

Standing Up to the Klan

I read your article regarding the Ku Klux Klan on Long Island ("The KKK Flies Up on LI," Long Island: Our Story, May 6). There was another incident that occurred that might be of interest to your readers. In October, 1930, my uncle, Msgr. Bernard Quinn, founded the Little House of Providence at Wading River as an orphanage "for homeless black children," as he described it. He was almost heartbroken when the Ku Klux Klan made several attempts to burn down the building. In a letter to one of the community leaders of the town, he wrote "It is surely difficult to understand how anybody could refuse a bed and shelter to a helpless, homeless child no matter what its color or creed might be."

I still remember one Sunday driving out to Wading River with my family only to discover to our dismay that the building had been torched the previous evening and was still smoldering. My uncle did not buckle under the forces of hate but courageously stood up to them in his determination to build the orphanage at the same location. The orphanage is now incorporated under The Little Flower Services of New York at Wading River, N.Y.

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