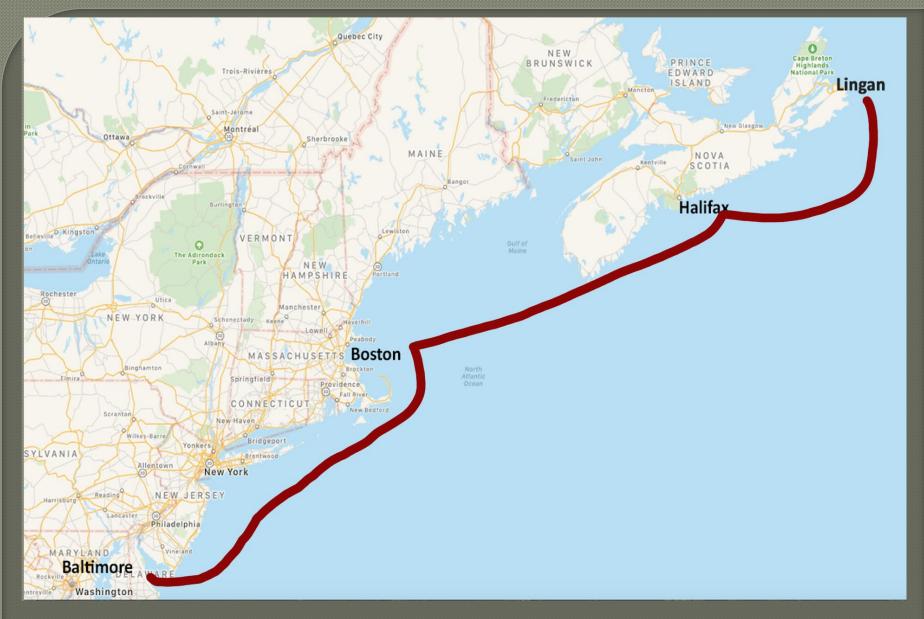
The Man Who Made Babe Ruth



BROTHER MATTHIAS
OF ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

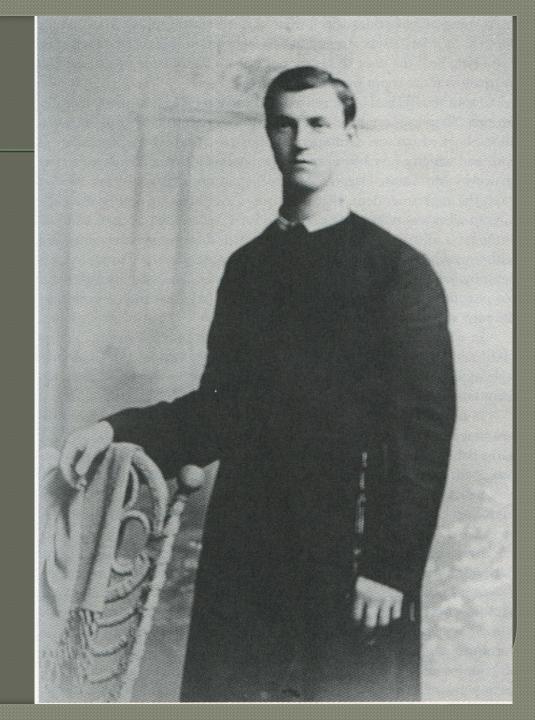
BRIAN MARTIN

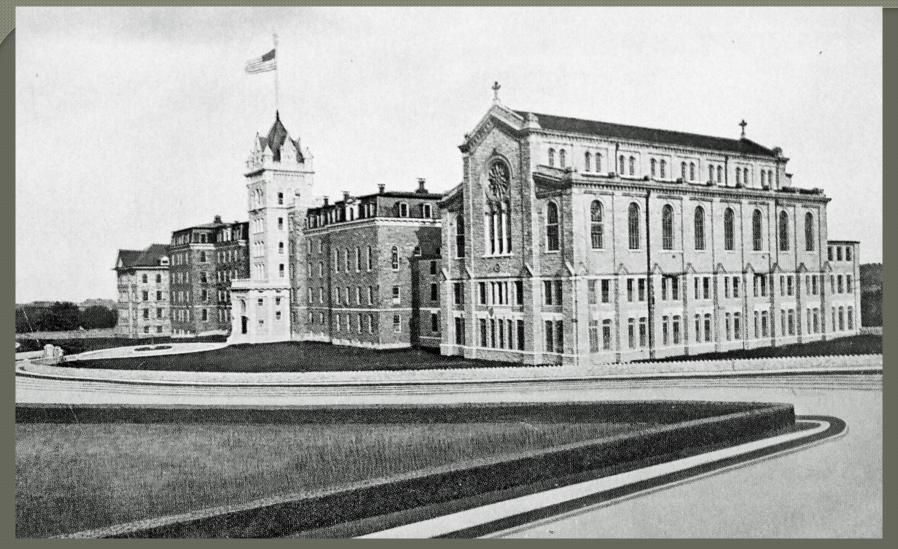


It was a long and winding road that brought Martin Leo Boutilier from his home in Lingan, Nova Scotia, to St. Mary's Industrial School in Baltimore and Babe Ruth

Cape Bretoner Martin Leo Boutilier became Brother Matthias upon joining the Congregation of Francis Xavier shortly before 1900.

He was posted to Baltimore where taught at St. Mary's School.

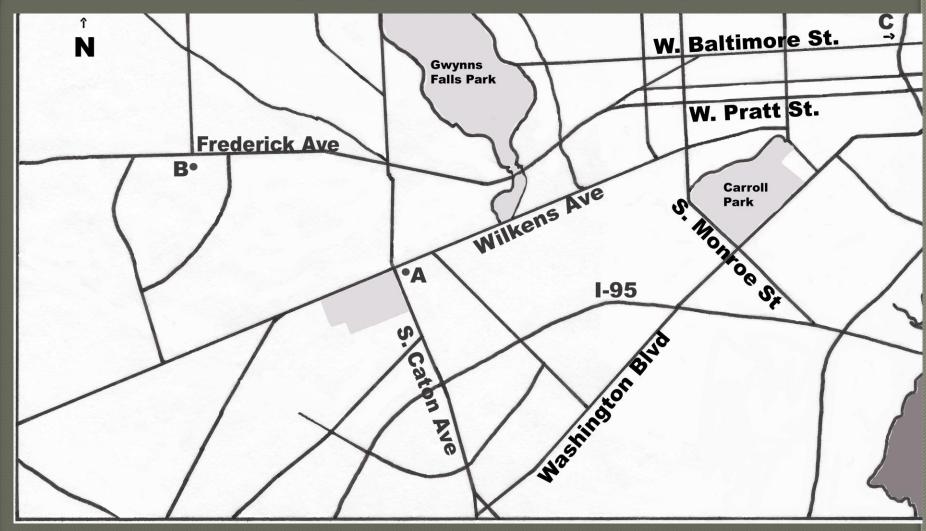




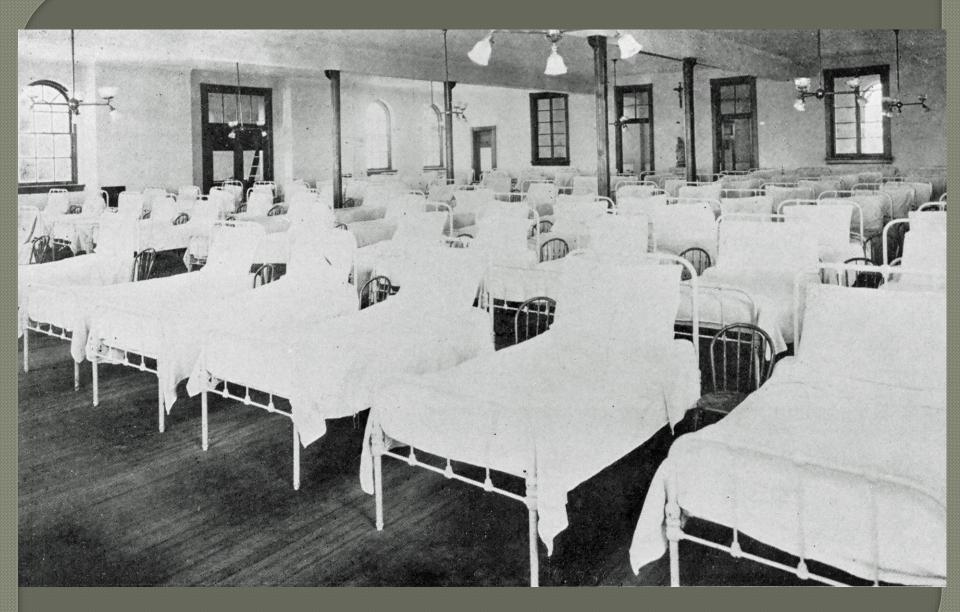
St. Mary's Industrial Training School, western edge of Baltimore. Owned by the Catholic Church, it was operated by the Xaverian Brothers as an orphanage and reform school.

George Ruth lived here for most of the time from 1902 until 1914 when he signed his first professional baseball contract.

Western Baltimore



- A. St. Mary's School
- B. Mount St. Joseph High School
- C. Downtown Baltimore



A dormitory at St. Mary's School.



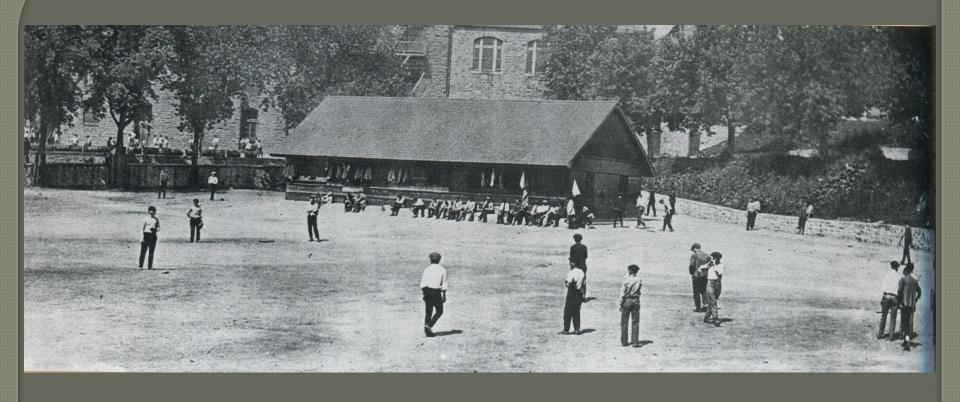
Brother Matthias presides over a classroom at St. Mary's. He was a baseball coach at the school which embraced the sport.



Tailoring shop at St. Mary's where George Ruth learned how to make shirts.



At its peak, St. Mary's had about 800 students, sometimes known as inmates.



The main ball field at St. Mary's Industrial Training School.

The school saw baseball as a key part of the education it provided.

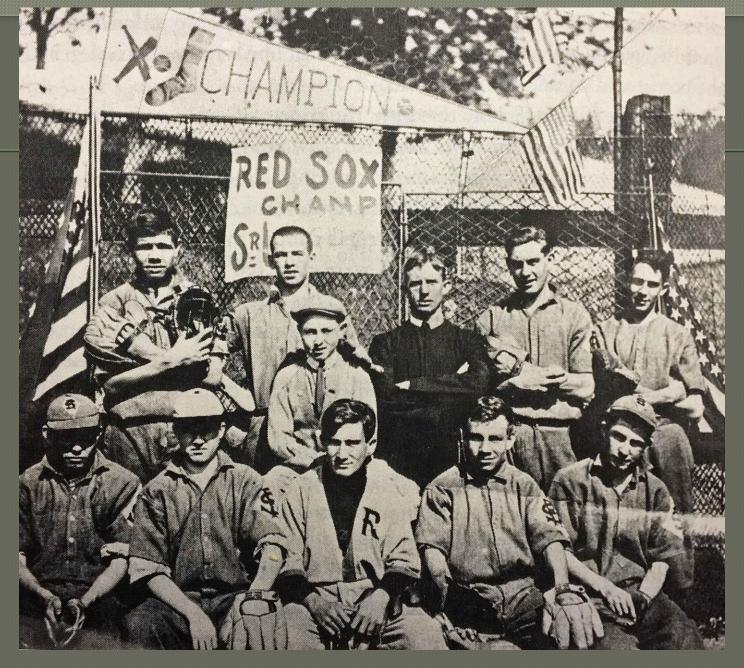
St Mary's fielded as many as 40 teams, most of them intramural but it also challenged other schools.



The back ball field at St. Mary's where younger players learned the game.



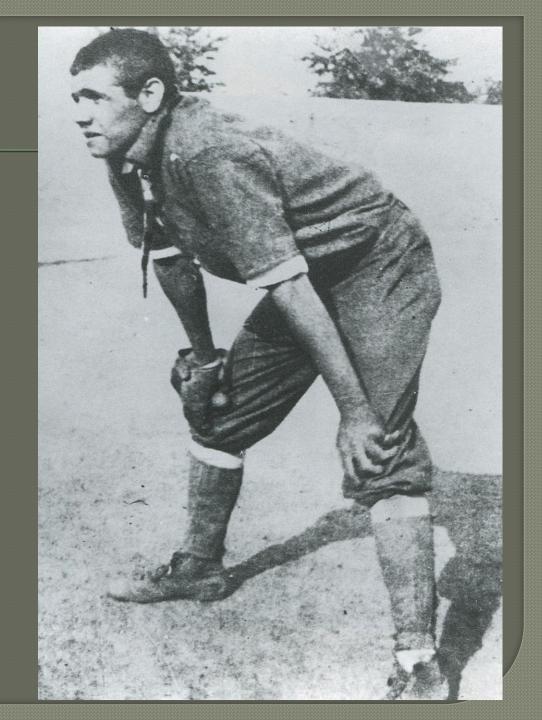
A young George Ruth poses with some teammates at St. Mary's about 1912. He was placed at the school at age 7, in 1902, and quickly took to baseball.

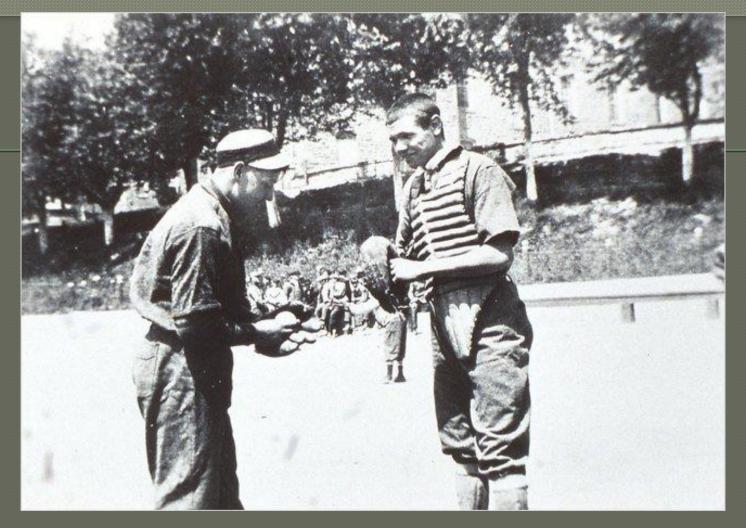


Young Ruth catches for the Red Sox, senior school champions.

The young lefty was a "natural" on the diamond at St. Mary's.

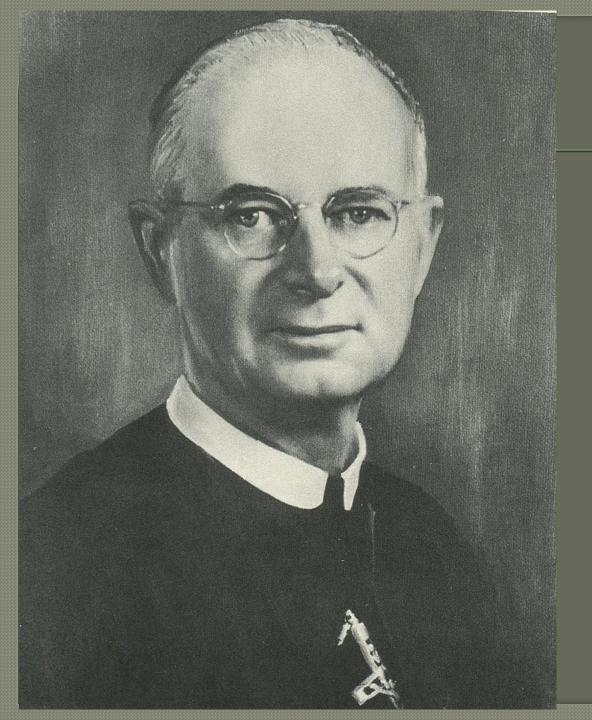
He caught the eye of Brother Matthias who spent countless extra hours with him, honing his talents.





Ruth's preferred position was catcher. As a lefty, he was forced to use a right-hander's glove because that is all St. Mary's had.

One fateful day, when he ridiculed the efforts of a pitcher, Brother Matthias made him pitch. The move proved pivotal for Ruth. His pitching brought him attention.



Brother Gilbert Cairnes.

The press credited him with discovering and coaching young George Ruth.

Gilbert wrote and spoke extensively about Babe, but his role was embellished and he seemed to bask in it.

Brother Matthias sought no recognition and was content to remain in the shadows.



Brother Gilbert poses with one of his many successful teams at Mount St. Joseph High School, where he taught and coached. He was a friend of Jack Dunn, manager and owner of the Baltimore Orioles.

Jack Dunn, successful manager of the Baltimore Orioles.

He was alerted to a young pitching sensation at St. Mary's by Brother Gilbert and immediately liked what he saw.

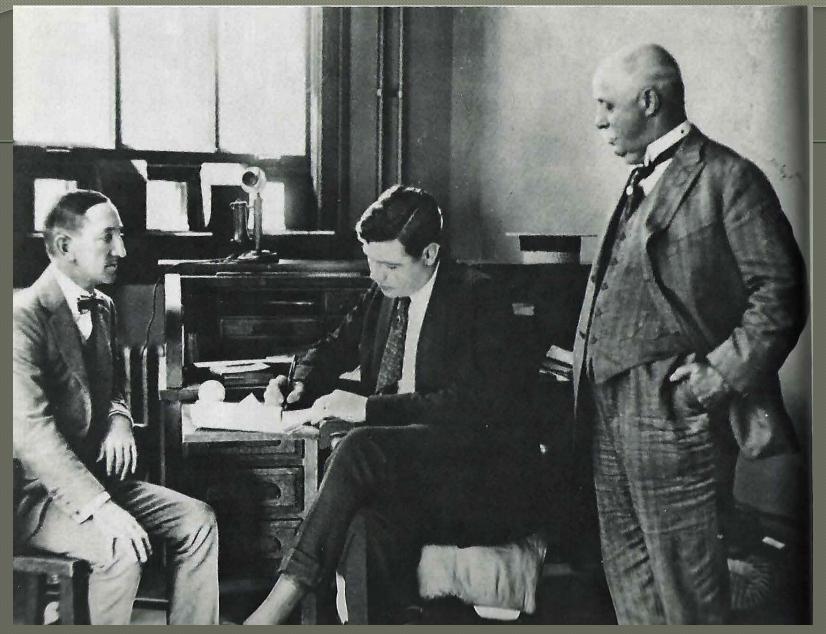
Dunn signed Babe to his first professional contract in 1914.



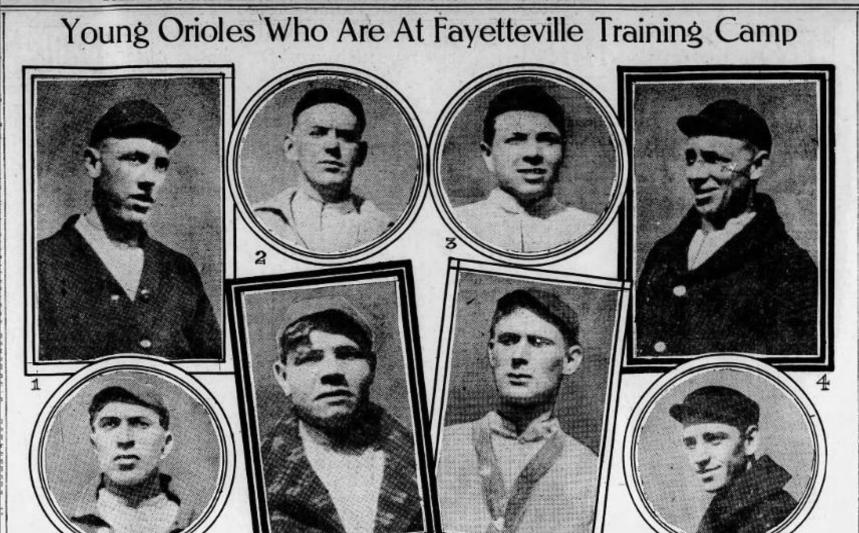
The Oriole magnate signed another local player yesterday. The new Bird is George H. Ruth, a pitcher, who played with teams out the Frederick road. Ruth is six feet tall and fanned 22 men in an amateur game last season. He is regarded as a very hard hitter, so Dunn will try him out down South.

Baltimore Sun, Feb. 15, 1914.

(Frederick Avenue is near St. Mary's school.)

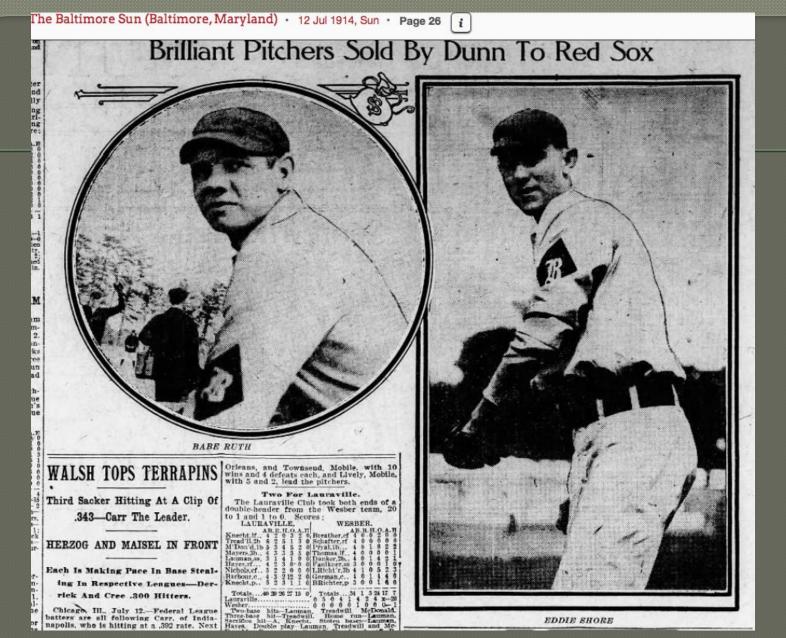


Babe signs his first professional contract with the Baltimore Orioles as Jack Dunn, left, looks on. Note that Babe writes with his right hand.

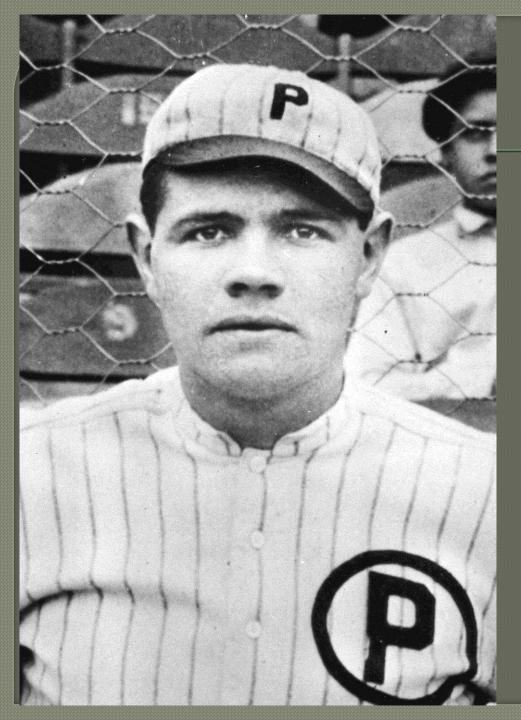


This is believed to be the first time young Ruth was pictured in a newspaper.

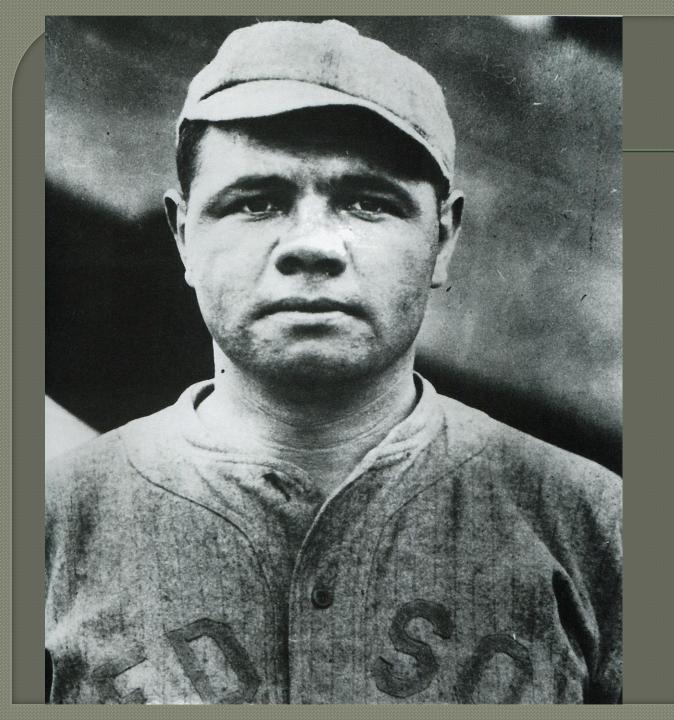
No. 1, CRANSTON; 2, HURNEY; 3, KLINGELHORFFER; 4, McKINLEY; 5, CAPORAL; 6, RUTH; 7, POTTS; 8, LAMOTTE



Beset by financial woes, Orioles owner Jack Dunn sells Ruth and fellow pitcher Eddie Shore to Boston.



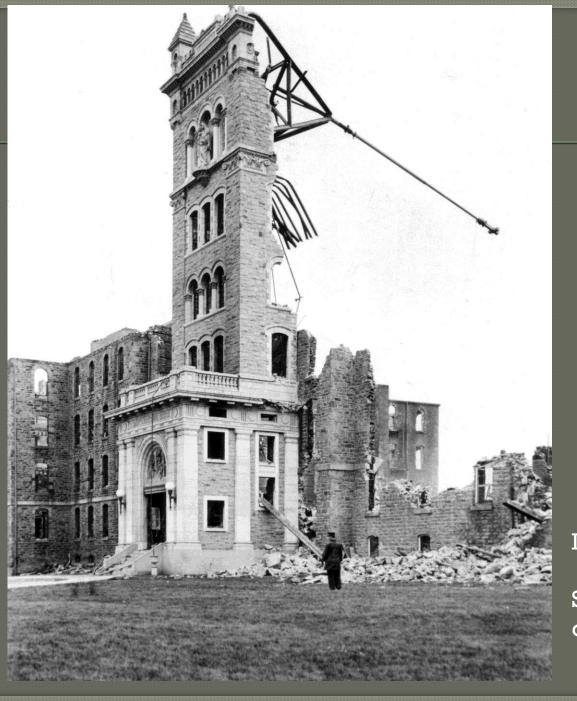
Sent down to the Providence Grays for seasoning by the Red Sox, Babe hit his first professional home run during a game in Toronto in September of 1914.



Back in Boston,
Babe became a
standout pitcher.



Babe helps out at his dad's Baltimore bar during the Christmas season.



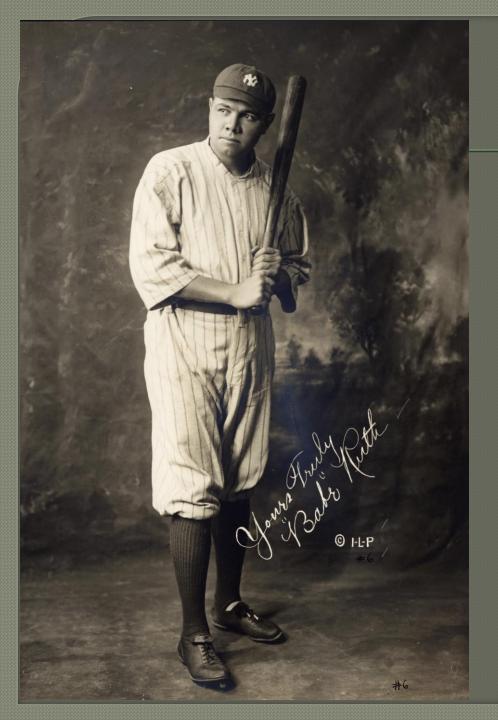
Disaster, 1919.

St. Mary's is heavily damaged by fire.



Large sections of St. Mary's were destroyed.

Babe immediately pitched in to help fundraising efforts to replace what was lost.



Babe was purchased by the New York Yankees for the 1920 season.

He would remain a Yankee for most of his career, becoming a legend in pinstripes.

Note his impeccable penmanship, yet more evidence of the influence of Brother Matthias.



To help raise money to rebuild St. Mary's after the disastrous fire, Babe arranged for the school band to accompany the Yankees on a road trip.

SULTAN OF SWAT ENTERTAINS TODAY.

Babe Ruth, Baseball's Greatest Slugger and His Yankees, Will Meet Indians --- Immense Crowd Expected to See Holder of Home Run Record--- Washington Park Gates Open Early.

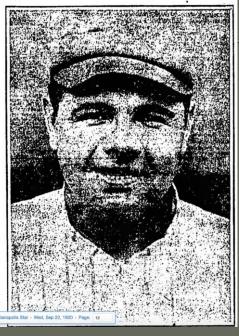
Bahe Ruth's visit to Indianapolis toay forces the G. A. R. annual encampment to pale almost into insignificance; even many of the veterans of 61-65 are likely to desert convention gatherings this afternoon to get a squint at the

this afternoon to get a squint at the Sulian of Swat, who has for his harem forty-nine lunty honers. The fact that limbs had a crew of mighty suggest with limbs had a crew of mighty suggest with the state of the sulface of the sulf

his victoris cut at the ball overy to he steps to the plate. There will no washing of the home run mon-there will be the ball over the they do in the American League, whoever burns against "Rambine, have explicit orders to pitch to

RUTH'S BAND WILL HAVE ONE REAL BUSY SESSION

The hand will give a concert at the the crowd for a collection, which go toward rebuilding St. Mary's it tute, which was partially destroyed





The fundraising tour for St. Mary's reached Indianapolis on Sept. 22, 1920 for an exhibition game against a local team.

At the same time, a reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic was underway. Babe and Matthias met a Civil War veteran.

This is a very rare photo.



HUSKY TEACHER SHOWED RUTH HOW

greatest batter. In fact, the Home Run King, says he's only second and that Brother Mathias, his former teacher at St. Mary's, deserves first honor when it comes to lifting the ball over the fences.

Babe was teiling of his early life at St. Mary's yesterday and remarked that Brother Mathias hits the ball so hard that he doesn't care to use two hands when swinging the bat.

When Ruth was a youngster at St. Mary's his favorite "study" was baseball and Brother Mathias had the same allment. Therefore they fitted in together and naturally became strong friends. In fact, Brother Mathias has been Ruth's guiding light.

Babe got his batting ideas from watching Brother Mathias bat and paying strict attention when the latter was passing out information. His style today is an exact duplicate of that of the brother.

HITS TOO HARD WITH TWO HANDS.

Brother Mathias can not only pound out home runs, but he does it with one hand, according to Babe.

Ruth says Brother Mathias started batting with one hand two years ago after he had driven a ball back at a youngster pitching that nearly resulted fatally to the boy. Of course, he does not get as many circuit blows now as he did when using both hands, but he still meets them square once in a while and when he does the bases are cleaned.

Brother Mathias is just a bit huskies than Ruth and looks like he might well be able to keep pace with Babe. Not only is he a baseball player, but also an allaround athlete, and while Ruth was at school he and the Brother were regular "buddies."

Brother Benjamin, who was at St Mary's when Ruth was there, but now is president of St. Xavier's College, Louisville, Ky., yesterday spilled a lot of good yarns concerning Ruth and Brother Mathias. One of them concerned a Christ mas morning when Ruth ambled out to the ball field, scraped the snow off the base paths and sent out a call for a "scrub game" that was answered by enough youngsters to form two nines, and they played a game on the snow-covered field.

Babe Ruth refuses to admit he's the in the St. Mary's treasury. He receives his last year's mark of twenty-nine and has never failed to forward half of it to his old school as a token of his appreciation for the training he received

The famous slugger is soon to play with the St. Xavier College team at Louisville in an exhibition for the benefit of the college.

There is no other man in the world today who holds a greater love for the institution and the men from whom he received his training than does baseball's greatest hero. The famous Babe wants the world to know who gave him his start in life and he has no greater joy than to know he is able now to repay his old school and teachers for the great work they have done for him.

The Ruth Exhibition

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Yankees 2					

Two-base hits-Meusel, Covington, Hen- to

While in Indianapolis, Babe heaps praise on his mentor Matthias

"...Brother Matthias has been Ruth's guiding light."

"Babe got his batting ideas from watching Brother Matthias bat and paying strict attention when the latter was passing out information. His still today is an exact duplicate of that of the brother."



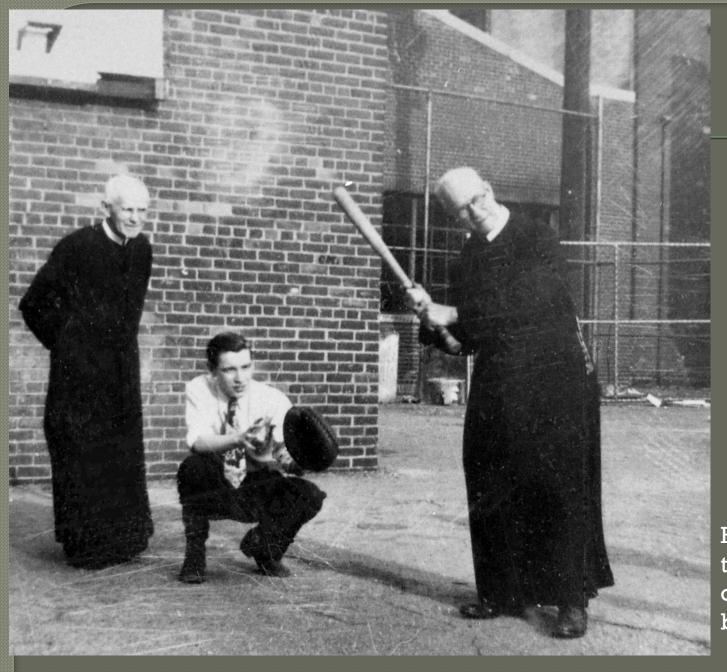
Babe never forgot St. Mary's and returned often. Here he poses with some of his Yankee teammates during an early 1920s visit. From left, catcher Benny Bengough, left-fielder Bob Muesel, Brother Paul, Babe, Brother Matthias, third baseman Joe Dugan, infielder Mike Gonzalez, and Brother Sebastian.



Brother Matthias takes the wheel of the second Cadillac given him by Babe Ruth.



A gift, 1927



Back at St. Mary's, the Brothers continue to play ball.



Brother Gilbert penned a seven-part series about Babe that appeared in the Boston Globe.

The newspaper, like others of the day, credited Gilbert with discovering the star.

An editorial introduction to this first instalment in October of 1927 reads: "No other one man, except the Babe himself, knows more about his life than does Brother Gilbert."

Brother Matthias remained in the shadows.

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Throughout his life, Brother Gilbert delivered many speeches and wrote articles about Babe Ruth and his connection to the star.

Gilbert was an extrovert who was well known in the baseball community.

Upon his death, Gilbert was working on a book about the young man he knew.

Decades later it was found and published in 1999.

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trself," .Was We waited the school z. and they the Giants.

in whom I st, was the am. Rusie A nerrous up to the altogether there. His

that time were made by themselves, and they were anything but lively.

Another observation that could not



REOTHER GILBERT, C. F. X. The author who was also the Babe's

escape me on that day was the fact that as soon as the right fielder on Ruth's opposing team had "parked" himself in the junior yard, hostilities without the in that yard were temporarily sus- his crouch, pended. From where I sat it ap- ball down to a common concession | deed, a fest w the voungulors that Tillmauce | then that un!

erable force the junior ya

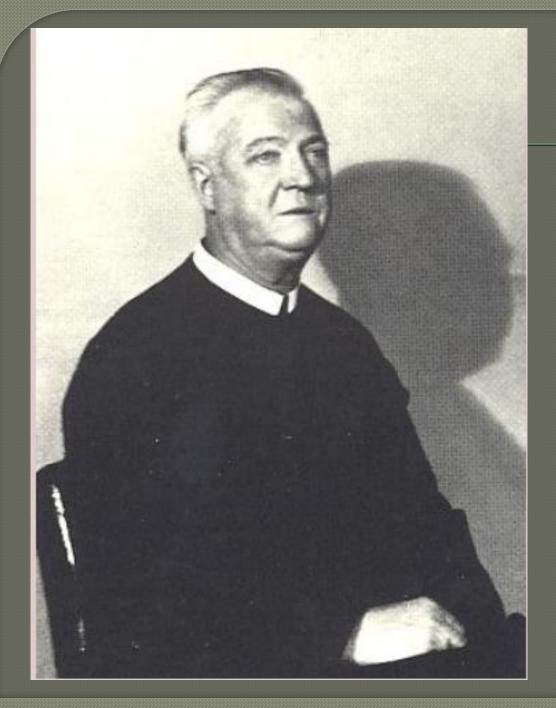
The young rebound badly Ruth's hit to scored Two l

That was n Ruth at the he hit three mistake abou was hit righ enough, on plate he stru the same typ golfed for the rime at bat.

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He Sho

The batting about him ti stated previo hand catcher. real catcher base took fet arm. With



Portrait of an aging Brother Matthias who kept in touch with "George" over the years.

Matthias was transferred to schools in Massachusetts after many years teaching at St. Mary's.

Matthias was sometimes called upon by the Yankees to counsel their wayward star when the team was unable to curb his excesses.



Babe always made time for children and they worshipped him. He signs autographs for them with his right hand, another legacy of his father figure and baseball mentor Brother Matthias

"There was never a better boy at St. Mary's school"

"He came under me when he was eight years old and played ball for me until he signed with the Baltimore team"

"He never forgot what the school did for him."

Brother Matthias Talks of "George"

The "Boss" Recalls Ruth's "He gave me an \$8000 Cadillac car to ride around in when I was at Baltimore. Early Days at St. Mary's

RASEBALL'S No. 1 artillery piece, Babe Ruth, comes back this evening Here, where he saw the first flush of the skitleth today Brother, ' just as light of greatness that was to be his, he and as happy as when he was a is to spend the twilight of his career in at the school.

ramework of a real athlete. It's only

good to me.'
"He never forgets and he's always the

same. The time he made his sixtieth home run, he called me up that night

"I think that eventually Ge

Ruth Can Handle Job a Manager All Right-

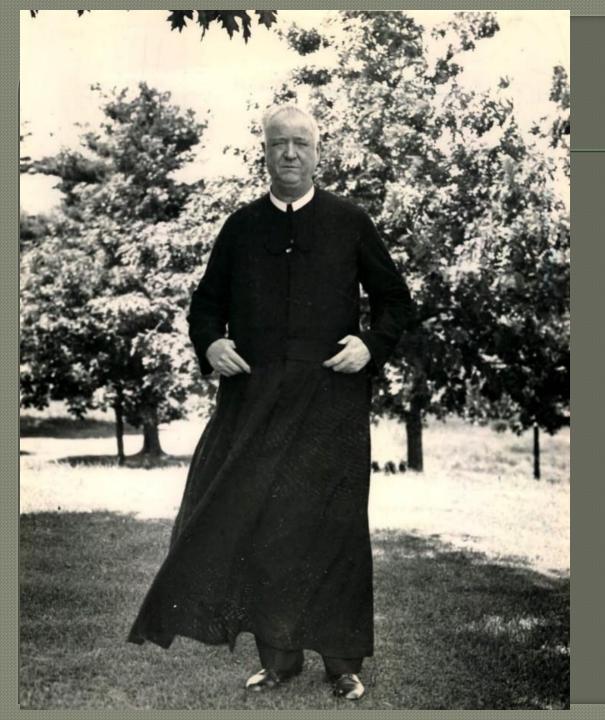
New York, Feb. 28 (A.P.)-Mrs.

The only known press interview ever granted by Brother Matthias.

"He gave me an \$8,000 Cadillac to ride around in . . . "

"... I happened to make a pitcher out of him."

Boston Evening Transcript, February 28, 1935.

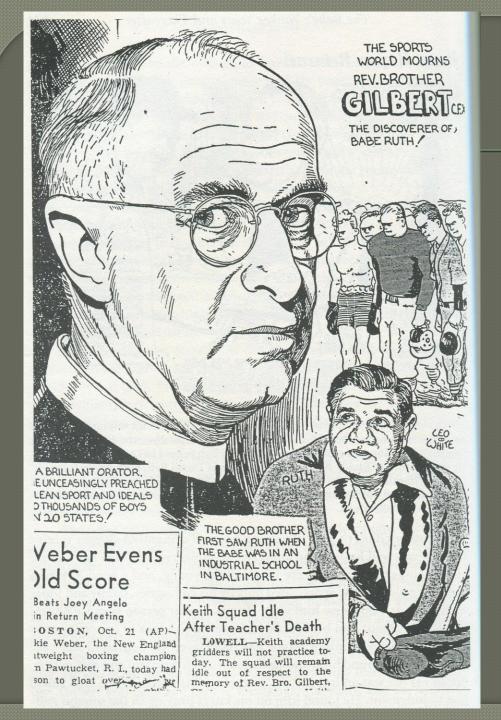


Brother Matthias in retirement in Massachusetts.

He died in 1944 at the age of 72.



His final resting place in the Xaverian Brothers Cemetery in Danvers, Massachusetts. A few feet away lies Brother Gilbert.



Brother Gilbert died in 1947, at age 62, still credited with discovering Babe Ruth.











New York 17, Tuesday, August 17, 1948★

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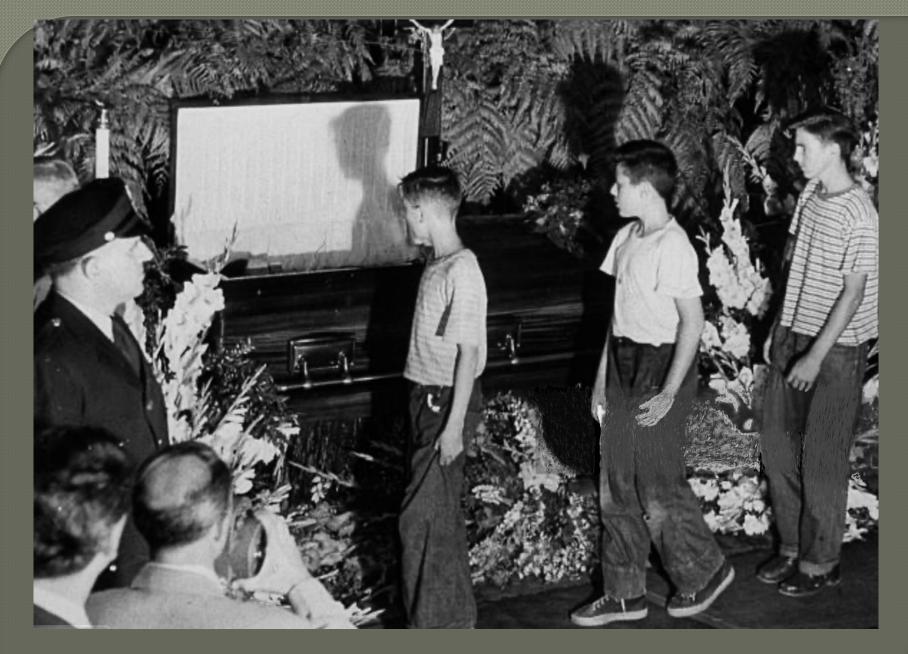
King of Swat at Peak of Reign—and as He Bowed Out

The Babe in the act of sending a baseball out of the ball park which made him the greatest and most popular home run hitter in baseball history. This picture was made in the early '20s when the Yanks were called the greatest team ever assembled, with Ruth as the kingpin.

Head bowed with emotion, Ruth made his last appearance in Yankee Stadium July 13, 1948 in a farewell to fans who gathered to see his old number 3 retired from the Yank roster for all time.

(For the life story of Babe Ruth in pictures turn to centerfold.)

August, 1948.



Boys file past the coffin of their hero

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GUIDEPOSTS

OCTOBER, 1948

PAWLING NEW YORK

A Practical Guide

For Successful Living



The Kids Can't Take It
If We Don't Give It!

by GEORGE HERMAN RUTH

Babe Ruth's Last Message

BAD boy Ruth—that was me. Don't get the idea that I'm proud of my harum-scarum youth. I'm not. I simply had a rotten start in life, and it took me a long time to get my bearings.

Looking back to my youth, I honestly don't think I knew the difference between right and wrong. I spent much of my early boyhood living over my father's saloon, in Baltimore—and when I wasn't living over it, I was in it, soaking up

the atmosphere. I hardly knew my parents.

St. Mary's Industrial School in Baltimore, where I was finally taken, has been called an orphanage and a reform school. It was, in fact, a training school for orphans, incorrigibles, delinquents and runaways picked up on the streets of the city. I was listed as an incorrigible. I guess I was. Perhaps I would always have been but for Brother Matthias, the greatest man

Two months after his passing, Babe's last words appeared in a motivational publication.

Ruth praised Brother
Matthias, calling him "the
greatest man I have ever
known . . ."

ALSO IN THIS THE HON. ALBERT GOLDMAN DR. NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

NORMAN E. NYGAARD GRENVILLE KLEISER This is Babe Ruth's last message. It was written with the help of friends Joe L. Brown (of the MGM Studios which produced "The Babe Ruth Story"s), Paul Carey, and Melvyn G. Lowenstein not long before the Babe died. The GUIDE-POSTS office received it on the fatal day—August 16, 1948.

We bring it to our readers as a notable guidepost to the solution of the serious problem of juvenile delinquency. It is the simple, honest story of a man who relearned what faith meant, and who says so humbly and proudly, knowing it was his most valuable legacy to his fellow man.

From the book by Bob Considine (E. P. Dutton & Co. \$3.00).

I have ever known, and for the religious training I received there which has since been so important to me.

I doubt if any appeal could have straightened me out except a Power over and above man—the appeal of God. Iron-rod discipline couldn't have done it. Nor all the punishment and reward systems that could have been devised. God had an eye out for me, just as He has for you, and He was pulling for me to make the grade.

As I look back now, I realize that knowledge of God was a big cross-roads with me. I got one thing straight (and I wish all kids did)—that God was Boss. He was not only my Boss but Boss of all my bosses. Up till then, like all bad kids, I hated most of the people who had control over me and could punish me. I began to see that I had a higher Person to reckon with who never changed, whereas my earthly authorities changed from year to year. Those who bossed me had the same self-battles—they, like me,

had to account to God. I also realized that God was not only just, but merciful. He knew we were weak and that we all found it easier to be stinkers than good sons of God, not only as kids but all through our lives.

That clear picture, I'm sure, would be important to any kid who hates a teacher, or resents a person in charge. This picture of my relationship to man and God was what helped relieve me of bitterness and rancor and a desire to get even.

I've seen a great number of "hemen" in my baseball career, but never one equal to Brother Matthias. He stood six feet six and weighed 250 pounds. It was all muscle. He could have been successful at anything he wanted to in life—and he chose the church.

It was he who introduced me to baseball. Very early he noticed that I had some natural talent for throwing and catching. He used to back me in a corner of the big yard at St. Mary's and bunt a ball to me by the hour, correcting the mistakes I made with (see p. 23)

GUIDEPOSTS ASSOCIATES, INC. Pawling, N. Y.

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"It was he who introduced me to baseball. Very early he noticed that I had some natural talent for throwing and catching."

(Continued on Page 23 of Guideposts.):

"Thanks to Brother Matthias I was able to leave St. Mary's in 1914 and begin my professional career with the famous Baltimore Orioles."



Babe Ruth headstone, Gates of Heaven Cemetery, Hawthorne, New York

The Man Who Made Babe Ruth



BROTHER MATTHIAS

OF ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

BRIAN MARTIN